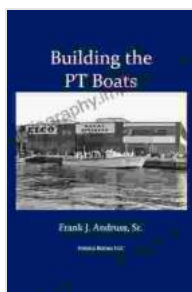


# Journey into the Uncharted: Building the PT Boats, a Masterpiece by Frank Andruss Sr.

In the annals of naval history, the PT boats stand as a testament to ingenuity, bravery, and the indomitable spirit of those who fought in World War II. These sleek and deadly vessels, capable of navigating treacherous waters and delivering devastating blows to enemy forces, were the brainchild of one man: Frank Andruss Sr.



## Building the PT Boats by Frank J. Andruss Sr.

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
Hardcover	: 348 pages
Item Weight	: 1.46 pounds
Dimensions	: 6.14 x 0.81 x 9.21 inches
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Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
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X-Ray for textbooks	: Enabled



## The Birth of an Idea

Frank Andruss's fascination with boats began at an early age. Born in New Orleans in 1894, he grew up tinkering with small boats and dreaming of designing one that would revolutionize naval warfare. After graduating from

Tulane University with a degree in mechanical engineering, Andruss worked as a draftsman and designer for several boat companies.

In the 1930s, as tensions mounted in Europe, Andruss sensed the impending need for faster and more maneuverable boats for coastal defense. He approached Andrew Higgins, a prominent boatbuilder from New Orleans, with his ideas for a new type of patrol torpedo boat.

Higgins was intrigued by Andruss's vision and agreed to collaborate on the project. Together, they formed Higgins Industries, a company that would become synonymous with the production of PT boats during World War II.

### **From Blueprint to Reality**

Andruss poured his heart and soul into designing the PT boat. He studied the performance of existing torpedo boats and experimented with different hull designs and propulsion systems. His goal was to create a boat that was fast, agile, and capable of carrying a powerful armament.

The result of Andruss's tireless efforts was the PT-103, the first of the legendary PT boats. Launched in 1939, the PT-103 was a marvel of naval engineering. It was constructed of lightweight mahogany plywood, giving it exceptional speed and maneuverability. The boat was armed with four torpedo tubes, two machine guns, and a 20mm cannon.

### **Into the Crucible of War**

With the outbreak of World War II in 1941, the PT boats were thrust into the front lines of the conflict. They proved to be invaluable in a variety of roles, including coastal patrol, raiding enemy shipping, and supporting amphibious landings.

The PT boats' small size and agility made them difficult targets for enemy ships and aircraft. They were also capable of launching devastating torpedo attacks against larger vessels, sinking several enemy destroyers and battleships.

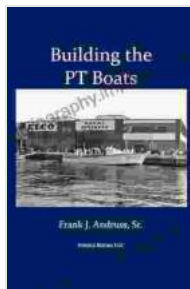
## **A Legacy of Valor**

The PT boats quickly became a symbol of American ingenuity and determination. They were crewed by young, courageous sailors who risked their lives to defend their country. Many of these sailors went on to become legendary figures in naval history, including future President John F. Kennedy.

Frank Andrus's legacy extends far beyond the PT boats themselves. His innovative designs and tireless dedication to excellence inspired generations of boatbuilders and engineers. The PT boats he created played a pivotal role in the Allied victory in World War II, and they continue to be admired and studied by naval historians today.

The story of Frank Andrus Sr. and the PT boats is one of innovation, courage, and triumph. It is a story that deserves to be told and retold, inspiring generations to come. In his book "Building the PT Boats," Andrus shares his firsthand account of the design and development of these legendary vessels.

This book is not just a technical manual; it is a narrative of passion, perseverance, and the indomitable spirit of those who pushed the boundaries of naval warfare. It is a must-read for anyone interested in naval history, engineering, or the human spirit.



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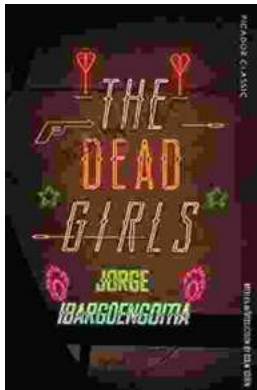
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