



# Vac-U-Pickle™

## 1:13 Scale Pickle Fork Hydroplane Hull



**Length: 26 in. Beam 13-1/8 in. Weight 29.5 ounces +/- empty. Hull supplied with your choice of Prototype Cowl shown, or Atlas Cowl. Additional cowl versions to follow.**

**Thank you for purchasing this Vac-U-Boat hull.** The following information will help you understand its construction and characteristics..

**Construction:** The hull is made of H.I.P.S. High Impact Polystyrene plastic. The hull and deck are made from two layers of .040" H.I.P.S. laminated together with West Systems® Epoxy. The hull and deck are then reinforced with laser-cut hot-pressed Mahogany plywood reinforcements and sealed with a flexible Polyurethane Rubber sealant. Styrofoam® flotation is pre-installed in the sponsons and after-planes.

**Power:** The Vac-U-Pickle™ is designed for electric power only. Gas, oil, or glo-fuel will damage the styrene plastic hull. The hull can be powered by brushed "600" motors or brushless motors. The interior will accommodate two standard round-cell battery packs or two newer LiPoly battery packs. Racing is more enjoyable and economical if your group agree on a standard motor & battery voltage for the model. This hull is suitable for standard *LSH Limited Sport Hydroplane* or *N-2* power configurations.

**Hardware:** A variety of drives can be installed. The optional 15 degree brushless motor mount is designed for a flex-cable surface drive. Rudders mount to the left of the drive. A pre-drilled servo mount is included in the left rib that will fit a HiTec HS-225BB *Mighty Mini* servo. Other brands of mini-servos will fit this opening. A large turn fin is recommended on the rear of the right sponson. Building details & photos for specific hardware brands or configurations will be posted on the website at "<http://www.vac-u-boat.com/Vac-U-Pickle.htm>".

**CG and Ride Characteristics:** Start with a center of gravity that is approximately one inch rear of the back of the sponsons. Front to rear, the boats are generally balance down the centerline of the boat. If you apply power slowly, the boat is prone to submarine. This was a characteristic of the original hull. At the start, punch the throttle and the boat will rise to plane quickly.

**Safety:** FM Radios are recommended for the most reliable signal to the boat. AM radios will work fine under most circumstances, but are more prone to outside interference. If your radio doesn't have a built-in throttle *failsafe*, I recommend you install a *failsafe* on the throttle channel to kill the motor's power upon loss of signal. Fail-Safes are inexpensive. They can help to prevent damage to your boat and can prevent your boat from running out of control and damaging other persons or property.

**WARNINGS: This is not a toy!** I know. It LOOKS like a toy, but it isn't. Toys are generally safe for small children. This boat is not safe for small children. Installing hardware requires the use of sharp tools that can cut skin, strong adhesives that can bond flesh and injure eyes, spray paints that can be flammable and toxic, as well as batteries that can short causing severe burns or fires. Read all of the instructions and warnings on all of the tools and chemicals you plan to use. Use protective eyewear when recommended. **USE SAFETY GLASSES! Join a boat club. Get help from other modelers. If you think you don't have the skills, or are uncomfortable with tools and chemicals, or just changed your mind, then pack up this kit and return it immediately for a full refund.**

Once you complete the boat and are running it in a lake, know that the boat can injure life, limb, and property. Never touch the propeller, spinning or not, while there is a battery inside or connected to the boat. Even if it is turned OFF, assume it can glitch and run on its own. Never run the boat if swimmers are in the water. Don't chase wildlife. Be careful with rechargeable batteries. They have the ability to dump large amounts of current in a very brief period of time if shorted, causing burns or fires. Never store the boat with the battery inside it, connected or not. Keep your batteries in a safe place, out of the reach of children. Read the warnings on the other parts you purchase, the motor, battery, electronic speed control, radio transmitter and receiver, and the battery charger. Use "frequency boards" at your lake to control radio channels. If you don't control channels, then you increase the risk of losing control of the boat. An out of control boat can harm someone. You are responsible for the safe use of this product. You are responsible for choosing wisely, those who you entrust the use of the boat and radio, even for a few minutes at a lake. **Never swim after a disabled model boat!**

**"This is an adult toy!"** That is what you say to those nice kids that come up to you at the lake. It isn't easy, but it is the responsible thing to do. Clubs should keep slower scale boats for visitors to run. I happen to know a guy who makes a nice easy-to-build plastic tugboat kit that is just fine for such an occasion.

**PAINT:** Use spray paints that are safe for plastics. The short cans of "Hobby Enamel" found at any hobby or large discount store are best. When buying them, if the lid isn't sealed, remove the cap to see if someone "test sprayed" the can. If it has any paint residue on the spray nozzle, don't buy it. It is likely clogged because it was not properly cleared by inverting the can and spraying the paint out of the nozzle. (See the can's directions.) No sanding is necessary. Hobby Enamels will bond with the H.I.P.S. well as long as the plastic is clean. Don't get grease or oil on the plastic as it can repel the paint. If in doubt, wash your hands with liquid detergent before handling the plastic. Buy a can of Clear Hobby Enamel when you are getting the colors. It makes a great top coat on dull metallic or dark colors that don't gloss on their own. Test the colors on the scraps to see if a coat of clear is necessary. **NEVER USE LACQUER OR AUTOMOTIVE PAINTS ON H.I.P.S. PLASTIC.** It will soften the plastic and greatly shorten its life span and may completely melt the plastic. Avoid all tall spray cans like standard Krylon<sup>®</sup> or other "household enamels". They will damage the thinner areas of the sheet plastic. Don't be fooled by test spraying auto paint onto the scraps. They are thicker than the model parts and will be less affected. Krylon<sup>®</sup> "Short Cuts", Krylon "Fusion" paint, and Hobby/Craft Enamel Paints work fine. Avoid the short cans of lacquer you will find at hobby stores. Ask for hobby enamel. Polyester paints or any paints labeled safe for plastics should work fine.

**WARRANTY AND RETURN POLICY:** Most Vac-U-Boat Hulls & Kits are sold direct from Vac-U-Boat. If you purchased this from a dealer, contact that dealer on any matter of return. If you open and inspect this kit and for any reason you do not wish to keep it, repack the kit into its box along with a copy of the receipt. (Keep an original for your records.) Mail to Vac-U-Boat via the United States Post Office, Parcel Post with "Delivery Confirmation". Upon receipt of the complete kit, I will reimburse you the original cost plus the cost of the return postage shown on the package and mail those funds to the name and address on the receipt copy. I will replace any defective part found during the assembly or operation of the boat for a period of three months after the purchase date. This warranty does not cover damage caused by abuse, misuse, improper spray paints, alteration or accident. It does not cover consequential damages. You may have other rights, which vary from state to state.