

## Syren Ship Model Company Internally Stropped Blocks

There are three types or styles of internally stropped blocks available. Each of them has a different purpose for rigging your ship or boat. And by the way, these blocks are for ships and boats from about 1835 and beyond. Maybe closer to 1840 actually. They were NOT used on earlier period ships.

Having said that, how do you best use or internally stropped blocks? To Begin...when you buy a package of any type and size of these blocks, they will come colored and textured so you can almost use them straight out of the bag. You actually could do that but if you take an extra few seconds, you can enhance them very quickly.



You could paint the iron strops but that can get finicky and requires a steady hand. This is especially true with the smaller sizes. It is much easier to use a gritty black or even

plain black weathering powder to slightly darken the strops. Its quick and easy. You don't have to be too careful. Just brush a little on the iron strops. I usually do this over the lid so I can collect any weathering powder that drops. It saves a lot of powder and doesn't make a mess.



You can see the difference in this photo below.



That is easy enough!! So now you know how to color the strops. But will you always need a strop on the top and the bottom of the block? Probably not. You will soon discover this as you progress with your rigging. From these three types of

Internally Stopped blocks you should be able to make every configuration you need.

Or most of them anyway.

You will almost certainly always need to keep the stop on the top of the block. This is the one that comes to a "V". But sometimes you wont need the straighter bottom stop. So you can just snip it off.



Use a sharp flush cutter to do this. Cut it as flush to the block as you can. Now the color on each block is only on the surface. We provide you with that wonderful weathered medium brown color. But when you snip



off the bottom stop, it will leave the natural resin color showing where it once was. You can see that clearly in the photo below left. But fear not. Even if you didn't do anything, this would hardly be seen after the blocks are rigged and rope is in the way. But if you must, as I do, want to cover that up it is very quick and easy. You could just use acrylic paint. Maybe use a some yellow ochre.

But just as we did earlier, if you have a decent set of weathering powders, just apply some yellow ochre or golden brown weathering powder. It will make it almost invisible. You can see I didn't even cut off the stop flush enough to the block but it still did a great job in the 10 seconds it took to apply the powder.

I do not worry about applying any finish. There is no need really. But if you must, it won't hurt anything. I just rig them once I weather them.



In many cases you may have to add a hook to the top stop of a block. We made the

TYPE A blocks special for this purpose. 3D printed hooks are just not strong enough. So you will have to fabricate a metal hook from some black annealed steel wire. I use Hillmans black wire in various gauge sizes depending on the size of the block.