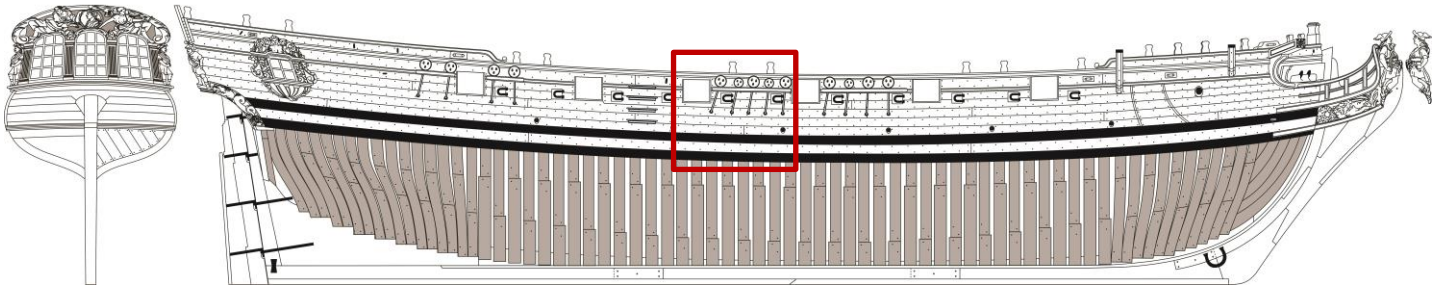
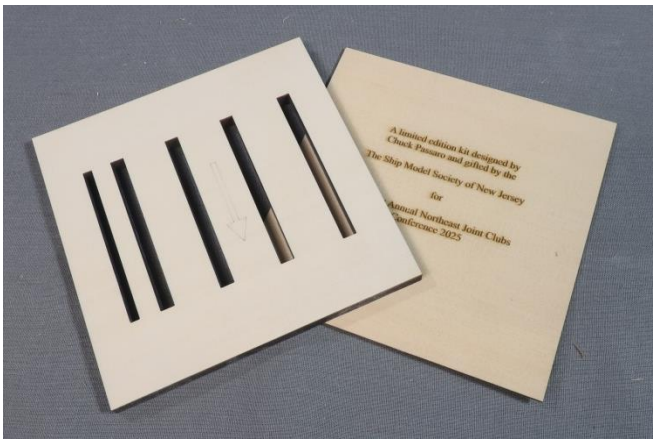


The Ketch Rigged Sloop Speedwell 1752

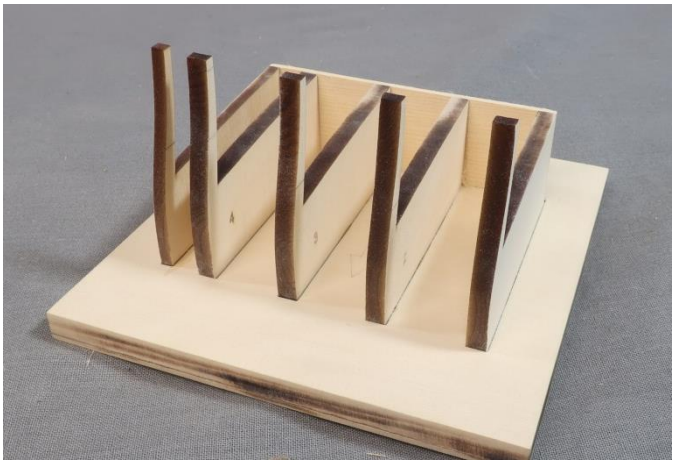
Building a Sectional Battle Station Kit….3/8” Scale

Lets dive right in!!



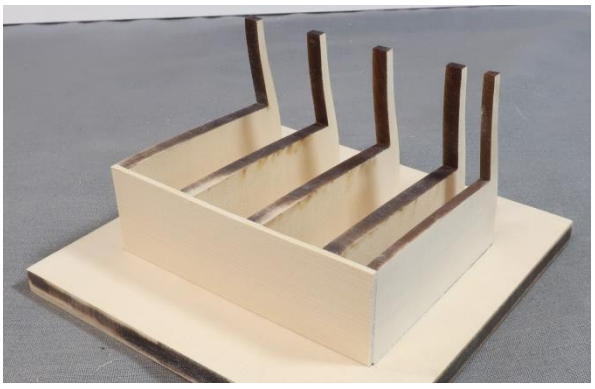
In a plastic bag you will see the laser cut wood pieces for model. Find the two base parts shown above. The thicker sanded base should be sanded on the top side to prepare it for painting. That is the side with the laser etched arrow. Finish sand with a 320 grit if possible and apply some wipe on poly or sanding sealer.

Glue the thinner bottom layer to the underside of the base with some PVA or yellow glue. These two layers are a perfect square so you can turn the bottom thin layer so the grains are going in a different direction for stability and to prevent warping. Once dry, the etched arrow points towards you on the workbench (the front of the model).

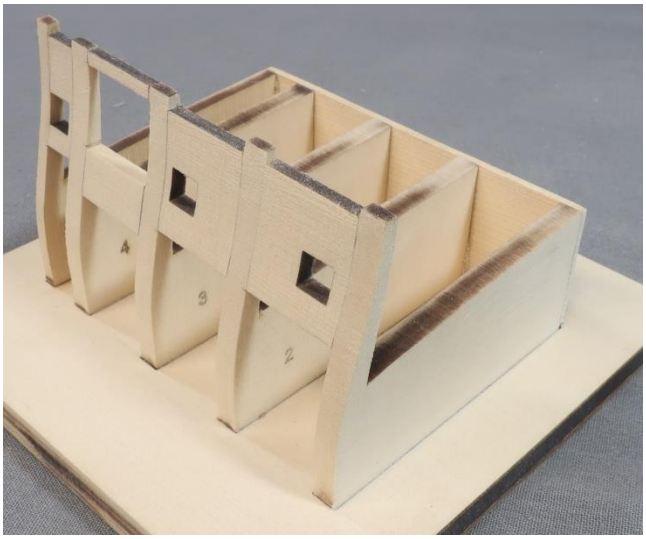


Once dry, the five laser cut frames can be slid into each slot and glued into position. Do a dry fit test first. It should be too snug. Each frame should easily slide into a slot so it rests on and touches the bottom layer of the base…and is squared up vertically in relation to the base.

Sand the bottom of the frames to make them thinner if needed rather than sand the lots wider. See photo above. The bulwarks face forward to the front of the base (use the arrow).



Important note…The back edge of the five frames should sit against the back sides of the slots so you can add the back panel next. The back side of the frames should all line up evenly left to right. The back panel is laser cut on the 1/16” sheet labeled “E”. It is just a long rectangle. It is laser cut slightly longer on each side so after you glue it in position you can sand the ends flush with the sides of the frames. You can sand the top flush with the top of the frames as well.



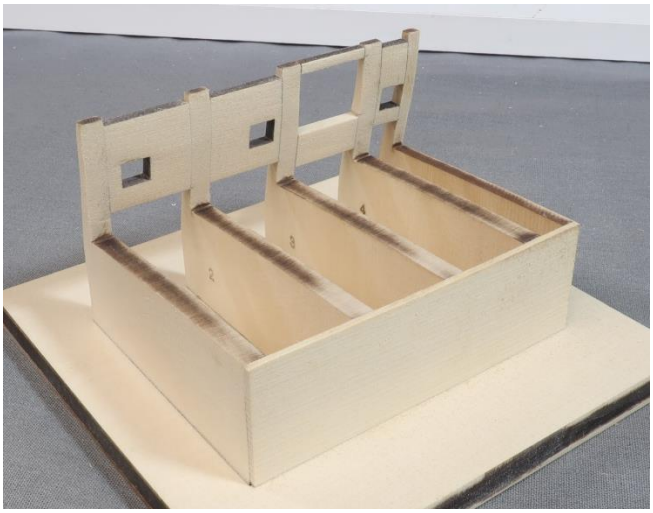
Time to frame the ports.

These pieces are laser cut for you and numbered. Check the plan sheet and you will see them labeled 6 thru 10.

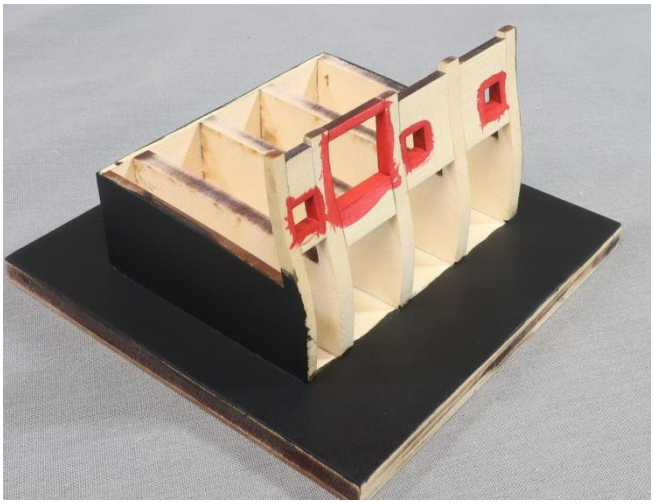
There are a few extras cut just in case. These are also cut a bit wider to fit between the frames nicely after you do a bit of sanding.

Use a sanding stick to reduce the width of these pieces so they are a good fit. What is a good fit? They should not be so tight that they spread your frames apart which will force them out of square. They should be too loose either.

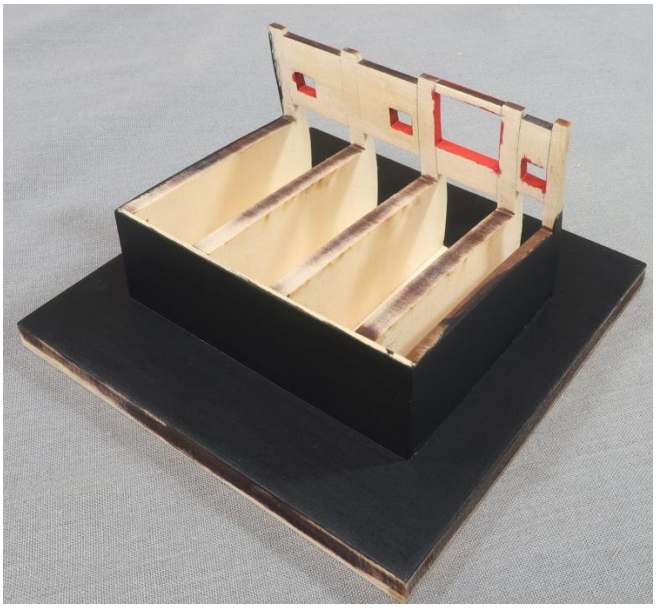
There are some laser etched reference lines on the sides of each frame to help you position these parts at the proper height. These are just a guide so do your best. For the best fit, you could literally cut the framing drawing from the plan sheet, or print the last page of these instructions. Use the printout as a template which you can hold up against the frames to mark their heights.



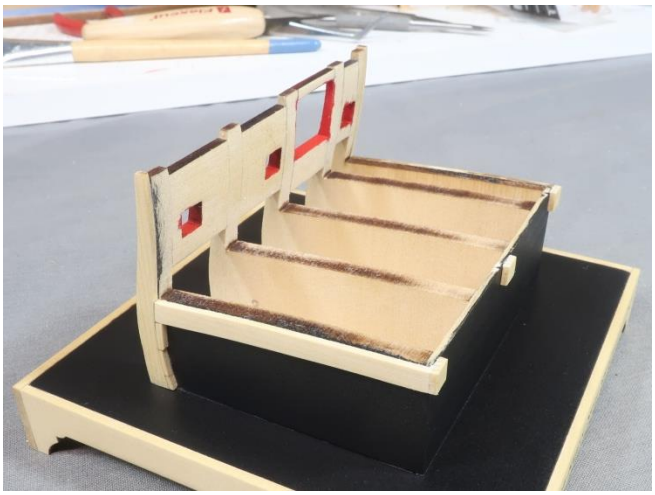
Make sure your sweep ports are facing the correct way when you glue them in!! Once they are all in place, fair the hull inboard and out. Simply sand the frames and port framing flush as shown in the photos above.



Optional…This all depends on your personal preferences. This is the best time to paint the inside edges of the port openings bulwark red. Don’t worry about being sloppy. Fill in any gaps before you paint. It is also a great time to paint the top of the base black or whatever you prefer. The sides and back panel were also painted black at this time.



At least give it a good first coat which you will inevitable have to touch up periodically.



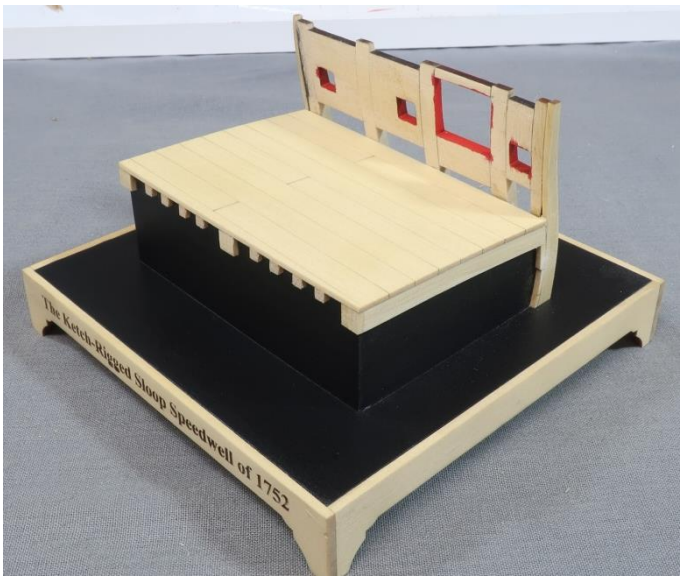
Time to add the simulated frame sides…

On laser cut sheet “E” you will find the simulated frame sections. These are 1/16” thick. Each side of the model gets these. You should lightly sand the laser char from the edges so they are nice and clean before you glue them on.

The photo above shows the forward side. The two sections that make up the forward side are the deck beam and the frame itself with some simulated inboard planking.

Glue the frame portion on first followed by the deck beam. They are all a bit longer and wider so after they are glue on you can sand them flush with the actual frames and the top of the deck.

Repeat on the aft side. Below…

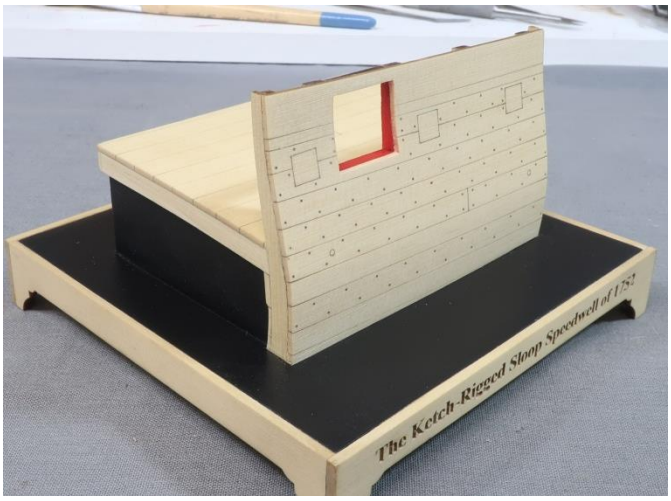


In the same photo above you will notice the small squares also glued onto the back face. These represent the “faux” frame ends. They don’t line up with the five bulkheads and honestly it doesn’t matter where you glue them. Just make sure the top edges are flush with the top of deck…or where the deck will eventually be glued. There are three deck beam squares which are best glued on first. One on each end and then just place the last one centered between them. On Speedwell there were many smaller beams called carlings between these. To simulate the ends of these glue four evenly spaced between the larger squares.

They are all laser cut. But sand the char from the edges before gluing them on. There is also a 3/32” x 3/32” strip included in the kit just in case. Meaning the smaller laser squares are hard to handle because of their size and still sand them clean of char. So you might prefer to just cut some clean small squares from the strip instead. Its easier to maintain the square shape that way.

Lastly, you might find that it is a great time to finish the base by gluing the surrounding parts with ships name and legs around its perimeter.

Sand the char off first obviously. Then start with the two sides without any writing. Then add the laser etched sides with the ship name. Sand everything flush on the corners as they are initially cut slightly longer. Apply wipe on poly or other suitable finish and touch up any of the black paint on the base.



Some planking fun…

Now you can absolutely plank the outer hull with individual planks if you wish. That is up to you. The kit however, is supplied with one laser cut sheet contain all of the planking. It is also laser etched with treenails and other reference lines to make it quick and easy.

Do a dry fir first. It is 3/64" thick which is actually to scale. Some folks may have a hard time bending and flexing this so it sits against the frames nicely. But is should work out fine with some finessing. The gun port is cut much smaller than the actual framed opening. This was done so it doesn't really matter that you position this perfectly as long as the planking sheet covers all the frames fore and aft. You will be cutting that gun port opening larger to fit the actual port size after its glued on. It really …really does NOT matter if the smaller sweep ports don't line up exactly where you framed them either. They are all closed ports and you cant see the other side. So please don't fret about their locations for this small battle station model.

A small tip…it is easier to place some CA glue on the bottom of the frames only first. Just add a healthy spot of glue to the bottom ¼" of each frame first. Then press the bottom of the planking sheet in position and clamp it or hold it until it dries completely. You are basically only gluing the bottom 1/4" to the frames.

Once dry, add some more CA to each frame a bit higher up and slowly bend the planking sheet. Clamp again until dry…

Repeat this until the entire sheet is glued in position. Doing it this way allow you to bend the sheet against the frames a little at a time ensuring the sheet sit flat and tight to the frames without lifting off them.

Sand the sides and top of the sheet flush with the frames.

To finish off this step, use a new sharp #11 blade to slice the sides of the gun port opening larger. Just shave the top, bottom and sides carefully until they are flush with the red painted framing. Yes you will probably have to touch up that red paint afterwards. It should look like the photo above left.

OK…to the inboard side we go

Fair and sand the inside of the frames flush. Try and thin them down a bit as well. The overall thickness with outside planking should be around 5/32”…obviously on the thinner side at the top of the bulwarks is preferred. The lower part of the frames along the gundeck can be gradually thicker at around 3/16”.

First, add the gun deck. This is laser cut for you. All planking is laser etched. It is larger than you need so after its glued on you can sand all three sides flush with the framing.

Having said this, the edge of the deck planking along the bulwarks can be beveled on an angle if needed to sit flush against the frames ahead of time before you glue it on.

You might have noticed that this was done a bit earlier in the photos. It was done a few steps back. Honestly it doesn’t matter when the deck is added after all the framing was completed. BUT, this is the best and last opportunity to add it before it becomes more difficult.

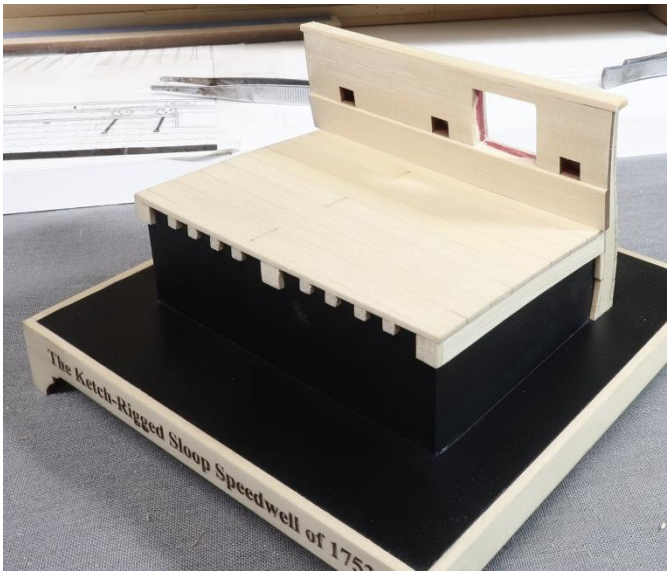
Inboard bulworks…

The inboard planking is a bit more forgiving. There are no laser etched strakes. Because this will be painted all red it doesn’t require them. But yes you can plank inboard with individual 3/64” strips if you prefer rather than use the laser cut sheet.

This is the same as adding the exterior planking sheet. But the smaller sweep ports openings are also cut out. So do your best to line everything up. The port openings are once again cut much smaller than actual size. Once this sheet is glued in position, use the sharp blade to trim the sides of the ports larger and flush. You can fill any gaps and touch up the red paint.

To finish up the inboard planking, you must add the spirketting. Laser Sheet “J”

This is a second layer that makes the planking thicker below the ports. The top edge of this thin layer should line up with the bottom edge of all the ports. The bottom edge of all the ports are…should be…at the same level fore and aft. If not, try and make some adjustments so they are all lined up across the bottom

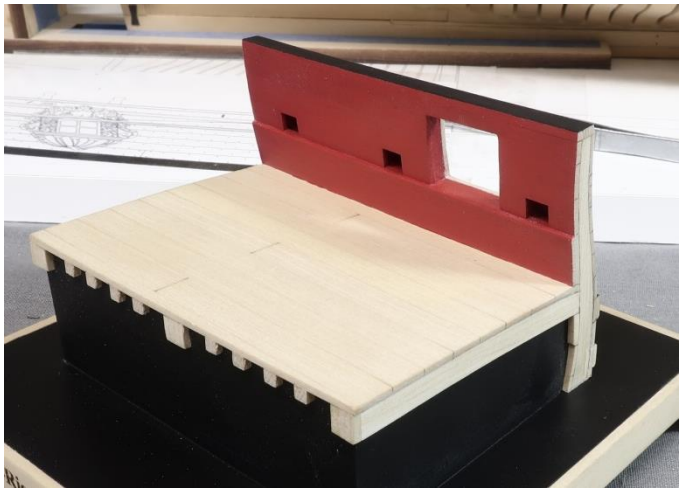


edge. You can shim the bottom edges to adjust them etc. It doesn’t matter since the inboard side is all painted red. It is easier to adjust the level of the sweep ports than adjust the larger gun port. You might see in the photo that I added some wood filler to fill any gaps and sanded everything smooth for final painting.

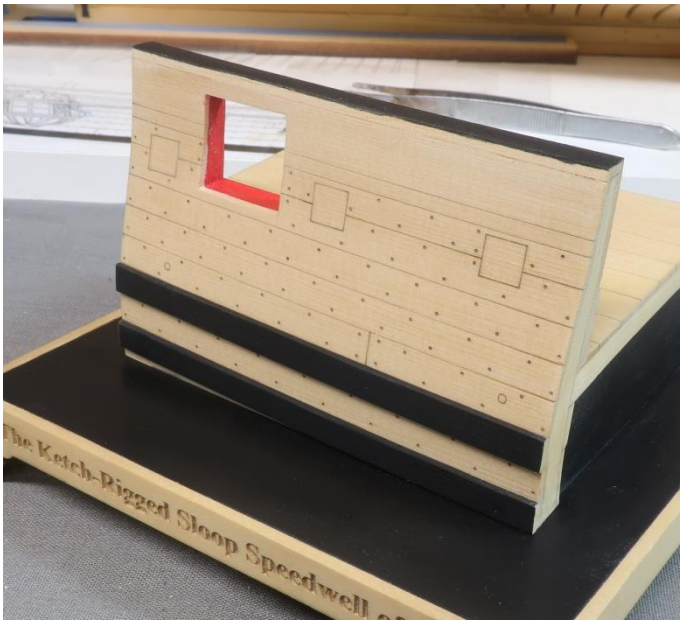
In the same photo above I also added the cap rail. This comes provided as ¼” wide strip. Its easy enough to glue this on top of all the frames and planking. You can sand the sand the tops of the frames and planking first to make sure you have a smooth run with no dips and hills. Then glue it on. Sand the inboard and outboard edges flush to the planking.

Try and keep the cap rail a consistent width the entire run fore and aft.

Now I didn't sand the sides of the inboard planking flush with the frames yet. I left this till later. It will be easier to paint the inboard planking red first without needing to be careful. Then after it dries sand the sides flush to the frames so its nice and neat.

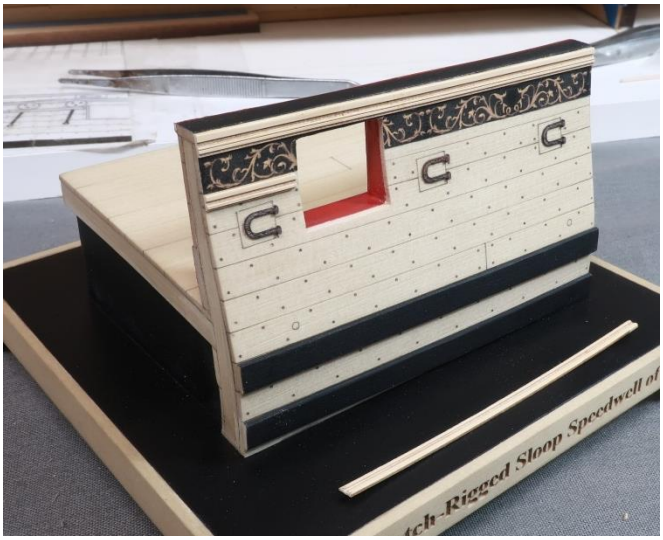


I also painted the top of the cap rail black at this time.



Add the wales…these are laser cut for you on sheet "L".

Sand them a bit first with 320 grit, then paint them black fore you glue them on. See above. Sand the ends flush.



Time for some fun details…

The fancy profile moldings are laser cut for you. They are laser cut and etched in a special plastic. There isn't must laser char at all. But you should use a fine 320 grit sandpaper to round off the top and bottom edges. The use a stiff bristle paint brush to brush away any bits that caught in the ridges of the profile.

The color is a great match to the Yellow Cedar but you can stain it with some fruitwood gel stain to deepen the color if you wish. The stain will fill the deeper areas of the profile and really make the molding more detailed. You can dry-brush the higher areas so any stain jus remains in the grooves. Allow to dry. Glue the wider molding along the top of the caprail first. Sand the ends flush.

Then cut the painted frieze from the plan sheet. Use a glue stick…you know…the craft glue sticks that kids use for projects to glue the paper frieze in position. Apply to the back of the frieze and position it along the bottom edge of the molding. Then using a sharp #11 blade, trim the paper frieze around the gun port. But only after the glue dries.

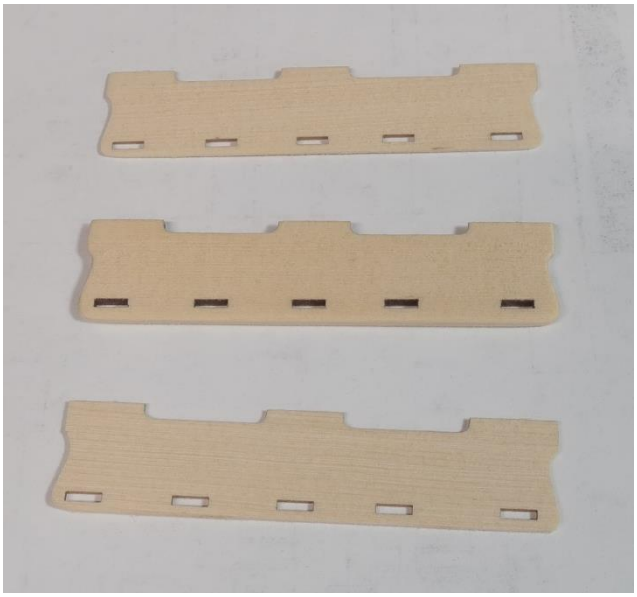
To finish it off along the bottom edge of the frieze, repeat with the thinner plastic molding. I only added the lower molding on the left side of the gun port at this time. I thought it best to

wait on the other side until after the channel is added.

Lastly I added the sweep port hinges. These are also laser cut for you from black plastic. These just need to be glued in position…see above. There may be some residue on them left over from laser cutting. You can rub this away with your finger or a damp cloth. Leaving a bit of it actually looks good in the deeper areas of the hinges.

On the inboard side there is another even thinner fancy molding strip. This is also plastic and can be painted red ahead of time. This is glued to the top of the bulwarks flush with the caprail.

The channels are made from three layers of laser cut cedar. The top and bottom layers are very thin. Remove the laser char from these pieces before you glue them together. Simply register the slots for the deadeyes to keep everything lined up when you glue them



together. I did also soften the top and bottom edges of the thicker middle layer before gluing them together. It creates a nice profile when finished. No need to sand the char off the back edge that is glued to the hull. Noboady will ever see it. Just sand all three layers flush on that side when done.

Glue the channel to the hull. Make sure its facing the correct way. Don't glue it upside down. Look at the slot pattern and compare it to the plans.

No need to pin this channel since we wont be rigging these deadeyes, but make sure its secure.

Preparing the deadeyes…

There are two sizes of deadeyes. These are all 3d printed for you. The first thing you need to do is insert the deadeyes into their strops. The strops are laser cut for you out of plastic. It is quite easy to slip the deadeyes into the strop. The strop will flex so you can slip it right in. No glue is needed or soldering etc.

Next you must prepare the deadeye straps. These are laser cut for you out of plastic as well. They have a pretty unique shape. But you will need to complete them before you can use them even though they are laser cut in profile.

See the photo above.

The top of each strap has a “hook” of sorts on the end. This is hooked into the bottom of the deadeye strop after the deadeyes are inserted into the slots on the channel.

But these “hooks” are too wide as laser cut. You will need to file them thinner in width so the hook will actually fit into the little loops of the deadeye strops. They start off as 1/16” wide…you will need to file them to 1/32” wide. File them a little on each side. Give it a test and see if the fit into the strop loop as you see it in the photo above.

In addition, at the bottom of the chainplate strap a small brass nail secures it to the hull. You will need to drill a small hole thru the bottom of each strap for the little brass pins that come with the kit. Then I also rounded the bottom of the strap so it didn’t appear “square” at the very bottom edge.

This makes a big difference visually.

So how do you add the deadeyes and straps on the model? You have two sizes of deadeyes which should already be stropped. Place the loop of the strop into the slots on the channel. You will see the loop stick out along the bottom of the channel.

Use the plans to determine where the larger and smaller deadeyes go along the channel.

Once the deadeyes are in the channel slots, the straps can be hooked into the loop under the channel. The straps are somewhat flexible. If one breaks there are plenty of extras. Use the plans to determine the angle of each strap along the hull. NOTE: there are two different lengths of straps as they are angled along the hull. The longer straps are used on the deadeyes on the aft side of the channel. It helps them line up better when pinned into the planking. You can better match the location where they are pinned into the planking.

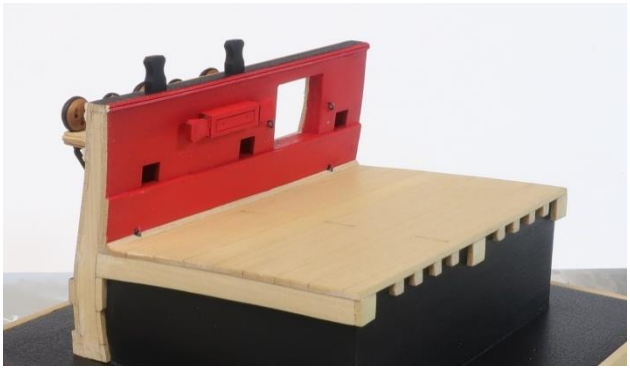
Mark the locations for the brass pins on the hull using the plans as a guide. Pre-drill the holes for the brass pins. With the straps hanging from the deadeye strops, pin the bottom ends into the planking. I found it easier to cut the pins shorter because you don’t need them that long.

I also added the two laser cut timberheads at this time. Sand them and paint them black.

Then position them according to the plans.

In that same photo, you can see that I drilled out the two scupper holes as well. No nned to drill through the bulwarks. Just go about 1/16" deep. Once drilled I cleaned them up with a round needle file and darkened the inside edges with a #2 pencil.

Finishing up the inboard side…



We have a few items to finish up on the inboard side before we can start building our gun carriage.

First, we need to add the waterway. A 3/64" x 3/64" strip is provided. Use a sanding stick to remove one corner down its entire length. You are basically making it triangular is profile.

Then glue it into position on deck against the bulwarks. Sand the ends flush with the frames.

Drill the scuppers just like you did on the outboard side. Just try and match their locations to the outboard side. They should be drilled half into the waterway and half into the bulwarks. No need to drill the scupper all the way thru. Just go a little deep so after darkening the holes with your pencil it's a good fake simulation of an actual scupper.

Building the bulwark cleat. This is laser cut in two parts. You can glue them together and then sand off the laser char. The smaller rectangle piece is glued to the back side so it lifts off the bulwarks when you glue it into positon. I sanded off the laser char after gluing up the two layers and painted it red. Then I glued it on the bulwarks using the plans to find the location.

Lastly, drill the two holes on each side of the gun port for the eyebolts. Use the plans to find their positions. You will only be adding the eyebolts in the top holes at this time while leaving the holes below them empty.

You will need to make these eyebolts from the 24 gauge black wire supplied with the kit. They can be made in the typical way using needle nose pliers.

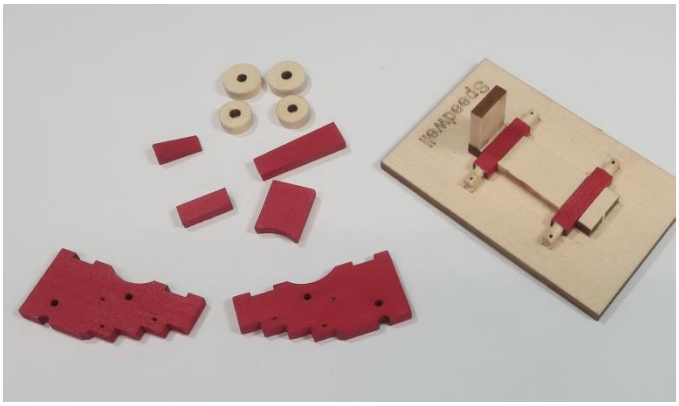
Making your gun carriage…

First sand the char off both sides of each laser cut sheet of carriage parts. Do this before

removing the parts. Its just easier. Then proceed to remove the char from the edges of all pieces. Dont sand too much. Just a light

touch is needed. The two sides or the "brackets" of teach carriage are laser cut with all the holes for your various eyebolts etc.

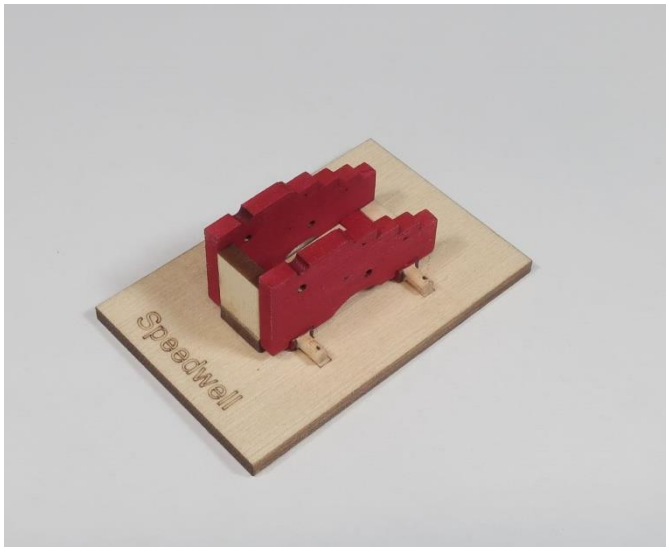
Then if you intend to paint the carriages...do that on all parts before assembling. It's just easier. Note the axles are left bright as well as the wheels (trucks). The axles were rounded off by hand using a sanding stick since we only have one carriage to build.



In addition, this kit comes with a carriage jig. It is a simple jig. There are laser cut reference lines that show you where the parts go for the jig. Use the photo as a guide as well.

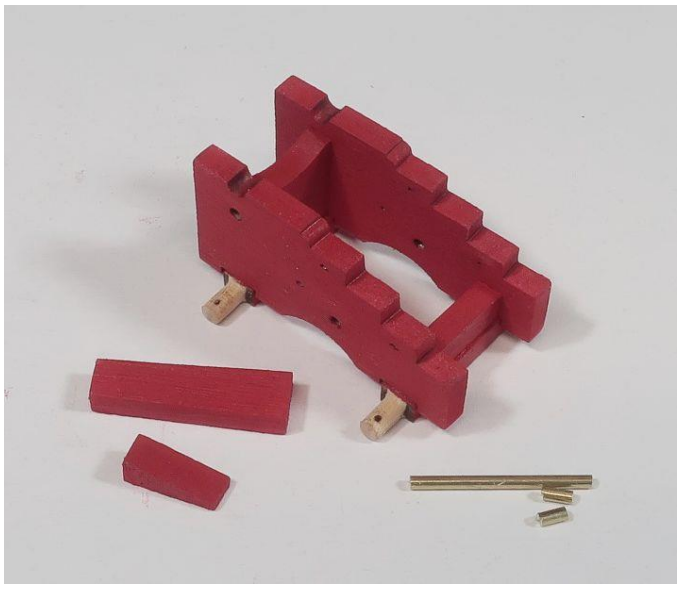
Add the center piece of the jig first. Then it is best to add the two axles in position so you can better position the other two jig pieces. Position the two jig elements on the far sides of each axle so they can be easily slipped in and out of the jig. Dont make it so the axles are too tight in the jig and hard to remove. Finish up the jig with the final fourth piece which is used to secure the brackets (sides of the carriage) at the correct width apart from each other. It sits on top of the forward side of the jig. You can see the carriage sides dry test fit to the jig atop the axles in the photo above right.

Then you can glue the two brackets (sides) to the axles permanently. I usually add some CA in the notches for the axels and carefully position them ...after they dry remove this assembly from the jig . If you were making 20



or even 100 carriages for a model the jig is now finished and can be used for all of them moving forward.

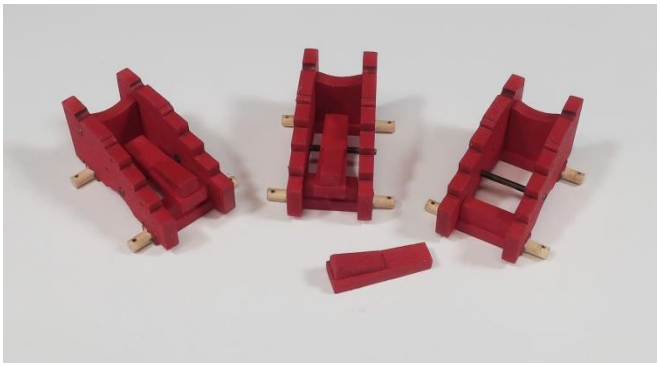
Next up...add the front (transom) and the back (bolster) atop each axle between the brackets. Note the stool bed and quoin ready to go for the next step along with some 3/64" dia brass



rod. These pieces were laser cut wider than need so you can sand them for a tight and proper fit.

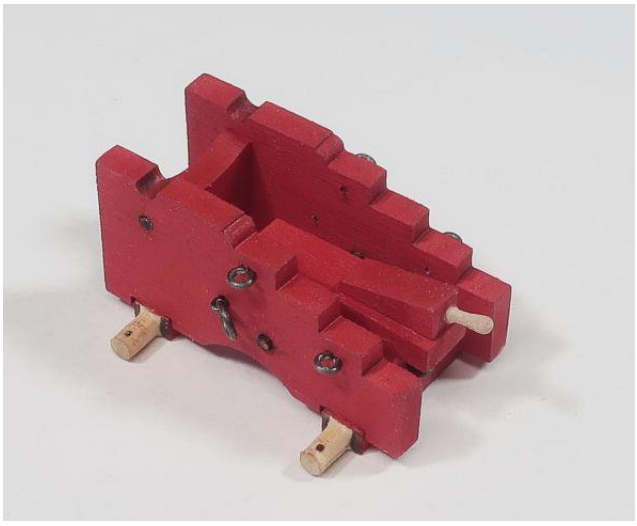
Insert the longer brass rod through the carriage. Cut it to length from the material provided. The stool bed will sit on this. The

two smaller lengths simulate the transom bolts. Normally this would go through the transom from one side to the other. But in our case they wont. They are just cosmetic. Just fill the hole so it looks like it does. They can be blackened.

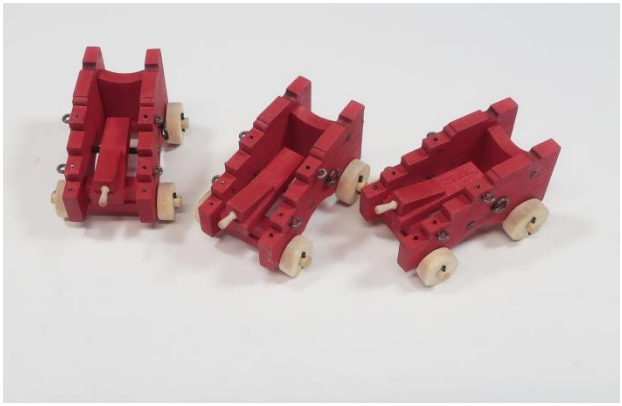


I glued the quoin atop the stool bed in advance. Again its just easier. Then I glued this assembly on top of the bolster and long brass rod. See the photo above.

Small eye bolts were made with the 24 gauge black wire and inserted according to the plans. You will need 5 of them. Many of you will be familiar with this repetitive task. I also made a ring and bolt for the breech line. You will need 4 of these. Even though the photos show it on the carriage, they will be removed for now. It is easier to add them to the breech line itself and



then insert them into the carriage sides later. That is if you intend to rig the guns which I do. I also turned the quoin handle from some scrap 3/64" boxwood strips. But you guys may use the 3d printed version provided.

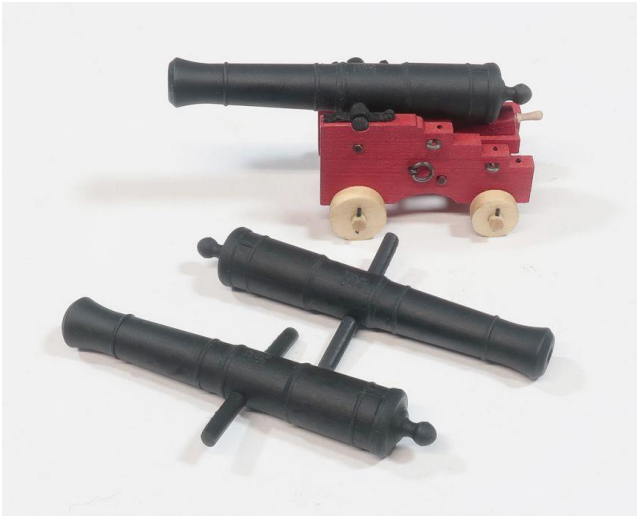


To finish up the carriages I drilled the holes along the stepped sides of each bracket. I inserted 30 pound black fishing line to simulate the bolts. I also added the trucks (wheels). To finish up the trucks a small length of either 24 gauge black wire or even 25 pound black fishing line can be used to simulate the truck keys. The keys are run through the laser cut holes in each axle.

The cannon are 3d printed...they are cleaned up if needed and finished with some weathering powder if you prefer that look. The trunnion were snipped and sanded shorter to match the width of each carriage.

The capsquares are interesting. I hate making these. So this time around I spent basically an entire day figuring out how to laser cut them. I

designed and laser cut the capsquares in one piece. They do have some 3 dimensionality to them. Just clean them up then glue them on....



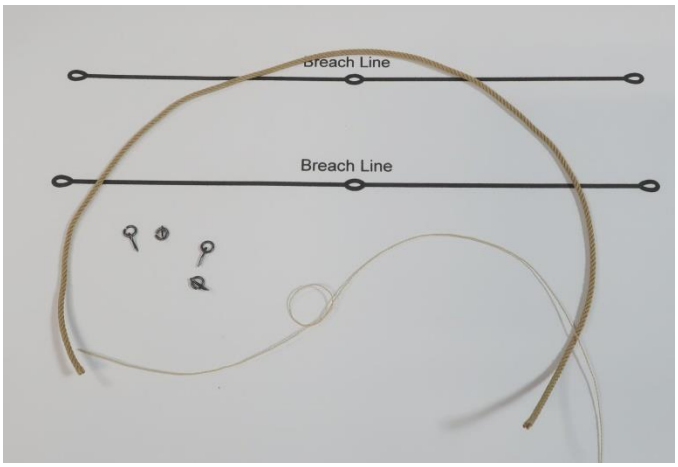
The finished product...above

But remember the rings on each side of the carriage are better removed at this time and added to the breech line instead. More on that next.

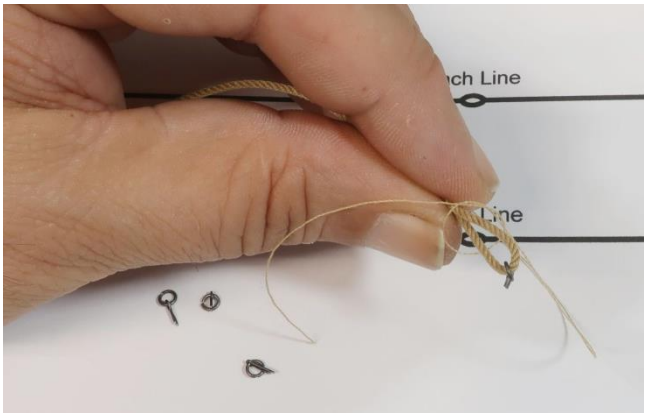
Making the breech ropes.

There are many ways to do this. Here is one method. We are using poly rope so CA glue was used.

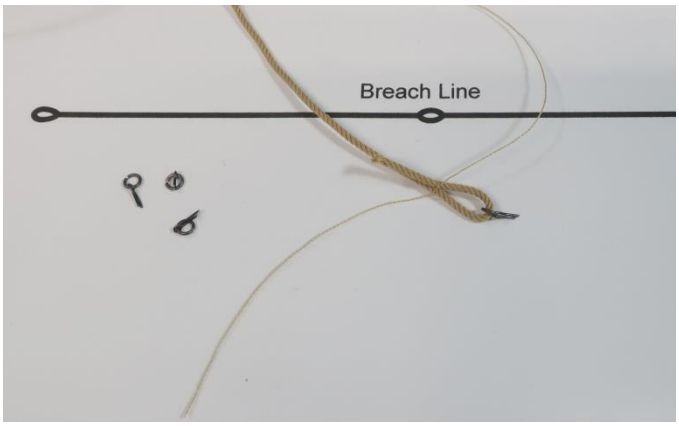
Start with a breech rope slightly longer than you will need (.055 tan) included. Have four eyebolts with rings at the ready. Also have whatever line you intend to use for seizing ready. In our case some Guttermann mara 120 or 220 thread that matches the rope color. Mara Color 263. Note that I have made a loose “granny knot” with this thin seizing thread. Or one simple overhand knot but left open and ready to go!!!



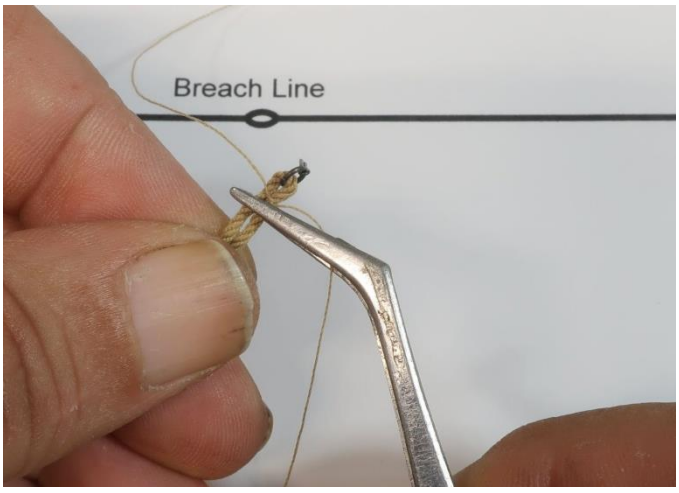
Place one ringbolt on the rope and simply bend it over to form a loop. Leave the tail a bit longish. I just squeeze the loose loop as shown below with my fingers. No helping hands needed. Then I slip the seizing "open knot" onto the end. Easy peasy. Then cinch it tight....



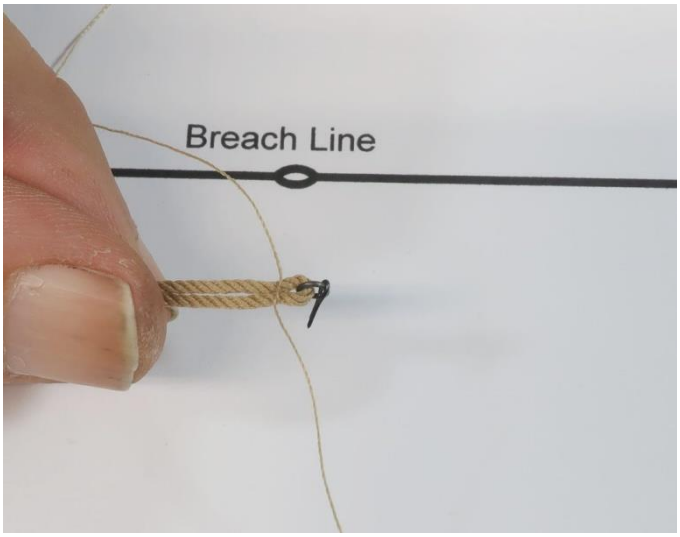
This is what it looks like. And yes the seizing needs to be pushed closer to the end of the breech and ringbolt. No glue as of yet.



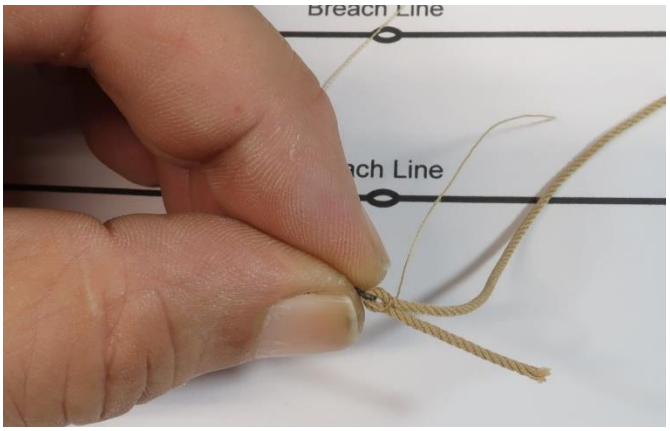
Use a tweezers that you are comfy using for this stuff. Slide the seizing which is still just a loose overhand knot closer to the end. It may open a bit. Thats OK. Just tighten it again when the seizing is where you want it. At this stage I place the tiniest bit of CA glue (any glue will work here) on the knot after tightening it. Then I use my fingers to brush away any excess so it doesnt make the rope stained or discolored. Yes you get CA on your fingers. But the rope stays perfectly clean. I see folks moaning that CA darkens and stains the rope. This is nonsense if you wipe most of it away before it dries and you dont use too much to begin with.



No discoloration....super simple method and no helping hands or wacky jigs yet.

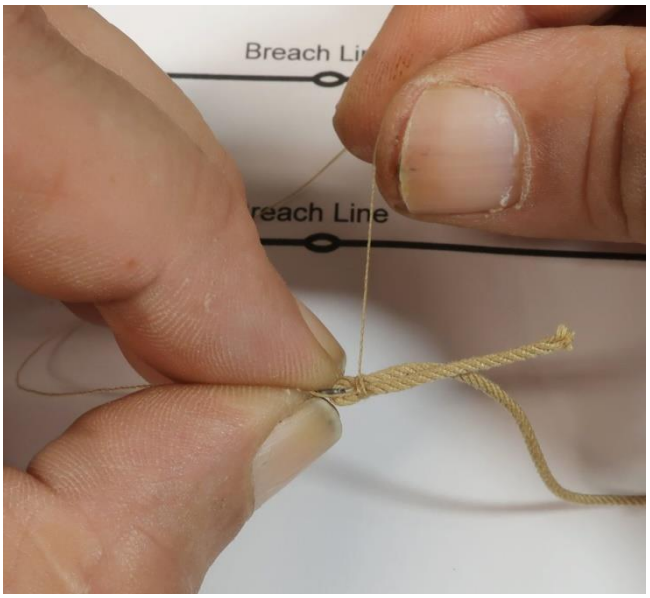


It may be hard to see in the photo below. But I take one loose end of the seizing and pinch it between my fingers and away from the seizing. I am basically pinching the ringbolt and top of the looped breech line. See the other loose end hanging off the far side?

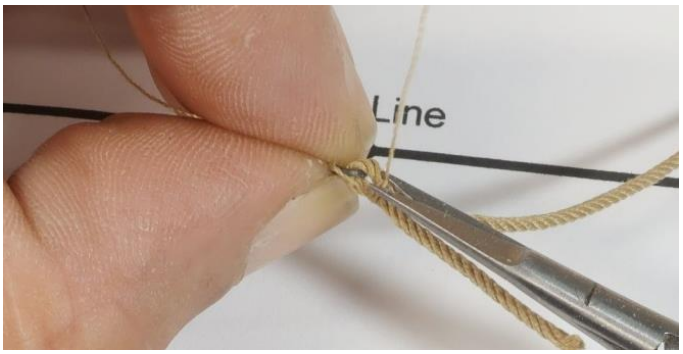


Take that loose end and simply wrap it around the breech two or three times. I have seen folks wrap like 25 times and make a long seizing., This never lays correctly and will look sloppy. I keep my seizings always very short with at maximum only 3 wraps around. Then I add a drop of CA to the top of the wrapped seizings. Just a small drop. No knotting needed. I pinch and brush the excess CA away with my fingers to keep it clean without

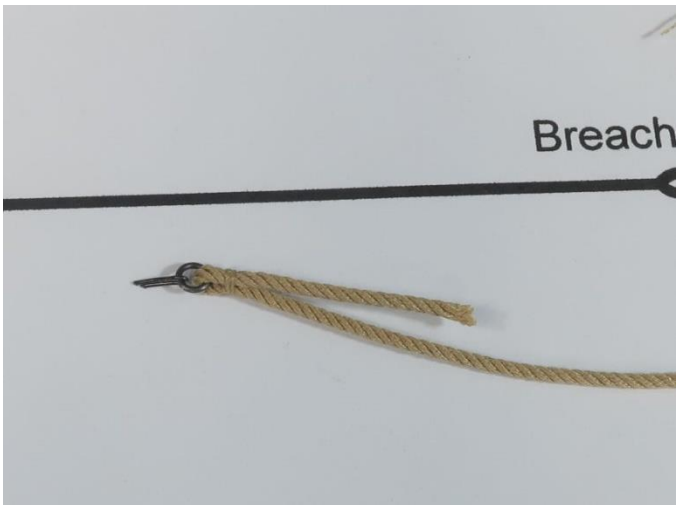
darkening at all. It will only stain if you douse it with way too much CA. What a mess that makes and changes the texture of the rope. Your fingers get sticky and pull the fibers of the rope etc. I just dip a toothpick into some CA on a scrap piece of wood and barely touch the seizing.



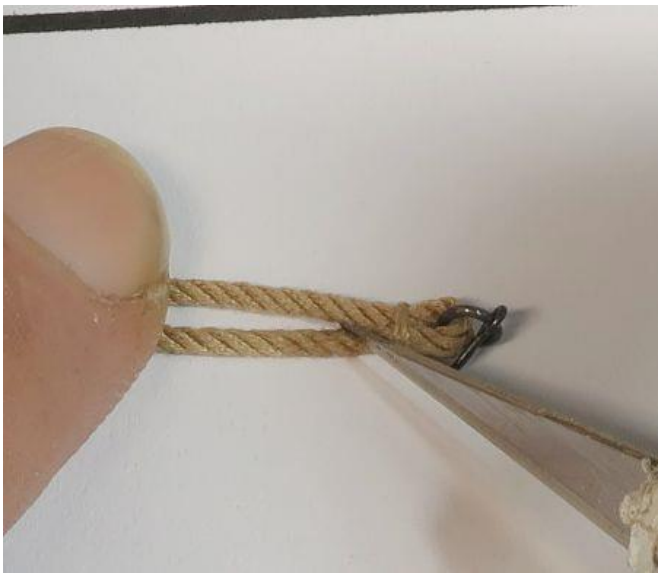
Then using a tiny sharp scissors which I have maybe 5 of.....these are spring loaded micro scissors that are very sharp. I cut the loose ends of the seizing very close to the breech rope. You dont want to see any sticking out after cutting. Sometimes a small amount of CA on that end and using a tweezers to fold it into the breach rope will solve this issue. I hate when the cut loose ends stick out. Cut both loose ends.



Its nice and neat and no discoloration or staining. Rope is clean and crisp as it should be. Note the long "loose" end of the breech rope.

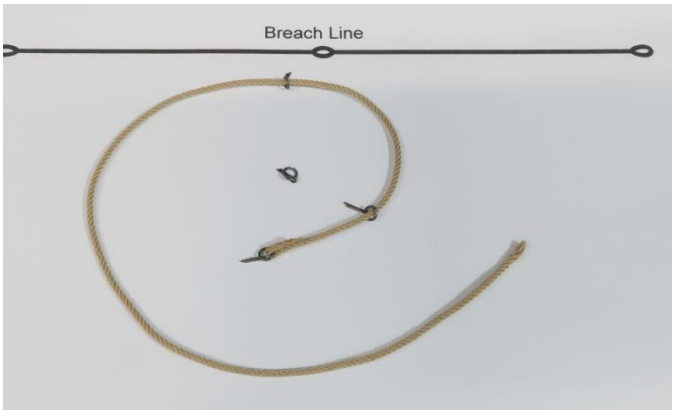


Time to trim that with a sharp blade. Trim it close and at an angle. To keep the end of the cut rope from fraying I sometimes put some CA on the op where I am going to cut it. Then immediately wipe it away with my fingers again to keep it clean before it dries.

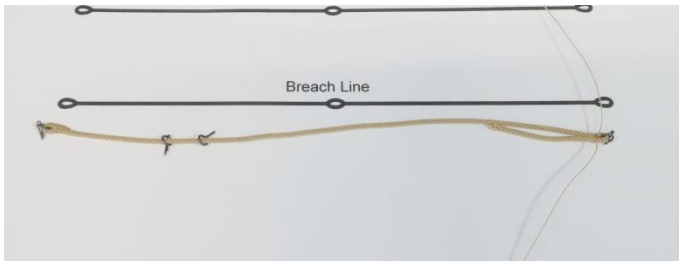


The cut end....note the angle of the cut and the clean rope with no fraying or staining.

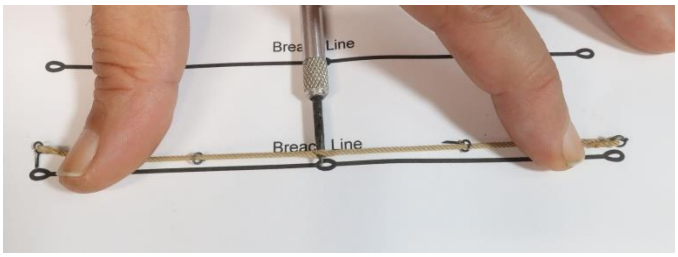
Then slide two ringbolts on the breech rope which will be inserted on the gun carriages later. Take the last one and repeat the process to seize the other end just like we described.



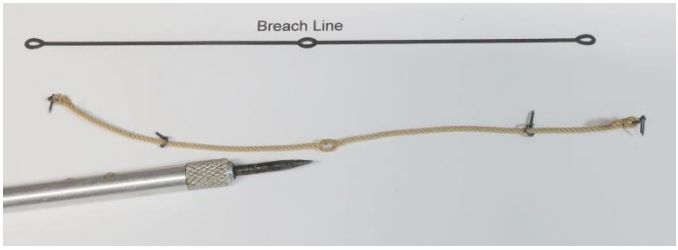
Only now you should slide the cinched seizing and adjust the length so the overall breech rope is the correct length. Use the length as shown on the plan sheet. Then just finish it as you did the other side.



Then I make a simulated fake splice in the center to place on the cannon or Carronade. I make sure one of those ring bolts are on each side of the center first. It is very important. Then I use my plan for the breech line to find the center. I use a sharp awl to then pierce the center of the breech rope. I always use 4 strand breech rope so I can pierce it with two strands on each side. Then I use some CA to stiffen the splice and keep its shape. I pinch and brush away the excess before it dries....right away. It will hold its shape. No shiny spots or staining or discoloration.



Finished breech rope.



Add your breech line to the cannon before you glue the cannon on the model.

Slip the center hole you made in the breech line over the button of the cannon.

No glue needed but you may need to coax it on. Once you are over the widest part of the button it will sit in place nicely. See below.

Then its time to work your way forward and insert the rings into the sides of the carriage. These are the ones we removed earlier that were added just to show their placement. You will need to play with the breech line a bit so it hangs nicely. I usually glue the hanging breech rope to the sides of the back wheels to keep them in place while still looking like they hang naturally.

With the breech rope looking fairly good, above, it can finally be glued onto the model.

I usually glue its wheels onto the deck. When I do so, I make sure that the carriage is about 3/32" away from the bulwarks. In some cases I will even have it more. There is no need to have the carriage sitting right against the bulwarks. This makes it more difficult to get a good scale gun tackle on each side. The farther away from the bulwarks you can place it without it looking strange the better. It gives you the opportunity to have a longer gun tackle where the two blocks aren't squished together and touching each other.

Insert the rings on the ends of the breech rope into the bulwarks once the cannon is fully secured on deck.

Making the gun tackle…

The gun tackles will be made off the model as well. We will need two of them. Each consist of two 5/32" single blocks.

Lets start…

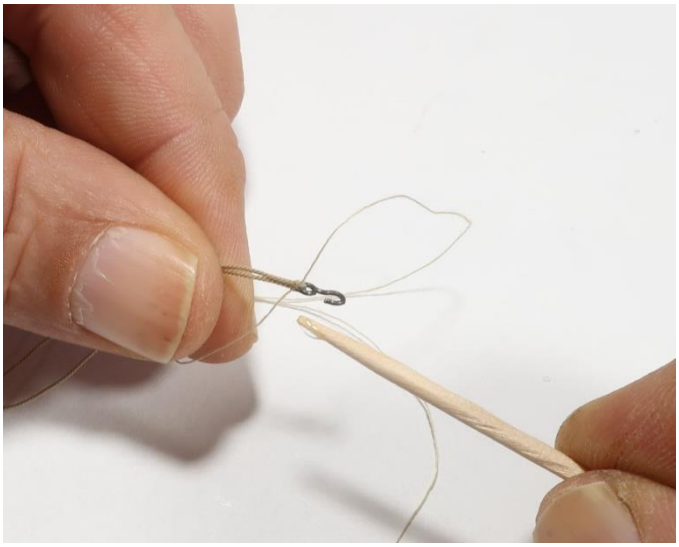
First we must strop a block with a hook. To do so we must have everything ready and at hand. Have a length of .018 rope ready and some thread to use for seizing. That thread should be very thin and match the color of the rope. Use Mara 220 or even 120 thread the color is 263.

Have your block ready. You will also need one hook. Make them using the 24 gauge wire provided. See the photo below with the all the things you will need. Note how the seizing rope is tied in a loose overhand knot. Its left open

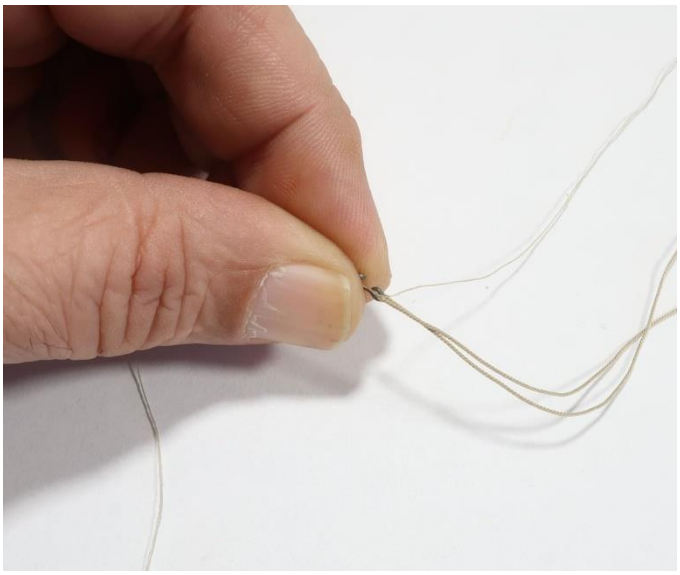
so we can slip it over the block next. Note the finished hooked block in the photo all stropped and ready to go. We will need two of these.

Slide the loose knot over the hook and rope…pull overhand knot tight

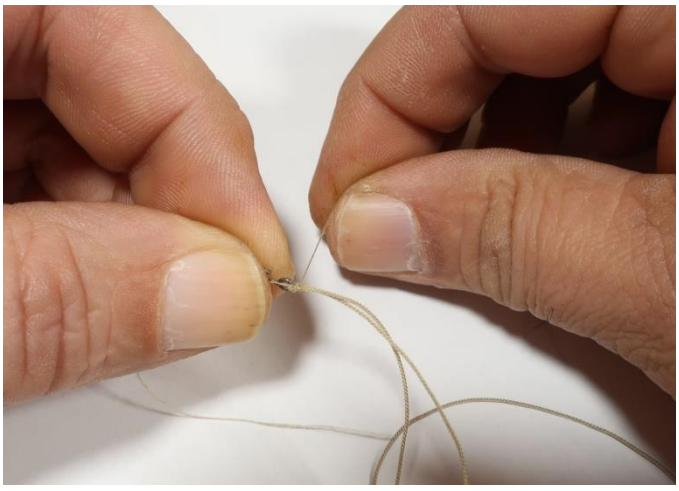
Push knot up to the hook with tweezers and apply CA. Immediately rub off the CA with your finger so its not shiny and doesn't darken the rope.



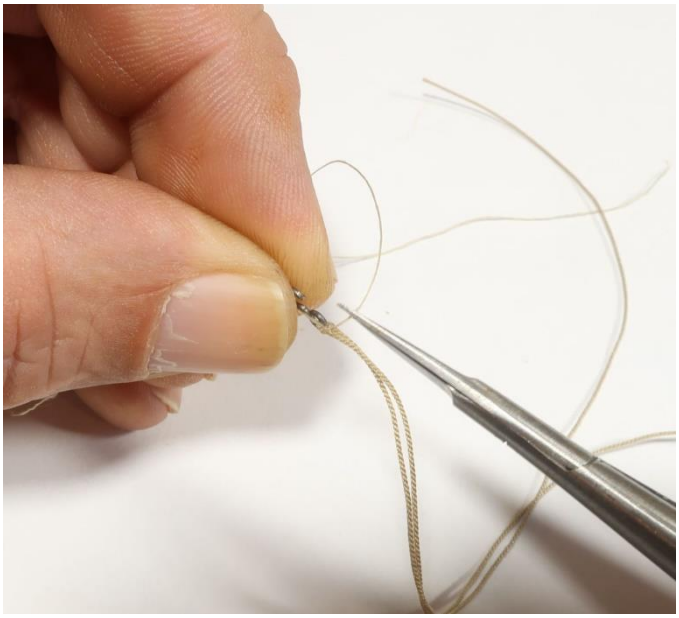
Hold one of the loose tails behind your thumb…do you see that…against the hook.



Wrap the other loose tail around the seizing…once or twice only



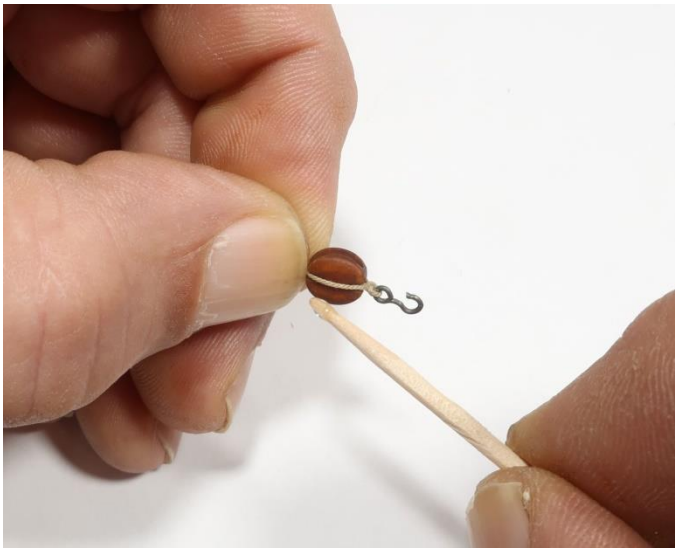
Cut the two loose ends with the scissors or nail clippers…close up to the seizing flush



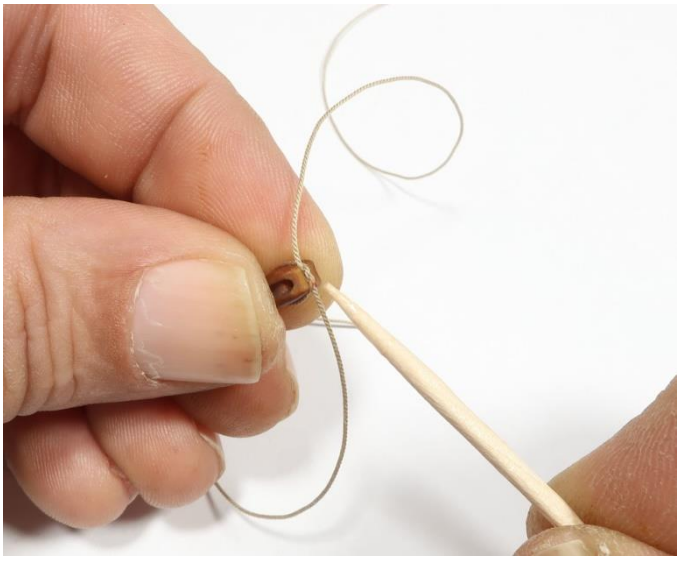
Touch up seizing with tweezers and CA…get the block ready

Simply pinch the block between the rope tightly…and hold it there

Add some CA along the rope on each block side…rub away most of it with your fingers right away to prevent staining and darkening…and shiny spots. See photo on next page.



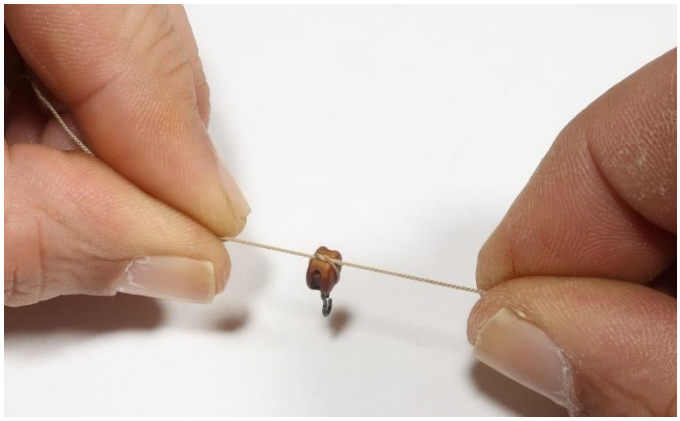
The glue just keeps the block where you want it so you can make a loose overhand knot…rubbing away excess is the trick.



Carefully cut away the loose ends with a super sharp blade on each side. Up close and along the side of the strop …faux splice.

Pull that granny knot tight along the end of the block.

If you slice those loose ends correctly it looks like a faux splice…all done!! You need two.



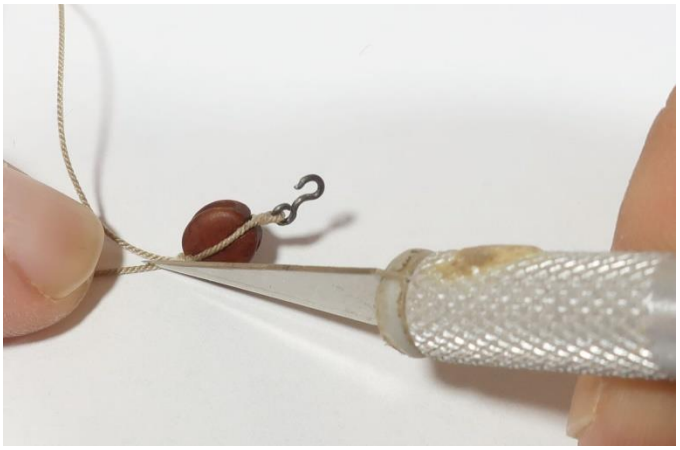
Add some CA along the knot…don't be shy…rub it away as before it gets shiny.

That completes one half of the two tackles we will need.

Lets strop the other half. You will also need to make two of these. It is basically identical to the way we just stropped the previous two blocks with hooks. But there are a couple of things that need adjusted.

In the photo above you can see a hook seized to a block exactly as we did before. The difference being the length of .018 rope to be used. Note how one of the tails is very long which will become the tackle rope. I have pinched the rope to the block sides as before and secured them with glue. You can see the loose “granny knot” waiting to be slipped over the block this time waiting to be seized at the base of the block.

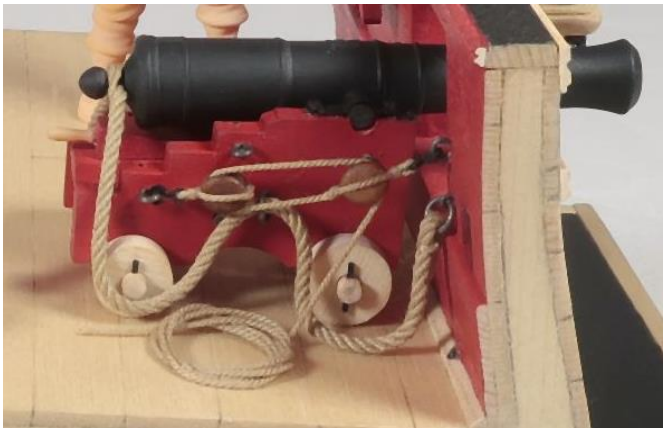
Above you can see how the seizing was completed just like when we seized the hook to the other end. This leaves a short tail and the longer one we will use as the tackle rope.



But now we need to snip of the shorter tail with a sharp #11 blade. Do this on an angle if possible so it blends into the longer rope left behind.

Normally I would place two small seizings on the stropped block, but whenever I do a gun tackle I just make one short small seizing so the gun tackles don’t appear bulky and out of scale. You will hardly see them. It also helps the gun tackle hang more naturally as the tackle wont be so stiff and thick. See below.

Now to rig both hooked blocks into a tackle to be used on our model. See below.



The gun tackle is finally hooked to the eye bolt on the side of the carriage and the other end of the tackle with the “fall” is hooked to the eye bolt in the bulwarks. The tackle is left extra-long and “opened” while hooking it to the eye bolts. Once it is in positioned, you can gently pull the “fall” or working end to tighten up the tackle. But don’t make it too tight. Just until the tackle looks right or you might break the hooks and tackle and make a mess.

Lastly the fall of the tackle is glued to the deck on the side of the carriage and the excess is cut off with a sharp chisel. To finish it off, you can take the excess rope if it is long enough and make your rope coil.

To make your rope coil, the method that works for me is rather simple. I just wrap it around the handle of a paint brush. The diameter of the paint brush is important but admittedly I just guess based on what size rope coil I think looks appropriate.

I wrap the rope around a maximum of 4 or 5 times. Don’t over-do this. I sometimes see what would amount to 100 feet of rope coiled for each gun tackle. Apply a drop of glue to the coil while on the handle of the brush to keep it from unravelling. But don’t apply so much that you glue it to the handle. You want to be able to slip it off. Trim the excess but leave a small length a bit longer as shown above. Glue it on top of the snipped off fall of the gun tackle so it looks natural and where it would be coiled.

We are in the home stretch!!!

To finish off the model of our Speedwell battle station, two 3d printed figures are included. These can be painted (or not) and placed on deck. One of these is a ships cat. See below for the completed model.

I hope you enjoyed this small model project!!!