



*View of the first two parts used to frame the hatches*

## Chapter Four

### Work begins inboard...

Time to get started working inboard and get the deck planked and the bulwarks planked.

To start, we need to plank the sub decks. Those are the areas that won't be seen very much and you are just creating a platform for the ladders. Little will be seen down there so no need to start constructing coamings and other stuff or using butt shifts. Just neatly plank it with 1/4" x 3/64" planking strips. Don't forget to run a pencil over one edge to simulate the caulking. I started by running one strip down the center line and then I worked my way outward on each

side. Picture is above....do this for both sub-platforms.

In that same photo you can also see a laser cut piece glued to both sides of the bulkheads. You can see etched numbers as reference for the bulkheads it sits between. This starts the process of framing out the "box" so we can build the coamings for the open companionways. There will be two of these. This first one you see (above) is the open companionway mid-ship. You can also see that those pieces have laser etched mortises for the frames which will be added next.

Note how these two pieces are flush with the top of the bulkheads on both sides.

Next up, I added the beams...these fit in the mortises to start framing the opening. The three partial "deck" beams were sanded free of laser char on the top side only before placing them in position. The forward-most beam has no mortises and is just there to give extra support to the decking later. Dry fit these first because you want to line up the mortises in these frames so your "carlings" will be square and at right angles in the next step. Make any needed adjustments to ensure this.



The carlings (run fore and aft) were cut from 1/8" x 1/8" cedar strips. Please note that these photos just show a dry fit of all of these pieces. The laser cutter does a great job of etching the deep mortises for the carlings. Although this is the case, you should still square them up a bit and clean up the corners for best results. I did this by scraping the mortises with a sharp #11 blade. You shouldn't have to use a chisel at all. All these mortises need is a bit of scraping!!!

The carlings were cut to length carefully for a nice snug fit. Don't cut them long and then force them into the mortises. This will force your beams apart and give you problems later on. Take your time with these. You can adjust those deck beams "port-to-starboard" so the carlings sit correctly in the mortises. Make sure they are parallel to the center line of the deck and to each other. Your coaming will be built over this. This is just a dry fit so you can tweak

them all. You can see all the reference letters I placed on top of each piece so I don't mix them up when I disassemble it. Then it was glued in place permanently once I was satisfied and the top sanded and faired. (Below)



On the next page is an image of the aft sub-platform and its beams and framing completed. This is done exactly the same way as the one in the waist I just described. The only difference is that this one has a central beam which has laser etched mortises on both sides.



This center beam is also thinner by design. Insert the carlings just as you did for the mid-ship hatch opening. Center the opening port to starboard



and carefully make sure the two openings are square with right angles.

### **The False Deck Sheets...**

No laser etched decking!!!! Some of the newer companies making kits are using laser etched decking. They have all of the individual planks laser etched for you. I absolutely despise them with all the planks laser etched. It makes your entire model look kit-like when finished. Your model when finished should like it was scratch built when finished and when placed side by side with the most experienced scratch builders....you shouldn't be able to tell the difference. So even though this project is essentially a kit with 90% of its parts laser cut for you, the decking is something that shouldn't be cheapened with a laser etched version. So yes, we will be fully planking ours deck with wood strips on top of a false sub deck. But you will lots of help and reference lines to help you out. You will notice many laser etched reference lines which will help you position the hatches and partners, as well as line-off the deck for planking.

The six false deck sheets....

The false deck is now glued in position (above). There are six large sheets. They are 1/32" thick. These false deck segments have many laser reference lines. So everyone must be super careful, make sure all of the reference lines line up when positioning these. Most important, make sure the center line between these is actually on the center line. This will ensure all of your fittings and coaming run down the center of the deck as they should. There is a trick that you may find helpful. But first, you should absolutely do a dry run with all six sheets in position.

Because everyone will fair the inside of the hull differently, these may be loose or tight on your model. You may need to sand and trim the outside edges to get them to fit properly. Dont worry about having a small gap along the bulwarks. It is more important that you line up all of the reference lines and get the center running down the center.....



A good trick is to dry fit all six in position. Then drill a few holes through the false deck sheets and into the tops of a few bulkheads. If you insert a few pins (little brass nails) in these you can use them as registration pins when you glue each segment in position permanently. Drill all the registration pins for all six segments as you have them all dry fit in position. I hope this makes sense.

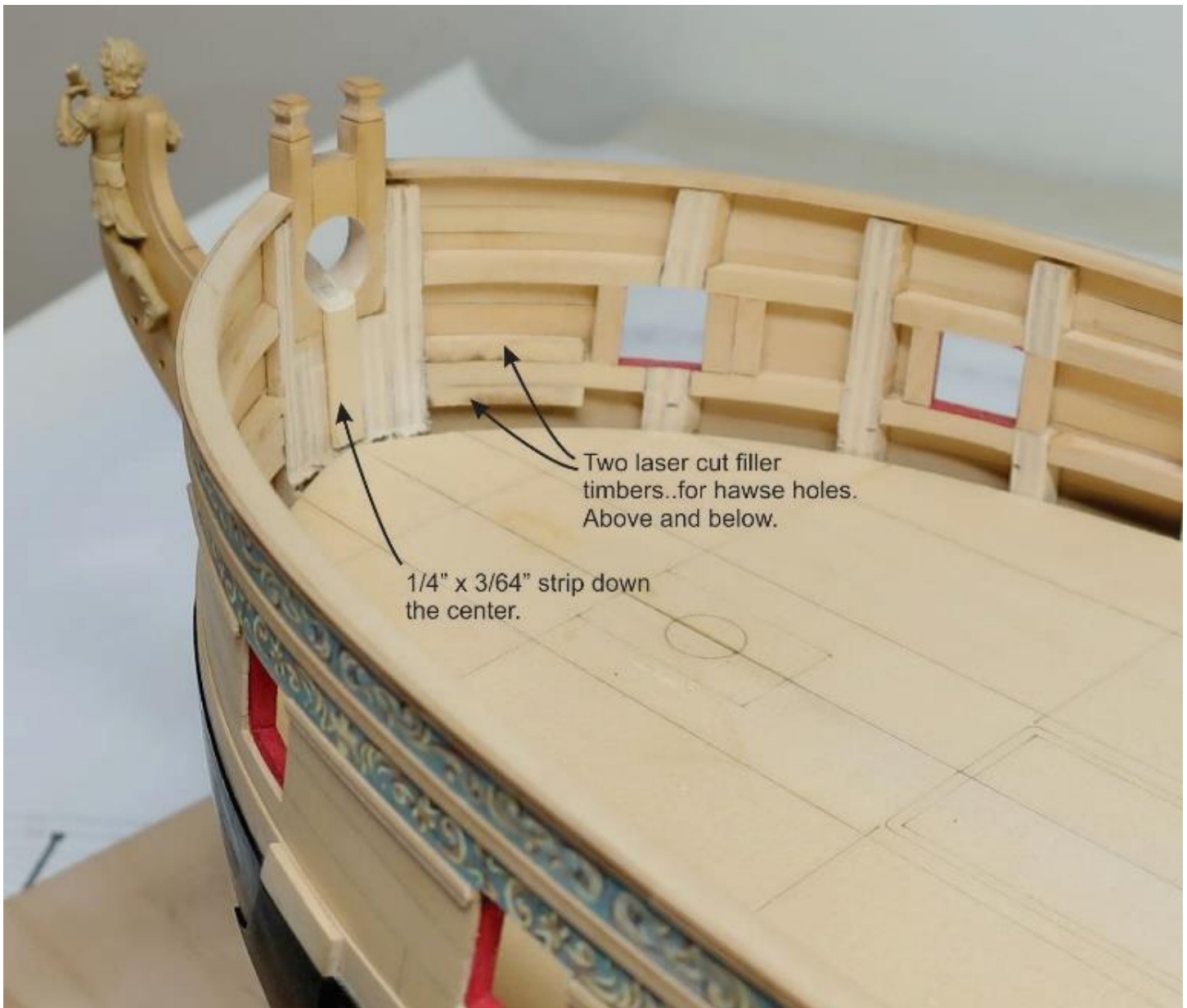
You can see how there are two openings in that photo above for the two coamings which will be open companionways. I decided to go ahead and make these two coamings now. Although I didn't glue them in position. I know I am getting ahead of myself but I wanted to show you at this stage what the opening for those two hatches will eventually look like. You can see how they fit in those openings and on top of the framing you made for them in the previous steps. There will be a little bit of space all around the coamings for these hatches so you can tweak them to ensure they are centered and positioned correctly.

Really important!!!! Don't sand or adjust the edges of the six false deck pieces down the center line. This will make the laser etched reference lines for the hatches and coaming the wrong size. If you need to, only adjust the outside edges of the six sheets.

### **Planking the Inboard Bulwarks...**

Before you can start planking the bulwarks, you need to add some filler timbers (laser cut) where the hawse holes will be drilled at the bow. Then they were faired inboard. In addition, a 1/4" x 3/64" strip was glued down the center of the stem so-to-speak. Below the hole for the bowsprit. Neatly shape the top round where the bowsprit hole is. Keep this neat and round. Try not to enlarge the bowsprit hole in the process. The inboard bulwark planking will abutt the side of this vertical strip.

See the photo on the next page.

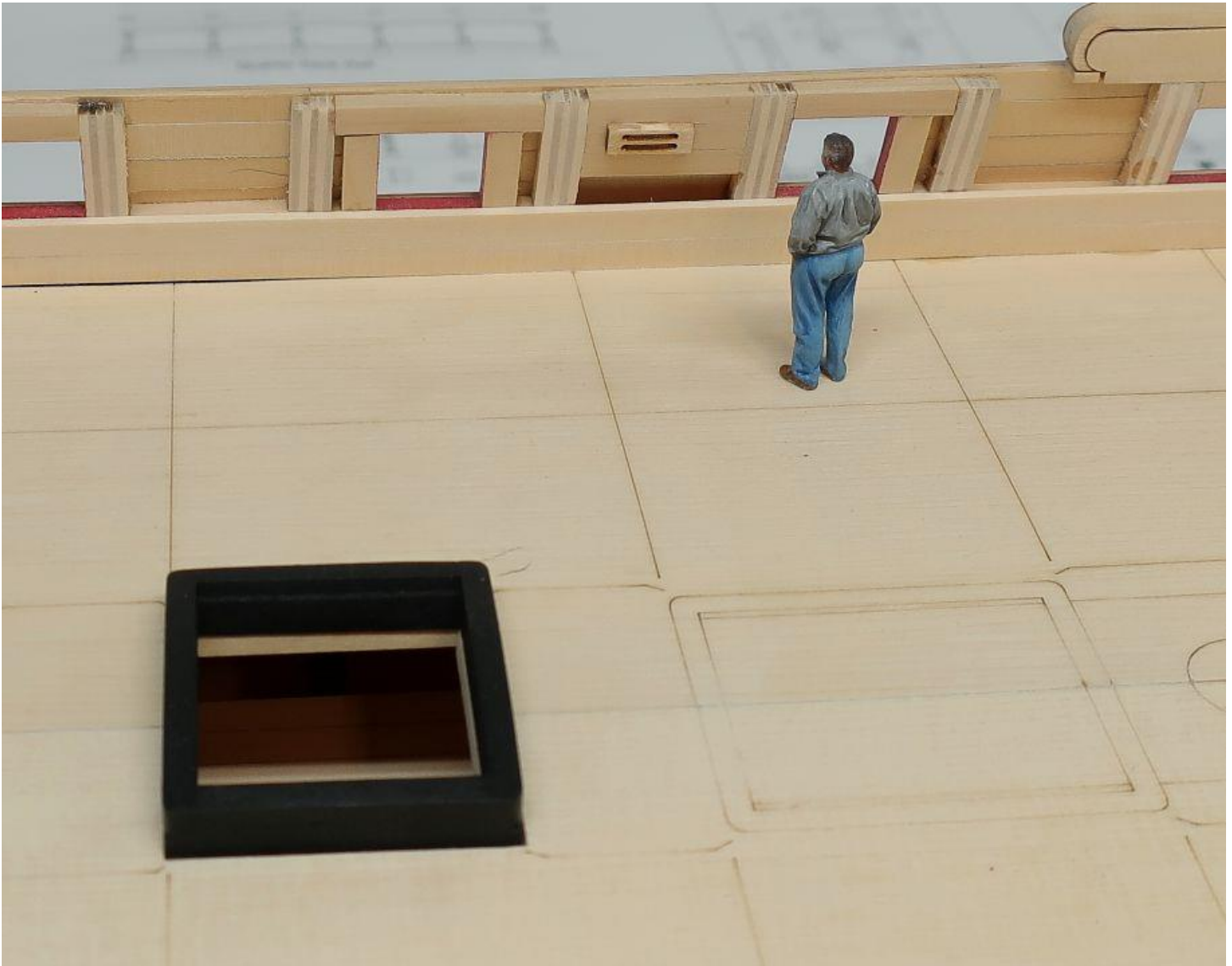


And finally the bulwark planking can begin. The two lower strakes are the first layer of spirketting. The top edge of the spirketting should run even with the lower edge of the port openings. So you need to do some math. The distance from the false deck to the bottom edge of the ports can vary from model to model. It depends on so much....where you placed your sills....whether or not they are flat or angled inboard....etc. The top edge of the spirketting should be flush with the top of the port sills.

So you want to run two strakes for the spirketting 3/64" thick. On my model I used one 7/32" wide strake first and then the second upper strake was 1/4" wide. This combination

was the perfect width for my model. Although you will inevitably find some ports that are slightly high or slightly low. You will need to adjust these should that arise....but most of mine lined up pretty good. You will be adding a second 1/32" thick layer to the spirketting later on. But only after we have fully planked the bulwarks with the first layer.

I did not simulate the seams with a pencil because the inboard bulwarks will be painted red. So the photo on the next page shows the two strakes of the spirketting and how they run true with the bottom of the ports. I also added the inboard side of the fixed blocks. You can see one in the photo. I used some wire pushed



through the sheave holes from outboard to help line them up. The inboard sheave "shells" should be added so you can plank around them.

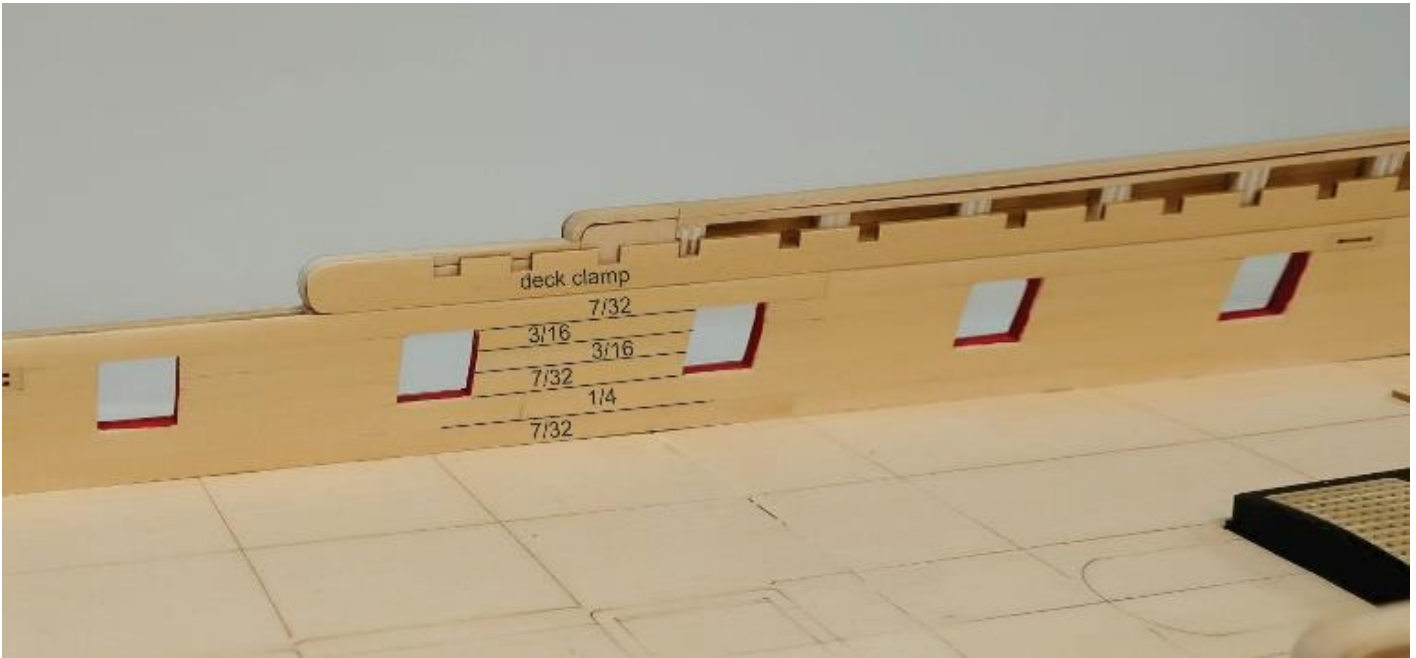
You can also see the coaming in the photo painted black but I was just getting ahead of myself again. We will get that all done when the bulwarks are planked.

The bulwarks have now been planked inboard with their first layer of planks on my model. You can see a photo of that on the next page. The photo shows the different widths I used for each strake. This might be slightly different on your model but you get the idea. The goal here is to find out what width your planks should be between each gun port so the top of the gun

ports is also flush with the planking. Just like we did when using various widths for the spirketting.

The bottom two strakes (spirketting) will have the top edge flush with the bottom of the ports. The three strakes above that between each port were divided up so the top of those was flush with the top of the gun ports.

On top of that goes a strip of  $7/32$ " x  $3/64$ " cedar. This takes you to the shear along the waist. I have NOT simulated the seams with pencil because they will all be painted red. The inboard layer of the fixed blocks were added too and the planking carefully cut around them. BUT....wait until after you plank the first layer of the inboard bulwarks to put the aft-most fixed block shell in position. It falls on the deck



clamp which is thicker and this particular fixed block shell should be glued on TOP of the first layer of Bulwark planking.

The deck clamps are laser cut for you. The quarter deck clamp is in two lengths. You need to add the forward section first. This is

important. Line up the front of it with the hance piece. This is important!!! The notches laser cut in the deck clamp are for the quarter deck beams. We want to make sure they are lined up properly on both sides (port and starboard). If done properly your deck beams won't be crooked!!! Don't sand the laser char off the seam



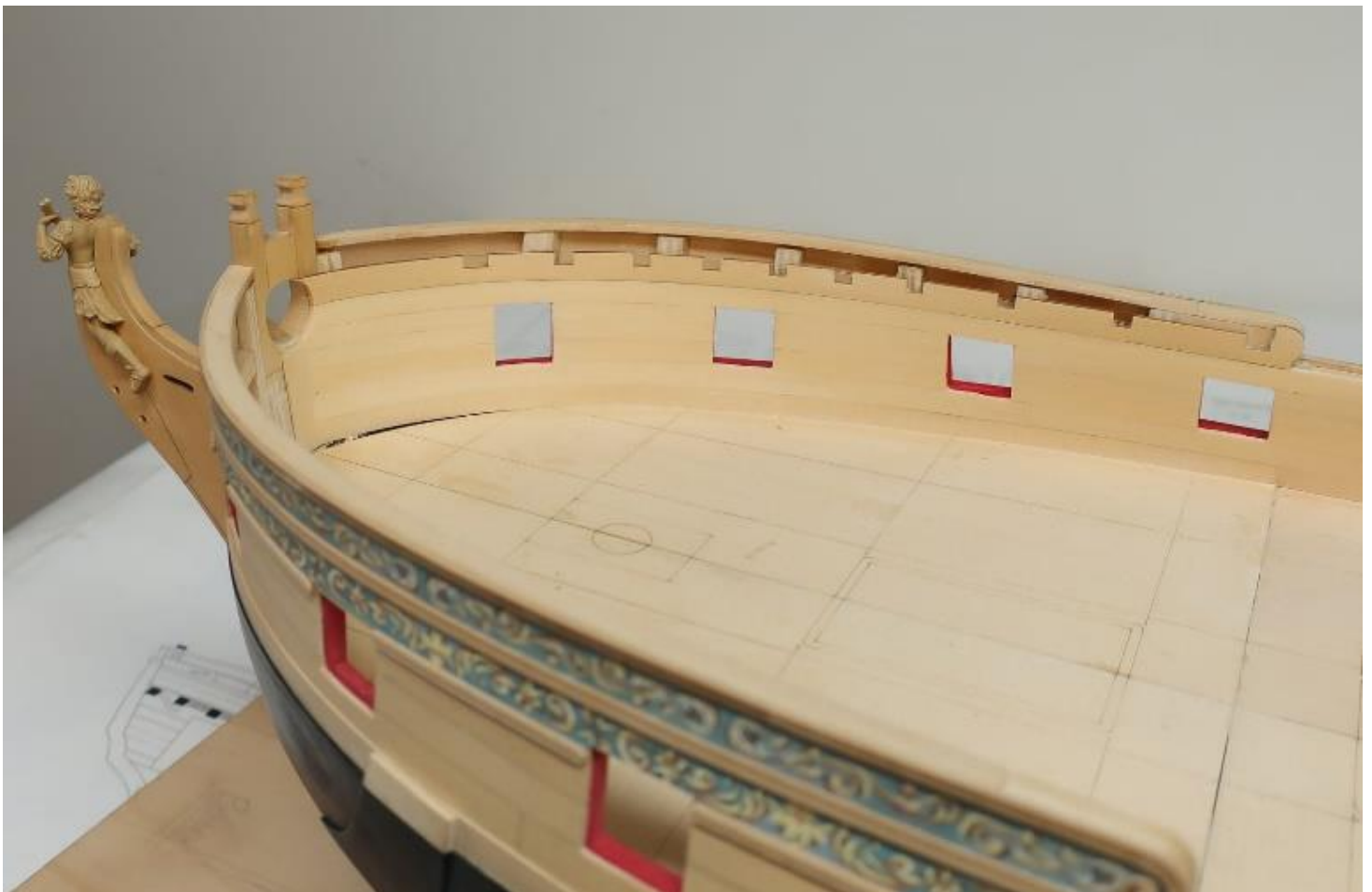
between the two pieces. This will screw up the placement of the deck beams. Just butt the two lengths together.

Once the forward section is glued in place....glue in the aft section. The aft length is purposely laser cut a bit longer so you will most likely have to trim it to fit against the transom.

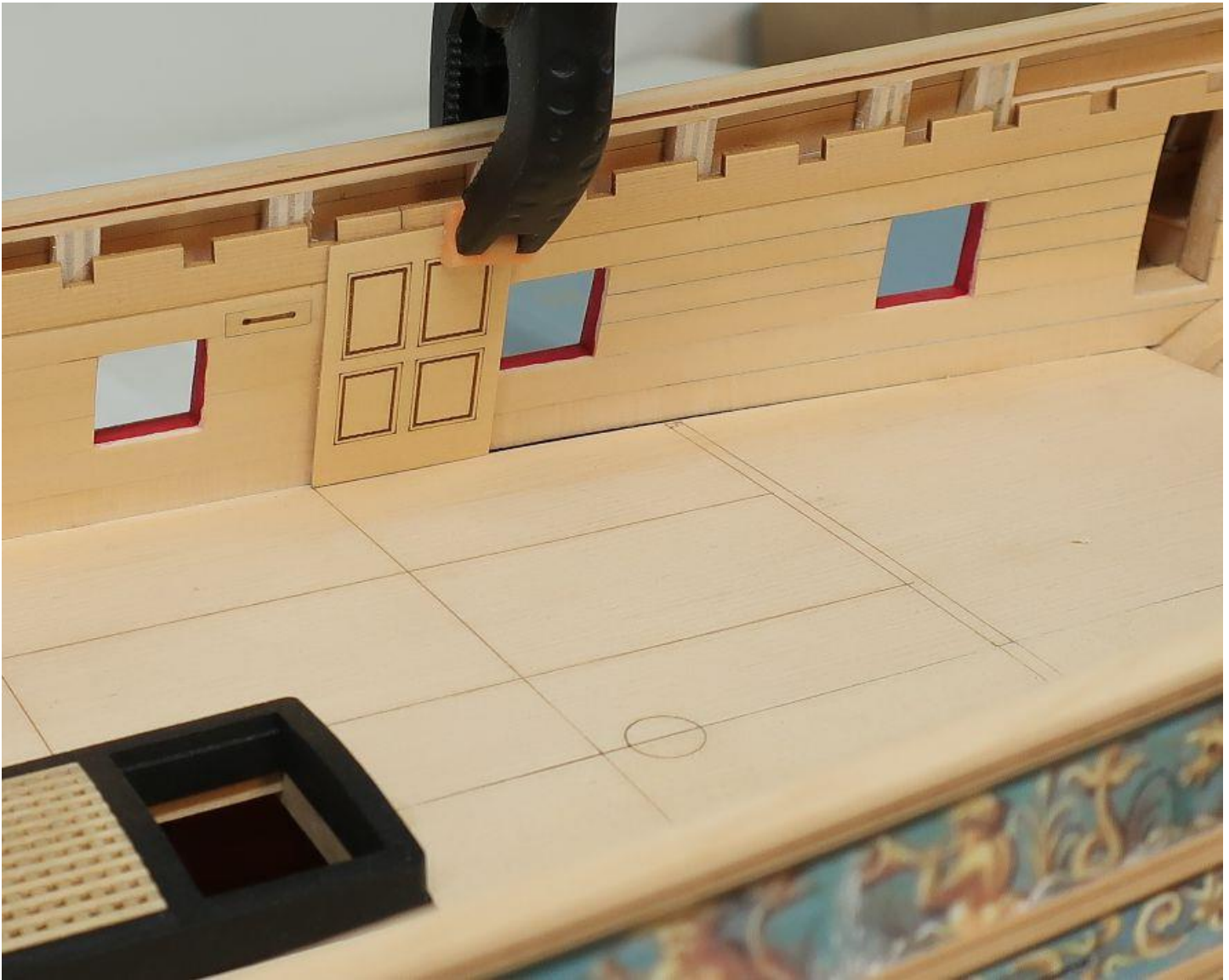
You will notice that the bottom of the last notch in the deck clamp is even with the top of the stern windows. This is crucial. If your deck beams are too high it would be trouble. A little lower wouldn't hurt though to be safe. So please make sure that this is correct. You will need to adjust it if needed back there. In fact you should probably clamp the deck planks in position before you glue them in as a test. Make any needed adjustments before you glue them in. And a reminder again to not sand the forward end of this deck clamp where the two sections butt together. Only sand the aft end to make it fit if need be.

Here is a look at the forward deck clamp for the forecastle. Same is true with this one. Position the end along the hance piece in the waist. Then cut the other end at the stem to length which will need to be shaped round later to make the bowsprit hole nice and neat.

ALSO.....pre bend this deck clamp at the bow with heat. I used the hair dryer. Don't try and force bend it at the bow because it will certainly break along the notches for the deck beams. This photo below also gives you a good look at the inboard bulwarks planked at the bow. You can see how the planking butts against that center strip you placed down the stem. You need to repeat this planking on both sides and then we can move forward to the next step.







### **The Paneled Captain's Cabin....**

The next step is to install the paneled sheets on the planked bulwarks. These will appear in the cabins and captain's quarters. They are very thin and laser etched with the panel design. The full (tall) panels between each gun port are added first. Then the panels above and below each port can be tweaked for a tight fit between those. You want to have tight seams here. Try not to have the seams too visible when you are done. So clean the laser char from the edges of all the panels before you glue them in position.

I must add that the width between your gun ports may vary from the plans. If you placed your ports too far apart the panels may not fit. But I did laser cut them slightly wider as much as I

could to compensate for any of you that may have placed your ports too far apart. The forward panel is not something that you have to worry about as you can just set it against the forward side of the port. See the photo above.

Note how the top of the panels sit just about flush with the bottom of the notches in the deck clamps. Make sure you mark the tops of each panel as it would be easy to mistakenly glue these on upside down. The smaller square panel is on the bottom!!! I actually did this when gluing that first panel on above. The photo showing it dry fit above is correct but when I glued it on permanently I did so upside down. Oh well!!! Mistakes happen.



Notice the line on the false deck going port to starboard. The one just forward of the mizzen mast hole. This indicates where a bulkhead wall will be. Much later in the project of course. Keep this in mind as the forward edge of the first panel must end so you can push the walled bulkhead against it later. So examine those notches in the deck clamps. This first paneled bulkhead that stretches across the deck will be under that deck beam. Make sure the forward end of this first paneled bulwark section will end up under the beam. See how it lines up in the photos below.

The double line on the false deck is another paneled bulkhead that separates the captain's cabin. You can see these on the plans. Note how it lines up with the notch for the deck beam above it.

The cannon is just a prototype for the Winnie that I built. I use it to test how it fits on the model as I work on it. It looks like it will fit perfectly once the deck is planked.

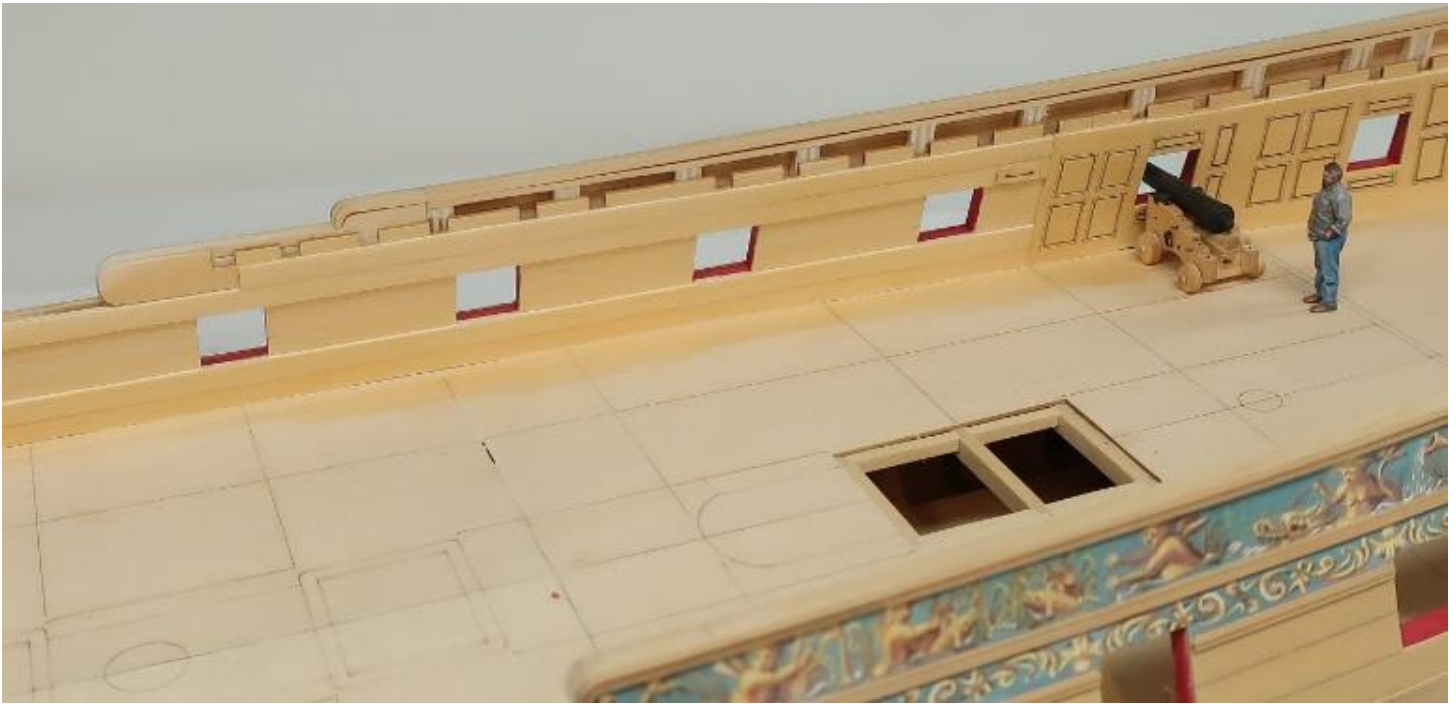
A quick note about these panels...I have seen some odd shaped ports on the some of the models being built. Their placements is also sketchy as we have mentioned in many build logs that show your models being built. Especially that aft most port and the entrance to the

quarter galleries. I mention this because these panels are pretty precise. Although some wiggle room has been designed into them...if you didn't measure your ports properly or if they are in the wrong position, your panels will likely not fit well. This is why careful measuring early on is so important. So for that reason....these panels are OPTIONAL. You don't have to use them. Especially if they don't fit properly because of your port placement and gun port shapes. So test them first with a dry fit to see if they will all work. You might need to get a little creative...

And here is a final image (above) of the model with all its panels installed. I am about to add the second layer of spirketting and deck clamps. Then I will paint the bulwarks red. But the panels will be left natural.

### **The second Layer....**

Next up it was time to add the second layer of spirketting (the lower two strakes) and the 7/32" wide plank above the ports. I used planks that were the same width as the first layer but just 1/32" thick. You can even sand them thinner if you like. I also added the aft shell for fixed block. See it forward of the paneling? This



should be added at this stage so you can plank the second layer around it.

I am not sure why but almost all kits on the market omit this detail. Even the so-called newer companies with better kit designs. But showing the thicker spirketting and deck clamp is one detail that sets your model apart from other kit-like examples. It's a great way to up your game if you are ever working on another kit that has omitted this detail.

Note how I also added one more 1/32" thick second layer strake above that 7/32" wide strip for the deck clamp along the quarter deck. The

top edge follows along the bottom of the notches in the deck clamp. I use various width strips because you will need to taper it. It is not a consistent width. Just make sure the top edge is flush with the bottom of the notches in the deck clamp. It is flush with the top of the bulwark paneling. MOST important....look at the forward end of this additional strip. Notice where it starts in relationship to the first notch in the deck clamp by the hance piece in the waist. This is important because it will aid you later when we build the platforms for the gangways.

Here is a view of the bow area. Same rules apply. The first strake above the ports is a continuation of the strip from along the waist. It





terminates at the stem. Above this I used a narrower strip so the top edge was flush with the bottom of the deck beam notches. Notice where the aft end of the narrower plank ends in this instance. Once again it is even with the forward edge of the first notch.

Sand everything smooth and prep the bulwarks for painting. Fill any gaps between the planks etc. Then paint it red. But don't paint the fancy panels aft.

*Inboard counter at the stern.....*



There are five strakes. They are all laser cut with the proper curve of the counter. Note that I started with the top plank so it would be flush with the bottoms of the windows. We will be adding a thin sill and some molding later on top

of this to finish it off. I also decided NOT to highlight the seams between these planks as I think they would look too busy. It will look cleaner this way with the paneled rudder trunk and benches in front of it. Leave the space open between the lower three strakes. This creates the opening for the rudder and the "rudder trunk" will cover this up later.

But first I want to get the deck planked. So next up was adding the margin planks. Templates are provided for you. Each model will be slightly different and you want make these nice and tight. But be aware that it is unlikely that these will fit your model perfectly using the templates as is. There will be so many differences in the way each of you fair inboard and create the inboard shape of the hull. So some of you will no doubt have to use them as a starting point to trace them and cut new ones to fit your model.

It's not very hard to do. They are 3/64" thick. Once you create a good fit with your paper templates, place them on a 3/64" thick Cedar sheet and cut them out. The aft section against the transom was positioned first. The aft edge was beveled to fit snug against the transom counter planking.

See the photo on the next page.



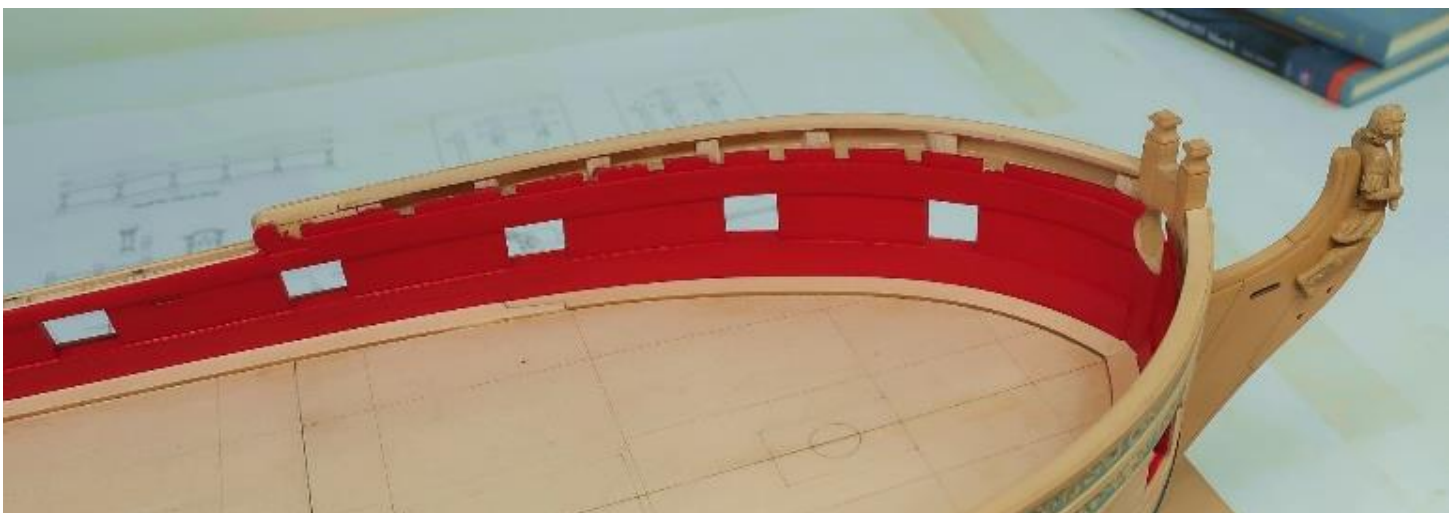
Then I shaped the lengths of the margin planks that fit tightly against the bulwarks. I started at the bow and worked my way aft with each section. You can see the scarf joints I created between each length on the templates. But this is a minor detail. Some of you may find this a difficult joint to create because the parts are not laser cut. You can substitute a simple butt joint as a straight line on a diagonal. It is something that will in all likelihood be covered up with a cannon or rope coil from a gun tackle anyway.

To finish this up we will add the waterway which will be a 3/64" x 3/64" strip that is angled on the inboard side or you can fashion it into the typical quarter round molding shape you would see for a waterway. Fit the water way snug to the bulwarks on top of the margin plank. There will

not be a waterway strip along the transom and you only need to place it against the bulwarks on the port and starboard sides. Once that is done you will start building the platforms and coamings down the center of the deck so you can plank around them.

### **Checked cabin floor....**

This is 3/64" thick. It is laser etched with the pattern as you can see in the photo on the next page. It is cut over-sized so with a little tweaking it should fit everyone's model. So it is crucial that you make a paper pattern first that fits in the space tight. Then trace it on the sheet and cut it to fit your model. Try for a nice tight fit!!! I prefer a subtle pattern that isn't too dark. So





many models end up with a black and white pattern which I find so distracting.

Remember where the forward bulkhead wall will be so you position the forward edge correctly. My floor ends right under where the deck beam will be so I know the bulkhead will sit on top of the forward edge of the checker pattern.

From this point, we will slowly make our way forward building the various coamings and partners. This needs to be done so we can plank the deck properly around these items.

### **Building the coamings...**

All of the coaming pieces are laser cut. They go together quickly. They have the camber build into them which is a good thing. You will also get a small right angle jig. You will actually get two of these. Their use depends on which coamings you are building. These first two coamings use the 5/64" thick jig. All others will use a thinner jig. The two coamings that have open companionways sit in the "open" hatches in your false deck. They needed to be taller because they sit directly on the beams you added to frame them out. All of the coaming parts are placed on individual laser cut sheets J1 – J5.

You can use the outside of the jigs to get a right angle on the coamings. You don't want skewed coamings. I usually build two pieces as shown in

the photo and set them aside. Then I take the remaining two sides and repeat the process. To finish the coaming I then glue these two right angle pieces together to complete the coaming. Then add any cross beams in their respective notches.



This particular coaming is the aft one pictured on deck (J2). I show this one because it has an additional timber that separates it into two parts. There are notches for these and it was easy to just slip it right in and the coaming remains squared up. Then I finish it off by sanding all of the laser char off. I haven't applied any finish yet.

Once you have the initial coaming completed, you must add thin strips along the inside edges to form the rabbet. This is what the gratings will sit on. Only the port and starboard sides get this

rabbit strip. These are 1/32" x 3/16" strips. Everything is yellow cedar.



Lastly....you must round off the four corners above the deck planking (which we have yet to add). That is why these two coamings (J1 and J2) use the thicker 5/64" jig. Simply use it to round off the corners down to the jig when the coaming is set against it. You can just use a #11 blade to make some straight cuts and then round it off with some sandpaper. You can see the finished corner on the left side in the photo above. All four will end up looking like that. Only a small amount needs to be sliced off. Don't cut too much of the corner away!!!

You can assemble all of the coamings like this but use the thinner jig for the coamings J-3 through J-5.

I have decided to paint the coamings black just like those shown on the contemporary model.

### **Adding the Gratings...**

To make the gratings for the gun deck you will need 3 packages of cambered grating mini kits. These will not be included in the package for chapter 4 because I sell them in either cedar (less expensive) or boxwood. Either would work and you guys can choose based on your preference. You will also need the grating jig. One jig should last you the entire project.

To start, figure out how many cambered laser cut grating strips you will need to fit the spaces in your coaming. Only build what you need. For example this grating below on left side needed just seven grating strips in the jig. The coamings were designed so each grating will fit perfectly in each opening when finished. So don't use more than the space needs.



Then use the supplied strips (battens) and press them into the notches carefully. You will notice they will probably be too tight at first. This is by design. You need to run some sandpaper down the strip until it becomes a nice press-fit into the notches. Once again only use the number of strips you need. In this case 13 strips pressed firmly in position...

At this stage you should look it over to make sure no grating strips went crooked while you were fitting the batten strips into the notches. Sometimes they could lean over to one side. If they did your holes won't be equal in shape and size. Fix those now using a toothpick if they lean over. It's easy to do.

See the photo on the next page.



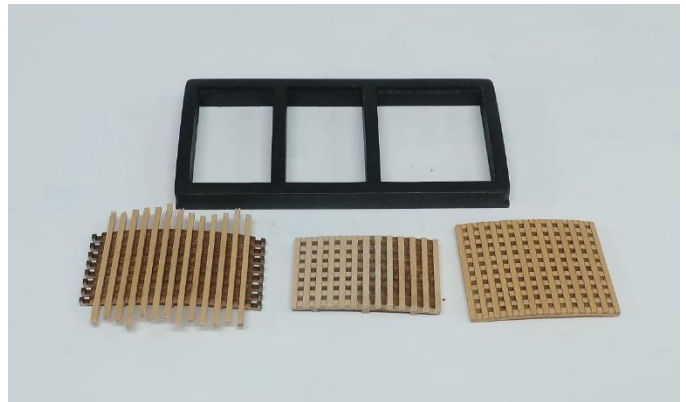
sanding that grating only on one side. The finished grating can be seen coming to light.

The one on the right is completed. These are cedar gratings by the way. Now should you sand the bottom too? You don't have to....BUT, I am sure you have seen those contemporary models and have seen how thin they are. I wouldn't recommend going too thin. But it does change the way the grating looks in the coaming.

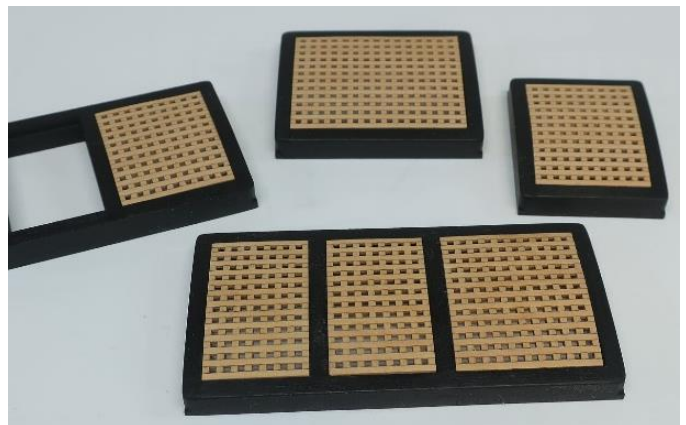
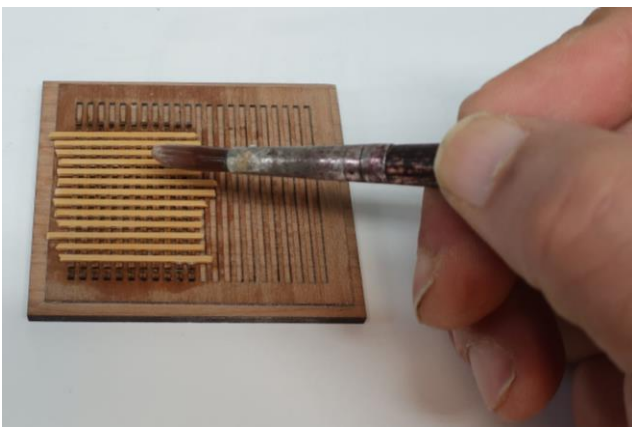
Then paint on some watered down tite-bond. Get it in all the nooks and crannies. Not too thick. If the holes start clogging....add more water.

Wait about 2 minutes but not so long that the glue will dry. You want to carefully pry the grating free of the jig before it dries and is glued to the jig!!!

Then clean up the jig for the next grating. But you are not done yet. Brush more glue on the bottom underside of the grating. Set it aside to dry fully.



And here are the finished coamings with the gratings in position.



Now you are probably saying.... how in world will these ugly, dirty gratings look good. Right now they look awful.

Snip off the excess from the perimeter and file the sides smooth and flush. Check the fit in the coaming. Then start sanding the top surface. In the center photo below you can see I have

### Partners and Stove platform...

From this point, I will slowly make my way forward on deck building the various partners. This needs to be done so we can plank the deck properly around these items. You can see that the coamings were all positioned when completed but only a dry fit first. I wont add the ladders to the companionways until later. Dry fitting the coamings is important so you can see



how they fit with the mast partners and capstan partners. These all need to be carefully positioned down the center line of the deck.

The capstan partner sits against the coaming. It is also laser cut in three pieces and glued together quickly. I simulated the seams between each section with a pencil. I also softened the top edge because it shouldn't be a hard edge.

One interesting feature about the partners is that it should NOT be glued directly to the false deck. The deck is sloped fore and aft which is to be expected. But the partners need to be level otherwise the capstan would not work properly. This means the forward edge of the capstan partner needs to be lifted a bit to raise it up and level it off. I did this with a little cheat. I added a small length of a 1/32" thick strip under the forward edge which will be covered up after we plank the deck. You will notice how it looks lifted up on the forward side and level. If you need to sand the bottom of the aft edge a bit to make it level then that is OK also.

I simulated the bolts using 20 pound black monofilament. You guys should pick some up in various sizes as we will be using it a lot throughout the model.



The foremast partners are made from laser cut parts and assembled just like the capstan partners and then I added the bolts. I used 15 pound filament for those. Use a #75 drill bit for the holes.

You can also see the base plate for the stove. You have a few options with this. I have laser cut a nice base for you. At this time 1760-1790 the base was most likely just a large iron plate....but in some cases they also used flagstone or slate. If you want to depict the iron plate....just flip it over and paint it matte black. But if you want to show some slate or flagstones, I have laser etched the other side with a stone tile pattern.



Simply paint it matte black. Then use some weathering powders on the tiles to make them only slightly lighter. Leave the etched grout lines (which are deeper) dark black. But use some grays and rust colors to make a subtle slate gray stone base. Don't overdo it!!!

The main mast partners were done the same as the fore mast partners. None of these are glued in position yet but I will be doing so soon. Then we can start lining off the deck for planking.



The photo on the next page shows the coamings and partners all glued into position.

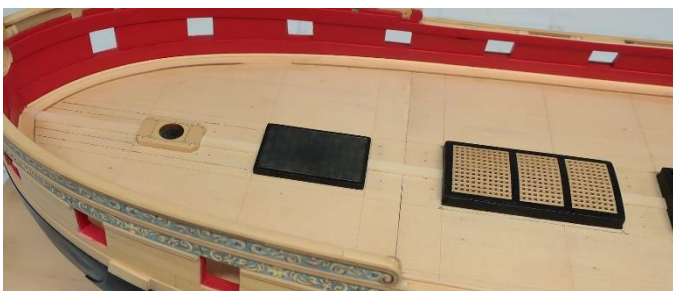


### Lining off the deck for planking...

First after making all of the coamings, gratings, stove platform and mast partners, they were all glued into position down the center line of the deck. Once placed in position, I immediately added a single deck plank (1/4" wide and 3/64" thick) down the center line between the coamings and partners. Do this very carefully, trying to line them up consistently down the center. You will be lining off the deck on either side and you want to make sure everything comes out even on both sides of the deck. In the photo below you can see the strip down the



center. Also note how I decided to paint the frame of the stove platform black to simulate an iron frame instead of a natural wood frame. I realize its hard to see that center plank because



it's the same color as the false deck. But I hope you get the idea.

You will notice that there are laser etched reference lines that break up the deck into belts just like our hull planking. There is the center belt of seven planks.....three more on each side of this center plank we added. Then there are two more belts on either side of this center belt. They are separated by the etched lines which you will use for reference when lining it off. There are also etched lines that run across the deck which indicate where the beams would be and will help you locate the butt joints for the deck planking. NO LASER ETCHED FULL DECK ON THIS MODEL. We will learn how to properly line off the deck so you can do this on any model you build.

Note in the photo below the small square forward of the mizzen mast. It has what looks like little sheaves in it. Those aren't sheaves at all. They are actually slots which are used for the tiller rope that runs around the drum of the ships wheel and down to the tiller. We will be simulating the rope running below the gun deck and up to the wheel's drum later. This is glued down the center line as well and you will plank the deck carefully around it. Check the plans for its placement. You will see on the plans that this feature is shown as two individual pieces rather than one large square. This is just another way this was done and either would work on our model.

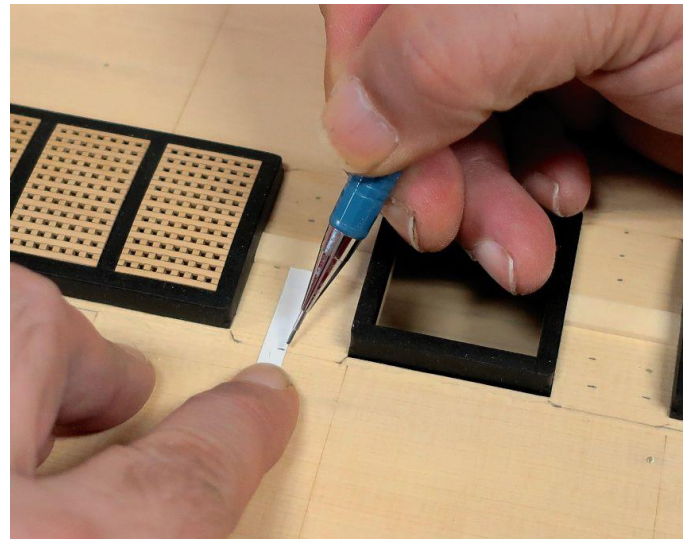
For this era, the deck planking wasn't just straight down the deck fore and aft. It was elegantly curved and tapered at the bow and stern. This is a common mistake seen in many kits. See the contemporary model below. I haven't given the planks as drastic a curve and I am being a bit conservative with it. Although you can see just the fore-castle planking it's the same curvature.



In order to create a plan we have to line off the hull to find out how much taper is needed for the planks etc. Just like the outboard hull planking.

We will first just complete that center belt. This is easy enough. Take out your planking fans!!! A PDF is attached at the end of this chapter. Cut some tick strips from some paper. There are three planks on each side of the center

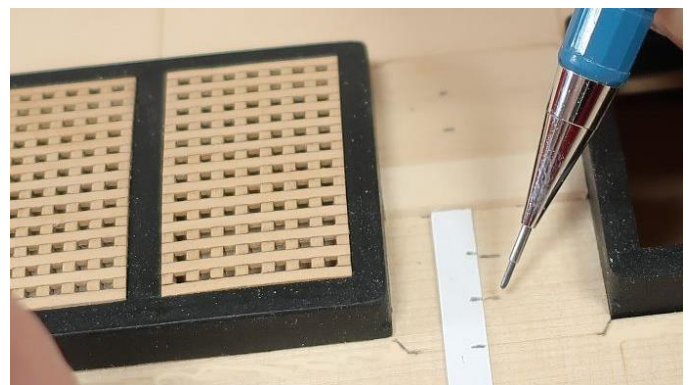
strip. Take a tick strip and hold it against the edge of the center strip. Then mark the location of the etched line defining this center belt. Do this in a few places between all the coamings and hatches.



Then take the strip over to your planking fan and fit that space so three plank widths fill it up as shown below.

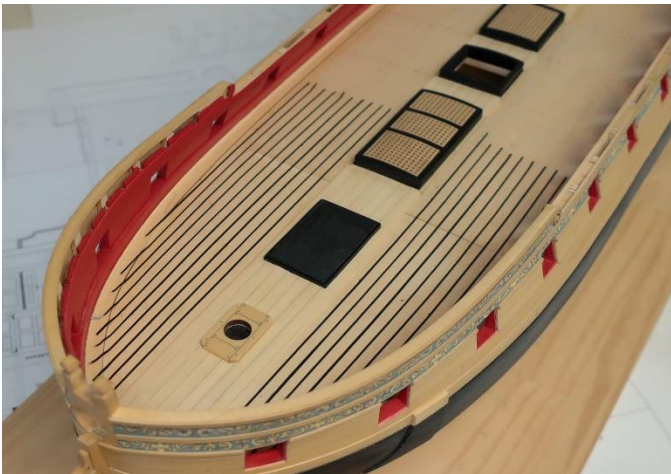


Then go back to that spot on your model and transfer those tick strips to the false deck.



Note how the deck planking will be tabbed around the coamings just like around the gun ports on the hull. Leaving thin wood planks around the coamings would be prone to rot and therefore they would use a tab like shown to avoid such thin strips of deck planking. This is shown on the plans....check them out.

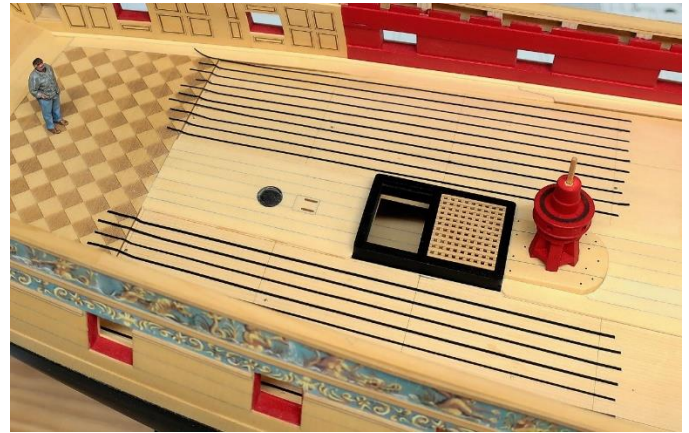
Now it's time to plank the first center belt after you finish your tick marks on both sides of the center strip. Use 1/4" planks and transfer the width you will need to your strips to cut the tapers....just like you did when planking the hull.



Above you can see that the center belt has been planked. I simulated the seams with pencil like I did with the hull planking. There are never any butt joints in this center belt between coamings and partners. This is yet another common mistake seen on models and kits including on kits that provide laser etched planks. The distance was short enough that it was always one length used between the hatches and partners. It was stronger this way. So no need to follow the butt joint pattern you will be developing when we line off the hull on either side of the center belt.

You will also notice in that picture above and below that on either side of the center belt I have lined off the deck using thin strips of black masking tape. Looks familiar right? The thin strips follow tick marks I made for the remaining belts. I made them the same way as I did for the center belt. Use your tick strips and planking fan. Use the laser etched lines that

represent the deck beams as you repeat this process until you have tick marks on both sides of the deck for all of the remaining belts. The tape runs along my tick marks. You will no doubt have to make adjustments with your tape. Just run it off the deck and onto the margin planks as shown.



To finish it up....use a mechanical pencil with a sharp point to run a pencil line down the "good side" of your tape that follow your tick marks.....then remove your tape.



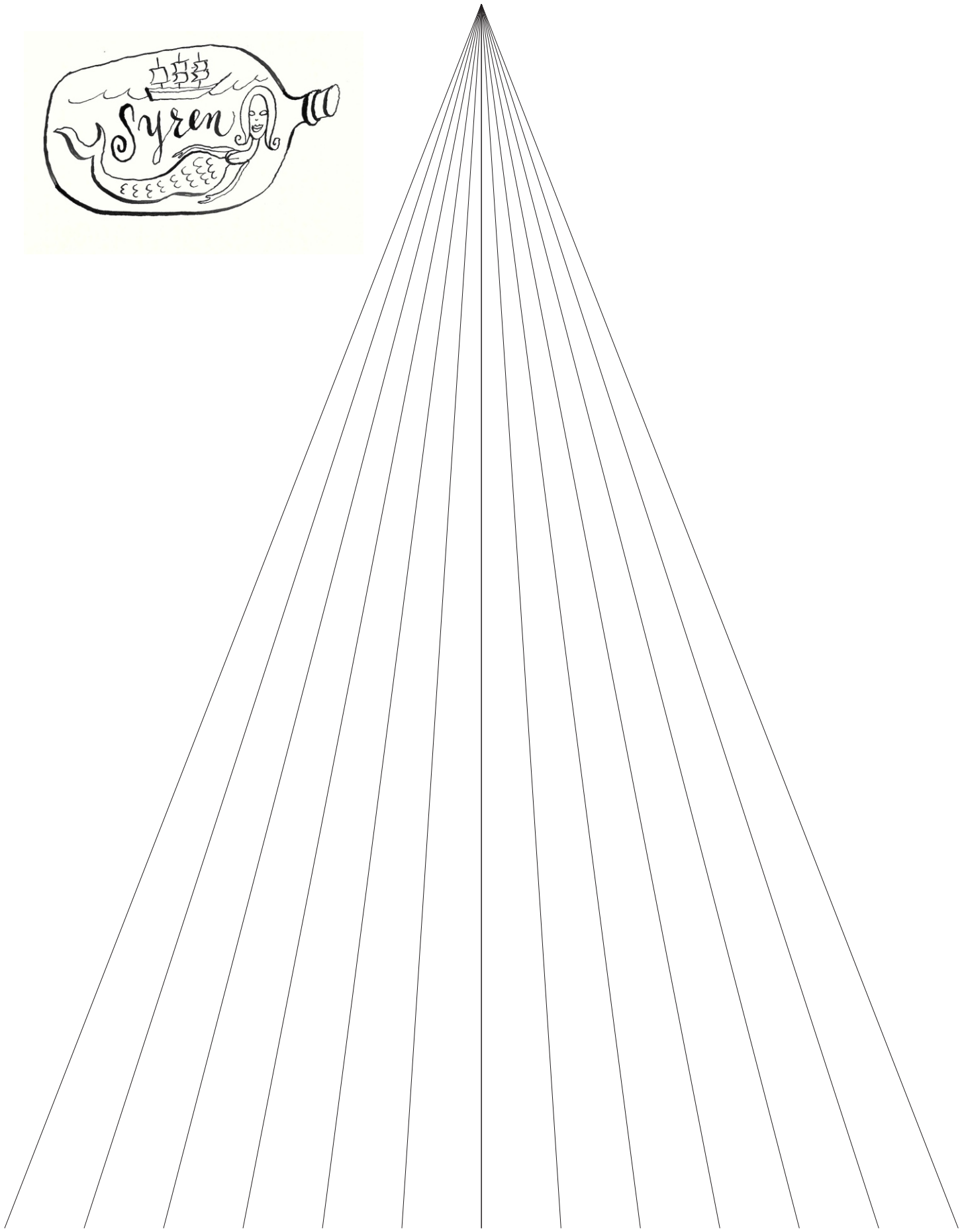
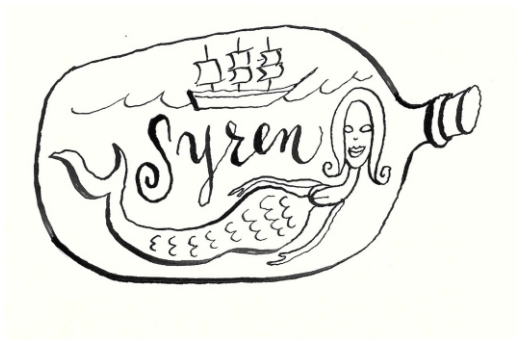
When you remove the tape it will look like this.....you can do this down the entire deck but I often do just the bow area and the stern where there is a taper and we need to create the hooked scarphs along the margin planks. Do you see where I created the hooked scarph in the outside deck plank against the margin???? I just erased some of the line that followed the tape and added a new short line to create the shape. On this hull there will be just one hooked scarph along the margin plank at the bow and one more aft by the checkered floor for the great cabin. In addition you can mark all of the butt joints on the deck using the typical 4 butt shift

pattern. Use the laser etched reference lines for the deck beams for this and examine the plans for their locations.



Now I am ready to plank the remaining two belts on each side of the center belt to finish off the deck planking. I will taper the planks as need to match my lining off just like we did for our external hull planking.

You will need just  $1/4" \times 3/64"$  strips to plank the deck and a handful of wider  $5/16"$  strips for the planks around the coamings where you need to shape them around the tabbed areas.



Margin Planks-3/64" thick

