

The SECOND DOG WATCH

SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS GUILD
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

32° 43'N 117° 10'W

Vol LII, No 12



SEASON'S GREETINGS

However you celebrate the holidays, the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild wishes you a safe, healthy, and happy season



GUILD OFFICERS

[John Walsh](#)

Guild Master

[Tom Hairston](#)

First Mate

[Isaac Wills](#)

Purser

[Karl Zingheim](#)

Log Keeper

[Alex Roel](#)

Newsletter Editor

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

[John Walsh](#)

Web Master

[Chris Sullivan](#)

Photographer

[John Walsh](#)

Presentations

[Jon Sanford](#)

Model Shop

[Isaac Wills](#)

Youth Coordinator

[Steve Scheet](#)

Fair Coordinator

[John Walsh](#)

Community Build

The Guild will be celebrating this season together aboard the BERKELEY on a special night **Monday December 9th** Join us at 5pm for social hour followed by our 6pm dinner. Pizza and water will be provided by the Guild. In the spirit of sharing please bring either a side dish or a Show and Tell build.

Guests are most welcome: [RSVP](#) no later than December 2nd and *please note the date change from our usual meeting night.*

The Guild Officers



MMSD Supporter

San Diego Ship Modelers Guild
1492 North Harbor Drive, San Diego CA, USA 92101
sdshipmodelersguild.org

established 1971 by Bob Wright and Russ Merrill



NRG Chapter Club

It's hard to believe that the end of the calendar year is already upon us. We're closing out 2024 with a modest celebration on Monday, December 9, in lieu of our regular Tuesday meeting. We will still be gathering on the upper deck of the steam ferry BERKELEY. I know that everyone's end of the year plans can be complicated, but I hope that you (and any loved ones you wish to bring as guests!) will join us if able.

On a business note, I was asked if the plan was still in effect to raise dues in 2025. Because of the whole banking mess interfering with our intended plans to sort through the nitty-gritty of the Guild's long-term financial health, this final decision is being postponed until this time next year. The one change that will go into effect in 2025 is the raising of the price of a name badge from \$9 to \$10. This is both to cover the slight rise in cost and to make the handling of cash easier.



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It is my intention to self-nominate for the position of Purser when ballot nominations are opened up next month for the 2025 officer elections. If elected, it will allow me to finally make good on my earlier promise to develop fiscal transparency and thus allow a fully informed decision on whether it is definitively necessary to raise annual dues from \$20 to \$25 as proposed way back in late 2023. My how the time flies.

Speaking of elections, I'm happy to report that someone has indeed answered my call to accept a nomination as our next Guild Master. I couldn't possibly be happier with who it is, but

you will just have to wait until the official announcement in January's newsletter.

Fair winds and following seas,

John Walsh, Guild Master



What *IS* the NRG? *by Alex Roel*

Many newer Members of the Guild (and some not so new) can get overwhelmed by having to learn the language of model shipcrafting along with a host of nautical terms ranging from the garboard plank to the royal jack. Mix in a few acronyms and references to build logs and eventually they're certain to come across the terms *NRG* and *Model Ship World*.

So, what is the NRG and where is Model Ship World?

The Nautical Research Guild (NRG) describes itself as

a non-profit educational organization focused on helping our members raise the quality of their model shipcraft

But they go further, saying that the NRG is right for you

if you enjoy building ship models that are historically accurate as well as beautiful

The key words above are “historically accurate” (thus the “Research” portion of their name.) The NRG isn't just another “how to” modeling resource: the builders here dig deeply into a vessel's history to understand its history and how it was actually constructed. All through the pages of the NRG's *Journal* and their *Model Ship World* forum you'll find lively discussions about period shipwright methodology, availability of materials, and builds based on original plans or common practices.

The NRG consists of four main areas:



The Guild



The Clubs



The Journal



The Forum

- [The Guild](#)
 - Membership
 - individual dues-paying members
 - \$40/55/65 per year
 - includes Nautical Research Journal subscription
 - archived and live online workshops

- free pass to [CAMM maritime museums](#)
 - [NRG Store](#) discounts
 - Board of Directors
 - Annual Conference
 - suspended since 2020 pandemic
 - [Chapter Clubs](#)
 - clubs from across the globe
 - \$30 per year and minimum of 5 NRG members on club roster
 - club liability insurance at \$100/year
 - [Nautical Research Journal](#)
 - quarterly magazine
 - included with Membership in print or digital format
 - view a digital format [sample](#)
 - [Model Ship World](#)
 - an online forum
 - no cost or membership required
-

One of the prerequisites for the founding the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild in 1971 was that we maintain a relationship with the NRG: the Guild has done so over the past fifty plus years and is also a designated NRG *Chapter Club*, deriving certain benefits (such as insurance) as a result.

The *Nautical Research Journal* is a lush, full color, heavily illustrated, large format magazine published quarterly and is chock full of tips, techniques, build logs, reviews and shop notes.

Model Ship World is the NRG's online build forum: this is the "go to" destination for any model shipcrafter and it's free to join. Here you'll likely find build logs of your current project that can be of great value to your own progress... or start your own build log. See Chuck Seiler's article about using *Model Ship World* to best advantage in our [February 2024](#) issue.

As the years (and vendors, periodicals, manufacturers) come and go, the NRG has been a reliable and valuable resource and ally to the model shipcrafting community. The San Diego Ship Modelers Guild strongly encourages all of our Members to apply for and maintain an annual membership in the NRG.

Leave Her, Johnny

Listen to it on  YouTube

I thought I heard the Old Man say
Leave her, Johnny, leave her
Tomorrow ye will get your pay
And it's time for us to leave her

Leave her, Johnny, leave her
Oh, leave her, Johnny, leave her
For the voyage is long
And the winds don't blow
And it's time for us to leave her

Oh, the wind was foul and the sea ran high
Leave her, Johnny, leave her
She shipped it green and none went by
And it's time for us to leave her

CHORUS

I hate to sail on this rotten tub
Leave her, Johnny, leave her
No grog allowed and rotten grub
And it's time for us to leave her

CHORUS

We swear by rote for want of more
Leave her, Johnny, leave her
But now we're through so we'll go on shore
And it's time for us to leave her

CHORUS



Last Meeting *photography by Alex Roel*



The Guild's November meeting was attended by 21 Members¹ and 3 guests²; all Officers were present. No new Members joined the Guild.



Powder Monkey Karl Zingheim struck four bells at precisely 6:00pm to signal the start of the meeting and the second dog watch.



Guild Master John Walsh opened the meeting by introducing our newest Member, Phil Pizzuto, and noted the absence of photographer Chris Sullivan (deployed yet again to Japan.)



John announced the details of the upcoming December holiday meeting, placing particular emphasis on the change of day/date: **Monday, December 9th**, 5pm social hour and 6pm dinner. The Guild will provide pizza and water and requests Members bring either a side dish/beverage or a Show and Tell build to share. Spouses and family welcome, please [RSVP by December 2nd](#) so that an accurate head count may be established.



John raised the topic of model restoration requests received by the Guild.



Model Shop Chair Jon Sanford indicated that he remains happy to deal with these as they come in, and Tom Hairston said that he intends to continue helping with restorations as well. Steve Miller suggested that simpler restorations (cleaning and light rerigging) might be directed to those Members interested in assisting or learning the art of restoration.



¹ Clausson, Dressel, Florio, Hairston, Lawrie, T.Lee, Lonacker, McKinley, Miller, Nagatani, Pizzuto, Roel, Sanford, Scheet, Seiler, Thompson, Walsh, Wills, Yotter, Yumoto, Zingheim

² Jim Paulson, Liz Hua, Patrick Williams

John polled the Officers for outstanding business issues: Purser Isaac Wills again pronounced the Guild was in the black financially, and Newsletter Editor Alex Roel solicited the Members to contribute ideas for a new feature entitled “Dockyard Hacks” with the aim of compiling known tips and tricks to assist newer modelers. Opening up the meeting to the Membership, John recognized Steve Scheet from the Community Build who proposed having their next meeting in January rather than December. This was seconded and agreed to. Business concluded, a refreshment break was called.



Thompson, Clausson, Walsh, Hairston, Pizzuto, Lawrie, Yumoto

After reconvening, John announced [Show and Tell](#), after which the Powder Monkey rang the bell at 7:37pm to close out the November meeting.



▪ Lock System by Trystan Lee
▪ scratch build, balsa, cardboard, HO train/tracks
▪ 9/64"≈1' 1:87, completed

Trystan Lee's latest creation is a diorama of a river's lock system featuring the lock, a ship, and train engine and tracks. Built at HO scale, Trystan displays the TRYSTAN waiting for the lock to fill in order to offload on the train flatbed cars above.

Braving the headwinds of having to follow Trystan's diorama, resident dioramist Karl Zingheim showcased the base of his depiction of ARK ROYAL weathering a gale during her pursuit of BISMARCK in May 1941. The base was formed with CelluClay on top of Gator Board. Karl used various spray paints to layer the sea's various coloring, and polyfibre to dramatically represent sea spray.



▪ ARK ROYAL by Karl Zingheim
▪ Merit kit / scratch diorama
▪ 1/32"≈1' 1:350, under construction





- *DOZER by Jon Sanford*
- *scratch build, solid hull, wood*
- *1"=1' 1:12, completed*

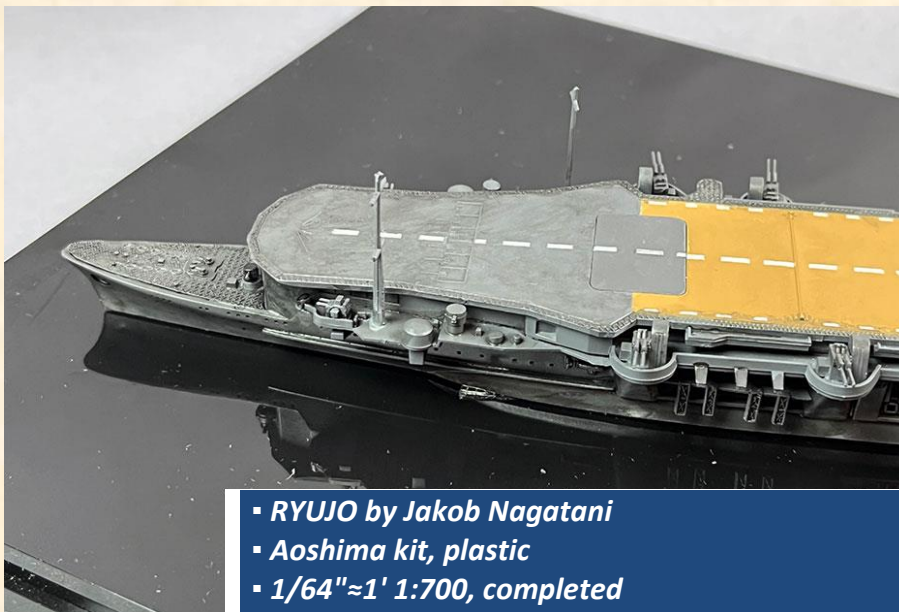
Jon Sanford's log 'dozer is complete! He will be sending this finished scratch build to his friend in British Columbia, where this 'dozer graces the grounds of a local restaurant.

Jon worked exclusively from photos he took and worked out scale and

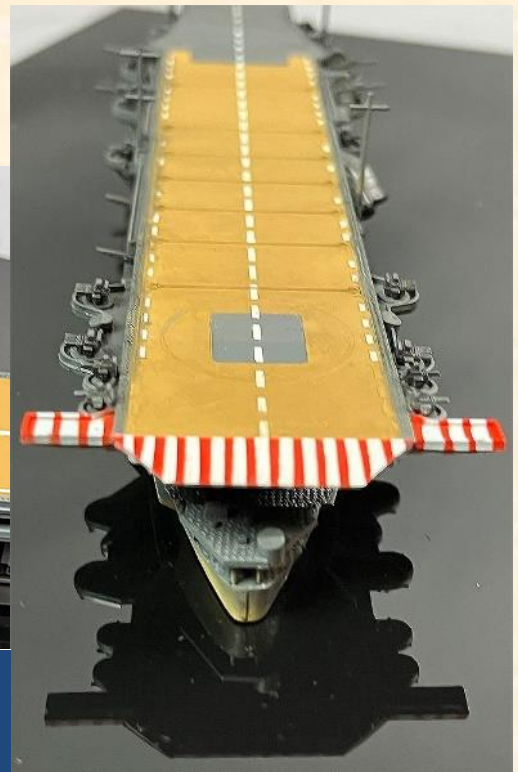


proportions as best he could since there were no drawings to work from.

Jakob Nagatani displayed his latest effort, the Japanese aircraft carrier RYUJO. Jakob reported that while he enjoyed the build it was a bit plain; he



- *RYUJO by Jakob Nagatani*
- *Aoshima kit, plastic*
- *1/64"≈1' 1:700, completed*



spent most of his modeling time on developing the details of the flight deck. The model features Jakob's exceptional paint job; also of note was Jakob's initial attempt at weathering a model which resulted in him advising the Members: "less is more."

New Member Phil Pizzuto showed off his completed build of a TITANIC lifeboat, jam-packed with equipment. This model features difficult hull clinker planking. Phil noted that these lifeboats were designed to accommodate 65 people.

- *TITANIC Lifeboat by Phil Pizzuto*
- *Artisania Latina kit, wood*
- *11/32"≈1' 1:35, completed*



Niko McKinley made his Show and Tell debut with a double bill: TITANTIC in Lego form and the Maritime Museum's own SAN SALVADOR. Niko mentioned that TITANIC is an older build that had lost some pieces over time; he had to rebuild to get her ready for Show and Tell.



- *TITANIC by Niko McKinley*
- *Lego kit, Legos*
- *unknown scale, completed*

- *SAN SALVADOR by Niko McKinley*
- *MMSD Kit, wood*
- *3/32"≈1' 1:135, under construction*

- *Masting and Rigging Project by Chuck Seiler*
- *NRG kit, wood, brass*
- *1/4"=1' 1:48, under construction*

Chuck Seiler represented the Community Build group by displaying his build of the Masting and Rigging Project. Mounted on a handsome wooden cigar box (holding extraneous pieces and other goodies) Chuck's build illustrates the cross-sectioned nature of the model. A partial topmast and yard will soon follow before Chuck starts the standing and running rigging.



- *VASA by Don Dressel*
- *Corel kit, plank-on-bulkhead, wood*
- *5/32"≈1' 1:78, under construction*

Don Dressel's VASA made an appearance at Show and Tell after a bit of an absence: Don's focus at the moment is the four port and starboard outboard platforms that required our master builder to learn a new technique: annealing and bending brass.

Apparently, old dogs CAN learn new tricks. ☠️



Mike Florio returned this month with a 1934 depiction of ARIZONA, built and enhanced from a 1:426 Revell kit. Mike prefers to lay down his own wood decking which requires salvaging (removing) all the superstructures from the model's plastic deck. Also featured in this build are photo-etched parts replacing or in addition to the kits' offering.



- *ARIZONA* by Mike Florio
- Revell kit, plastic, wood, photo-etch
- 1/32"≈1' 1:426, completed

Closing out this month's Show and Tell was Steve Miller (sans PRINCE!)

Steve showed the Guild a thermodynamic college project of his that he christened BURNED OUT.

This candle-powered dual-coiled "putt putt boat" is remarkably light that Steve reports is fun to get onto any body of water.



- *BURNED OUT* by Steve Miller
- scratch build, balsa, aluminum, epoxy
- 12"=1' 1:1, completed

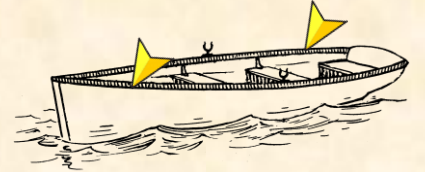
Flotsam and Jetsam

"If you were waiting for the opportune moment, that was it"

Captain Jack Sparrow, BLACK PEARL, 1728

Soundings – pronouncing nautical terms

The top portion and edge of a vessel's side is known as the **GUNWALE**. Commonly mispronounced, be sure you're on top of things when using this term.



Reads like: **gun•wale** (one word, two syllables, accent on first)

Pronounced: **guh•nil** (one word, two syllables, accent on first)

Navigating the Website – sdshipmodelersguild.org

Are you a new modeler? Are you a veteran modeler looking for new ways to *construct* your next build? The **BUILD METHODS** page outlines the three basic approaches to model ship construction.



You might also consider new ways to *display* your next build. Check the **MODEL TYPES** page for suggestions on different presentation styles. Perhaps the time has come to try your hand at that ship-in-a-bottle you've always promised yourself.



Around the Scuttlebutt – latest Guild news



Due to a scheduling conflict with the MMSD, the **DECEMBER** Guild meeting will be held on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th** aboard the BERKELEY instead of Tuesday, December 10th. [Full details.](#)



Community Build IV met for the second time aboard the BERKELEY. A serving machine from Syren Ship Model and a pair of sample cards from Ropes of Scale were brought in for the group's use. Builds in various stages of construction led to a free flow of ideas and topics including line serving, silver soldering, and the mysterious wooden bands that secure mast woodings. A curiously large tub of Red Vines made an appearance.



The Community Build has opted to have their next meeting in January. There will be no December meeting.



Community builders Scheet, Roel and Seiler
(builds, serving machine, rope samples and masting jig in foreground)

On The Horizon 

DEC 3	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
DEC 9 	6pm	Guild (Holiday) Meeting	BERKELEY w/dinner
DEC 31	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	Website, email
JAN 7	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
JAN 14	3pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
JAN 14	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
JAN 28	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	Website, email
FEB 4	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
FEB 11	3pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
FEB 11	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
FEB 25	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	Website, email



How did you come to call San Diego home?

My father relocated our family and construction firm from Fargo, North Dakota to San Diego when I was a year old.

Tell us a bit about your life/career path.

I grew up in San Diego and attended both high school and college here. After earning art and computer science degrees, I enjoyed a career in product development as a software engineer both here and in Boston. While there I met my wife, Hope, and we eventually moved to San Diego to start a family, where we raised our daughter Frances and our son Julian.



How did you come to the Guild?

I came across the Guild booth at the Del Mar County Fair one summer and took a membership application: this gathered dust on my study desk for about three years before I finally attended a meeting in November of 2017.

Do you recall your first model?

It was certainly a plastic kit: I think it may have been one from the old Aurora 1:12 scale monster model line: *Frankenstein* or *The Mummy* or *The Creature from the Black Lagoon*.



Of the models you've made, which is your favorite?



I grew up during the Space Race and remember the thrill I got from building the Revell 1:24 scale GEMINI spacecraft as that program

was underway. For a Guild build I'd say my favorite is my New York pilot boat PHANTOM displayed in a shadow-box, an idea I borrowed from Frank Dengler.



Describe another avocation you enjoy.

I'm a big Shakespeare buff: I enjoy reading and attending plays and I'm a member of the San Diego Shakespeare Society. I recently spent two weeks in London and Stratford-upon-Avon attending six plays at four different theaters.



[Part Four](#) discussed the cant frames and the hawse and bollard timbers that form the bow of the hull. This time I will show how the aft deadwood, cant frame steps, cant frames, transom timbers and fashion pieces assemble to form the aft end of the hull. The challenges here are basically the same as the bow but some were attacked differently.

Stern Deadwood Prep

The stern deadwood sits on top of the keel and ties it to the stern post and is formed of several parts stacked vertically. The deadwood has steps cut into it to support the fashion pieces and cant frames as shown at the bow. The joints where the deadwood is assembled run through the steps, making it difficult to form the steps with layers. The deadwood is of constant thickness above the steps and then tapers to the rabbet. The aft deadwood was assembled of pieces that were all the maximum thickness of the steps. The upper part was machined to form the steps. The radius in the corners left when milled were squared up with a chisel. The lower taper was then machined to form the upper part of the rabbet.

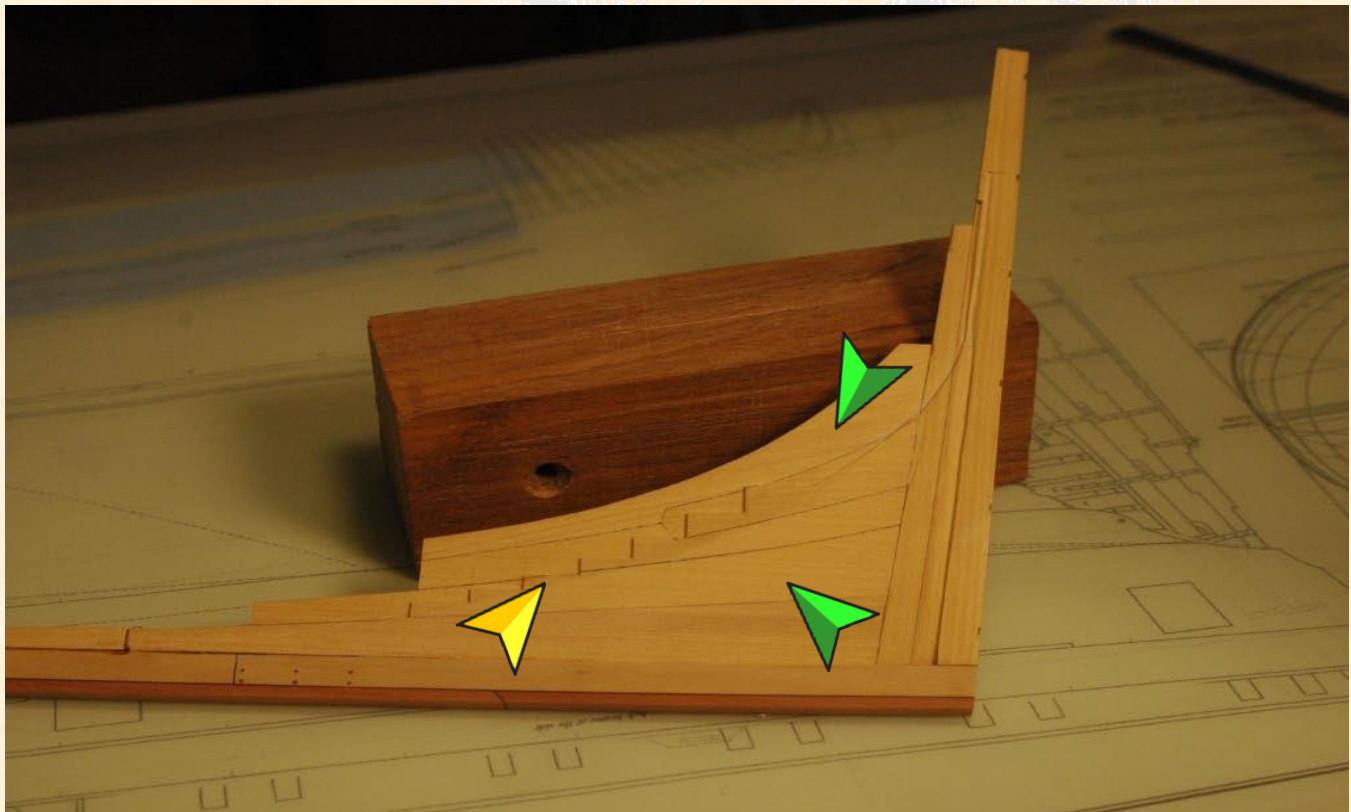


Figure 25 — aft deadwood with steps milled in

Making the Transoms

The transoms fit horizontally on the stern post. They were rough cut and then the notches were milled in at the proper angle. The outside shape is sort of a **trapezoid** and was carved and sanded slightly oversized. The final shape was created when the final fairing was done.

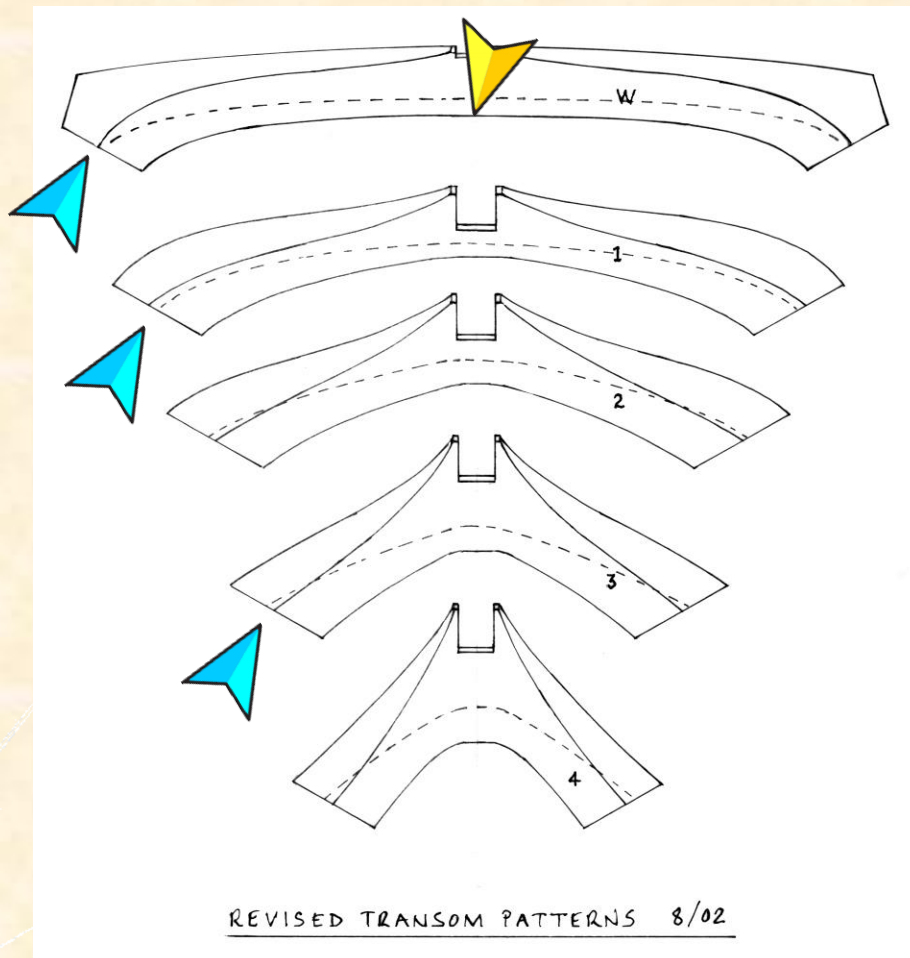


Figure 26 — transom patterns

The fashion piece and the first cant frame are laminated together and sit on the aft step. The uppermost transom, number 1, is fit horizontally to the stern post and in the shoulder formed by the fashion piece and cant frame 1. The three lower transoms attach to the stern post and the back surface of the fashion piece. The **wing transom notch** fits to the stern post and the aft face of cant frame 1.

Cant Frame Templates

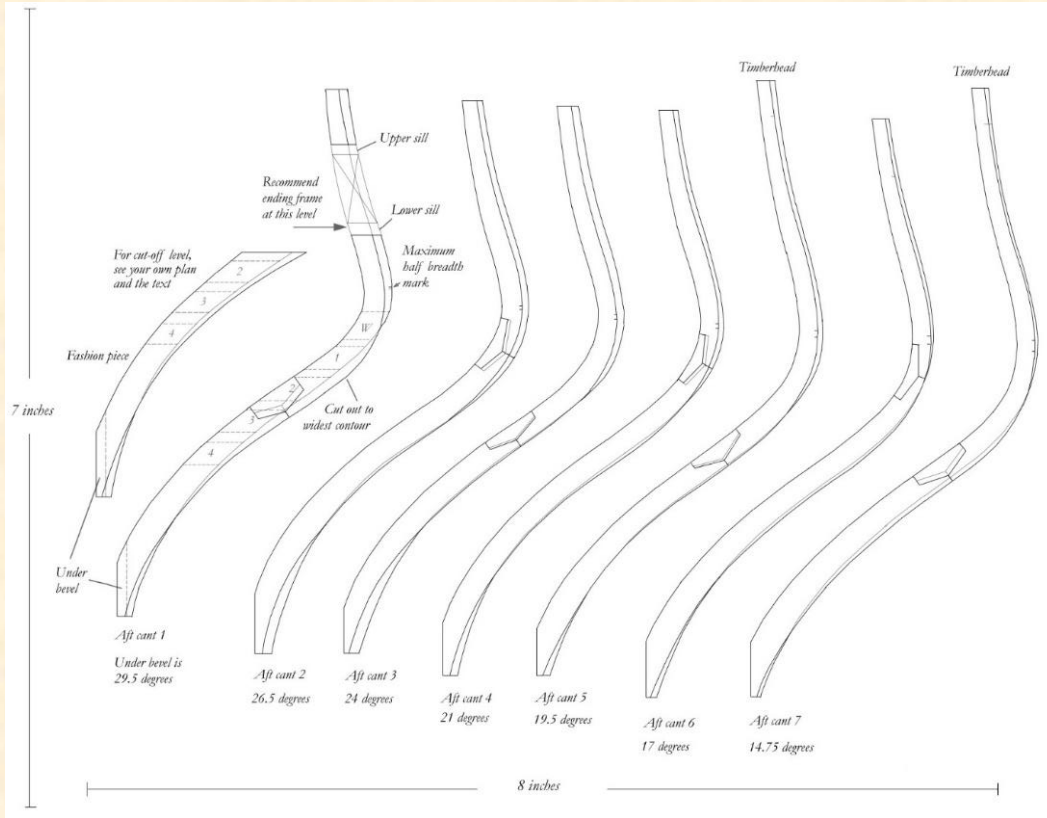


Figure 27 — aft cant frames 1 to 7

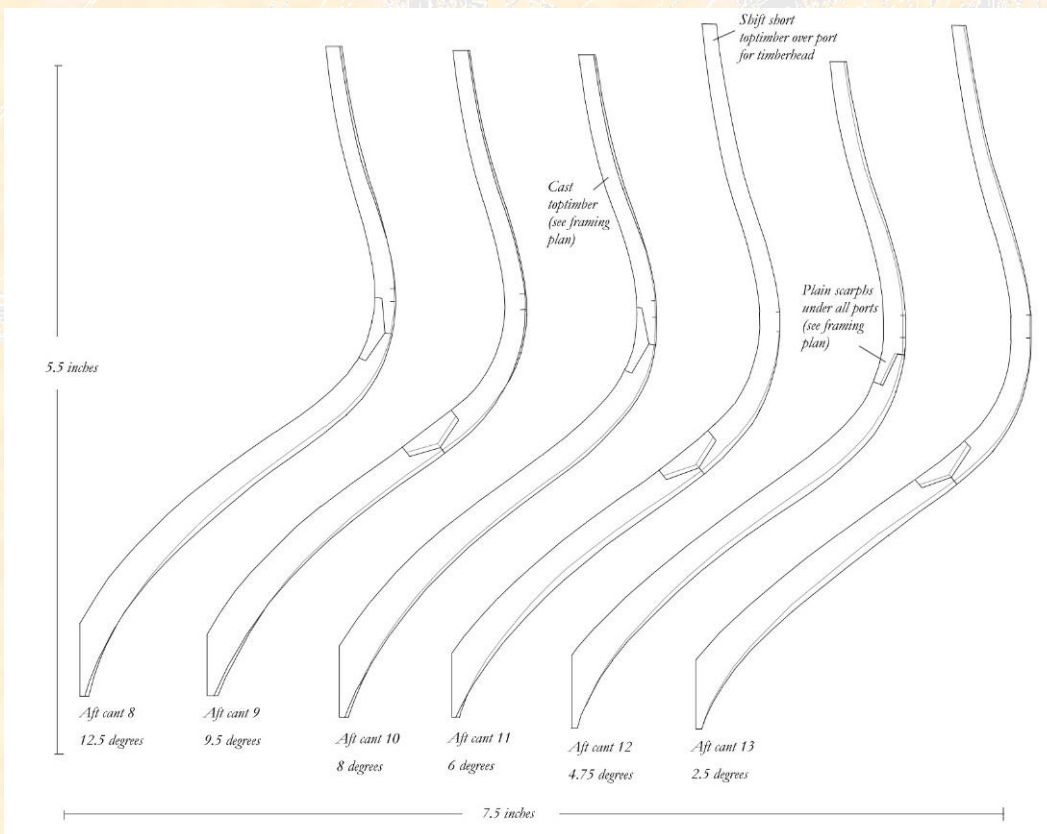


Figure 28 — aft cant frames 8 to 13

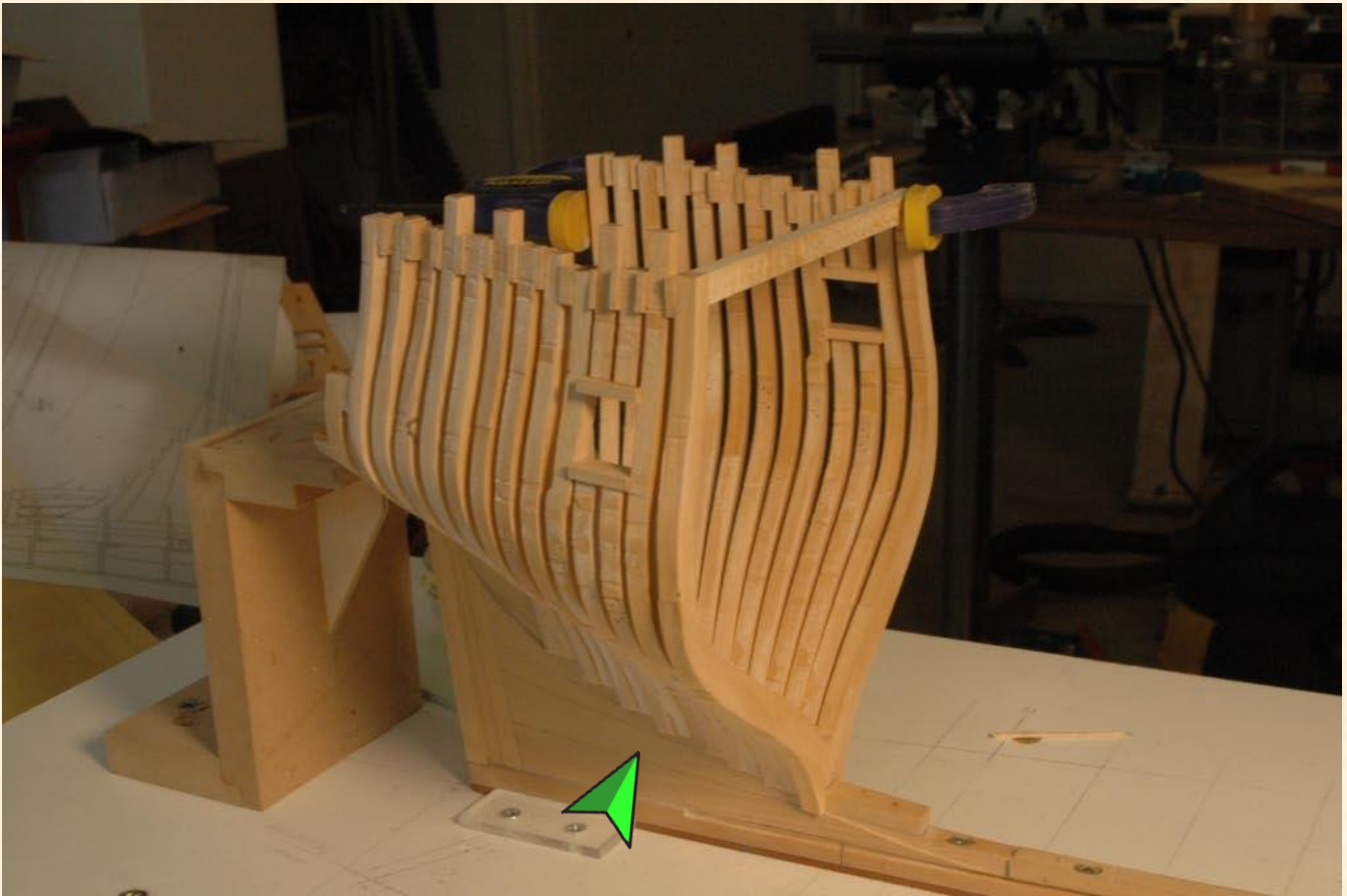


Figure 29 — cant frames assembled to **deadwood**

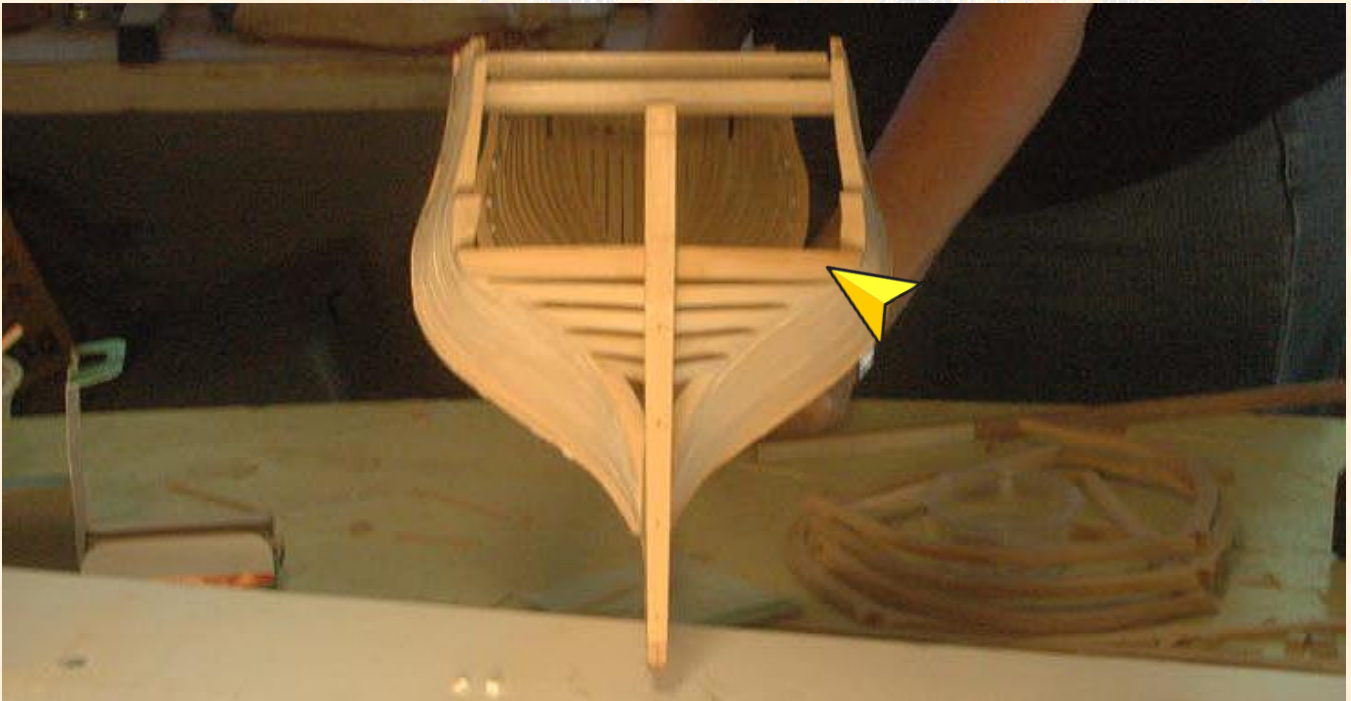
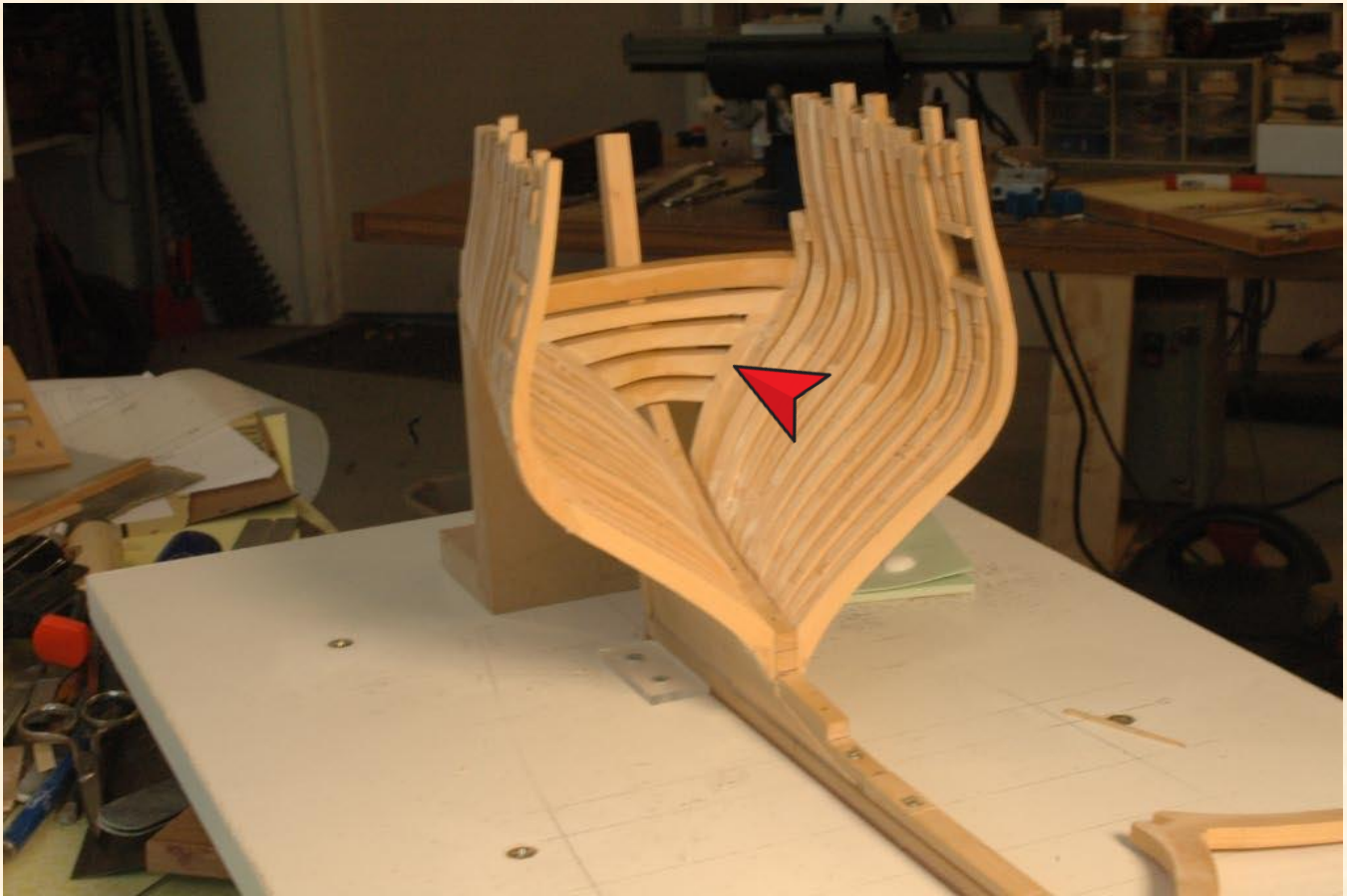


Figure 30 — aft transoms and **wing transom**



*Figure 31 — interior view showing how cant frames follow shape of deadwood and how transoms fit to the **fashion piece** and the first cant frame*

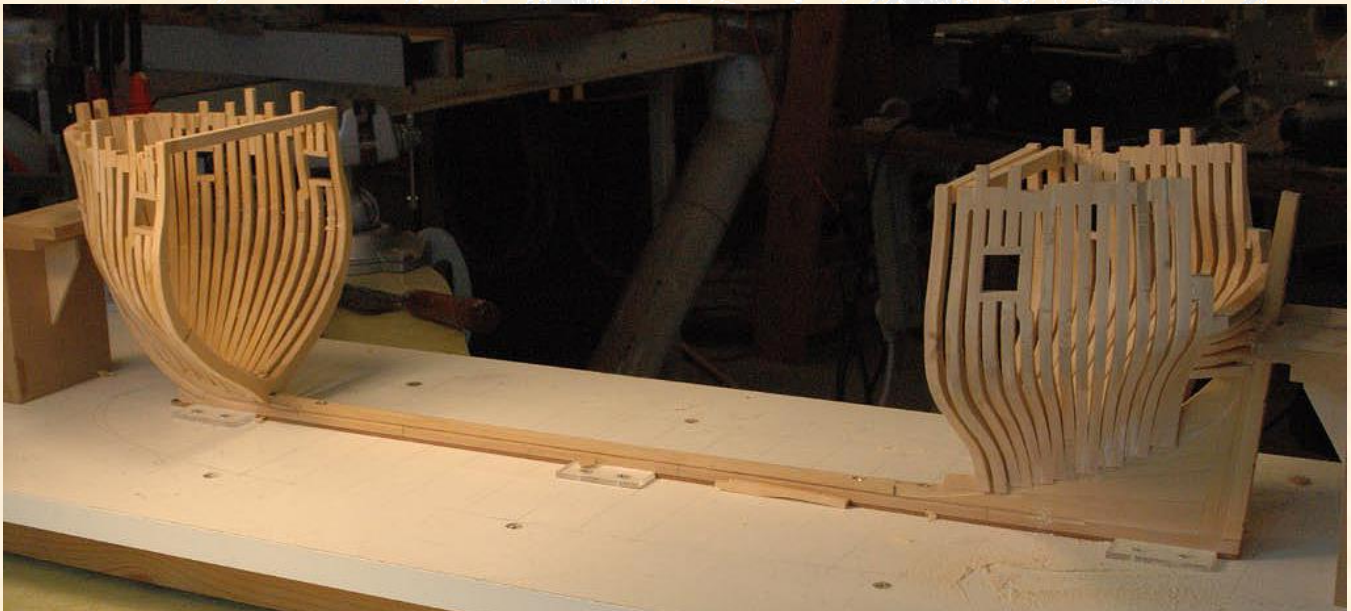
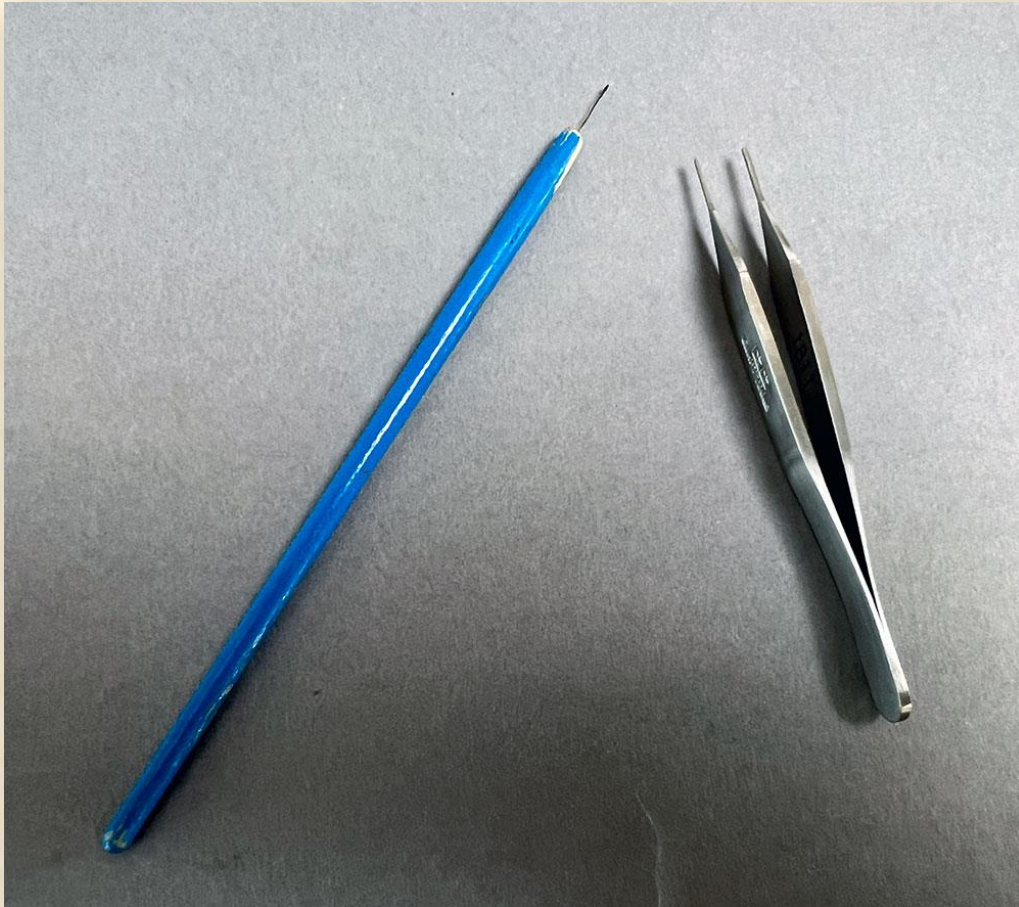


Figure 32 — cant framing fore and aft complete: ready to start square frames

***Next time:** I will describe what turned out to be a huge challenge: making and mounting the counter timbers and side counters.*

Glue applicator / Bending pliers

Well apparently, Chris had to show off and submit *two* Cool Tools – but I think we see the method in his madness.



Chris' submissions are meant to be used together. First, a home-made glue applicator crafted from an old paint brush handle and a bit of brass wire. This allows one to deliver cyanoacrylate (CA) glue to a precise location in sparing amounts. Couple this with a pair of Tamiya photo-etch bending pliers and you're in business applying those minute railings on that 1:700 scale Steel Navy model.



Chris Sullivan

San Diego Bay, July 28 2024, 7:15pm

Thanks to our sponsor, the Maritime Museum of San Diego, the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild is fortunate to call not only San Diego Bay our home, but also the steam ferry BERKELEY, part of the Museum's fleet tied up on San Diego's Embarcadero.





The Bitter End

Mission Statement



The [San Diego Ship Modelers Guild](#) is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the craft of building scale ship models and to providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, skills, and techniques.

Maritime Museum of San Diego



The Guild encourages all Members to join and maintain an annual membership in the [Maritime Museum of San Diego](#). As our sponsor, the MMSD provides the Guild space aboard the steam ferry BERKELEY to hold monthly meetings; allows us to work in, store supplies, and maintain the Museum Model Shop; and annually awards Guild entrants ribbons and cash prizes for the Design In Wood competition at the San Diego County Fair.

Nautical Research Guild



The Guild also encourages all Members to join and maintain an annual membership in the [Nautical Research Guild](#). As a chartered Chapter Club, the NRG accords certain benefits, privileges, and protections to our Guild.

Piracy in Model Shipcrafting

Although there is no single, agreed-upon definition of what constitutes "piracy", the use of another's intellectual or physical property without recompense is the basis for any working definition. Unfortunately, this is an issue that affects our craft: be scrupulous and avoid purchasing pirated kits or materials.



Our Founders

The Guild was founded in 1971 by Bob Wright and Russ Merrill in collaboration with Ken Reynard, Captain of the barque STAR OF INDIA.