



## Chapter Fifteen

# The Forecastle Deck Planking and Fittings

### Building the Coamings and Gratings...

At this stage of the project, building the coamings and gratings for the forecastle should pose no challenges. Build them the same way as all of the earlier examples you produced. Just examine the plans for the proper measurements. Note in the photo above how the small scuttle under the jeer bits was handled. Only half of the grating was placed on deck. The deck planking is the same thickness and will butt against it.

Before you add the cover boards to the coaming above the stove, you should build and install the galley stack. Four laser cut pieces are provided for you. Glue them together edge-to-edge to form the stack and paint it black. Glue it on top of the stove centering it in the opening. Then cut some cover boards to close up the coaming around it. 1/8" x 1/16" strips were used to make the cover boards. They should be beveled to fit snug around the galley stack.

### The Fore Jeer Bitts...

This is prepared like the other bitts. It is placed

just aft of the fore mast coaming. You will have to notch each upright to sit against the aft side of the deck beam. Paint it red and add the belaying pins. Then glue it into position.

### Starting the Belfry and Rail...

The belfry and the lower uprights for the rail should be installed before you plank the forecasle deck. It should be handled much like the quarterdeck rail. A photo has been provided that shows the elements of the belfry. Many have been laser cut for you.

The lower uprights for the belfry are laser cut with notches in them. These notches will be used for the rail to be installed after the planking is finished. Two layers of 1/32" squares are glued together and added on top of the uprights. Round off the edges of each layer to create the molded profile before you glue them together.

Cut small lengths of 3/32" x 3/32" strips for the next sections of the uprights. Glue these on top of the previously added sections.

The belfry roof is made up of three laser cut layers. They are quite delicate so don't sand them too much before assembling them. The two wider layers are the top and bottom. The three layers are all slightly different and will only fit together if they are stacked in the right order.



Once they are glued together it should be strong enough for a more thorough sanding. It should be painted black.

The center bracket is also laser cut for you. Glue a tiny length of 28 gauge wire on each end. Then drill small holes on the inside of each upright for them. It will be easier to glue the bell in position under the bracket before you glue the bracket into position between the two uprights. Paint the casting of the bell to look like brass. The entire belfry should be painted black. Glue it onto the model when you are done. It should be glued on top of the deck beam and against the coaming. See the photos throughout this chapter.

Before you can start planking the deck, the four uprights for the belfry rail should be glued into

position as well. They have been laser cut for you and are 3/32" thick. Use a photocopy of the belfry to find the correct locations and angles. See the photo provided.

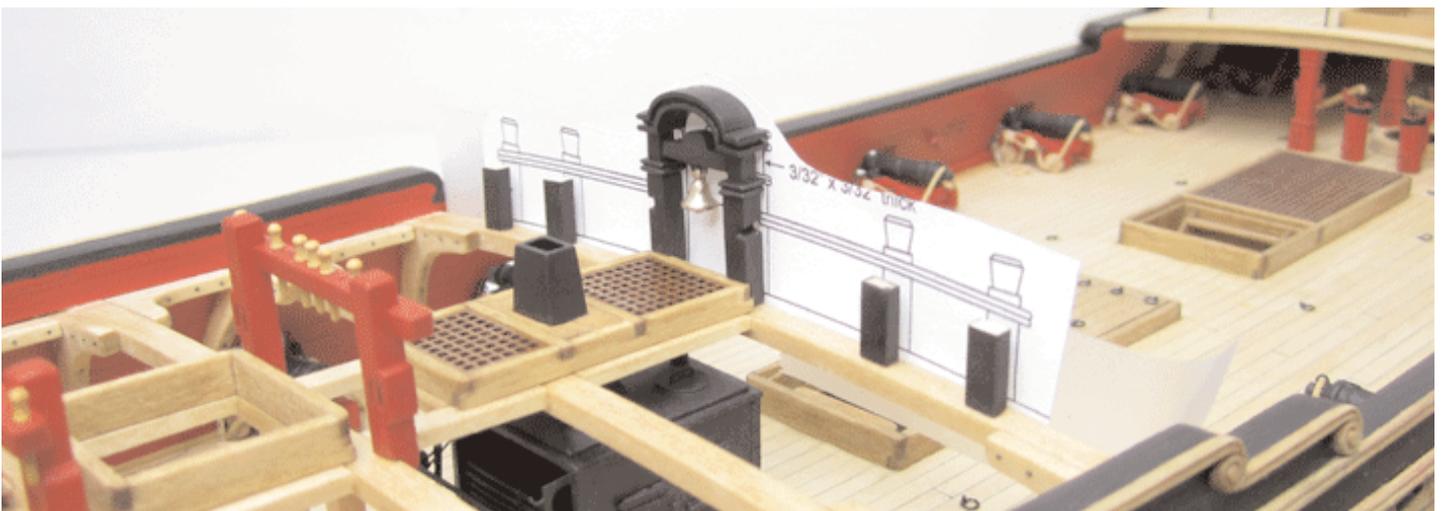
### Planking the Forecastle Deck...

Prepare the forecastle deck for planking just like you did for the quarterdeck. Place a 3/16" x 1/16" strip across the deck beam along the waist. It should hang over the beam just a bit and be rounded off on that edge. This strip will need to be notched out to fit around the belfry, coaming and uprights on top of that beam.

Now add the waterway on the port and starboard sides. Use a 1/16" x 3/32" strip like the one you shaped on the quarterdeck.

Finally, add the margin plank against the waterway. These are not laser cut this time because there are no scarph joints. Use one length of 5/32" x 1/16" basswood. The bend at the bow is not that severe. You should soak the planks and pre-bend them so they fit against the waterway tightly. The margin plank was only added on the starboard side for the prototype so it matches the quarterdeck.

Plank the deck with 1/8" x 1/16" strips. Create the hook scarphs on the forward ends for the strips that sit against the margin plank. Carefully cut the planks around all of the coamings and bitts. Then add the trenails to finish it up. See the many photos provided that show the forecastle planking completed. The cat-beam should be

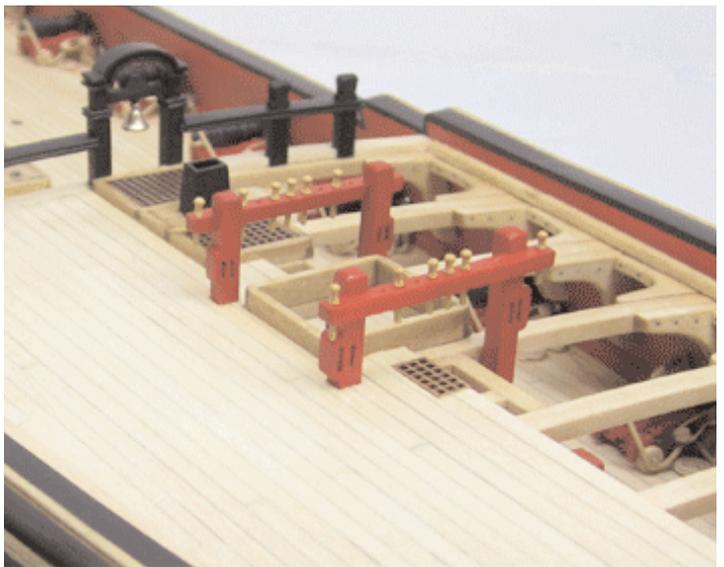




planked on the port side. The cat-beam is the first deck beam that sits against the beakhead. You need to cut small lengths of planking to cover this beam. This will make the surface on the port side level with the starboard side so the catheads (cat tail) can be installed properly.

### Finishing off the Belfry Rail...

The rail is laser cut for you in two 1/32" thick layers. It should be handled just like the rail for the quarterdeck. Paint it black and glue it into position on both sides of the belfry. Slide the

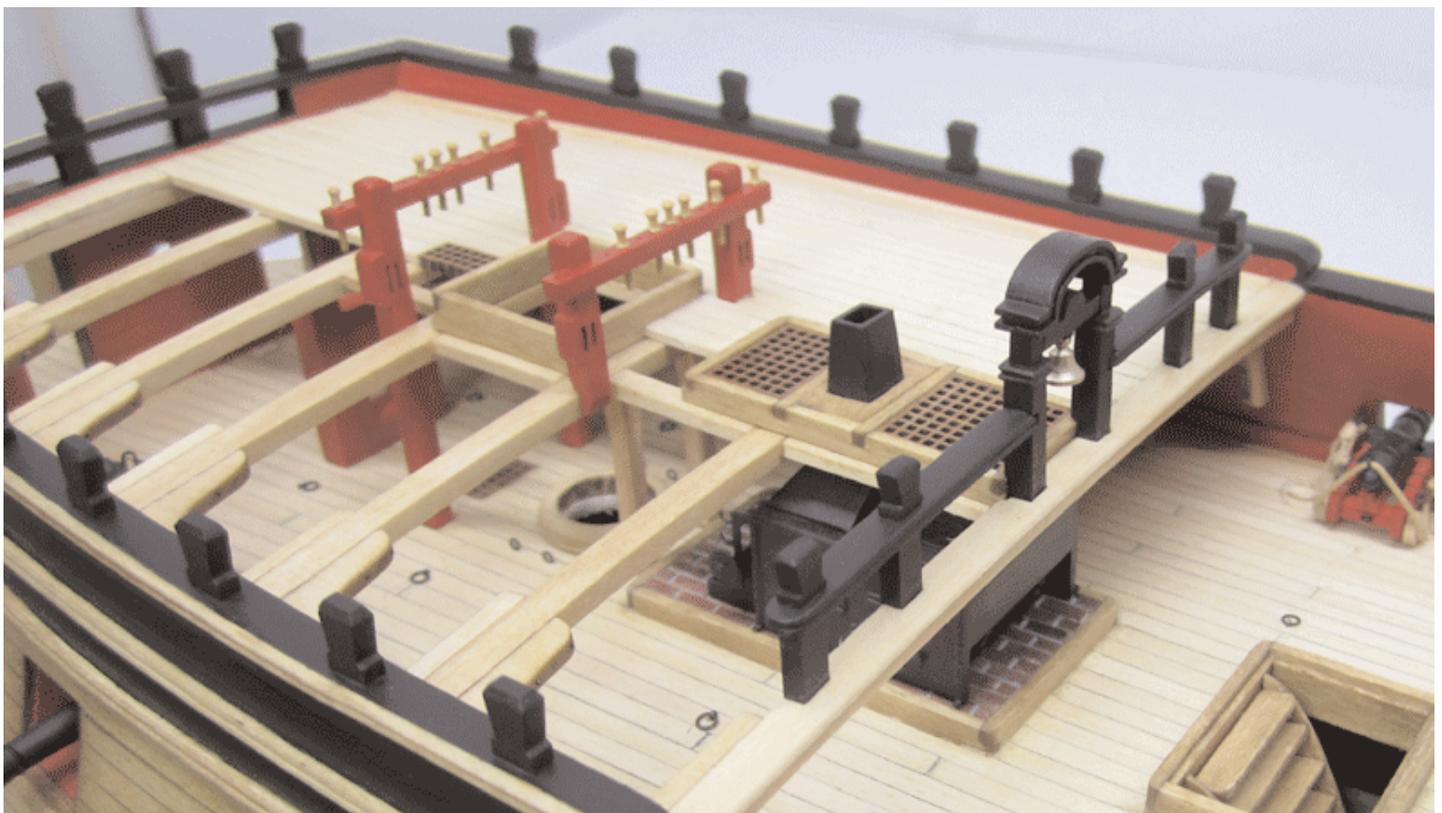


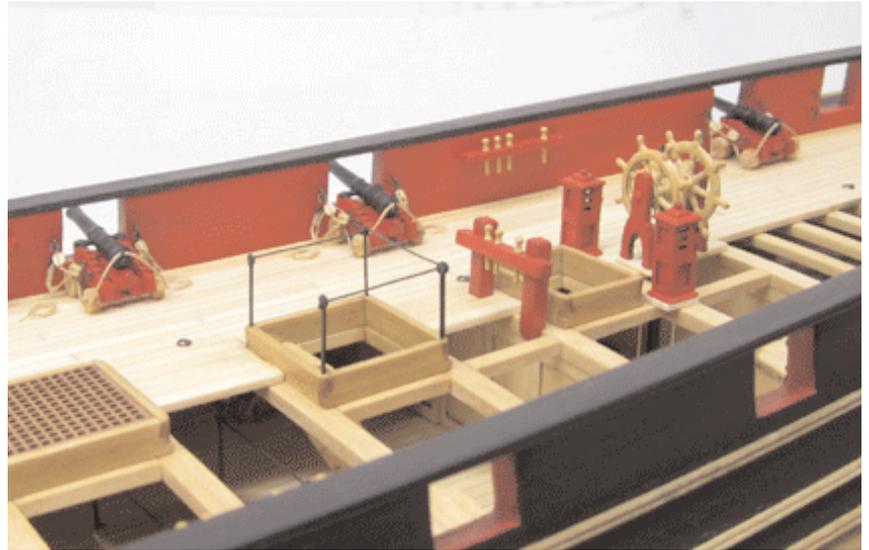
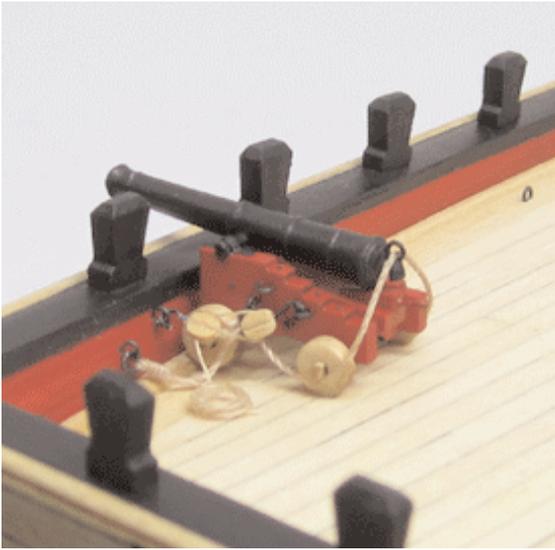
inboard end of the rail into the slot of each belfry upright.

Then paint the four timberheads black that should be glued on top of the rail. Sand them smooth before you paint them. Carefully line them up above the uprights.

### Timberheads along the Cap Rail...

It's now time to add the timberheads on top of the cap rail. The timberheads along the beakhead were added first on the prototype model. Strips





of basswood that are the same width as the timberheads were cut to length. You only need two pieces. They were carefully glued under the cap rail and centered (fore-aft) in the opening. Then add the four laser cut timberheads. Glue them on top of the beakhead cap rail and paint them black.

Add the remaining seven timberheads along the port and starboard sides of the forecastle. You can use a photocopy of that section of sheet one to help you space them evenly on both sides.

### **Adding the Six Pounder Cannon...**

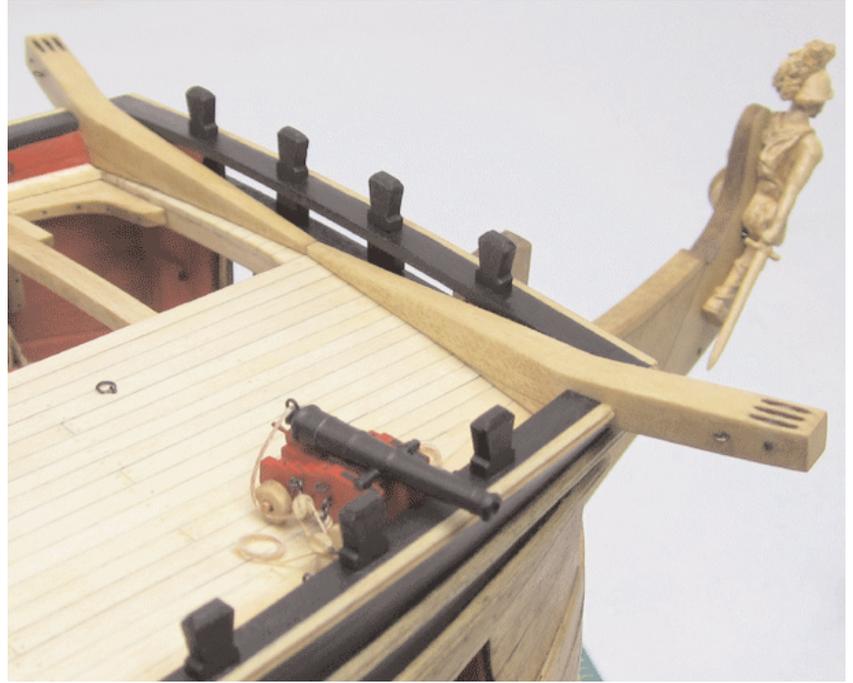
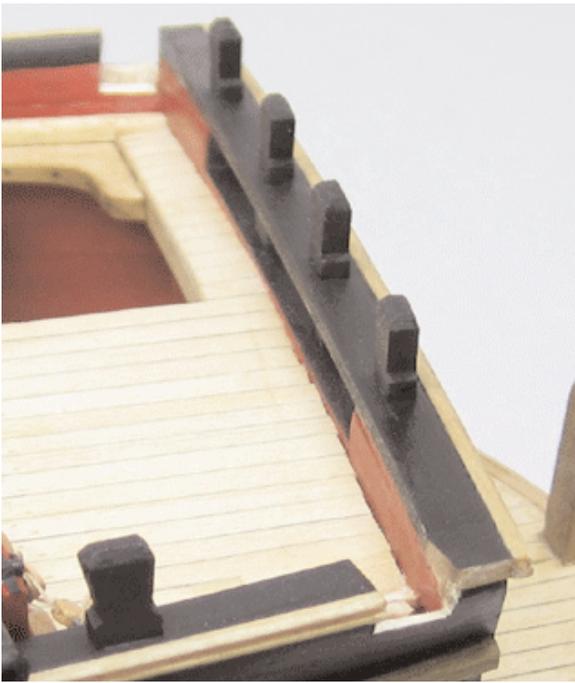
Only four six pounder cannon were added to the prototype model. They are on the starboard side of the forecastle and quarterdeck. You may have opted to show all eight. They don't need to be added at this time but they were on the prototype. All of the eyebolts were added along the bulwarks and on deck. Check the plans for their locations. Then the four cannon were built and installed. They are built exactly like the 12 pounders on the gun deck. The only difference for the six pounders was the length of the breech line. The breech line is .021 tan rigging. Instead of making them 3 1/4" long, they should be made 2 3/4" long for these smaller cannon. Read through the section on constructing the twelve pounders and make these the same way. Then install them on the model as before. See the photos provided that show the six pounders completed and installed.

### **Shaping and Installing the Catheads...**

To complete this chapter, the catheads will be shaped, detailed and installed. They have been laser cut for you and are 1/4" thick. In actuality, they should not be a 1/4" thick. The catheads should be thinned down slightly and made 7/32" thick. Keep this in mind when you are removing the laser char from these pieces. Carefully reduce the thickness as mentioned as this is very important.

Place them on the model so you can place some reference marks on the cap rail. The cap rail needs to be notched out to receive the cathead. Temporarily place both of them in position lining up the cat tails (inboard ends of the cathead) on the centerline of the deck. The cat tails were left a little longer than needed so you can shorten them based on how they sit along the cap rail. Adjust the ends of the cathead until you are happy with how they look. Then mark both sides of the cat head on the cap rail so you know how wide to make the notch for them. Remove the beaded molding on the outside of the cap rail first.

First, use a razor saw to cut both sides of the notch. Cut the notch narrower than you will ultimately need it. You can fine tune the width of the notch so you get a perfect fit later. Use a sanding stick to fine tune the sides of the notch. The notches should be slightly more than half the depth of the cathead. The bottom of the notch should be sloped inboard. See the photo provided



that shows the completed notches for the catheads. Once the sides are cut to the correct depth, use a sharp blade to cross cut small shavings free. Start slicing in the center of the notch towards the cuts you made for the sides of the notch. Remove small slivers of the wood with each pass until you have it roughed out. Then sand it smooth and fine tune the notch with a sanding stick. Test fit the catheads in position.

When the catheads fit well, you can shape the cat tails properly. The bottom of each cat tail needs to be cut on an angle. Review the diagram provided for details. About 2/3rds of the cat tail should be angled. The end of the cat tail will be approximately 1/16" thick at the center line on deck. When you cut the initial angle on the bottom of the cathead, leave some extra meat on it. This way you can sand it more carefully to the finished shape. The bottom of the cathead should sit flat on the deck. Since the deck is cambered, the bottom of the cathead will actually have a slight curve to match it. When the cat-

head is placed in position there will still be a small opening under it along the bulwarks. This small triangular opening should be filled with a small piece of scrap wood. It is easier to attach a small piece of wood to the bottom of the cat tail and sand it to shape so there is a smooth transition between the two pieces. The entire assembly should fit snug against the bulwarks and waterway. See the photo provided.

Once you are satisfied with how the catheads fit, you can add the small details to them. Add the three laser cut sheaves in each slot. Then simulate the sheave pin on the outside of each cathead using a small length of 22 gauge wire. Drill a small hole and insert the wire. Then snip off the end so it is slightly proud of the surface.

A small eyebolt should also be placed on the aft side of the cathead. This will be used for the anchor tackle. The catheads were stained on the prototype and then glued in place permanently.

