

Liberty Tugboat



This tug runs on a single-piston, steam-powered engine using Sterno, and sounds like the *African Queen* in the water. All that's missing is the Kate Hepburn steering dialog and salty Bogart retorts. Remote-controlled, one speed until the Sterno runs out. Has a horn too.



Simple construction, although I overbuilt the lower deck with masonite to avoid using lead for ballast. Steam engine requires oil and cleaning after every day's run.



Hull is one-piece formed polyurethane – like really thin sprinkler pipe.



Smokestack is about the size of a cardboard toilet paper roll. Brass exhaust stack from the little boiler (right) puts out a lot of heat but hasn't burned yet.



Electronic parts have to be covered with plastic because, like the real thing, it sprays water and oil all over the place from the spinning flywheel. Came up with my own color scheme (right).

