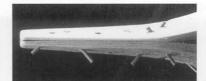
method makes for a smooth, strong coaming and is simpler for the amateur builder. For the masik, cut small kerfs, 1/8" wide (standard circular saw blade width) and 5/8" deep in the middle section. Then soften the wood and bend to the required shape.

Select a piece of pine about  $6' \times 2^{1/2}'' \times 3^{4}$ ". Mark kerf lines (see drawing, page 9) and saw 5/8" deep. Fasten a piece of twine to one end before softening the wood.

An easy way to bend the wood is to boil it over an outdoor fire. End-cap a length of gutter, balance it over the fire (or camp stove), and immerse the wood in water. Boil for about 15 minutes. An indoor method is to attach an electric kettle spout to a piece of end-capped ABS pipe with the wood inside. Steam for 1/2 hour.

With gloves on, slowly bend the hot wood. Fasten the twine to the other side and tighten until the correct measurement is reached. (See drawing page 9.) Dry thoroughly. To strengthen and solidify, fill in the kerf spaces with waterproof outdoor glue. Make a trough with duct tape and slowly drip in glue until filled. When the glue has cured, sand smooth. Cut the masik to length and install.

When the deck beams are all fitted into



The ends of the gunwales come together along the flat planed surfaces and are pinned with dowels set at different angles.

place, check the deck for symmetry. There's no going back after this step. Clamp gunwale ends together and drill three or four 1/4" holes through at varied angles. Dip dowels in glue, insert and cut flush.

## Lashing the Gunwale and Deck Beams

Lashing the kayak pieces together gives the kayak flexibility to move with the waves. Where nails or screws would work their way out, lashings allow some movement.

The Inuit lashed their kayak pieces together with lengths of sealskin. Bearded sealskin was used for heavy-duty use, ring seal for general use. We will use seine twine. This tarred twine is strong and waterproof—and hard on the fin-

Note the bevel planed on the top of the gunwale.

The lashings between the deck beam and the gunwale are routed through three 3/16" holes.

gers. Pull firmly at each joint to ensure a tightly knit structure.

At each station you will drill a triangular path for the twine. (Note special requirements at cockpit deck beams.) Drill a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" hole through the deck beam about 1" from the gunwale. Keep the drill bit parallel to the gunwale flare. Drill a hole through the gunwale. Keep the drill bit upright and favor the inside. The hole should come out at <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> to 1/2 the depth of the gunwale. Where the hole comes out, drill a horizontal hole through the gunwale, being careful not to hit the deck beam. Cut a notch with a chisel or knife in the gunwale top, from the hole inboard. This will provide a trough for the twine



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