

Extra Storage on a C&C 27

There are some unused spaces to be found behind the seatbacks of the starboard settee and I turned the largest space behind the centre seatback cushion into a bottle bar on *Aragorn*. The spaces behind the other two seatbacks aren't as deep but are still worth appropriating as storage bins of some sort. Access to the bins was made much easier when we got rid of the dome fasteners which formerly held the seatback cushions in place and added strips of Velcro instead.

On the 1978 Mk III, at least, access to the space behind the middle seatback is complicated by the existence of a plywood brace that stands vertically at just about the centre of the middle seatback cushion – as you'll notice in the sketch, my 4-bottle "bar" had to be made in two, two-bottle sections so it could straddle this obstacle.

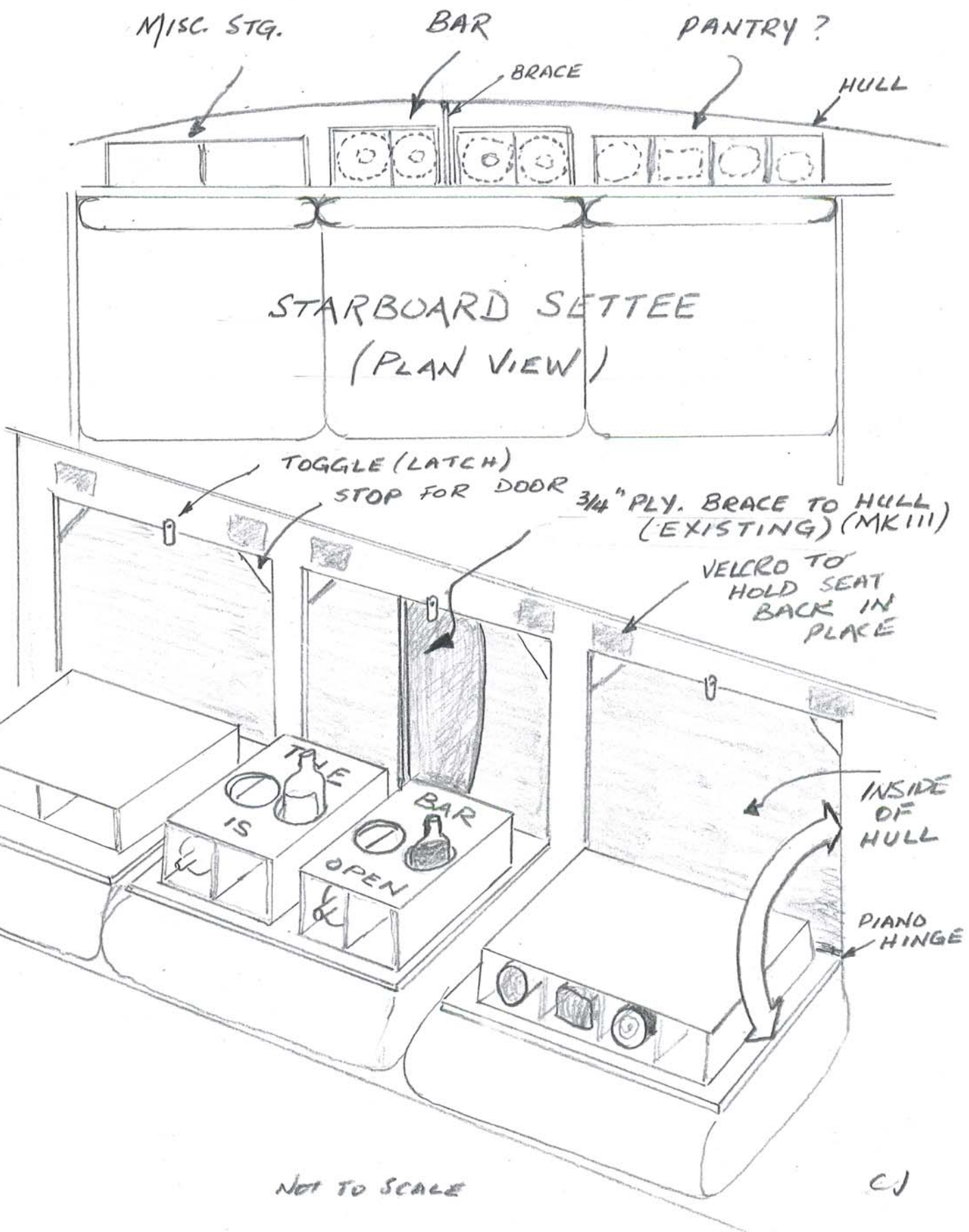
Locating and cutting the openings

The top horizontal cut-line must be below the underside of the shelf which runs along the starboard side of the boat. The bottom cut-line is made about a 1/2 inch above the height of the seat cushion. The vertical cuts are made about an inch and a half inside the edges of the seatback cushions. The trick in using the plywood cut-out as the "door" onto the backside of which you'll mount your storage bins, is to leave a 6" length uncut on each of the two side cuts and also the top cut until after you have screwed on the piano hinge which bridges the completed bottom cut. Once that hinge is attached, then complete the other cuts and your door will be automatically mounted in the opening's centre.

Once that step was done, I measured the depth of the space available and made the bins to suit that space and fastened them to the back of the door. Add some stops to prevent the doors from falling back into the cavity and very importantly, add toggles to hold the doors securely closed when the boat is heeled. Forty ounces of rum sloshing back and forth through the broken glass on the cabin sole as it makes its way into the bilge, is not a sight that any sailor should have to bear watching!

Clare Jordan
Aragorn

EXTRA STORAGE C & C 27'



NOT TO SCALE

CJ