stern. All arrive at the same overall shape. I like to plane both sides at the joint to have them meet flat. You can also use a saw, repeatedly sawing through the joint until it meets smoothly.

Loosen the temporary bow (stern) lashings. Using a block plane, shave the gunwales vertically so they will meet each other. Tighten the lashing. Finish shaping the gunwales by planing the top edges to about 3" of the way to the outside edge.

Deck Beams

Using the Deck Beam chart above, cut deck beam stock to length for stations 1-9 and 14-20 from 1 1/2" x 3/4" pine, marking the station number on each deck beam.

As the gunwale curve changes, so must the angle at the ends of the deck beams. Begin with deck beam #9 and work toward the bow. Holding the deck beam piece on the top of the gunwale over the mortises, use a sliding bevel to measure the angle on the horizontal plane between the gunwale and beam. Mark the angle and trim the deck beam as required on both sides. This angle will change as you move forward. Repeat the process for the stern end, beginning with deck beam #14. The wedge-shaped "tenons" on the ends of the deck beam have a 90° point and are angled downward for a good fit with the mortises. (See the side bar on page 19 for a way to mark the ends.) After cutting the tenons, sand the deck beams smooth and install them temporarily.

Three deck beams need to be specially shaped. Deck beams #10 and #11 begin the rise in the deck toward the cockpit. Cut them from 2"-thick stock, sand them smooth and fit into place. Make the itivik as shown, sand smooth and fit into place. It will replace the aft temporary spreader.

Masik (forward cockpit deck beam)

In the original East Arctic kayaks the coamings were not bent. Rather, they were scarfed and joined together from several pieces of wood. You will use the same technique to shape the masik and, later, the ribs and the cockpit coaming. The kerfing...