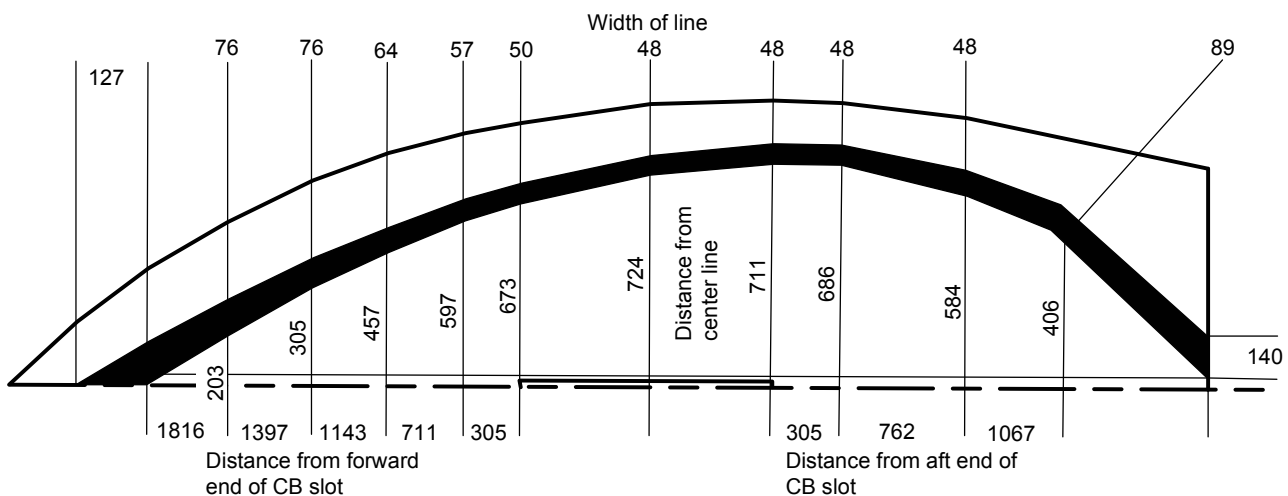
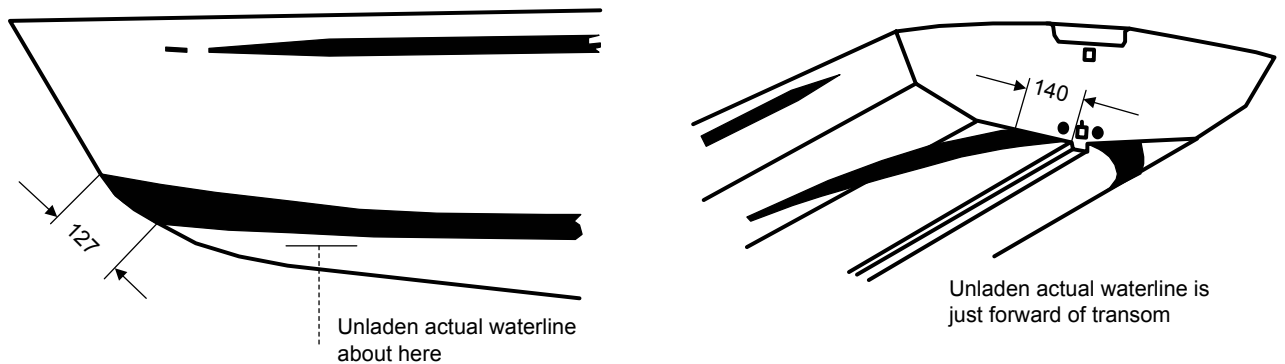


# A Wayfarer Water Line

Summary of an article in W-News (UKWA) by KG Richard.  
Translated by Jens Konge Rasmussen (W1740 – RAS).

If a boat has the same color throughout the hull, it is important to paint lines to make it look longer and slimmer. With a light upper and dark lower paint, or vice versa, there is no reason to add a water line in a contrasting color. The existing waterline will do just fine. It is important for a boat that always lies in the water that it is painted with a hard paint that can withstand frequent wash or scrubbing, needed to remove dirt which comes from the dirty harbor water.

The drawing was made after photographs taken by Ray Nurse. Although the water line varies in width, when a fish is looking at it, the final result looks as if it is equal in width all the way. The water line can only be true if the boat is placed upright. Do not make modifications with the bottom up. If you try it, you'll end up with lines that lift themselves, instead of lowering, or lower themselves, instead of lifting.



Drawing based on a sketch by K.G. Richard

Put your boat on a trailer or some boxes and support under the bilge keels. Use small pieces of masking tape or a washable felt-tip pen to mark the lower and upper edge of the water line. If you paint the entire bottom, you only have to mark the bottom of the water line. The water line must meet the bow 1816 mm from the forward end the centerboard case. Here is the water line 127 mm wide. At the stern the top of the water line ends 140 mm from the edge of the keel. To check if the lines are smooth and satisfying, look at the boat from different directions at a

distance of at least 6 m, with the eye in line with or slightly above the waterline. You will most probably find that minor modifications are necessary, but this needs patience. An adjustment of just 2 mm will make a visible difference. Only when you are fully satisfied you start painting, but it is better to wait a day before painting and give it an extra inspection. It is not recommended to scratch lines into the hull. On a woody it may damage the top layer of the plywood, on a GRP boat it may damage beyond the gel coat.

A line under the rubbing strake also has a "slimming" effect. A good effect is achieved with a width of 40 to 50 mm. The top of the line should be approx. 50 mm below the rubbing strake amidships and 40 to 45 mm below it at the ends. The ends should finish 230 to 300 mm from the boats ends. The line ends can be tapered and provided with small interesting shapes, or the end can be broken, It's a good idea to test the effect with a piece of colored tape of a type which is easy to move and remove.