

Chapter Thirteen

Burton Pendants...

These are shown on many contemporary models in various ways. I have chosen one of the more common. The Pendants are served their entire length. Use .035 black or dark brown rope for these. There is one pendant on each side of the mast.

I seized a ¼" single block to one end of this served rope. I was cautious to use a longer length than I would ultimately need. The pendants were then seized around the mast head individually. The length of the finished pendant was taken from the plans and I was careful to ensure they hung down at equal lengths from the trees.

Pendant tackles- Use .018 Tan or light brown rope. You will also need to make a hook for each of the pendants. I made mine from 24 gauge black wire.

To begin, a ¼" single block is seized onto one end of a rather long length of rope. Much longer than I probably needed. The loose end of this tackle is run through the single block that hangs from the pendant. Pull the tackle through the block until the ¼" block on the end of the tackle is about 2 ½" away from the block on the pendant.

Then take the loose end of the tackle and run it through the eye of the hook you just made. The hook is then fixed onto an eye bolt in the cap rail as shown on the plans.

This is a tricky tackle to set up but stay with me here. The loose end is then brought up to the ¼" single block on the tackle and brought back down to be belayed to the pin rail. See the belaying plan for details. I won't add a rope coil yet. Instead I will leave plenty of excess rope available in case I have to adjust the tension for the tackle later.

Rigging the shrouds...

The Shrouds are pretty standard, especially if you have rigged shrouds before. I used .045 dark brown rope. They are of course seized around the masthead in pairs. One length of rope that was long enough to create one pair of shrouds. The forward shroud is served its entire length. The remainder of the shrouds will only have the portion around the mast head served down to just below the cheeks. I measured how much of the ropes length to serve and did so on my serving machine. Then the pair was seized around the masthead.

Below you can see my shroud gang taking shape with this first pair of shrouds done.

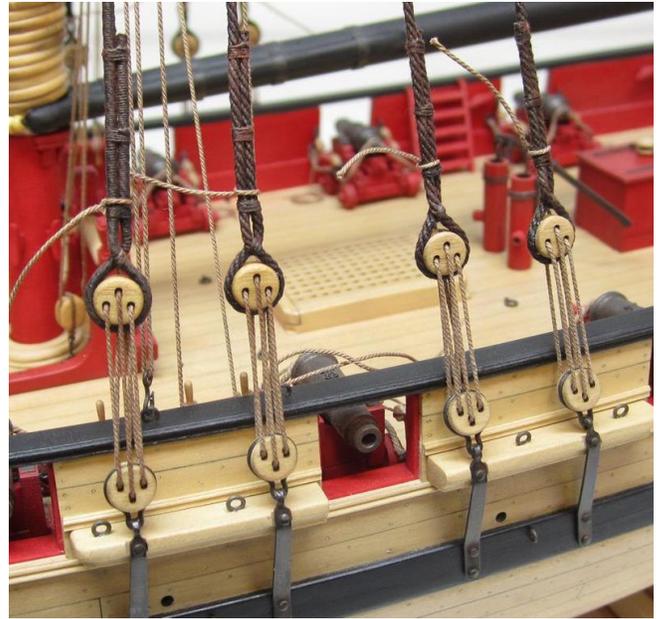


The deadeyes were turned in and set-up with the usual methods. I don't particularly care for this aspect of rigging. Especially getting that first seizing done just above the deadeye (6mm deadeyes). It is an awkward one as it's oriented differently but it is important because it creates that shape of the shroud doubling you strive for. The lanyard was rigged with .018 light brown rope and not glued permanently. This was done once again so I can easily re-tension the shrouds after all the standing rigging is completed.

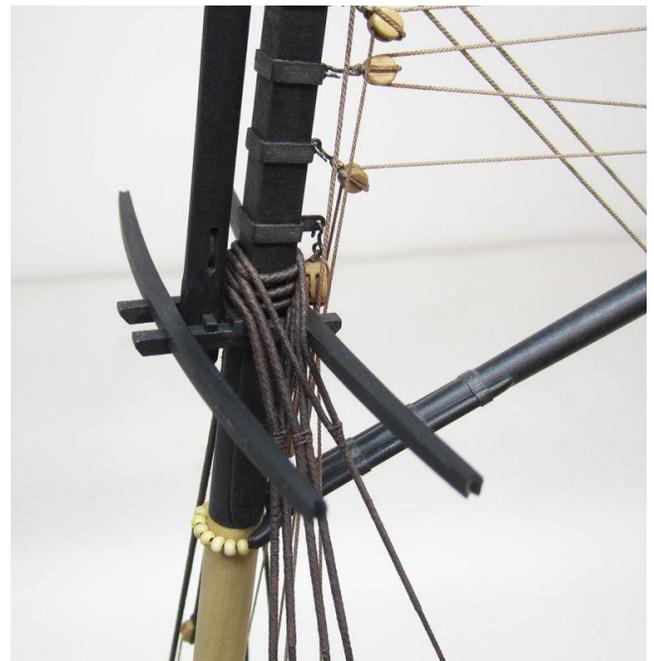
I don't use any jigs to set up the shrouds and align the deadeyes. I simply eyeball the distance between the upper and lower deadeyes. I anticipate that some re-tensioning will be done as the rigging process continues. I just did my best to line them all up left to right.



The next pair was completed on the starboard side. Then the process was repeated. Here is a look at the four shrouds and deadeyes set up on the port side.



And here is a look at the shroud gang around the masthead once they were completed. The back stay is also shown which we will take care of next.



The lower backstays...

The lower backstays are handled much like the pendants. They are much longer though. Use .035 dark brown or black rope for these. They are not served their entire length. They are only served where they wrap around the mast head to the same length as the aft shrouds.

You will need one 13/32" or 3/8" fiddle block for each lower backstay. In addition, you will need two 1/4" single blocks and two hooks for each.

To begin, I seized a single block to the end of the backstay first. This allowed me to establish its height off of the deck so I could



seize it around the mast head like a burton pendant.

I built two 13/32" fiddle block from the min kits available at SSMC. One of these was seized to the end of a longish length of .018 tan rope. This was run through the single block on the backstay so I could establish the proper distance between the fiddle block and single block. The loose end was taken down to the middle strap on the hull. I approximated where the hook should be seized to the end. In actuality, I placed the hook in position and seized it in place. Then I snipped off any excess rope.

So now you have this fiddle block hanging there. The tackle was then set up in the usual way. A 1/4" single block with hook was seized to the end of some .012 tan rope. The hook was engaged in the forward strap.

Then the line was run through the fiddle block to create the tackle, with its loose end belayed to the cleat inboard on the bulwarks. I didn't glue it permanently yet. Just in case it needs tensioning adjustment later.

Both sides were completed being careful to line up the blocks at the same height port to starboard.

The sling for the lower yard...

The sling for the lower yard is served its entire length. I used .035 dark brown rope. It has a thimble seized to it with a hook made of 22 gauge wire and eyes formed on each loose end. After

determining the length for the loose ends I formed the eyes and you can see how the eyes close up the sling by being intertwined. Take your time determining the length for each loose end where you will form the eyes. The best way to do this would be to hold it around the mast as if it was in position. The hook should end up just a bit lower than the parrels of the gaff. I also brushed some diluted white glue on the sling before I formed the eyes to prevent the serving from unwinding. See the photos provided. On some



contemporary models the closed eyes are not equal lengths away from the hook. The eye is offset to one side so it ends up on the port side of the shroud gang. To simplify this I just made equal lengths and tried to make sure the hook ended up hanging where it should be. This is a tricky item to make.

I originally thought it would be easier to make the sling off the model. Which it was. BUT there were trade-offs. This meant that I had to unhook all of the blocks on the mast to get it in position. That wasn't too bad BUT afterwards I discovered that the sling wasn't large enough to get around the forward spreader when I tried to slip it into position.

This was bad. I either had to cut the sling off and make another one...rigging it in

place....OR, try to carefully remove the forward spreader. I ended up removing the spreader without any damage. BUT I wouldn't recommend this to all the Cheerful builders out there. Best to rig it in place. Simply seize the last eye to close up the sling while it is in position.

Here is what the sling looks like in position.



The main stay...

The main stay was rigged using .054 dark brown rope. It was served around the masthead only down to about 1/2" below the splice. That's right....a splice rather than a mouse. This was very common on cutters of the period and appears much more often on contemporary examples than the one or two found with a mouse. See the same photo above.

The other end of the stay has the 5-hole deadeye turned into it. You can buy these ready made from Syren Ship Model Company or make one from scratch. The lanyard (.025 tan) was rove through it as usual but the loose end was taken up

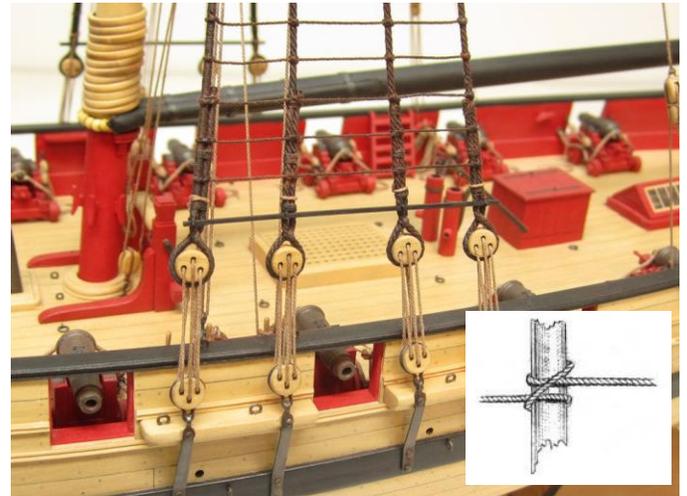
around the stay once, and then finally seized to the stay as shown. I used very fine fly-tie thread for this. It finished it off nicely.



At this time in the rigging process I thought it would be good to check the tension on all of the ropes rigged so far. I made adjustments and finally glued them in place permanently. I cut off all the loose ends and added some rope coils to finish off all of the belaying points up to this point.

Ratlines and Sheer Pole -

I added the sheer pole. It is lashed to the outside of the shrouds above the deadeyes. I painted it black but it could have been left natural also. It is just a 1/32" x 1/32" strip with the edges rounded off a bit.



Then I started the ratlines using .012 dark brown rope. You don't want to use a heavy line for these. The outside shrouds are simple square knots. But I used clove hitches on each inside shrouds. I urge folks to use them rather than simply tie a knot on all four shrouds. The lines hang much better this way. It's easy to do. See the small illustration above.

I used a card with both horizontal ratlines and lines to show the shrouds. It's not enough to just use horizontal lines. Having the shrouds drawn on the card will make it easier to watch your progress. You don't want to gradually pull the shrouds in. That hourglass shape for shrouds on a model is the kiss of death. This helps you keep them straight and not pull them in as you progress upward. I found it better to leave the ratlines a little loose rather than pull them tight and I try to shape them after it's done.

Some watered down white glue was applied on the knots of the outer shrouds only. The two inner shrouds have no glue at all. I waited until a series of rows were complete so I could adjust them before adding the glue.



Topmast Shrouds -

The topmast shrouds should be easy work for you guys at this point. They are pretty straight forward. I used .035 dark brown rope. They are not served at all. I seized a pair to the port side in the usual way just like the shrouds. The two rather long shrouds dangled well past where they needed to be. Each shroud is glued into the small slots on the ends of the cross trees. But be careful. The topmast is very thin and you can easily pull it too much causing the topmast to bend.

Just pull it tight enough that the topmast doesn't move at all. The loose ends are set up with a tackle made up of two 1/4" single blocks. The lower block is hooked to an eyebolt on the channel. The loose end for the tackle (.012 tan) is belayed to the shroud just like the end of the deadeye lanyards.



You will notice some topmast backstays on the plans. These were rarely used. They were only rigged in bad weather when all sails were set flying. You almost never see them rigged on a contemporary model. For this reason I decided not to show them but I will leave it up to you to should you want to.

The topmast stay is similar. Many contemporary model don't show one rigged. I decided to do so in this case however.

It is usually shown with many different configurations. In this case, I decided to use a 3/16" single block seized to the topmast. The stay (.018 dark brown or black) is seized to the tipoff the bowsprit. The loose end is run through the 3/16" single block on the topmast. Then it is taken down to the deck where a tackle is set up with two 3/16" single blocks. The bottom block is hooked to an eyebolt forward of the main mast on deck. The loose end of the tackle is belayed to a cleat on the lower mast. Finish it up with a rope coil.

