



*Three sections of margin plank have been cut for the port side.*

pieces were  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide and cut from  $\frac{3}{64}$ " thick boxwood. The photo below shows them in position.

## Chapter Seven

### *Preparation for deck planking*

Now that the bulwarks have been completed and painted it is time to prepare for planking the deck. The first thing I did was fabricate the pieces for the waterway/margin planks. For purposes of our project I will refer to the waterway with two terms. At this time in history the waterway would be shaped with a taller lip around its perimeter up against the bulwarks. I have decided to make this feature in two pieces and therefore will refer to them separately as the margin plank and the waterway....

The margin plank will be a flat piece of wood  $\frac{3}{64}$ " thick all around the perimeter of the deck. It will be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. Finally, the small strip that creates the raised lip against the bulwarks will be referred to as the waterway.

### *The Margin Planks...*

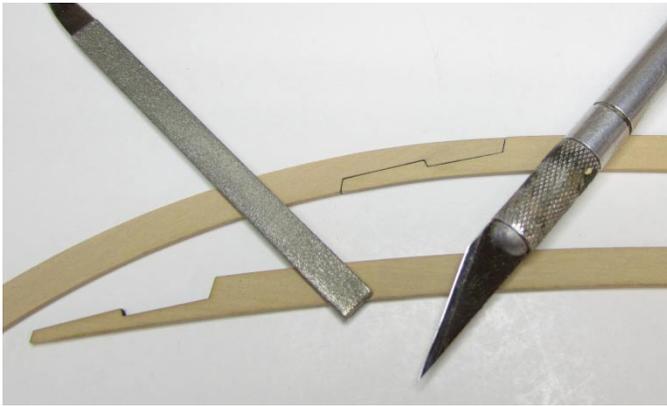
To begin, the small sections of margin plank were carefully cut to fit between the stern frames. These are tricky because you must bevel the aft edges so they fit snug against the curvature of the counter. This must be done while at the same time creating the angles for each side so they will fit snug between the stern frames. These small



With these completed, I started fabricating the margin plank for each side of the model. Each side will be made up of three sections joined with scarp joints. Examine the plans for their locations. The photo at the top of the page shows the three segments cut in advance and test fit on the model. The edges for the scarp joints were darkened with pencil before gluing them onto the model permanently.

To cut my scarp joints, I made the profile for one piece. Then I laid it on top of the next segment of margin plank and traced its shape. I carefully removed wood using a very sharp #11 blade until I had a tight fit that was acceptable to me. If I wasn't happy with the snug fit of the scarp joint I discarded it and started over. There were several failed attempts thrown into the scrap box but it is well worth the extra time and effort. These joints

will be quite visible and good craftsmanship on these joints is important. See the photos below.



### ***The Waterway...***

On top of the margin plank along the bulwarks will now sit the waterway. As mentioned earlier, this feature was most likely one piece and shaped into margin planks. I just find it easier to shape these delicate strips afterwards and glue them on top of the margin planks. I am careful to get a snug fit up against the bulwarks. I used a 1/32" x 1/32" boxwood strip. I rounded off one corner to make a quarter-round molding in profile. The molding was glued on top of the margin planks so the scarp joints would line up to simulate the fact that these were actually one piece rather than two.

See the photo on top (right).



Note the seam between the two lengths of waterway conform to the seam of the scarp joint in the above photo.

You will most likely have to bevel the back edge of the waterway strip at the bow in order to make sure it sits flush against the bulwarks. This was done with a sanding stick and test fit before gluing it down.

### ***Completing a few deck structures...***

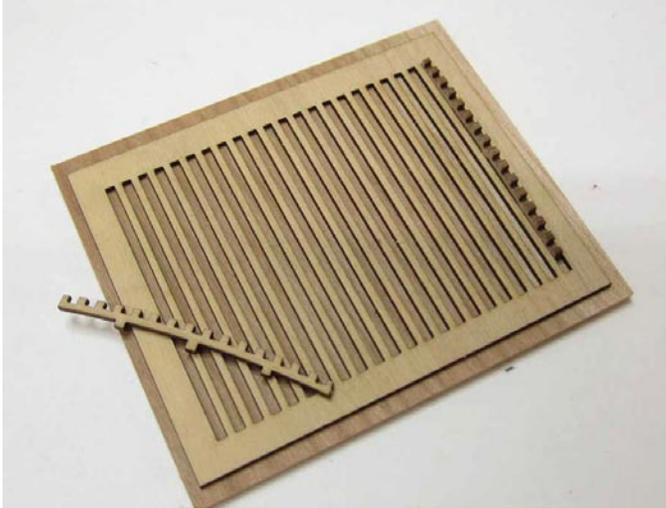
With the margin plank/waterway completed around the perimeter of the deck, it was time to construct a few of the main deck structures and fittings. It will be much easier to make these now and plank the deck around them. I find that I can get a cleaner seam between the deck planking and coamings this way.

These are the fittings and deck structures that I will make before starting the deck planking.

- All deck grating and coamings
- The companionway
- The skylight

**The ventilation scuttle grating-** the first grating I made was the smallest one shown on the plans. This is the small air scuttle. This grating does not have a coaming around it. It is actually the same thickness as the surrounding deck planking. To make all of the gratings for the *Cheerful*, I used the jig and cambered grating strips available from Syren Ship Model Company. The holes are 3/64"

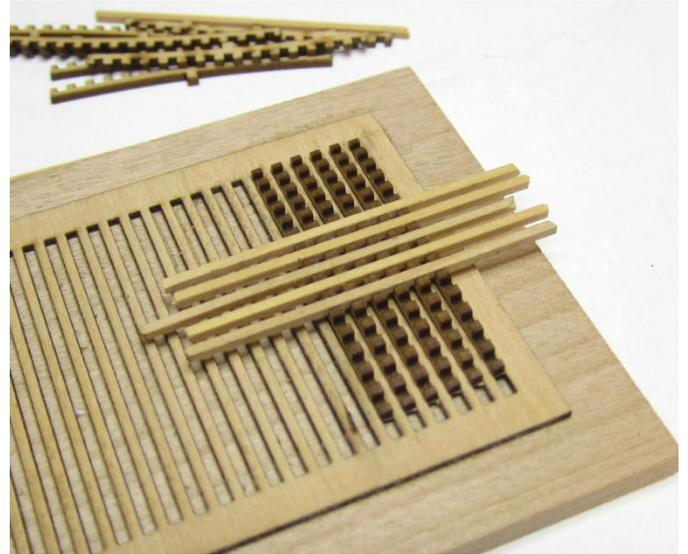
in size and this was equal to the width of the batten strips and grating material. The completed grating must also match the roundup of the deck along the center line. This is why I chose the pre-cambered deck grating kits.



The grating strips were removed from the laser cut sheets and inserted into the jig. The jig has a series of thin slots and the strips are pressed into them. They are a tight snug fit. All of the grating strips were pushed to one edge of the jig so they would all be lined up properly. Photo above.

I only used the number of strips which would allow me to create a grating large enough for the scuttle. BUT I didn't cut the strips so they were shorter. This is important that I left them their full length and will "press-fit" the batten strips into the slots working from the center outward. This will ensure the correct camber is preserved. The batten strips should also be a snug "press-fit" into the slots of the grating strips. If they are too big, don't force them. You will break the grating strips. I just sanded them a little bit until they fit snug.

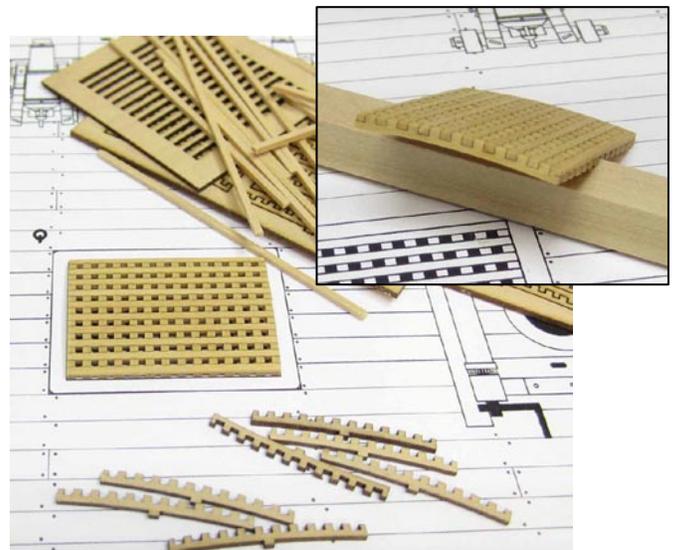
Photo above right.



At this stage it was time to add some glue. I brushed on some watered down yellow glue. Be sure to get all of the joints but be careful not to glue the grating to the jig. The jig can be used over and over again.

When the glue was dry, I carefully snipped off the excess strips and battens from around the grating. I sanded the top smooth and also the bottom of the grating. Then I applied a coat of MinWax wipe-on-poly.

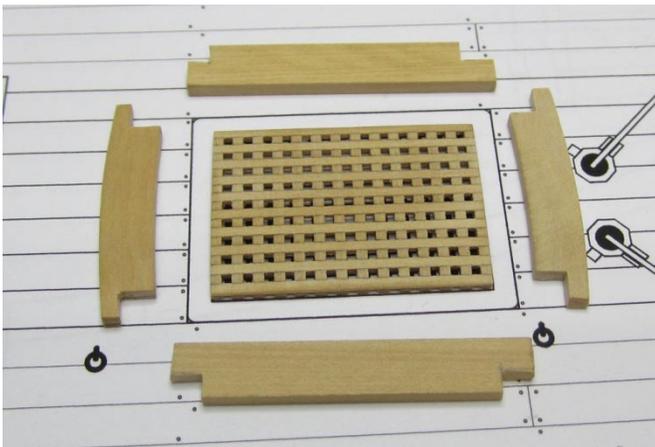
I decided to make the other two gratings ahead of time while I was making this one. You can see the grating for the main hatch below. Note the camber achieved after using the kits from Syren.



The small grating for the air scuttle was glued into position. It was glued right onto the false deck after painting the area beneath the grating black.

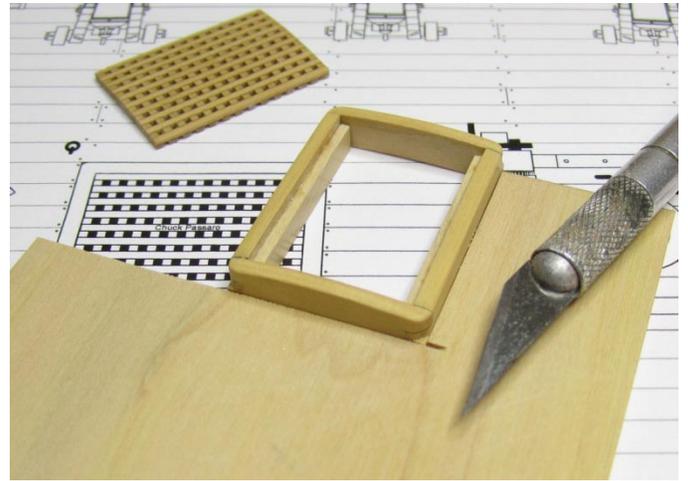
Then I moved my attention toward creating the coamings for the two remaining hatches. I made the gratings in advance as mentioned. I prefer to make the coaming around finished gratings to avoid any gaps if the grating is slightly small or having to sand them if they are too large. If the grating doesn't match the exact size shown on the plans I am not too concerned about it. The slight difference in size won't be a big issue and would rather have good workmanship with these than an exact size. I am only talking about a 1/64' difference when held against the plans.

The photo below shows the coamings cut to fit around the grating for the main hatch.



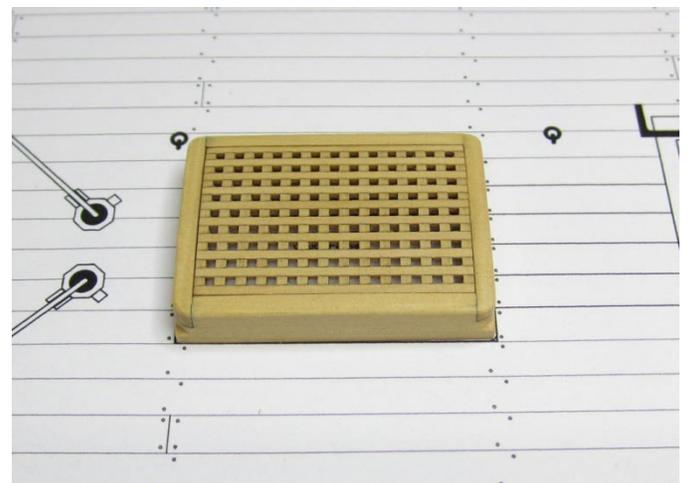
The coamings are 3/32" thick. They have lap joints on the corners. Make sure you measure the height of the coamings carefully from the plans. Be sure to add another 3/64" to compensate for the deck planking. Remember, we will be planking around these coamings. Note how the fore and aft pieces also have the round-up to match the camber of the deck. In actuality, I made the round up slightly greater than the deck as is often seen on contemporary models.

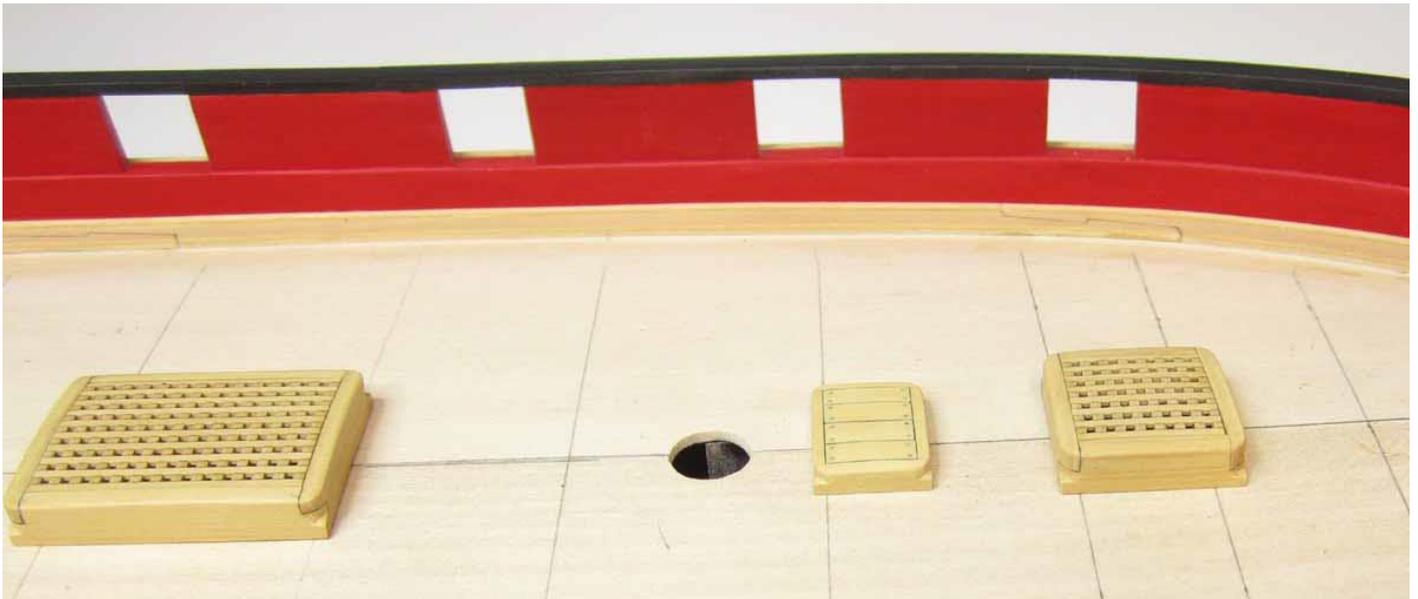
They were glued together around the grating to help keep them squared up and shaped. When completed I added small lengths of 1/16" thick strips inside the coaming to create a lip on the port and starboard sides. This will support the grating.



The photo above shows the corners being rounded off. The rounded corners are only above the deck planking. To make this easier, I created a small "right-angle" jig the same thickness as my planking. The deck planking will be 3/64" thick. Hold the corner in the jig and use a sharp blade to carefully slice the corner down to the top of the jig. Then round it off with a file or sanding stick.

The completed hatch with both grating and coaming can be seen below. It was sanded smooth and a coat of Wipe-On-poly applied.





Repeat this process to make the final grating and coaming but be sure to measure its height from the plans. In addition, you can make the small coaming for the galley stack. There is no grating but instead it is covered with planks. There measurements can be taken from the plans. It is different in that the coaming is only 1/6" thick and it is not as tall as the other two.

### ***Making the Skylight...***

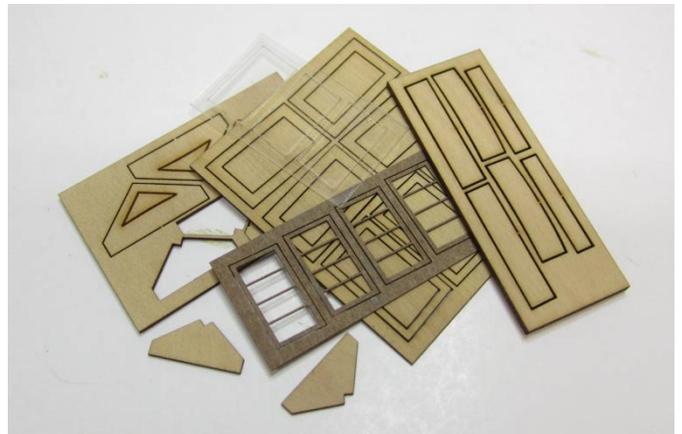
Next up was making the skylight. I am using the laser cut mini-kit from Syren made for this purpose. It can however be easily made from scratch.

To begin, I must note that on many cutters from this time period the skylight didn't have a coaming built around it. However I have seen many contemporary models that do indeed show this feature. The choice to include a coaming around your skylight is entirely up to you as it isn't clearly visible on the original draft for the *Cheerful*.

The skylight on the *Cheerful* model in the Rogers collection does in fact show a coaming (above right) and the skylight is more oddly shaped. The shape of the skylight is very clear on the original draft and this is what the mini-kit is based on. Also note the primitive "cube" used to represent the companionway.... But more on that later.

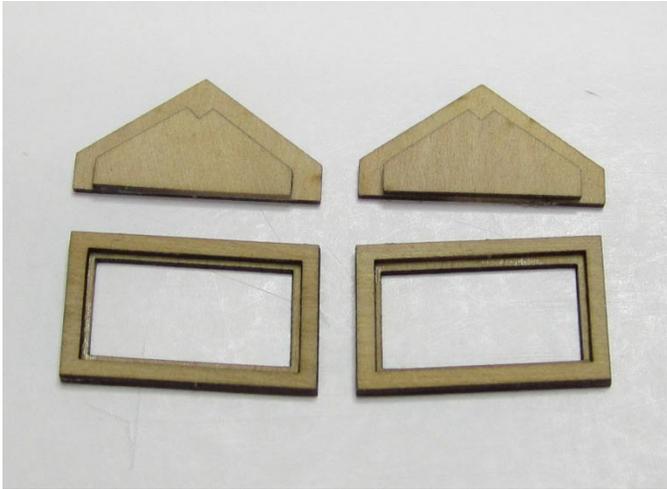


Parts for the skylight mini-kit are shown below.

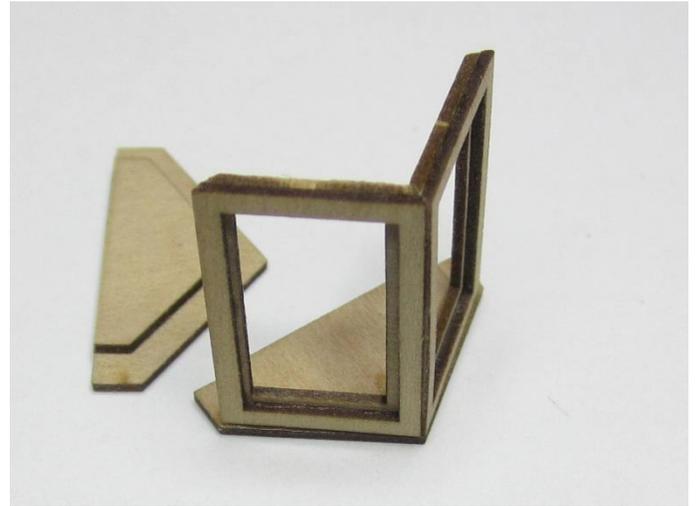
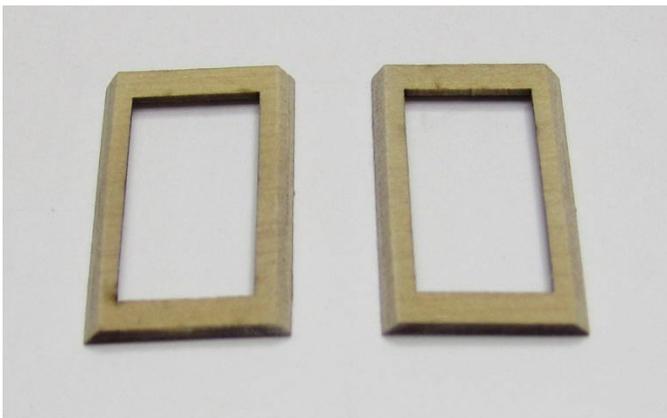


To begin, the first elements of the skylight I assembled were the fore and aft sides. Each side consists of two layers. These are the two triangular shaped pieces shown in the photo on the next page. I used yellow glue to assemble all of these pieces because of the longer set-up time. It

gives you the opportunity to move the pieces around a bit before the glue dries. Any glue that squeezes out can easily be cleaned up with a paint brush dipped in a glass of water. Carefully remove any excess glue before it dries.

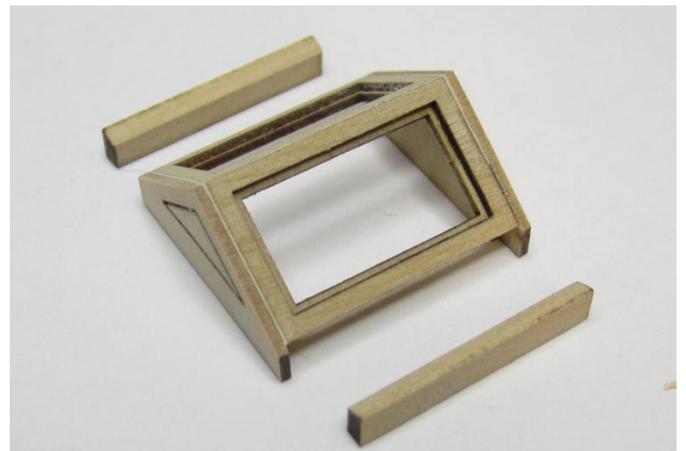


The same process was used to glue up the two layers that make up the frames for the skylight windows. These can be seen in that same photo. I finished off the window frames by beveling the two long edges as shown in the photo below. The shorter sides can remain flat. The bevel is very, very important, but these are some thin and delicate pieces. Be careful and gentle when you establish the bevel. I used a sanding stick and applied only light pressure. This does make the process take longer, but it's worth the patience. You will surely have many pieces in the scrap pile with a heavy-handed approach.



I found it easiest to assemble the skylight by gluing the window frames to one side at a time. The photo above shows the two window frames glued to one side of the skylight. There are some complex angles at play here and the skylight is not actually square. Because the skylight sits on a sloping and cambered deck the angles are such that it was difficult to assemble any other way. If you decided to buy the mini-kit you will notice how the window frames are NOT square at all. You can experiment with different assembly sequences but after one failed attempt this sequence seemed to work out much better.

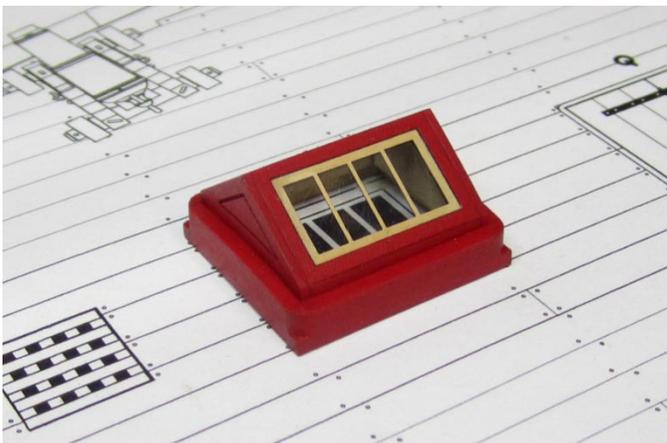
The other side was glued into position as shown below. This left the two longer side panels which needed to be shaped and inserted. The top edges of each of these strips were beveled to fit snug in position.



I decided to fill any gaps with some wood filler and sand the entire thing at this stage. It will be painted red eventually and getting a smooth gap-free surface is important to me.



To finish up the skylight I added the coaming around it. Remember that this is optional. Not how I raised the skylight to compensate for the deck planking thickness while gluing the coaming around it. If you decide to not use a coaming this wouldn't be necessary. Because the coaming will also be painted red I didn't bother making the complex lap joints. They won't be seen under the paint.



The entire skylight was painted red before I added the thin and delicate window panes. These come supplied in the kit made from .012" laser board. They were painted to look like wood. I inserted the clear plastic acetate to simulate glass first and then

inserted the laser-board window pane pieces to finish it up.

### *The Companionway...*

Just like the skylight, the companionway can be made with a coaming around it or without one. Contemporary examples show it either way. The companionway on the original draft for Cheerful shows its general shape very clearly. In this instance I decided to build it without a coaming. The choice is yours. Earlier I posted a photo showing the primitive cube built on the Rogers collection model to represent the companionway. I decided to use other contemporary examples as shown below to fill in the details not shown on the Cheerful draft.



Building the companionway is pretty straight forward. I glued thin pieces of boxwood strips together edgewise to make a sheet. They were just .025" thick. You can get away with using 1/32" thick strips but I wouldn't go much thicker than that. I darkened the seams between the planks with a pencil because I wanted them to show through the red paint when finished.

Just use the plans to find the sizes and shape for each side of the companionway. Assemble them when completed. The hinges were simulated by using cardstock painted black. The hinge pins were simulated by using a length of 28 gauge wire glued on top.



All of the six deck structures and fittings were finally glued onto the deck. Careful attention was paid to ensure they were positioned correctly down the center line of the deck.

