



Newsletter of the Chicago Tri-Club Association

♦ August 2023

• Scuttlebutt •

Tri-Club Hull Planking Workshop

The Tri-Club will be holding a series of four Saturday morning workshops for Tri-Club members who wish to learn the concept of planking a hull. The training aid will be an NRG Half Hull kit that was originally designed by Director Toni Levine. Participation will require work at home in addition to work that is done in the workshops. Toni estimates it will take about 60 hours to complete the kit – of course the time it takes will vary with the individual modeler.



We anticipate the first workshop session to be on Saturday, September 9, 2023. There is workspace available for six (6) participants maximum. A minimum of four (4) participants are needed to hold the workshop. Attendance shall be on a first-come basis.

Non-NRG participants can purchase the kit from the NRG at the regular price - \$65.00 + sales tax. NRG Members get their usual 20%-member discount. The shipping charges can be saved by picking up the kit from the NRG Office or arranging to get the kit from Kurt at a meeting. If shipped, allow two weeks minimum.

There are some prerequisites for participating in this workshop:

Each participant shall come to the first class with the false keel and bulkheads mounted to the building board and planking completed between the cap rail and main wale. Expect to spend at least 20 hours getting to that point.

Each participant shall bring a self-healing mat on which they will do all cutting.

Each participant shall bring their own tools to each session. Except for 90% isopropyl alcohol, no supplies, tools or materials will be provided to participants.



"Scuttlebutt", continued on Page 14

August Tri-Club Meeting Schedule

The NSD August Virtual Meeting Hints & Tips



The August North Shore Deadeyes Zoom meeting will feature a return to more hints and tips originally published in the old North Shore Deadeye Journals. Previous segments have been very popular with meeting attendees, and this one should not be any different. Since this is a virtual meeting, sending photographic updates to Rick Szydelko or Bob Frysztak for Ships on Deck would be appreciated.

Proceedings will begin on Wednesday, August 2nd at 7:00 PM CST, but you will be able to log on at 6:30 PM. Invites will be sent out a day or two before the meeting.

The NRMS August Meeting



The Nautical Research and Model Ship Society's August meeting will be a hybrid session. The face to face segment will be held at 237 S. Lincoln Street, Westmont, IL. For those preferring to attend the virtual version, an Invite will be sent out a few days before the August 12th meeting. Proceedings start at 7:00 PM, but you will be able to log on as early 6:30 PM.

The MMS August Meeting The Models of Donald McNarry



This is one you don't want to miss. Donald McNarry models rarely ever seen will be showcased, including this magnificent *Royal William*. The photo speaks for itself! This is the only time these photos will be shown.



The meeting will commence at 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday, August 16th at
The Dasom Community Church
501 S. Emerson Street
Mount Prospect, IL



BLACKENING METAL PARTS

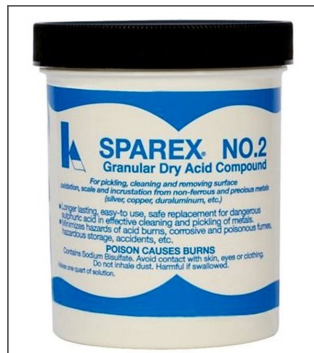
By Bob Filipowski



Model ship builders are quick to realize the advantages of chemically blackening metal parts. The process will not obscure any detail, and it affords the ultimate scale coating. Unfortunately, many attempts end in failure.

Bob Filipowski opened his presentation by explaining that there are three common reasons for this. Proper surface preparation is probably number one on the list. Copper and brass metals oxidize, which prevents the blackening agent from doing its job. Many modelers will burnish the surface of the part with fine steel wool, but this procedure doesn't always get into tiny crevasses. Also, fine photo-etched parts can be damaged if not handled carefully.

Bob recommended a product called SPAREX NO.2, which chemically etches the surface of non-ferrous metals such as silver, copper, and brass. Made by Krohn Technical Products Inc. of Carlstadt, New Jersey, this chemical has been popular with jewelry makers for years.



The membership was warned about the potential dangers of this product. Due to the fact that this material is a granular dry acid compound, personal protective equipment, which includes a dust mask (when mixing it), rubber gloves, and goggles or face shield are highly recommended. Certainly, it should always be stored in a safe place away from curious little ones.

SPAREX NO.2 is an excellent agent for removing oxidation and oily residue from metal parts, but the concentration of the solution can impact its effectiveness. The manufacturer recommends dissolving a half pint can (10 ounces by weight) in a quart of water. Depending on the size and quantity of the parts you are working with, this may be overkill. For the presentation, Bob used a small glass jar with approximately 2 ounces of water and 4 teaspoons of SPAREX mixed in. This seemed to work well.



For those wanting to use something safer, there are biodegradable pickling agents on the market such as *Black Magic* soldering pickle. It contains no acid, will not give off fumes, and is not corrosive. This product can be obtained from jewelry supply companies.

It was pointed out that the Sparex solution works at room temperature, but heating it to about 140° improves its effectiveness. Filipowski had, what might be considered a somewhat primitive setup for achieving this temperature, but you couldn't argue with the results. The tools of choice were a candle, which had been melted down into a large jar lid, a coffee can with 1/4" holes punched around its base and on top, and a thermometer. (Keep adding holes around the bottom, until the candle stops going out!) Once Filipowski was satisfied with the results, he upgraded to an electric pickle pot. The unit shown here has a 16 OZ. capacity and retails online for about \$16.00.



When it comes to soaking the parts, the rule of thumb is to leave them in until they're shiny. The membership was cautioned about this process and photo-etched parts. If these thin fittings are left in the solution too long, they can actually start dissolving! When ready, thoroughly rinse the parts and allow them to dry. Do not handle them without clean rubber gloves or a towel. The oil from your hands can result in a blotchy finish.

Reason No. 2 involved the blackening agent itself. A number of years ago, Filipowski tried a product called Blacken-It, which is no longer sold. The results were less than adequate, and it wasn't until he tried another agent called Brass Black by Birchwood Casey that the procedure improved. It was pointed out that there are at least a



BLACKENING METAL PARTS

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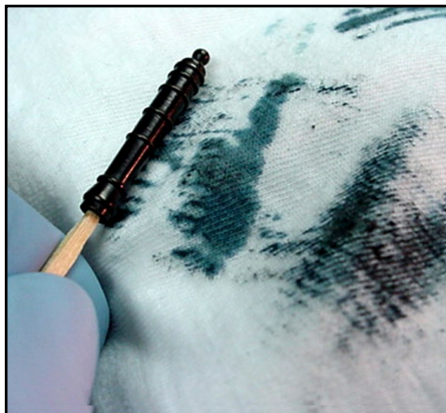
dozen different varieties of brass and not all blackening agents will consistently work with all of them. This may have been one possible reason for Blacken-It's poor performance.



Another popular product used to patina metals such as copper, bronze and silver is Liver of Sulfur. Toni Levine contributed to the presentation by demonstrating how she uses it. This chemical comes in gel form, which allows Toni

to pick up minute quantities with a toothpick. It is then mixed with a 1/4 teaspoon of water, and applied to the part. After a few seconds the piece is blotted dry with a soft towel.

Reason No. 3 is probably the easiest to correct. Poor blackening is often the result of a common attitude found among most human beings. (Mostly male.) "If a little works well, then a lot must work even better!" Well, nothing could be further from the truth. It was pointed out that many modelers keep metal parts immersed in blackening solution for as long as 20 or 30 minutes. This allows the agent to



actually form a crust on the surface of the part, which easily flakes away when handled. A short soaking time of approximately 20 to 30 seconds, followed by another 20 or 30 seconds out of the bottle is usually adequate for a first application. If the pieces are not dark enough, the process can be repeated, but, for not as long a period of time. If the parts are too large to fit in the bottle, Birchwood Casey can also be applied with a paintbrush.

Once the required time has passed, the solution is then carefully wiped from the part with a soft cloth. An old tee shirt works quite well for this purpose. After the fittings have completely dried, they can be buffed to a very nice luster or left a dull black. Many modelers apply a thin application of Testor's Dull-Cote to insure that the shiny surface does not come through while handling the part.



Oxidation is evident on these practice pieces.



These blackening agents can be poisonous, and should be handled and stored with care!

Note the photo-etched lantern. It's 5/16" long.





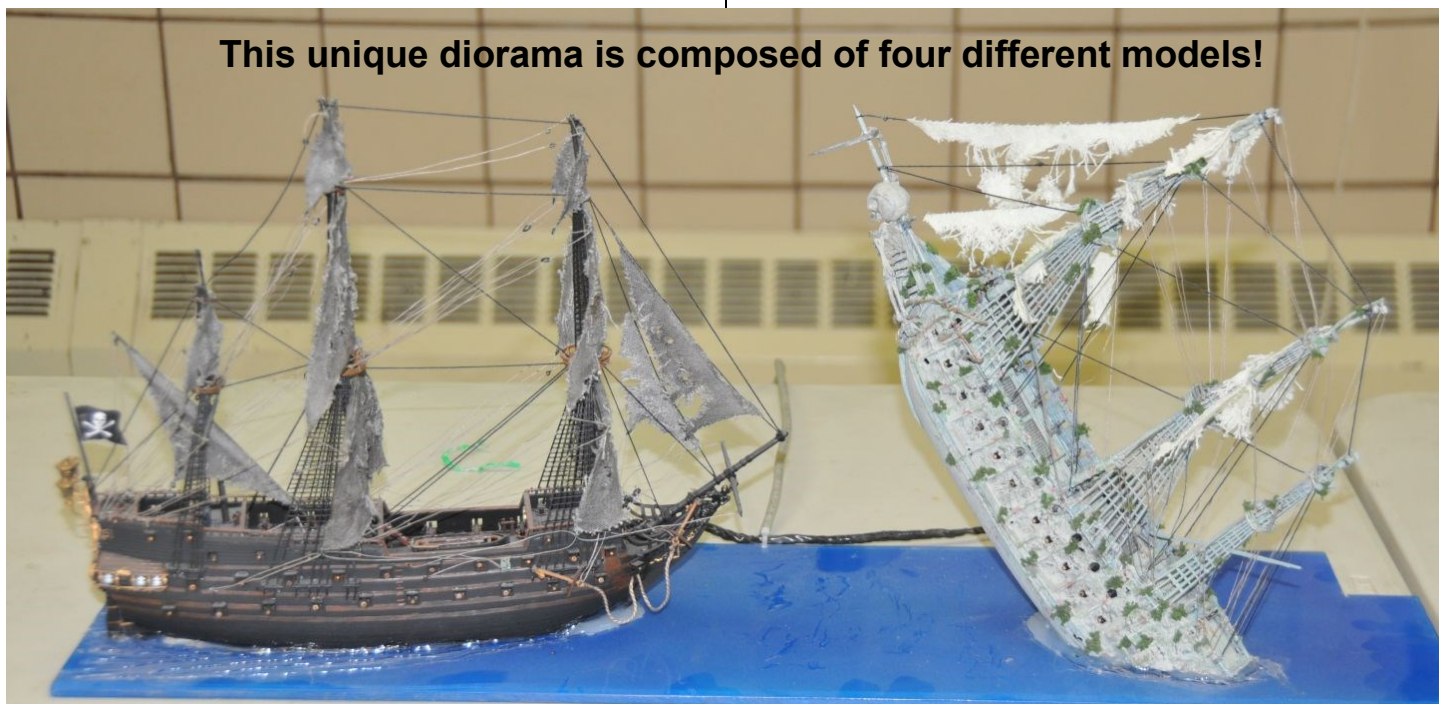
Ships on Deck



Pirates of the Caribbean by Robert Frysztak

Photos by Robert Frysztak

This unique diorama is composed of four different models!



"Ships on Deck" continued on Page 5

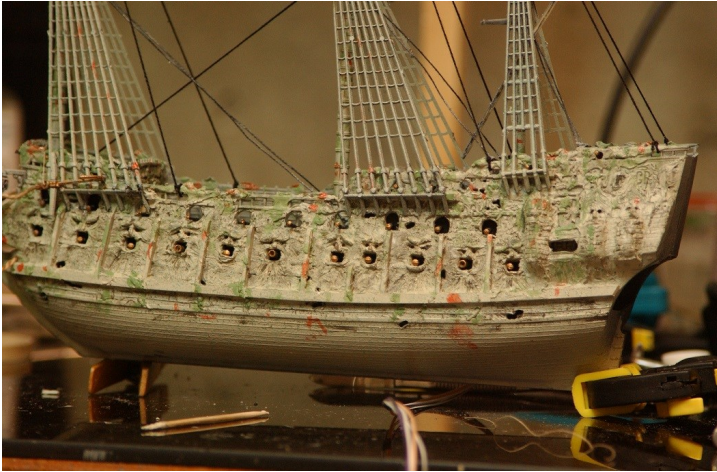


Ships on Deck



Pirates of the Caribbean by Robert Frysztak

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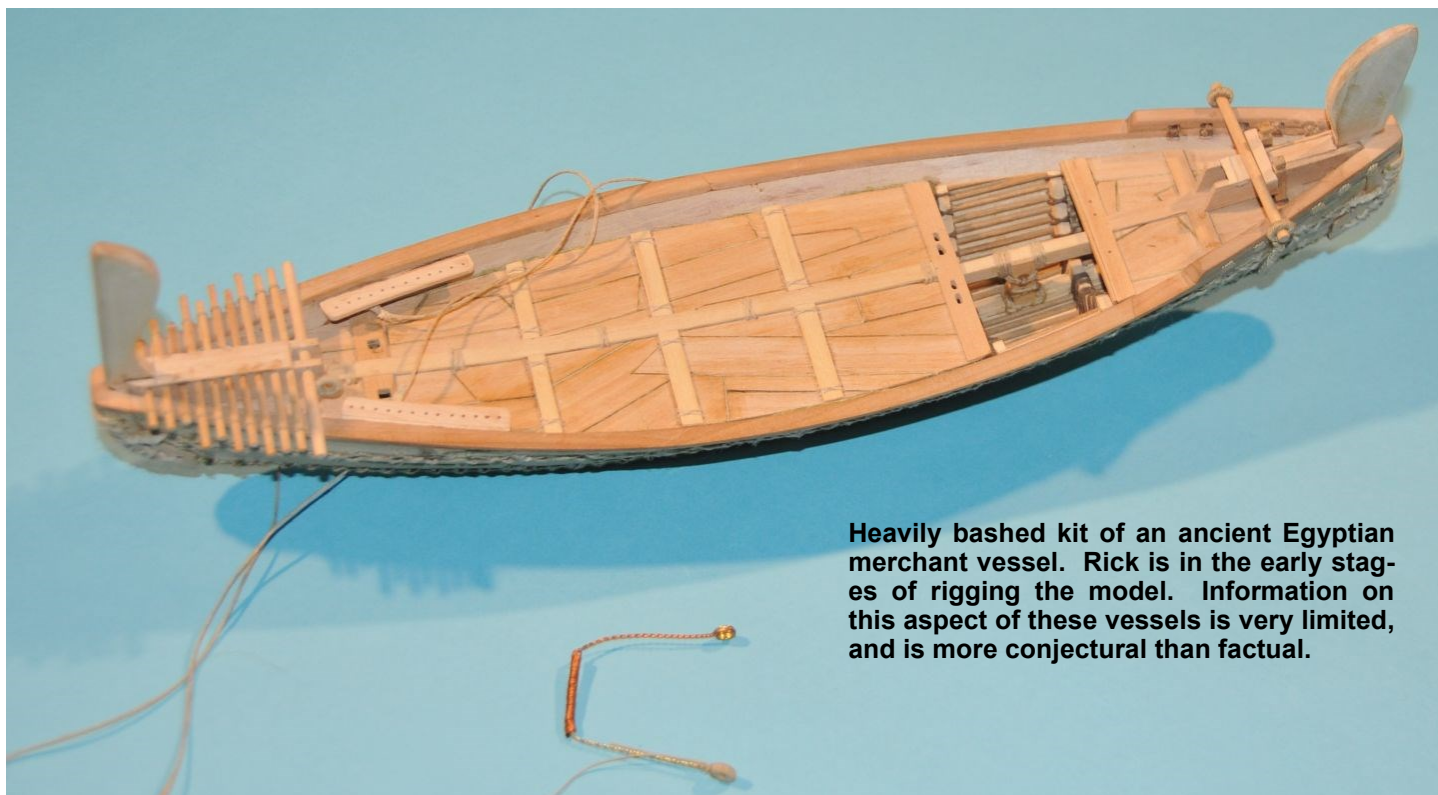


Ships on Deck

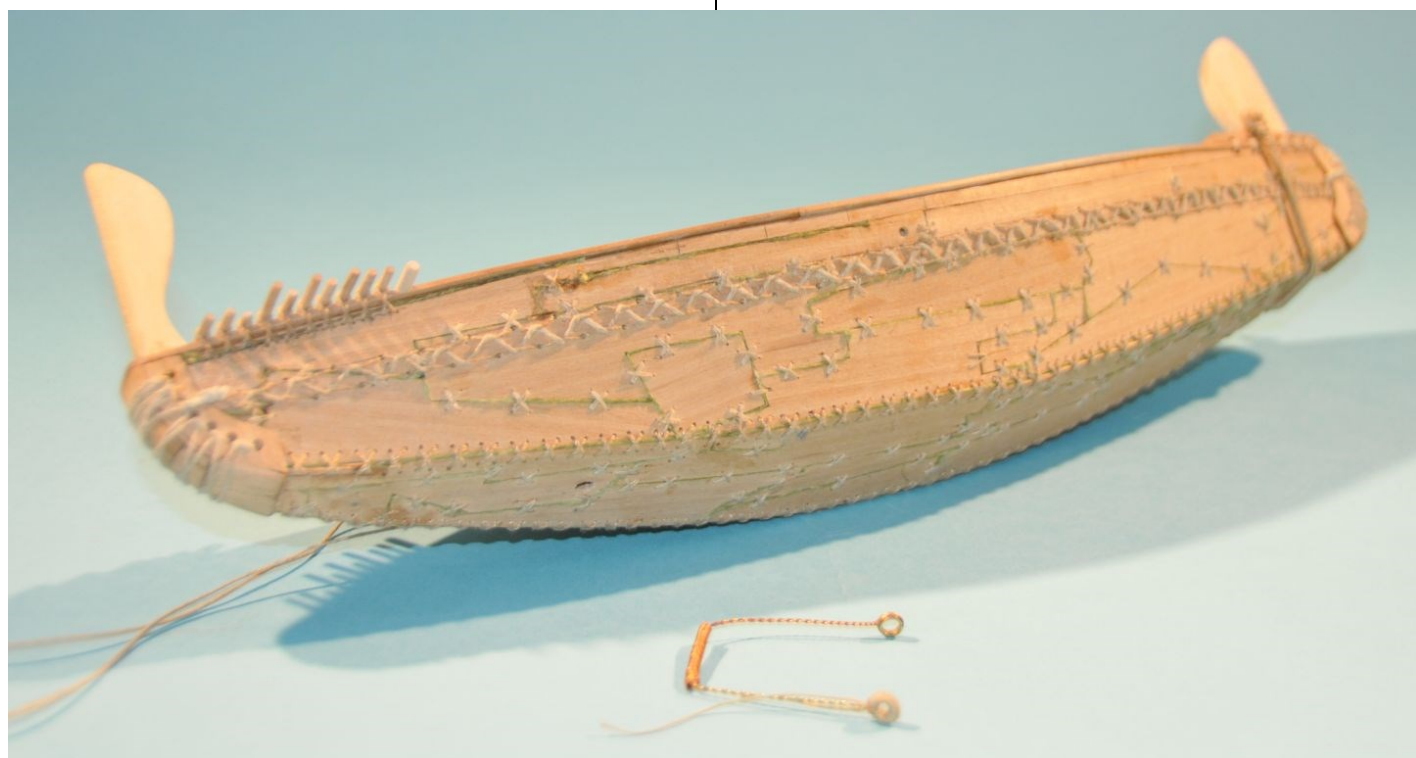


Nave Ageza by Rick Szydelko

Photos by Robert Frysztak



Heavily bashed kit of an ancient Egyptian merchant vessel. Rick is in the early stages of rigging the model. Information on this aspect of these vessels is very limited, and is more conjectural than factual.





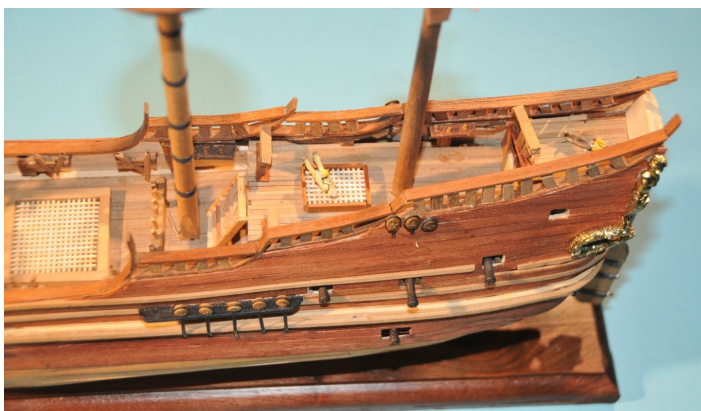
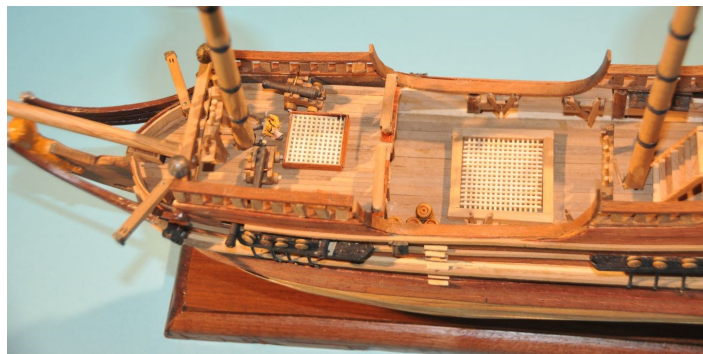
Ships on Deck



Derfflinger Fuyt by Ray Kroschel

Photos by Robert Frysztak

An early 17th century vessel employed in the spice trade. Note the tumble-home and narrow decks.
Scale 1:64



"Ships on Deck" continued on Page 8



Ships on Deck



Fair American by Don Purney

Photos by Robert Fryszak



This is one of the most popular subjects ever offered to model ship builders. Yet, just about every one of them ends up slightly different. A lot of small parts have been upgraded on this particular example.



"Ships on Deck" continued on Page 9



Ships on Deck

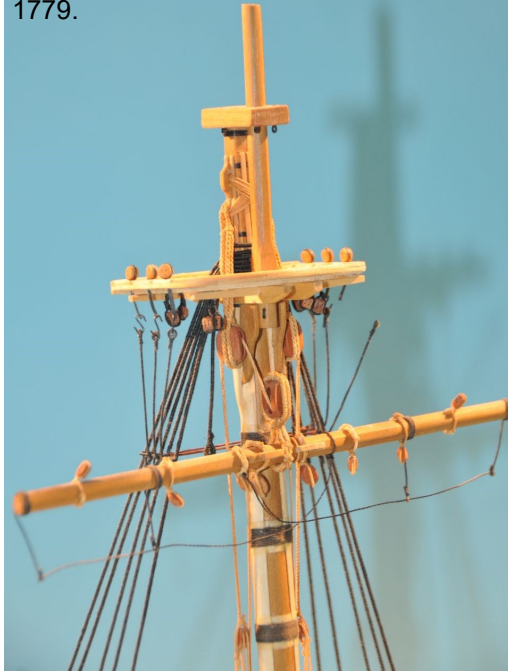


Rigging Project by Toni Levine

Photos by Robert Fryszak



Toni is designing this kit as a rigging training aid for the NRG. It represents the main mast for the *Swallow*, Circa 1779.



"Ships on Deck" continued on Page 10



Ships on Deck



Ceremonial Barge Circa 1832 by Gus Agustin
Photos by Robert Fryszak



Coat of Arms of the South Sea Company by Gus Agustin
Circa 1711
Photos by Robert Fryszak



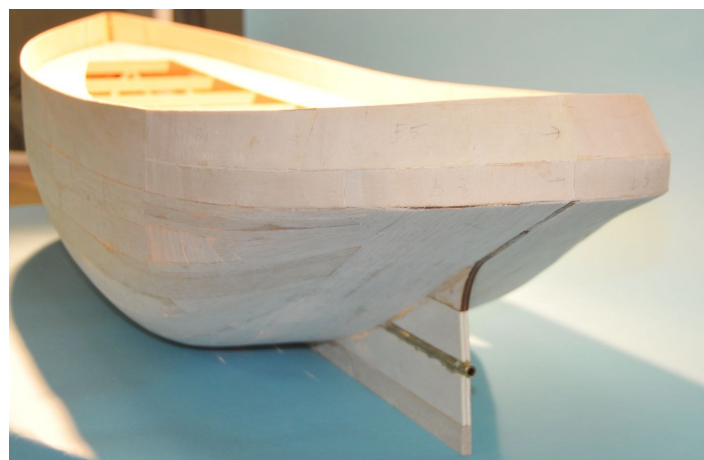


Ships on Deck



Carol Moran Circa:1949 by Ken Goetz

Photos by Robert Frysztak



US Navy MK.38 5"/38 Twin Gun Mount by Jim Hohenzy

Scale 1:35

Photos by Robert Frysztak





Ships on Deck



TOMLOV DM201 Digital Microscope

Presented by Rick Szydelko



Ideal for presentations or collaborating with others. Share your accomplishments and techniques with others in real-time. It also allows for easy image and video transfer. Experience a new level of convenience and accessibility with the coin magnifier.

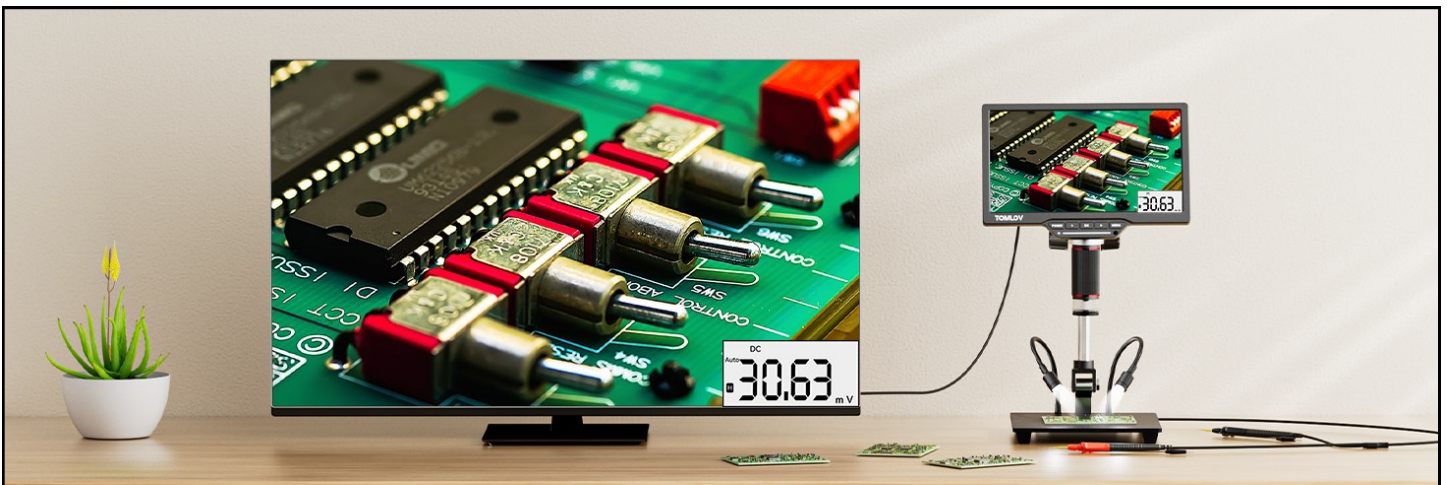
A Compact & Cordless Microscope: Enjoy the convenience of a Soldering Microscope with Multimeter with the built-in battery feature. Take your microscope wherever you need it. Explore the microscopic world with up to 1200x without the hassle of finding an outlet. The rechargeable battery offers long-lasting power, making it perfect for outdoor activities or on-the-go inspections. Don't let a lack of power hold you back.

Explore the World Up Close: Get up close with the 2x-1200x zoom on this digital microscope with screen. Whether you're examining intricate details in a wood carving, inspecting the quality of a molded or 3D piece, or simply exploring the world around you, this LCD digital microscope has got you covered. TOMLOV DM201M provides clear and detailed images of even the tiniest objects. You'll be amazed at the level of detail you can capture. You will never miss a moment of discovery.

TOMLOV DM201M Soldering Digital Microscope, 7" HDMI LCD Microscope with Multimeter, 16MP LCD Digital Microscope for Electronics Repair, 1300X Coin Microscope with Screen, Windows, Mac Compatible, 32GB

Enhance Viewing Experience with HDMI & USB Output: Unlock a wider view with the TOMLOV coin microscope. Connect to a larger screen providing you with an even more detailed and immersive viewing experience.

Full View & More Space: With the longer 10 inch stand, you'll be able to see the whole workpiece with ease, and have more space for intricate work. No more cramped quarters, this visual aid offers a clear, unobstructed view of your subject. Perfect for anyone who needs a reliable tool for repairing or creating small parts or examining small objects.





Ships on Deck



William Irvin by Paul Pollowy

Photos by Robert Fryszak



This is a 1:200 scale model. In spite of its considerable length, it is still considered a miniature! Scale is the determining factor. Another 1/32" layer of plywood is needed. Simulated steel hull plating will be next.



• Tri-Club Anti-Piracy Policy •



Here is a list of banned companies that have been pirating and duplicating kits, books, and plans from reputable manufacturers. Quite often these disreputable companies offer their products at what appear to be reasonable prices, but these items are often poor in quality. Many of them do not have websites. They market their illegal products via the Internet on sites such as eBay.

If you are contemplating your next project, please check this list. If you are not sure, discuss it with Kurt Van Dahm before you commit to a purchase. For easy reference, this information will appear in all future issues of the *Forecastle Report*.

Please note that CAF has been removed from this list.

ZHL	WN
RealTS	Unicorn Model
Snail Model	YQ (YaunQing)
XinFeng	Master
JD Model	CN
LHQQ	CF
Shi Cheng	Shi hai
Woodenkit (Russian MFG)	4H Model
YengFan	SC
Moxing	DUJIAOSHOU



Scuttlebutt



Scenes From the July MMS Meeting

Photos By Bob Frysztak



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