

Hart Nautical Plan Policy

The purpose of preserving historic yacht and ship plans is to retain a cross section of the technical and artistic elements from our culture so that we may learn from past achievements. A key goal of MIT Museum is to facilitate this educational experience by providing the widest possible access to our collections. The following policy explains how to access the plans held in the Hart Nautical Collections.

As resources permit, MIT Museum will make the Hart Nautical plan collections available to the MIT community and to the general public for educational and preservation purposes. Original plans owned by MIT Museum may also be made available in various print media for model making and full size boatbuilding projects. For our records, we require that all requests for plans be submitted in writing and include the purpose for which the prints are being ordered. Requests should include the original design name/number or specific information about the type and dimensions of the vessel in question. Requests for plan lists and other ordering information will be processed in the order in which they are received. All plan recipients must sign an appropriate plan use agreement (included with the ordering information) which stipulates the conditions of use. Upon receipt of completed order forms and payment, orders will be processed and shipped. No additional fees will be charged when the plans are used for historic preservation or study. Additional fees will be charged when the plans are used for model making and full size boatbuilding. Fees are also levied for other uses such as publication. The primary print media supplied by MIT Museum is the 8.5" x 11" digital laser jet print from microfilm. These study prints are inexpensive and produced in-house. The cost of print media is explained on the print order forms. Depending on the condition of an original drawing, full size prints of primary plans may also be furnished. If a reproducible vellum is not already available for the drawing ordered, the plan requester must pay this cost in addition to the cost of the full size print. The Museum will retain the vellum for future use. Full size prints are also produced inhouse, and the cost is based on the size of the original. Offsets and related full size prints of lines will only be made available to individuals requesting permission to build models, full size reproductions, or for restoration projects which provide satisfactory evidence of preservation activity.

In-person access to the plan collections is by appointment only. We prefer to handle most inquiries via mail for three reasons. First, most of the drawings are fragile, and excessive handling is hazardous to them.

Second, the size and physical arrangement of the collections makes hands-on access very inefficient. Third, we have a small staff. In order to provide the widest access to our collections, MIT Museum is embarking on a program of imaging and retrospective cataloging our most actively used collections. As these programs are completed, we will provide increasingly improved visual and informational access

Building Fees & Policies

All fees are for one-time use of the plans as stipulated in MIT Museum's Permission to Build Agreement. Agreements to build must be signed by the builder or an authorized representative of same. If the user of the plans wishes to build an additional model or reproduction, MIT Museum requires that the user sign a new Permission to Build Agreement and pay the applicable fee. Plans may not be reproduced in any form, or transferred to other parties without the permission of MIT Museum.

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Conditions of Use for Full Size Reproductions

A builder may receive permission to build no more than two full size reproductions of the same design per calendar year. The “same design” is defined as a boat built from a single set of offsets and having the same waterline length. MIT Museum hopes to facilitate the educational experience by only providing plans for boatbuilding projects which aim to produce a high-quality reproduction of an original design. MIT Museum defines a reproduction as a boat built to the same dimensions as the original design, and employing as close to the original materials and workmanship as is practical, in order to produce a boat which reflects the physical and aesthetic qualities of the original. Upon completion of a reproduction using MIT Museum plans, the user may contact the Museum and the Museum may, subject to review of photographs and other evidence to establish the authenticity of the reproduction, provide a suitable plaque or certificate to the user.

Disclaimer

All users of plans provided by MIT Museum should understand that the plans are made available as a public service in connection with the Museum’s educational mission. The Museum acts as a repository for the plans for study and historic preservation. By allowing limited use of the plans for boatbuilding, the Museum is not selling or leasing them, and the fees charged are solely to cover the Museum’s costs related to providing these services.

Users should also understand that MIT Museum did not create the plans, and that it does not have any particular knowledge or skill in the field of boat design and construction. It has never built boats based on the plans, nor has it analyzed the plans for defects. Plan users should also understand that any prints made from original drawings may vary in scale from the original drawing. The Museum, therefore, can not vouch for the accuracy of any plans, and it has no basis for evaluating the risk of injury that might result from their use. Plans users should also understand that changes may have occurred in the design and construction of specific boats that are not reflected on the plans, and that the plans may not represent the total design data that was produced for a given design. Therefore, the Museum disclaims all liability in connection with any vessels derived from the plans. Anyone intending to build a boat using the plans should give careful consideration to the intended use before selecting a design. The Museum makes no representations as to the appropriateness of any plans for any specific purpose. The Museum recommends that all boat construction performed using the plans should be done in consultation with a competent naval architect.

Exclusion of Warranties

MIT MUSEUM MAKES NO WARRANTIES WHATSOEVER WITH RESPECT TO THE PLANS, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. THE USER ACCEPTS THE PLANS AS IS, WITH ALL INHERENT DEFECTS.

Reservation of Rights

MIT Museum reserves the right to amend the above policies in accordance with cost changes, or in connection with changes in MIT policy.

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