



Chapter Eleven

Channels and Deadeyes...

Most kits don't detail these very well in my opinion. Plain edges or too heavy, etc. I wanted to try and emulate the profile seen on most contemporary models and properly scale them. I decided on using the multiple layers approach. But this meant using an incredibly thin top and bottom layer to pull off the look I wanted. Luckily Joe at Modeler's Sawmill was able to mill paper thin wood sheets for me. These will be included in the chapter parts you will get should you buy them.

The top and bottom layers are so thin that they will curl and possibly lift up if you use traditional yellow glue. It is just too wet. So a really good solution which worked excellent was to use spray mount. I sprayed only one side of the thin layers with glue and it didn't

curl at all. No need to spray the thicker center layer. I absolutely think that you should do it this way as well. Trust me when I tell you that if you don't, you will be emailing me for replacement parts.

There was no curling or lifting of the edges at all.

Just align the holes in the layers after sanding the laser char first. Also soften the hard edges of the center layer before gluing up the sandwich. Not a drastic rounding but knock-off the hard edges along the outboard sides of the channel and soften them. It does a nice job giving the edge profile I was looking for.

Now you can absolutely paint these but contemporary examples are all over the map. The Winnie contemporary model has



them painted black except for the outside edge profile. This would be challenging to paint and if I didn't do it perfectly would be an eye-sore. Other contemporary models show them natural. I decided to follow the look of the contemporary model of Amazon. They will be left natural. Next up will be the knees or standards along the top of the channels once I finish up the other channels first. These again may or may not be painted. I recommend that you examine many contemporary models and select a look that you prefer.

Deadeyes, strops, chainplates and straps...

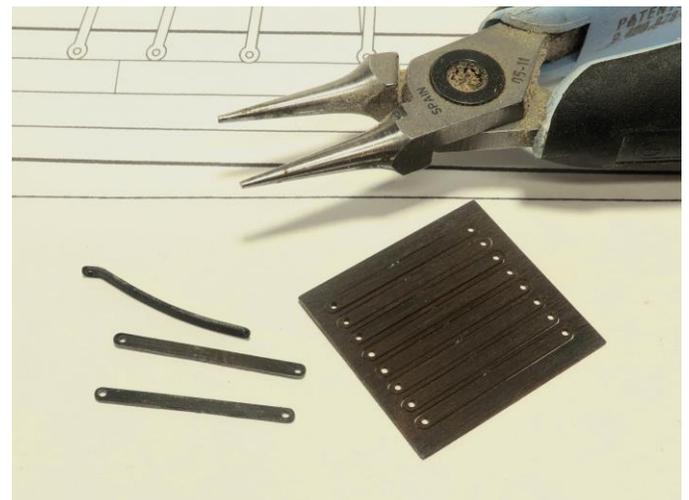
You can see the one deadeye and chainplates in the photos (next page). I was originally going to use natural or bright deadeyes. But I may switch to dyed brown deadeyes. I haven't yet decided.

On this model I am using a new product that I have finally taken the time to try out for the straps and chainplates. It's not photo-etch which you are familiar with for kits. I hate photoetched chainplates. The material is too

thin and it's not fun to blacken all of those parts. It looks very kit-like to me.

Anyway, this is a new acrylic black sheet material. It is just .020 in thickness. It laser cuts beautifully. I was very skeptical and thought it would never work. But I am astounded at just how well it did work.

The channel straps as well as the deadeye strop and chainplates in the photo are laser cut from this acrylic sheet. I think you guys will like this. The downside is that it's very expensive. Probably on par with the cost of





photoetch...but it looks so much better for this application. Would you believe that the deadeye chainplate above is acrylic?

First I sanded both sides of the sheet with 400 or even 600 grit sandpaper. I recommend you do the same should you opt to buy the chainplate set.

Then I applied some brown weathering powder like I did for the other metal work. This really did the trick. Normally the acrylic has a satin side and a glossy side. Sanding both sides makes them even and also helps the powders to adhere and work.

Also note in the photo (previous page) that the one strap has been bent in a nice curve. This is what you want to do with each strap. But one end has a more severe bend in it. This end sits against the hull and has a small brass nail (you know the nails) to secure it to the hull. This bend was not problematic. The acrylic was a bit brittle when bent cold. It had a tendency to snap. But more experimentation led me to discover that if you hold a needle nose pliers over a candle flame first, (Not too hot...but hot enough) then grasp the thin

strap and slowly bend it, it will not break. You can bend it pretty easily in fact. Just keep a small candle next to you as you bend these. I am referring to the severe bends only. When the pliers get cold just hold the tip over the flame for a few seconds again until hot. The chainplates were bent like this as well. More on that later.

With all of the straps completed for the channels first it was time for deadeyes and chainplates. The SYREN deadeyes are made in the usual way. These are the deadeye mini kits sold on my site. They are made by gluing up the layers and tumbling them to remove the char and shape them. I started by making all of the 5mm deadeyes first. There are instructions for assembly and tumbling on my website already. I will add however that I tumbled them with 400 grit sandpaper. Don't be afraid to tumble them for a while so they get good and rounded off while removing the laser char. I do this on the highest speed on my hand drill.

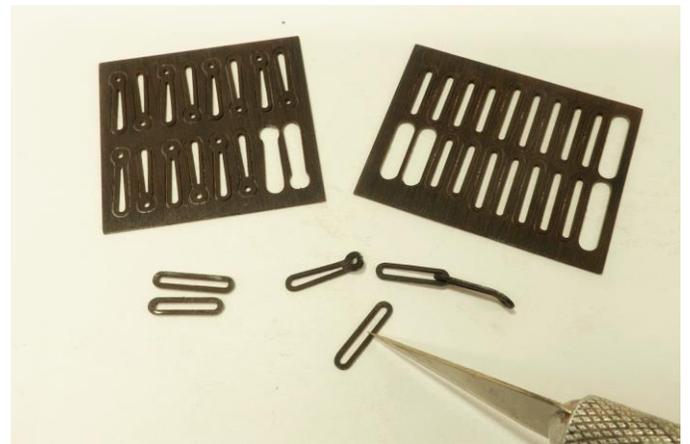


5mm first. You can see them all along the channel waiting for the chainplates.

The chainplates are all different sizes depending on which deadeyes they are used on. I am methodically completing the chainplates based on size. The acrylic chainplates are also cut on individual little sheets by size to make life easier as well.

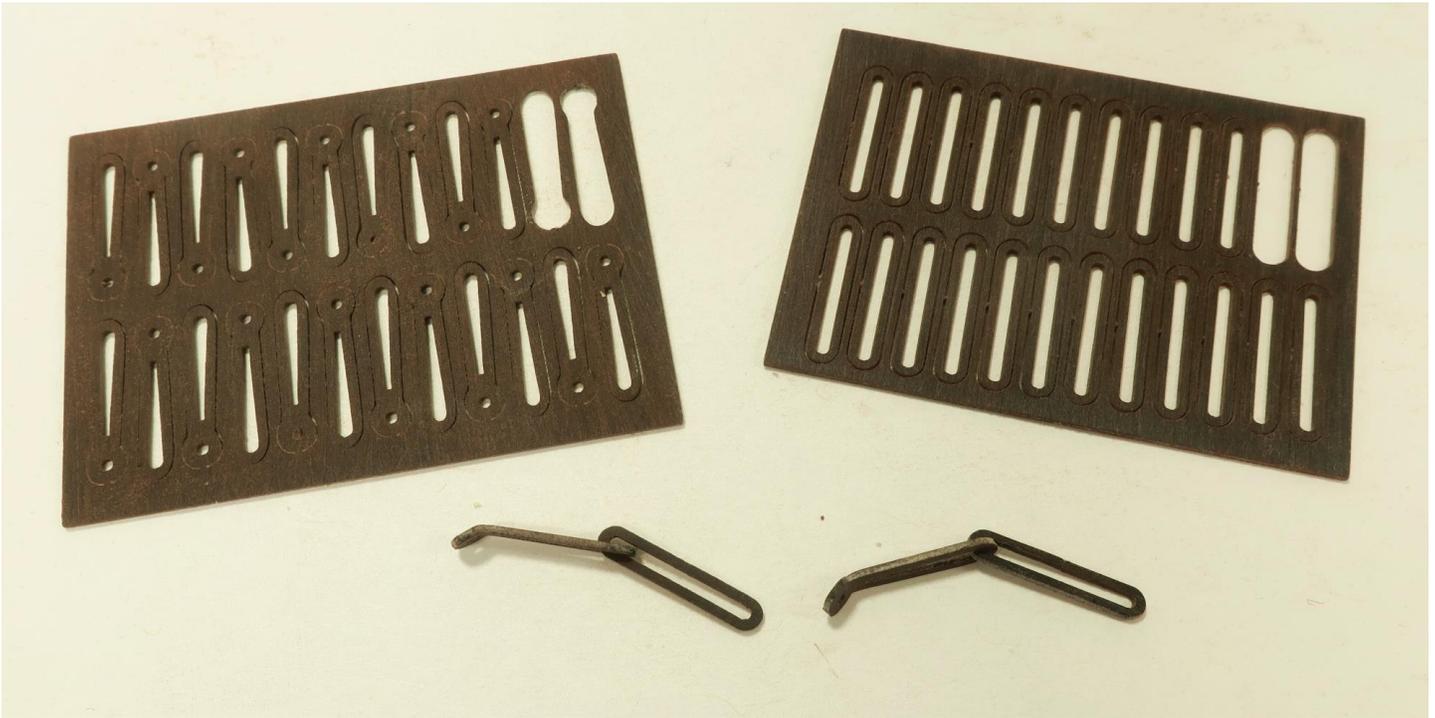
All of the chainplates for the deadeyes on the stools will be done first. They are the smallest/shortest links laser cut. Take a look at the photo below which shows the two sheets with the smaller parts for the stool chainplates. There is a sheet with the center links and one of the lower link that terminates with an eye on the bottom. This is where you will nail it to the hull with little brass pins. Pins Not included. You can buy them easy enough by the hundred.

Then I used the acrylic strops to strop them all after I dyed them brown. See above. The strops can be flexed with your fingers around the deadeyes. You need to get a knack for it but once you do its easy. Should you break any strops its no big deal, there are plenty of extras on the sheet. Yes I did sand the sheet of strops as described earlier and weathered them before placing them on the deadeyes. I show a natural deadeye so you can see both. My wife says I need to try new things....so this is the first time I have ever dyed my deadeyes and gone brown. I like it but yes it was a difficult choice to make.



Once stropped, I placed all the 5mm deadeyes along the channels. Just slide them into the slots where they go. There are 5mm deadeyes and 6mm deadeyes. I am starting with the





There are two lengths of the center link. The shortest are for the mizzen stool. But the bottom links are all the same size for all of the stools.

Start by sanding and weathering the sheets on both sides again.....this will be done for all of them. Then take the center links and cut one side with a sharp blade as shown. This is how you will get it onto the lower link and onto the deadeye strop. I could have laser cut these but then the kerf of the cut would prevent it from closing entirely and you would see it after placing them on the model. By cutting one side with a blade like this they will close up completely and you will never ever see the seam.

Then take the lower link and bend the bottom slightly. NOT a huge amount. It's about a 45 degree bend. Use a needle nose plier like I showed earlier for the straps. Heat the tip with a candle flame and use it to help bend the bottom eye as shown. If you try and do this cold you may break the lower link. If you use heat you won't break any. And don't worry there are plenty of extras.

Then combine the center and lower links so we can add them to the deadeyes on the stools. The seam of the center link is positioned so it's on the back side of the link when placed on the model. This helps it stay hidden should the middle link spread open a bit. This will only happen if you nail it to the hull so the links are too tight and pull on the middle link.

In the photo (next page) you can see all of the chainplates completed for the stools. But you can also see that I completed them for the mizzen channel as well. The plates for the mizzen channel and the other channels where 5mm deadeyes are being used are slightly longer than those used on the stools. But the process is exactly the same. Shown is a photo of the laser cut chainplates for the deadeyes on the channels. So you know what to look for. You can see how the seam on the split center link is nearly invisible after slipping it onto the lower link.



If you look at the photo again showing the chainplates completed (above) on the hull for these 5mm deadeyes you will notice that only the ones on the mizzen channel are completed and nailed with little brass pins. The two on the main channel and the one on the fore channel are just dangling. I have not nailed them in place permanently yet. I am waiting until after I make the 6mm deadeyes and all of them are hanging on the main and fore channels. I prefer to wait so I can better establish the correct angles for the entire span of chainplates. You can take these angles directly from the plans.

One last note....many of you may feel that these acrylic links would be too delicate. You might think that they would never hold if you decided to rig the model. That is the farthest thing from the truth. You would not believe how strong they are. If you are worried about the seam in the center link...you shouldn't be. But alas, should you really want to "solder" the seam closed you absolutely could. But you must use a special glue for acrylic. It's the same stuff they use when gluing the display cases together with acrylic sheets. Incredibly strong stuff and thin like water. Just take a drop on a toothpick and simply touch the seam if you can see it on the center link. And that's it. It will wick into the seam and you are done. Don't touch it. It will take some time

but it literally melts a small amount of the plastic and once it sets it is once again an unbroken link. It will be extra strong now. But don't add too much of the glue. Just the tiniest bit is needed.

Because we are not rigging the model anyway that is just not needed. But go ahead and give the deadeyes a good tug on the channels and you will see how sturdy and solid they remain in the slots with little movement. It's a beautiful thing.

Next up are the 6mm deadeyes....

Oh and don't forget to really tumble your deadeyes. I realize many of you prefer deadeyes already made up. But if you like the mini kits it is crucial to tumble them. Do not attempt to sand each by hand.

My home made tumbler below with the 6mm deadeyes ready for dyeing. I tumbled the heck out of them to really round off the edges and get rid of the char. The secret is using the correct sandpaper. In this case 400 grit. Tumbled on the highest speed my drill would run which is 3500 rpm.



I finished the 6mm deadeyes and their chainplates on the Starboard side. It's the same as doing the 5mm deadeyes except these chainlates also get an additional strap on their lower ends. It extends over the black strake and onto the wales.

In addition, there are several lengths of center links provided for you. As you work your way aft on the channels you will need to switch to the slightly longer links. I found that the fore channels needed the longer links for almost all the deadeyes. This will ensure that the bottom of the chainplates will be level and even when



finished. As the angles of the chainplates get more severe the links will get slightly longer so the bottoms stay aligned.

Here is how the model looks today (bottom of previous page). I also added the eyebolts between the chainplates as indicated on the plans.

The billboard....

The billboard is the small coverboard on the forward end of the fore channel.

Basically its a 5/32" x 5/64 strip that was rounded off on the ends and the edges as well. This was placed above the anchor lining and cut so the ends overhang the sides of the anchor lining just a bit fore and aft. The billboard is laser cut and etched with plank seams already. There is also a laser etched rabbet on the back side where it fits against the channel. The bottom edge should be beveled to sit flat on top of the 5/32" strip I just mentioned. Then I rounded off and softened the top edge and applied the frieze. I am not sure if I should extend the frieze all the way up on the billboard or as I left it with just a sliver natural to match the thickness of the channel. I will sit on that for a bit before deciding.



The fenders...

The fenders may seem like a small detail but they are very important. These small pieces can really hurt the appearance of your model if done poorly. These are laser cut for you just like the channels. They are assembled in three layers. Very thin outside layers are the key for success on these. But one, often overlooked, additional detail is the fact that the fenders also taper thinner as they work their way lower on the hull. That is when viewing them head on that is. To add this detail will elevate your model as well as getting the beaded edges made by the layers nice and neat.



The center layer had the char removed first. Then I thinned down and tapered them towards the bottom. Only then did I add the outside layers. After using some wipe on poly I set them aside. They are made just like the channels. But now it was time to carefully chisel away the molding on the hull to accept them. Do this carefully to get nice tight seams on either side of the fender. I glued the fenders in place first on the hull, then I added the friezes so I could carefully match the pattern as best I could. It will be impossible to match the pattern perfectly because the surface area is different. But print out the friezes and do your best to select a section that would match closely. Then I painted the top of the fender black to match the sheer cap.

I hope you can see the nice beaded edges and the taper. I will note that I used tissue paper



this time to print the friezes used on the fenders. I wanted it very thin so I could push it into the beaded edge with a dull toothpick. I used a glue stick for the adhesive. It will be almost impossible to match the pattern but it's more important to just neatly add some color on the fenders that create a continuous stripe across the fenders and chesstrees.

The Chesstrees...

The chesstrees are made just like the fenders. No need to show it being glued together. The middle layer is slightly wider to accommodate a sheave. The one thing I did do was round off the sheave before gluing up the

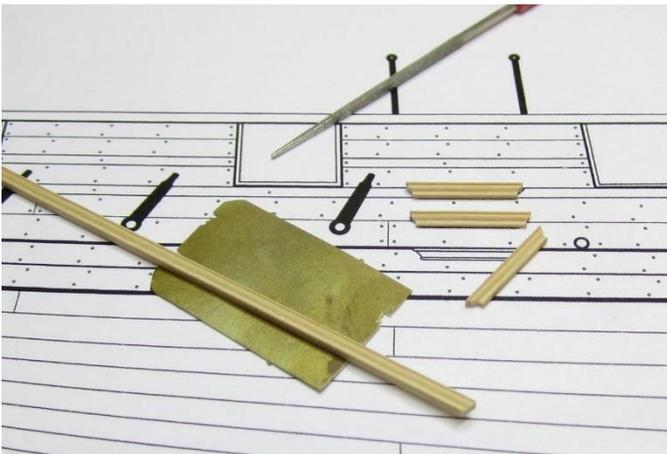
three layers. It is difficult to see the sheave in the photo but its there.

Note how the bottom of the chesstree and fenders are notched over the black strake.



The boarding ladder is pretty straight forward. No laser cut parts here. I made a scraper for the profile....then scraped a strip of boxwood. Then I used some files and chisels to shape the sides to match. There is no silver bullet here. The best way to make these is to do it by hand like this. I used a 3/32" x 5/64 strip of boxwood.

Here is how I made them on Cheerful and I made these the exact same way. The profile is a little more fancier however.



Here is what they look like on the Winnie. It wasn't fun cutting away the molding neatly. But I managed it.

I printed the frieze for the top step on tissue paper. I used a glue stick to adhere it. Then I carefully used a toothpick to push the frieze into the recesses etc. It did require some paint touch up on the sides but I am very happy with the results.

Make sure you bevel the back side of each step so the top is flat/level. Otherwise the top face of the steps would tilt one way or the other.

Swivel Guns...

The swivels are cast in black resin as you can see in the photo provided. They come on a spru. You need to cut them free with a flush cutter and sand off the nubs. These are not drilled for the trunnion. You need to drill them thru with a #65 drill bit. That is the perfect size. You also need to use the same bit to drill a hole into the back end below the button. This is for the handle.

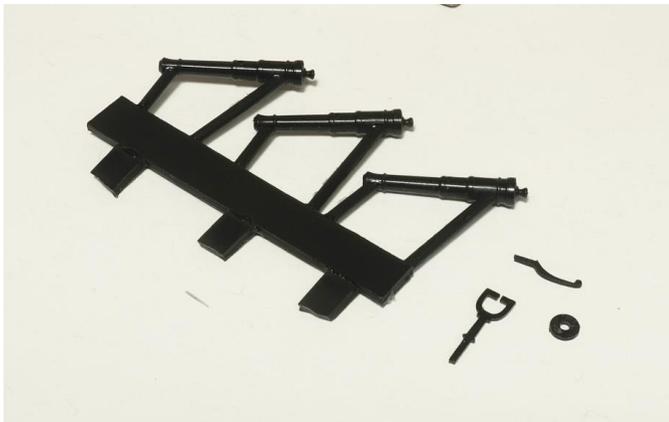
The handle and yoke ...or bracket, is laser cut out of acrylic. Just glue the handle into the hole in the back end you drilled. Hopefully it was centered with the trunnion holes and below the button.

The bracket is easily added. Slide the muzzle end into the space of the bracket until its lined up with the trunnion holes. Then gently pull the bracket down so the fork starts spreading apart. It will flex and snap right into the trunnion holes you drilled....that is if you used a #65 bit.

The small disc you see in the photo is for the tops of the swivel mounts. You will add the disc on top before inserting the bracket into a hole you drilled in the wooden mount. These



are quite tiny and hard to photograph....here are the swivels assembled and weathered. I sprayed them with matt fixative or dull coat first and then applied some weathering powder.



In addition to the swivel guns on the posts along the sides of the hull, there are also two swivels up front on the bollard timbers.

I drilled a #65 hole in the top of the timberheads/bollards. Then I added the acrylic disc...no glue really needed. Just position it and slide the swivel into the hole locking the disc in place.

Dealers choice....swivel stocks

On the contemporary model there are two swivel stocks on each side of the fcastle. On the original draft there is only one. Only the



stock forward of the shrouds is shown. Its really just up to you.

I am going to omit this swivel stock aft of the shrouds because it is not shown on the original draft. I also think it hurts the graceful flow of the rail into the waist. But it's up to you.

In addition, the contemporary model does not show the aft-most swivel stock along the qdeck. But it is shown on the draft making it 3 per side.

I am just pointing out some discrepancies in case any of you notice it. It would be fine to show all ten swivel stocks that I show on our model plans and the two on the bollard timberheads. But if you agree that the second pair on the fcastle would be visually problematic, you can omit them too.

And also, the stocks on the HMS Amazon contemporary model are completely round. Those on the Winnie Contemporary model are six sided. BUT...for me it is much easier to take a 5/32" x 5/32" strip and make it 8 sided by sanding the corners to make an octagon. I follow the 7-10-7 formula for doing so. Although its easy enough if you are careful to just free hand it.

Omitting that one pair of stocks on the fcastle also follows the arrangement shown on the Amazon and some other contemporary models. As I have mentioned, the Amazon is



one of my inspiration examples while working on this project. I believe you can see the similarities between it and our project in this photo.

The swivel stocks are made from a $5/32$ " x $5/32$ " strip. Their lengths are all different and should be taken from the plans. They will be sanded or filed on all for corners to make them 8 sided. BUT....not where they sit against the hull. Here you leave that portion flat on the

entire side. You can see one pair of swivel stocks below. One is dressed and the other undressed. Not the flat side. Measure on your model the length of the flat portion to fit against the hull. From the top of the shear down. The bottom was rounded off as well.

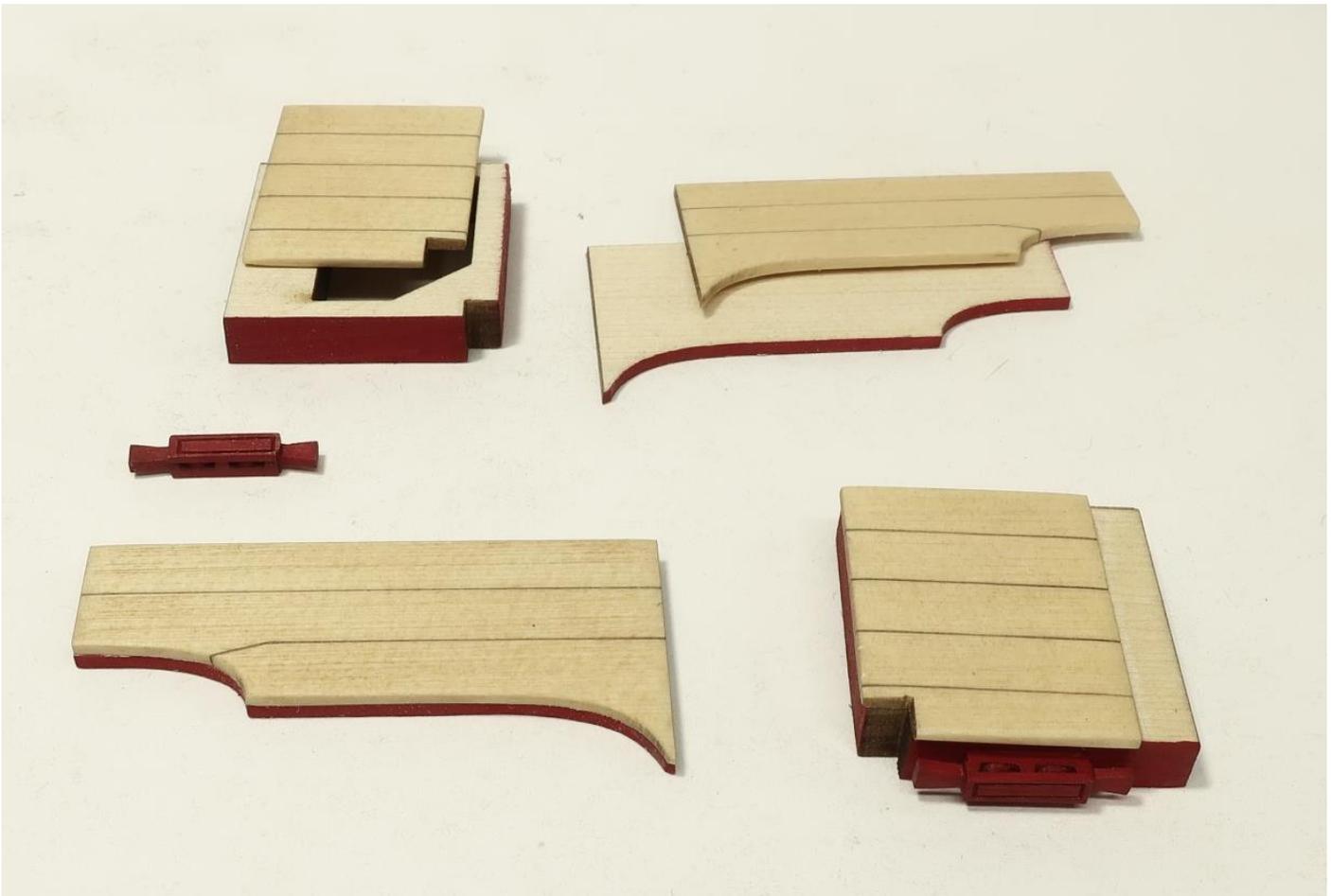
The hole in the top was made with a #65 bit for the swivel guns and a thin band of black tape wrapped around the very top. You have to do a lot of measuring from your model to determine the end of the black and the frieze allowing for a natural area to match where the molding is. Just take your time measuring and marking. The friezes were applied as usual after printing them on tissue paper. They were applied with a glue stick and I did my best to match the pattern but it isn't that critical.



Some photos showing the stocks installed. I notched away the molding and overhang of the shear caprail to accommodate them. I also did my best to make sure they were vertical but also matching the angles of the posts on the rails. They will follow the shape of the hull as well and lean a bit to match the curvature of the hull.

The aft-most swivel stock also angles against the forward side of the transom. This makes it look a bit odd depending on the angle but the original drat shows it this way rather than vertical like the other stocks.





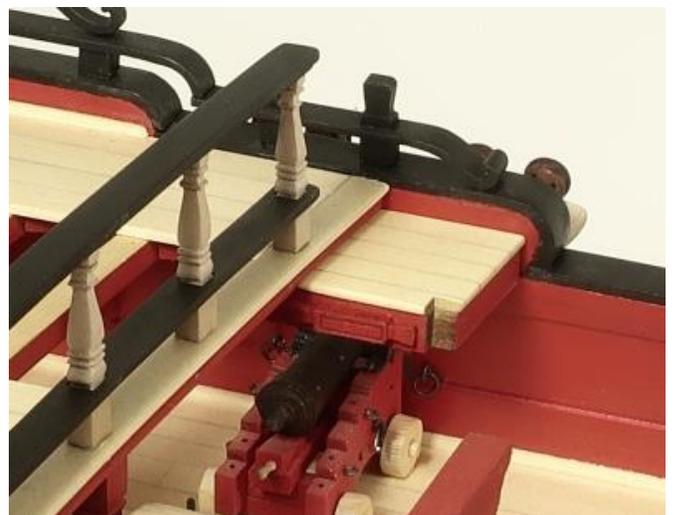
The Gangways...

The gangways are the two platforms along the waste and quarter deck. The gangboards are the long planks forward of these that almost span to the fore castle.

To begin, it is best to assemble the two gangway platforms. These are all laser cut for you and shown above. Sand the areas to painted red along the edges of the platforms. Then glue the laser cut and etched decking on top of both. You should also sand these to remove the char from the edges which will show before you glue them in position. You might as well lightly sand the top as well. Apply a coat of wipe on poly as well.

Note how the decking for the thicker platform creates a lip on the aft side. This is important. This lip will be glued to the underside of the breast beam. Do a test fit first so you can see how it fits. Push it so the decking sits flush against the breastbeam. In addition you will soon discover

how the side of the platform against the bulwarks seems to need a bevel. It should be angled so it sits flush against the bulwarks.



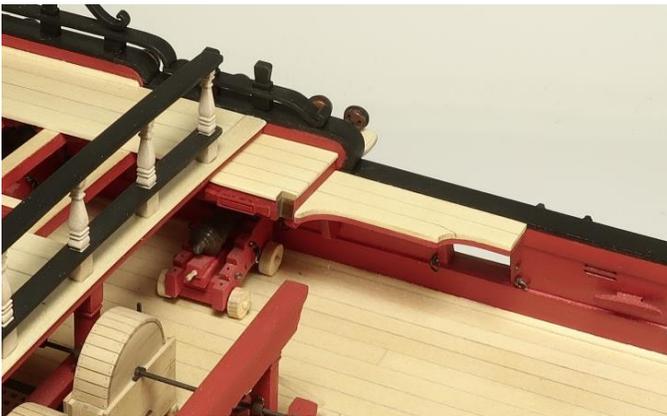
You will also notice how I assembled and painted the staghorn ahead of time. I glued it to the side of the gangway before the platform was glued into position permanently. It was hopefully easier than trying to get my hands in that tight space without damaging the pumps and other details.

Next, prepare the hanging knee which is laser cut just like the others you have added on this model. Paint it red and glue it under the forward edge of the platform.



Touch up any paint at this point. See above.

Now you can add the second thinner gangway platform.

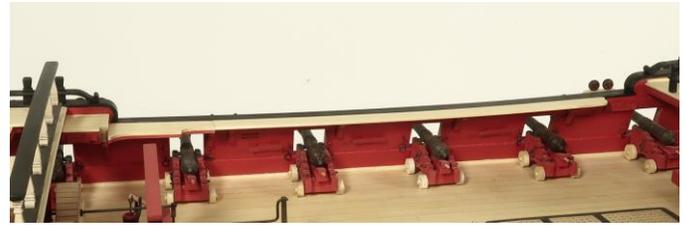


Note how the top is flush with the top of the caprail in waist. Then yes...you guessed it, add the smaller hanging knee under the forward end of this platform.



Now for the long laser cut and etched gangboards. There are two ways you can do this. You can add the short hanging knees first and glue the gangboards on top of these. OR, you can glue the gangboards against the caprail in the waist first and then add the knees under it one by one.

I chose the latter. I thought it would be easier this way and help ensure that the top of the gangboards are flush with the top of the cap rail.



I needed to touch up the paint after adding the three knees under the gangboards. The knees were sanded and painted first. I used a long set of

tweezers to carefully position them under the gangboard. I wasn't able to get a perfectly tight seam with these against the bulwarks but any gaps were easily filled and then painted after sanding them as good as I could given their placement.

Chapter 11 is almost completed...



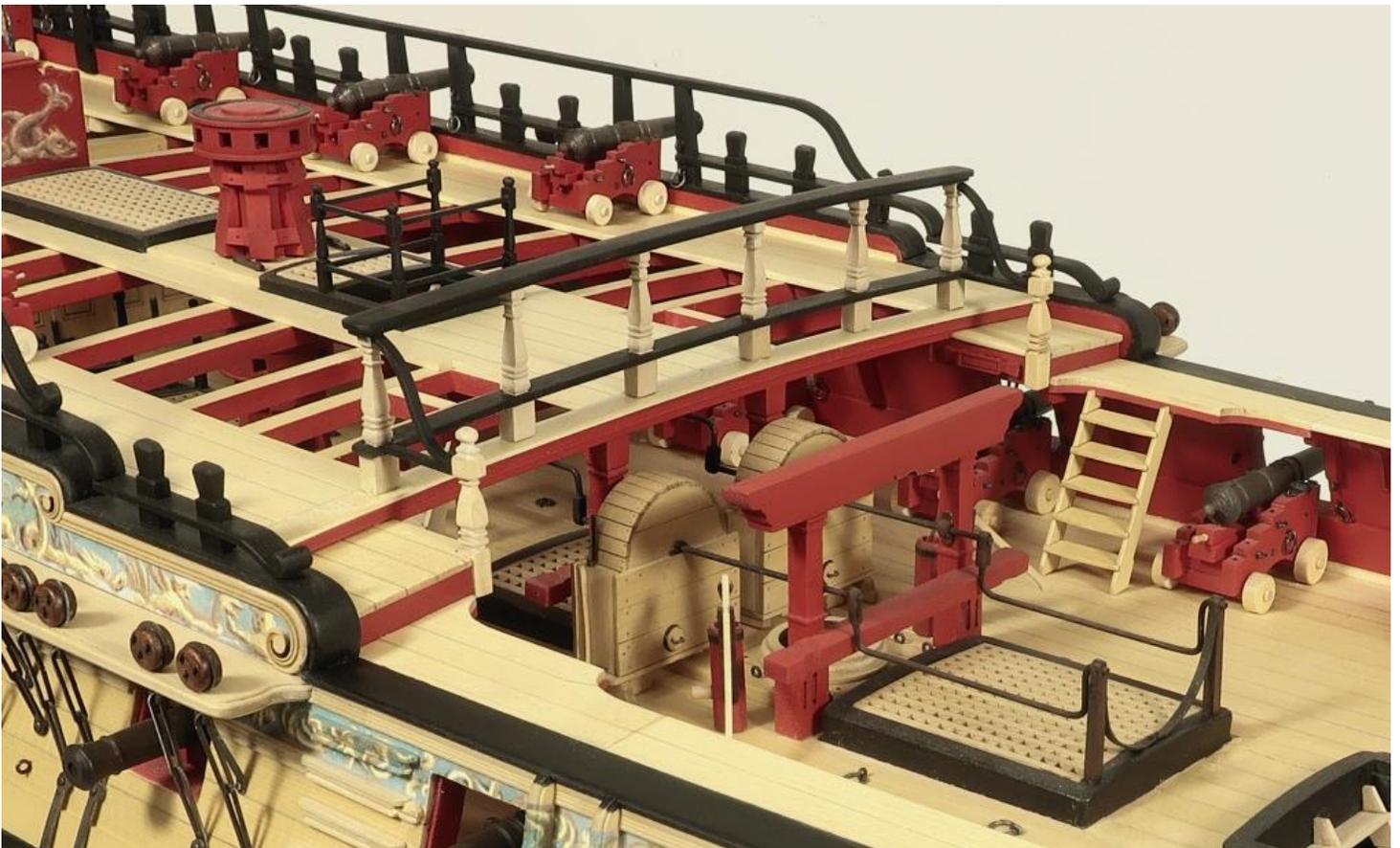
To finish it up, we need to add the newel post along the inboard edge of the gangway platforms and the fancy rails.

You should make quick work of shaping and removing the char from the newel post. It is done just like the posts and uprights you have completed throughout this project.

As you can see below, I am leaving the newel post natural. But you can paint it if you choose to.

Position and glue the post into the notch on the forward corner of the gangway platform. Use PVA glue so it has enough "open" time before it sets to get the angle correct. It should be vertical of course but quickly view it from many angles before the glue dries. You would be surprised how much you will be tweaking it before you are satisfied.

The two lengths of fancy rail are also laser cut for you. They are both cut just a bit longer than you will need. Adjust the straight length first so it fits in position. See the plans and photos for where it should go. It will span from the lower rail of the





breast rail to the top square portion of the newel post.

I painted these black and glued them into position. The same procedure was used to add the curved fancy rail which goes above it.

You should also note the gangway stairs or ladders. These are made just like the others in the project. Add these to complete the chapter.

