

Deck Layout

Australian Cherub Fact Sheet Number 3

June 2008

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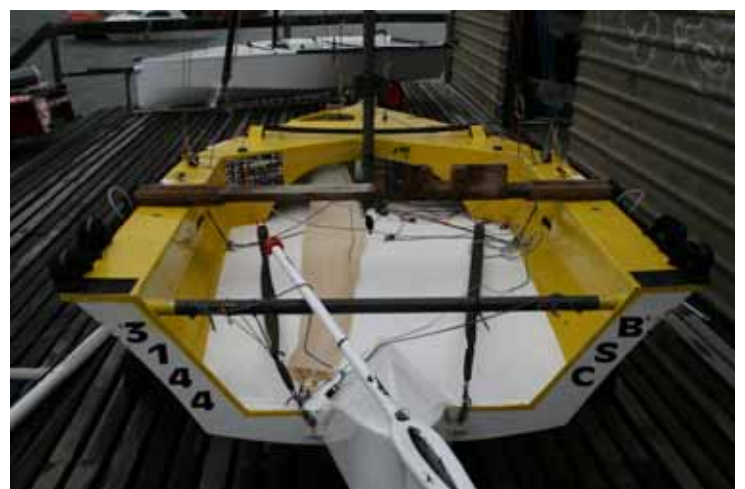
The Cherub measurement rules, the [Rules and Restrictions of the Cherub National Council of Australia](#), set out all the necessary dimensions for a Cherub hull. In addition to all the rules that define the external shape of the hull the rules cover the required buoyancy, width and areas of decking, floor heights and a number of other aspects of the overall decking layout. The rules allow significant degree of scope to vary the general arrangement of the decking of the boat allowing Cherub builders to develop decking designs to suite the individual needs of sailors and also to suit a variety of construction techniques.

In recent years Cherub builders have experimented with and tested a number of layouts. In many instances the experimentation has been aimed at developing decking layouts that simplify the construction processes making it easier for a home builder to product a fast, light, durable and utilitarian hull.

This Fact Sheet illustrates a number of different deck layout that have been used on Cherubs recently. All the boats illustrated here have proven to be fast and effective.

There is no one correct way to design and build a Cherub. The class encourages design experimentation and the layouts shown here are intended only to serve as a guide or a thought started for a prospective builder.

Trevor Fay's *Wally* (3144) is a good example of a layout that is comprised virtually entirely of flat panels that can be layed-up and laminated on a work bench, cut to shape and fitted to the boat. The results is quite "boxy" in appearance but the finished product is simple and utilitarian. The result is also effective, with *Wally* having won two National Championships. The layout features a flat foredeck with the self-tacker track set above the deck on carbon brackets. The flat floor is supported on minimal framing with just two longitudinal frames running from bulkhead to the transom. There are no transverse frames beneath the cockpit section of the floor. The floor is flush with the top of the centrecase and runs through to the bow providing open access to the bow pole spinnaker and sail control systems. High resolution photos [here](#).



Duncan Groome's latest Cherub *KISS* (3162) also uses predominantly flat panels for a simple yet effective layout. The floor, which sits flush with the top of the centrecase is supported on a central longitudinal frame and two transverse frames one at the rear of the centrecase and one half way along the cockpit. The cockpit floor has a very slight concave dish and the foredeck a simple dish to allow flush mounting of the self tacker track. Side decks are minimal and their vertical return panels join the hull sides to stiffen the shell. High resolution photos [here](#).



Ben Lawrie has built three Cherubs with this deck layout 3148, 3157 and 3158. The floor sits low below the top of the centrecase which is protected by a centrecase top moulding. The side decks are wider and built integrally with the side buoyancy tanks. The foredeck is dished for flush mounting of the self-tacker track and includes a mast gate that extends aft of the bulkhead. The foredeck is integral with the front buoyancy tank with the bow pole retracting into a rectangular channel. The kite shute also runs through the front tank with the mouth of the shute being a specialised moulding. Ben now has a mould for this foredeck allowing for easy production. High resolution photos [here](#).



Wayne Torpy has now built four Cherubs to this layout which features a low floor, curved side tanks and a concave dished foredeck. 3136 and 3152 were built from scratch and 3070 and 3055 were full boat rebuilds of old hull shells. On each of these boats the foredeck is integral with the front buoyancy tank with the bow pole retracting in a triangular channel that has opening cut in its top to allow easy access to the control lines that run in the channel. The floor is supported on three longitudinal frames that run from the front of the centrecase to the transom and three transverse frames one each at the front and rear of the centrecase and one at the mid point of the cockpit. This layout is more complex to build with the curved side tanks requiring the fabrication of a specialised jig or mould but the result is a very elegant hull. High resolution photos [here](#).



Neil How has built two boats to this layout 3161 and 3145. It is the most intricate of the layouts shown here. The floor is located flush with the top of the centrecase and is slightly dished. The curved side tank on the starboard side is integral with a buoyancy tank while the "tank" on the port side is in fact open over half its length and incorporates the kite shute, with the retriever line emerging from a small opening in the side of the tank. The foredeck is open on the port side and integral with a forward tank on the starboard side. The foredeck is dished for flush mounting of the self tacker track. The open section of the forward area allows easy access to the control lines. 3145 has a mast gate integrated with the foredeck but 3161, pictured here, does not. High resolution photos [here](#).

