

in the construction of a Devlin Winter Wren 18'8" (8.5m) gaff sloop. *The Year of the Boat* is an inspirational book for anyone who feels the urge to construct a boat but lacks the confidence and skills. Lawrence Cheek did it, so you certainly can too.

### KAMASA RECHARGEABLE TWIST TORCH

*Review by Pete Greenfield*

When we lived aboard *Simplicity*, torches were tools of everyday life, particularly in the winter. Searching lockers which our oil lamps didn't properly illuminate. Going on deck to refill the coal scuttle for the Lange Ship's Stove. Taking the dog ashore to answer a call of nature. Trying to find the dog after he'd answered another call of nature, like the bark of a fox. Lighting our way across the quay to the car to go out for the evening; flickering our way back.

Yet, we never trusted our torches, which was why we had so many. Large

expensive flashlights like a Triumph Roadster's headlamps, slender, even more expensive so-called 'pencil' torches like a cop's nightstick, neither could really be relied upon for light when needed. All too often, especially in the summer months after they had not been used for several days, we'd discover a battery was flat, a bulb had gone or a switch had failed.

Which is why, 20 years of technological advances later, I was fascinated to discover the Kamasa Rechargeable Twist Torch. This has a very bright LED running off a built-in battery and – here's the clever bit – you recharge the battery by simply twisting the translucent body of the torch while holding the rubber end-cap. Thirteen twists give one minute's ice-blue light; a full charge gives 10-15 minutes' operation; and they say, you can recharge it over 100,000 times. It sells at around £10.

So far, we've been using it around the cottage – filling the coal hod;

finding the dog – and it really is a handy bit of kit, consistently providing a far-reaching directional light when needed. It will be a useful denizen of the forepeak of the Chebacco boat, the glove box of the CRV or the shelf just inside the workshop door... or come winter, at just over 6" long and 1 1/2" in diameter (150 x 40mm), it would fit very nicely in Mrs G's handbag.

For your nearest stockist:

**The Tool Connection Ltd, Kineton Road, Southam CV47 0DR**  
**Tel: +44 (0)1926 818196**  
[www.kamasa.co.uk](http://www.kamasa.co.uk)

### STARRETT CORDLESS SMOOTH CUTTING HOLE SAW

*Review by Pete Greenfield*

I'll make two modest wagers with you. The first is that anyone who has built a boat any bigger than a tender will have bought one of those hole saw kits – you know, the kind with concentric saw blades which clip into a multi-track arbor thing. The second is that after cutting very, very few holes, the device is now rusting away in a far corner of your boat or boatshop. Most probably burnt blue with a doughnut of charred plywood jammed in it for perpetuity. Any takers?

Thought not. To me, these multi-hole saws ought to work but if they do, whether cheap and cheerful or from a major manufacturer and more expensive, it seems it's never for very long. And even in smallish boats it's amazing how many largish holes you find you need to cut.

For which reasons, I have graduated from multi-blade hole saws to slowly collecting the single fixed diameter variety; more expensive still, inevitably but hopefully with better blades and fewer bits to go wrong. Recently, on the strength of my satisfaction with their dual action jigsaw blades – see W78 – I ordered two from Starrett and they are the best I have used yet.

L S Starrett do a whole range of hole saws for different purposes. The type I bought are billed as 'smooth cutting hole saws'. The integral pilot drill bits have hex shanks so they can be used in cordless drills. And, it's claimed, they are 'ideal for cutting stainless, tool and mild steel sheeting';





my fellow backyard boatbuilder, Jo Moran, has a theory that it's the hard glue in good plywood which soon blunts the teeth of hole saws which is why I went for the metal-cutting type.

The Starrett smooth running hole saws all have 6 teeth per 1" (25mm) set at a constant pitch and a 1/2" (13mm) maximum depth of cut – if you're cutting holes in 12mm ply, there is a chance the ply disc will jam in the saw but usefully, there are two holes in the blade into which you can insert a screwdriver to lever the disc out.

The prices of the two hole saws I bought were £15 for the 1 1/8" (27mm) diameter saw and £18.66 for the 1 1/2 (38mm) model, both including VAT – UK sales tax – at 17.5%, though heaven knows what the rate will be by the time you read this. L S Starrett Company Ltd, Oxnam Rd, Jedburgh, Scotland TD8 6LR Tel +44 (0)1835 866333 [www.starrett.co.uk](http://www.starrett.co.uk)

## OF DOGS AND POLYURETHANE ADHESIVES

*Coda by Pete Greenfield*

A caution which I hope is completely unnecessary. Various websites are now telling us that dogs – and puppies in particular – are especially attracted by the smell and taste of polyurethane adhesive, which is, of course, moisture curing. If the dog eats it, the glue will cure inside the dog's stomach, swelling into a hard ball with potentially fatal consequences. I have yet to come across any cautions about this in formal product literature and though I regularly use various polyurethane adhesives, neither of our pooches has ever shown the slightest interest in them. However, my poly glues now live on the highest shelf in the workshop.

**CAN YOU WRITE A REVIEW?**  
Whether it's boat gear or a boat gadget, a tool or a book, if you have bought it and it does the job, other readers would like to read your impartial assessment.