Boiler.

Warning: The boiler is a pressure vessel. Observe the following safety recommendations.

It is recommended that your boiler be tested by hydraulic pressure to 150% of the design working pressure every two years by a competent person.

Any alteration carried out to, or holes drilled in, the boiler will need to be followed by a further proof test as above.

This is my boiler design. I looked at other designs and decided to design my own, as it would suit the steam launch I was building.

In included in the drawings are all the fittings, sight glass fittings, steam dome, safety valve and a sensor for water level. The water sensor works on the principle that the electrical resistance of water and steam is different. So when the water level drops below the water sensor, the resistance changes and a electronic circuit activates the filling of the boiler.

The boiler body is made from 42mm OD copper tube. Cut to length and drill the holes for the fittings. The ends are made from 1.4mm sheet cooper. Anneal the copper so it can be easily formed.

Cut two pieces of copper pipe for the flue to the dimensions in the drawings. Make a flue end with a piece of flat copper. Drill the center flue for the vertical flue. Then silver soldered the flues together.

Cut four strips of copper to make the legs. Also cut four brass plates, these will be the nuts for the legs to be bolted to the base. Braze the copper plates to the copper strips for the legs.

The dome is made from 4 brass pieces, the main body and 3 bushes. They are machined and then brazed together.

Brazing of the boiler. When I first tried to silver solder the boiler, I was using a hand held propane torch. But it could not the boiler hot enough for the silver solder to run. So used a ring of a gas cooker to preheat the boiler for a few minutes, then used the torch to silver solder. This worked well, so if you are having problems brazing the boiler, try this.

For more info on the building of the boiler and the steam launch it was designed for go to

http://gersteamengines.yolasite.com/























