

“On George Greenough”

The Edgeboard Era, 2006

George made his last edgeboard spoon in 1990, as the nylon 4th Gear Flyer mats had taken over as the go-to surf craft. The mats were just too versatile and too much fun in comparison to hassling with the crowds in good surf on a spoon.

In 2006, Damien O’Neill asked me about building some edgeboard spoons for him. I was, and am, in no position to do that kind of work any more. After much discussion, he expressed an interested in learning how to build spoons himself. The last thing I wanted to do is get involved with a spoon builder who was just starting out. There was just too much to learn. Damien was in his early fifties and an IT manager, so that much boded well. At least he understood that good things take time, etc., etc.

I had the 6 edgeboard molds...which all had been designed by George, and built by George and myself. Long story short, Damien obtained all the molds, and retained me to verbalize the process of how to make a Greenough Edgeboard spoon via e-mail. I started hammering out chapters on the process. I knew it would be hard, but it turned to be nearly impossible! There was no point of reference because Damien hadn’t built conventional boards or worked with composites before. But, we took a methodical approach. Day after day he would mix up batches of epoxy, try a test lamination, and send me digital photos. I would adjust my directions, and many months later, Damien was making spoons out of George’s molds!



(Dave Kelly)

One of the odd problems Damien faced was that he had too many (six) molds to choose from. He was much closer to my current size/weight (200 pounds) than George's (136 pounds), so he began by making spoons out of my old, somewhat larger molds. But the spoon that really captured his imagination was out of the camera board mold that George made for the POV cinematography in *Big Wednesday*. The camera board was 5'5" long, and although it was very narrow, Damien really liked the length.

Damien and George got together with all of the edgeboards Damien had made and went through the various plusses and minuses. George made some recommendations for a new spoon mold, which would be suited to Damien's current weight. I made a plug and a mold for the new edgeboard spoon. It turned out to be 5'5" long and 21" wide. George's old curves fit together nicely in those proportions.

Here is a gallery of photos of the shaped plug, the glassed plug, the mold being made, and the finished mold...

















(Paul Gross)

And here's a finished board out of that mold...



(Dave Kelly)

-- Paul Gross