

THE MANHASSET BAY ONE DESIGN/SOUND JUNIOR CLASS
Sparkman & Stephens Design No. 1
July 1929

Although Olin Stephens had already published a design for the International 6 Metre Class, the first commercial design to come out of the Sparkman & Stephens firm was the MANHASSET BAY O.D. . Drake Sparkman , who believed that ‘no deal was too small’, picked up the commission in 1928 from the Larchmont Yacht Club. This type of one design keel boat was very popular on both sides of the Atlantic in the 1920s and 30s (*cf. Bembridge One Design, etc., on the Solent*). The design was executed by Buckhout in Poughkeepsie on the Hudson River. The boat measured 21’ 6” LOA, 15’ LWL, 5’10” beam and 3’ 6” draught, displaced 1300 lbs., with a sail area of 230 sq. ft. The first boat was sold for \$700; the average price per boat at the time was \$1,000, for which the designer received the princely royalty of \$25. The design proved to be without vices and was a considerable success. Drake Sparkman’s acumen in this first association with Olin Stephens’ designing genius proved intuitive – one of the early clients a year later bought a sail boat through the S&S brokerage costing \$7,000 and two years later traded upwards to \$15,000, ultimately ordering a boat designed by S&S which cost \$90,000.