



replace any that are out of line.

When all is ready, lash the ribs to the stringers and the ribs to the keelson as shown in figure 7. The lashing over the keelson may be either countersunk in a groove or go through a hole drilled in the keelson as in photograph H.

Next, fit the cockpit coaming over the deck stringers. The coaming may butt against the stringers, it may be notched as in photograph I (which is more usual), or both the coaming and the stringer may be notched. Shape the deck stringer to meet the notch in the coaming as shown in figure 3, and drill down through both the coaming and the stringer. The lashing goes under the deck beam; three or four tight turns should be enough.

Fit the coaming stanchions to the gunwales and the coaming as in photograph J. Be sure the coaming is level, then lash the stanchions in place. (The stanchions in this photograph were not original to the kayak and were fitted later by an indifferent crafts-

man.)

Finally, fit and lash the mast step between ribs 11 and 12 to port of the keelson as shown in photograph K. Congratulations! Your frame is complete.

The original kayak was painted all over with a red ochre coloring that was probably made from crushed hematite mixed with water. A clear varnish or polyurethane is probably a better choice today. However, a red-ochre-colored metal primer could also be used.

### Covering the frame

A well-made canvas cover that is properly treated and aired will last many years. One of my own kayaks didn't need a new cover until after eight years of hard use. For the Aleut kayak, you will need six yards of #10 duck canvas that is 60 inches wide. It currently sells for \$11.95 (Canadian) per yard. It should be cheaper in the United States.

The canvas is sewn dry on the kayak. I've heard that pouring hot water over the cover after it is sewn in place will help to shrink it, but I've never tried this.

Stretch the canvas lengthwise over the bottom of the frame as much as you can. Bring the ends up over the bow and stern and secure them with lashings, thumb tacks, or both. Allow for about a 1-inch hem that is turned under, mark for the vertical seam at the very end of the stern. Also allow for a small, round tube extension at the bottom of the stern as shown in figure 8. This is tied shut for use in the water, then untied to act as a drain when the kayak is beached. It also serves as an attachment point for the rudder. Remove the canvas from the stern and sew the stern seam, using a sail needle, palm, and waxed sailmakers thread. The two hemmed sides of the seam should just meet each other snugly. A plain round stitch, or the one shown in photograph L, may be used. This photograph also shows a dart being sewn without cutting the canvas — a good practice to follow whenever