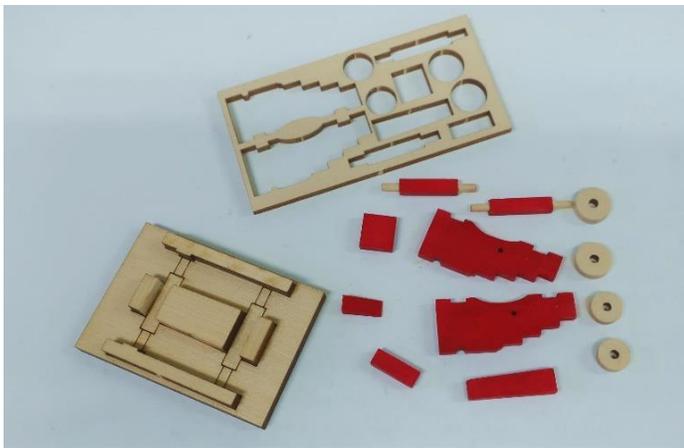


Chapter Six

Assembling the Gun Carriages...

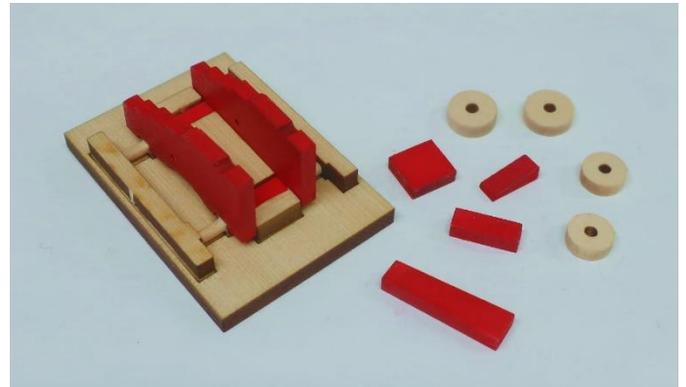
To start on the gun carriages....you can paint them red as I have or leave them natural. It's up to you. You will need 24 of these larger 12 pounders for the gun deck. You can purchase 6 packages of carriages and 6 packages of resin or brass cannon to complete this chapter.

I first sanded both sides of the sheet before I removed the parts....then I sanded the char lightly from the edges of each piece. I used some 220 grit sandpaper and then did a final pass with 320 grit.

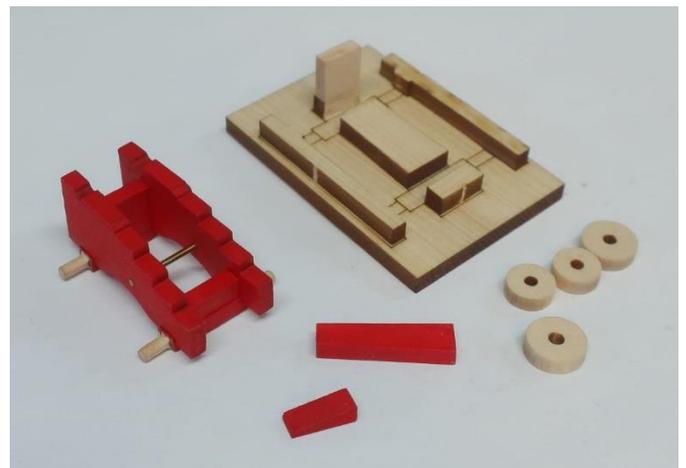


I prefer to paint all of the parts first before I assemble them. But I know everyone has their preference. Note the wheels/trucks were left natural. In addition, the ends of the axels were rounded off and also left natural. I removed only the smallest amount of laser char before painting these. You don't want to reduce the size of the parts too much because they need to fit into the jig which will be sent to all builders for free when you buy your carriages....also pictured. The jig parts are all laser cut.

Then the axels are placed in the jig...hopefully they fit snug. One tip is to build the jig around the actual axel parts to ensure a tight fit. Then add the sides and glue in place. When dry...remove from the jig. Don't glue it to the jig.



Next I added the two remaining wood parts on the front and back ends of the carriage. These parts are slightly longer so you have to sand them for a nice fit. Finally I also added a 1mm round bar across the center. It goes through the hole in the sides of the carriages...see below. You will need to buy some 1mm round brass rod.



At this stage you can either start adding the metal work...eyebolts or finish building the carriages. Its up to you. I added the carriage bed and quoin at this stage....below.



By the way please do follow the plan for these which is available on the large sheets you printed when you started the project.

The metal work is straight forward...

Eye bolts and split rings. These were made from 24 gauge black wire. The split rings were made using a #41 drill bit. The other bolts were just simulated using 25 pound black fishing line. They were left standing proud of the surface a bit after slicing off the excess.



If you are planning to rig each cannon don't insert the eye bolt with split rings yet. This is easier done later by placing them onto your breech rope. More on that later.

That is next. Then I will add the cannon and trunnion caps.

To begin I made all of the eye bolts and split rings and cut the brass 1mm rods to length. It's a lot of work....which you will soon find out.

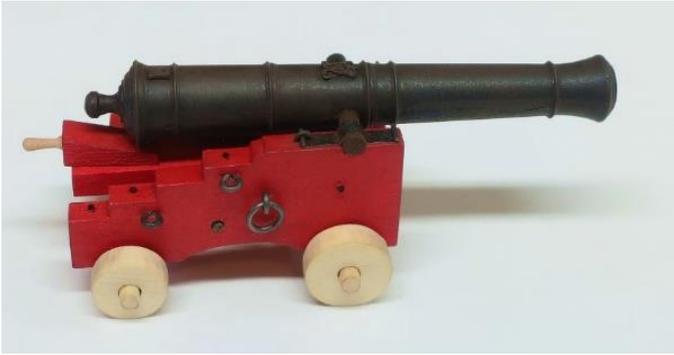
Each carriage has 7 eye bolts...for a total of 168
Each has 2 split rings...48
and 24 bras rods cut to length and blackened.



ONE IMPORTANT NOTE: its no fun to make this many eye bolts or hooks...which you will need for the carriages including another 125 eyebolts for the bulwarks. BUT there is nothing that wrecks a model more than gun carriages with commercial eye bolts that are way too large and made from wire that is way too thin. That is why I make my own. So take your time. Also note the eye bolts in that picture above. Each one is sunk into the carriage sides a bit because that is how it was done. This prevents them from twisting. The cedar is great for this as it is soft and you can just push them in a bit to sink them.

Use the plans for the size and shape of the eyebolts.

Here is the finished carriage with gun in position...



Doesn't that cannon look great? Hard to believe it is black resin and not brass. To treat them, just spray a mist of matte finish on them. You know the stuff....spray fixative. I use Krylon or dull coat. I did this after removing whatever sprues and flashing with a very fine sandpaper.

Once sprayed and dry I give each barrel the treatment with some weathering powders as I have described numerous times. It really does the trick.



Keep in mind I haven't applied any Wipe on Poly to the trucks yet so they appear very light. That's the raw cedar. They will have a deeper color once I apply the poly. You can also add the pins that hold the trucks onto the axels. It's all up to you. I have seen so many

different treatments by builders with gun carriages. You guys can have fun with these.

I made the quoin handle.....basically a belying pin like I usually do. I chock a length of 3/64 x 3/64 boxwood in my Dremel and shape it with files. I suppose you can buy some of those but its real tough to find nice belying pins to scale. It's up to you and how much time you want to spend on these. Remember you have to make 24 of them.

The cap square.....these are finicky details. You can put as much time and detail into these as you desire. Check out a few of the scratch build logs on MSW and you will see some guys go nutty with these. I tend to simplify these merely out of boredom with making them and lack of desire to go beyond what you see in the photos. My goal is to just give the suggestion of a more detailed version. It is not a great deal accurate but because of their size this gives a convincing impression at this scale that they are. The close ups are brutal but when you see them in person they do a really swell job.

It's very simple really....the base of the cap square is literally a length of black masking tape pre-cut into 1/16" wide strips...maybe a tad wider. Then I cut the tiniest lengths of 28 gauge black wire.....to 1/16" long. The same width as the tape. I place one of these wires at the front and back edges of the tape.....

To finish it off you will notice that wire loop around the aft wire of the cap square. This is just a tiny "U" that I made out of that same wire. One side of the "U" was a bit longer. I pre-drilled a hole just behind the tapes edge and inserted this "U" into it so the upside down "U" would come down on top of the wire glued to the edge of the tape. I hope that makes



sense. It's one of those things that isn't easy to describe.

And finally, a picture alongside a natural version I made of the cannon. It's dirty from handling it the last six months or so but you have seen this one in some other photos throughout this monograph. It's up to you guys to choose if you like the painted red version or the natural version. I am going with the painted version....it will add some color to the already colorful model. Otherwise it may look too neutral and drab. Only 23 more to go!!!! I will get the assembly line going now. I will usually do three batches of 8 guns. It helps minimize the mundane nature of doing all 24 at once.

The corresponding eyebolts and split rings were added to the bulwarks. They were made the same as those for the gun carriages. I used

24 gauge black wire. The split rings were the same also using a 41 drill bit to make them.

There are also eyebolts/split rings on deck for the carriages which were also made the same. BUT, if you examine the plans there are also 8 larger rings which need to be added. I added those at this time also. Those were made from 22 gauge wire using a #31 drill bit. You can see I forgot the one eyebolt on the back of each carriage....so I will add those at some point. Man that was a lot of eyebolts and split rings to make....sheesh!! See the photo on the next page.

Remember that I won't be rigging these guns so they will look just as you see them here. But the beauty of not rigging them means that I don't have to glue them into position permanently yet. I will wait to do so in case removing them makes it easier to work on the



other fittings in the next chapter. But if you are going to rig them....this would be the time. Use 5/32" single blocks for the gun tackles using .018 tan rope. The breach rope should be roughly .045 to .050 in dia. As most contemporary models never showed the guns rigged unless the entire model was rigged, I will leave them unrigged as well.

Now it is time to start chapter seven!!!



