

## Assembling your Syren Ship Model Company Specialty Blocks

### Step One:

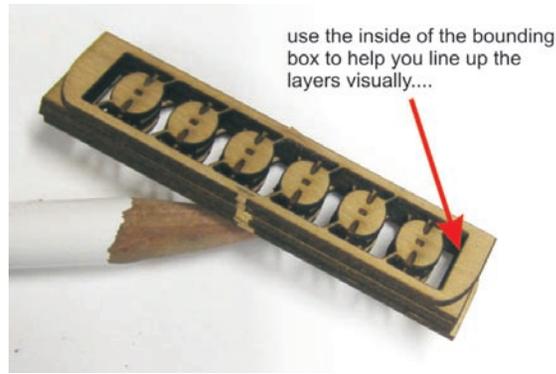


Each package of specialty blocks comes with several layers that you must assemble. In this case they are for 9/32" (7mm) double blocks. They have five layers. But depending on the specialty block, they could have three or more. These instructions will apply to all of the specialty blocks, hearts and fiddle blocks I offer. Its basically the same technique for assembly. Carefully separate and lay each layer in front of you.

Be careful, the tabs holding each small piece into each frame is very delicate. Handle with care.

Dry fit each layer together so you know what order they should be assembled.

### Step Two:



Use a toothpick as an applicator. Place a small drop of CA glue (medium) in the center of each piece. Only do this on the blocks and not the frame or the tabs holding each specialty block segment. Don't be shy with the glue. The worst thing you can have happen is for the layers to separate later. If any holes get filled, especially with the smaller specialty blocks you can drill them out with the appropriate size bits later. So add a large drop. Trust me on this. Make sure you are putting the glue on the right side of each layer. You must work quickly to put the glue on every segment in that layer before it sets.

Then assemble each layer until it completed. The tricky part is making sure you line up each layer perfectly. If they are slightly askew the finished block wont look as nice. Positioning each layer correctly on top of each other is the most important part.

### Step Three:



Remove the specialty blocks from the assembly. In this case you can see six rather *rough* looking double blocks with spikes coming out of them. You may be tempted to push these from the frames with your finger. Don't do that. That could split the wood on your blocks and leave nasty pits and holes. Better to use a flush cutter or nippers to carefully nip each block free from the frames. Then remove the

tabs with the same pair of nippers from the blocks.

**Step Four:**



These specialty blocks are usually large enough to clean up by hand rather than using a tumbler. But the tumbler will do a much superior job. But don't just throw them into a tumbler and take a chance. The best way to prepare the surface on these larger blocks is to first use a 220 grit sandpaper to remove the bumps of the tabs. Then use the same to clean most of the laser char from the edges. This is a very quick first clean-up. The three blocks on the left side of the photo above have been *cleaned* in this manner by hand. The laser char will make every surface of the block look dirty. This will clean most of it up. Wash your hands when you are done.

Some of my specialty blocks will not even be shaped in a way that would make using a block tumbler worthwhile. For example, if you were to place a fiddle block in a

tumbler it would change their shape. It would basically ruin them.... So only place rounded items like deadeyes or "traditional" blocks into a tumbler.

To finish it off, switch to a finer 320 grit sandpaper and remove the remaining laser char. While doing so, start to round off the edges of the blocks to your preferred shape. Don't leave any hard outside edges. The amount of shaping is up to you. The finished blocks are shown on the right in that same photo....and below.



AND SOME SINGLE BLOCKS TOO!!



**NOTE:** You can purchase the Model shipways block tumbler here at

<http://www.modelexpo-online.com/product.asp?ITEMNO=MS27>

It should cost around \$10 - \$12



**Step Five if needed:**

If any holes filled with glue...drill them out with the appropriate sized bit.

That's it.....you are finished.!!!