

Coamings for the quarterdeck



Chapter Fourteen

The Quarterdeck planking and fittings

Quarter deck Coamings and Companionways...

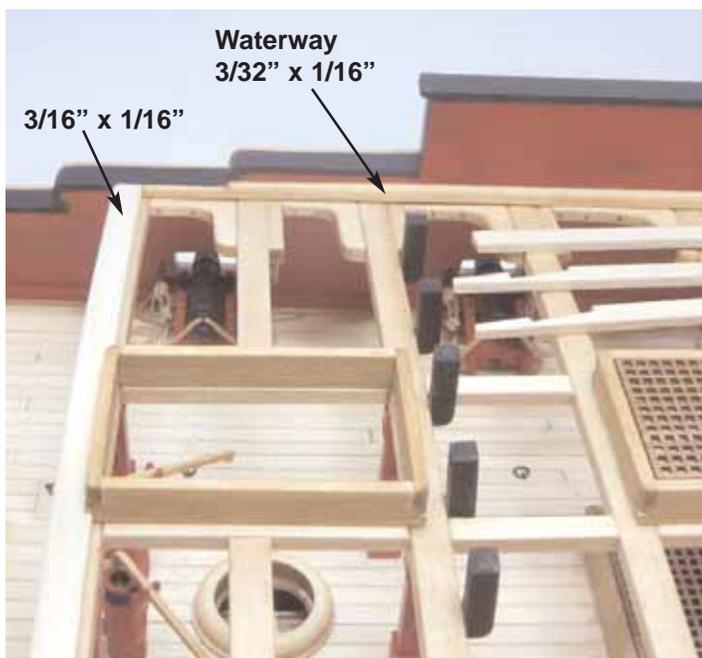
The coamings and companionways on the quarterdeck should be completed first so you can plank around them later. They are constructed just like those on the gun deck. There is no need to repeat the construction methods over again as they are the same. There are a few things worth noting however:

- The width of the basswood strips (or height of the coamings) is slightly less than those for the gun deck. Use 3/16" x 1/16" strips for them.
- Create the lining around the interior of each coaming except for the two openings over the main and mizzen masts.
- Create the ladder for the one companionway as shown on the plans.
- Glue all of the gratings into their respective coamings to finish off this step.

The Quarterdeck Waterway and Margin planks...

In preparation for planking, first install a 3/16" x 1/16" strip along the first quarterdeck beam. You will need to notch this beam to fit around the coaming for the main mast. The fore side of this strip should be rounded and will hang over the edge of the deck beam. It should hang over by 1/16". This will create a rabbet on the aft side of the beam which will be used to support the deck planking. See the photo provided.

In that same photo, you will notice that the waterway has been installed. This will be done differently than the waterway on the gun deck. This time, the waterway is added before the quarterdeck is planked. It is made using a 3/32" x 1/16" strip. Round off one of the top edges. After the

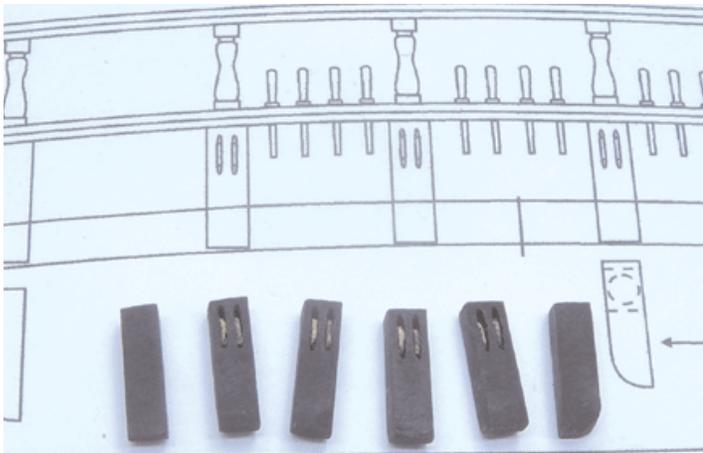


Three lengths of the margin plank ready to be installed against the waterway.



margin plank (1/16" thick) sits flush against it, the waterway strip should stand 1/32" higher. To achieve this, the waterway strip is set against the bulwarks so it sits 3/32" high. It can be added in one piece or several shorter lengths. The seams won't be very noticeable after it is completed. The waterway is left natural. Place the waterway on both sides of the quarterdeck.

The margin plank will butt against the waterway. There are three lengths of 1/16" thick margin planks. They are joined with scarp joints. All three pieces are laser cut for you. A photo is provided that shows the 3 laser cut margin planks before installing them. Test fit the scarp joints to see if they need any adjustments so they fit together well. On the prototype, the mar-

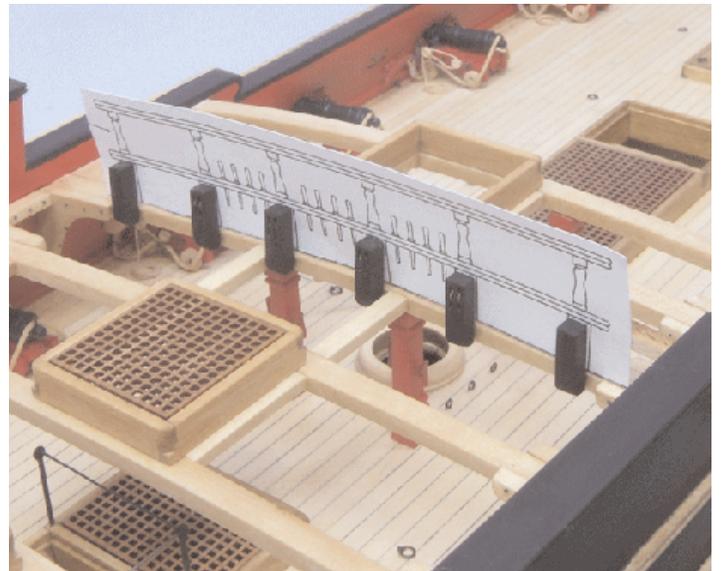


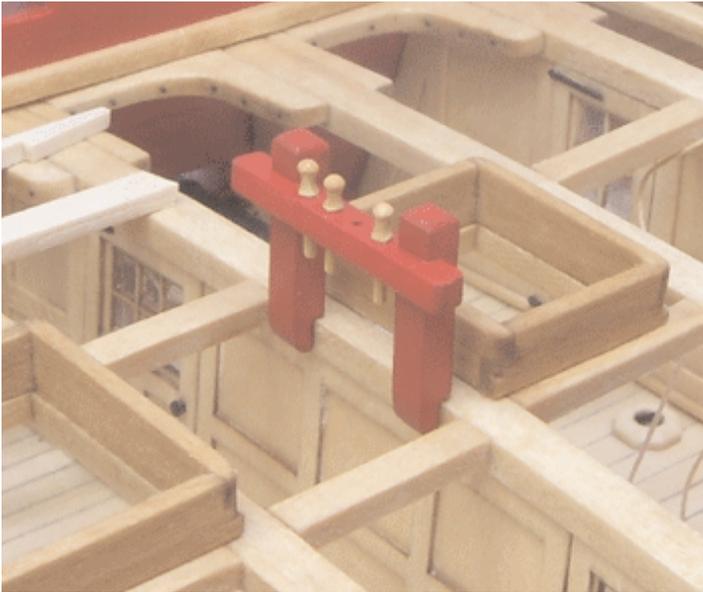
Uprights for the main rail with the sheaves glued into position. Note the rounded side of the bottom of each upright shown on the plans.

gin planks were not added on the port side of the quarterdeck. The margin planks would have covered up too much of the deck framing and knee details. Only the starboard side of the quarter deck will be planked to allow maximum viewing of the gun deck detail below. You may prefer a different configuration, and that decision is entirely up to you.

The Main Quarterdeck and Mizzen Rails...

The lower uprights for the main rail will be secured to the aft side of a deck beam. For this reason, they must be glued into position before the deck is planked. The entire rail does not have to be built at this time. You only need to prepare the lower uprights and glue them into

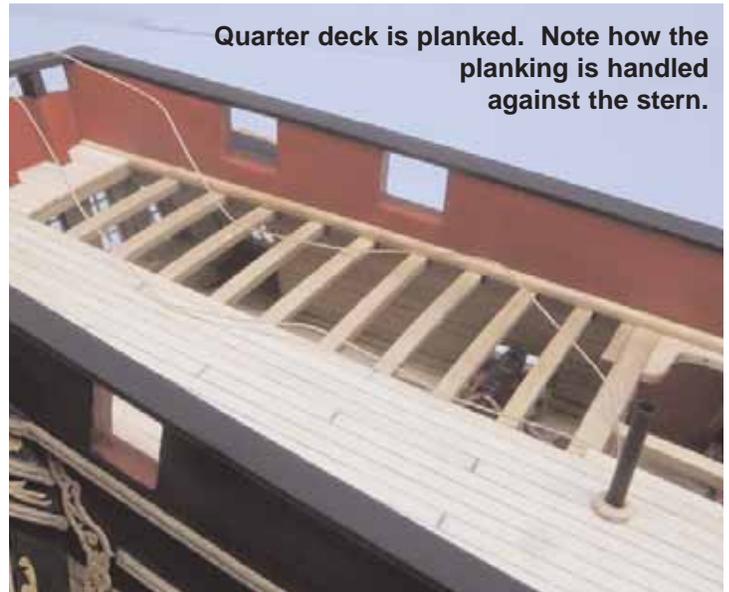




position. Building the entire rail will make it more difficult to plank the deck as it will limit the space you need to work in that area.

The lower uprights of this rail are laser cut for you. The sheave slots have been created for you as well. Simply glue the laser cut sheaves into these slots after you paint the uprights black. The sheaves are 1/64" thick. You will have to round off the bottom of each upright as shown on the plans and in the photos. Sand them to shape as shown.

To help you position the uprights correctly against the deck beam, you might consider using a photocopy of the rail. A photo provided shows the photocopy taped to the deck beam. This will



make it easier for you to position the uprights at the correct distance apart along with the proper angles and heights in relation to one another. View them from various angles to ensure that the rail will sit on top of the uprights properly.

The Mizzen Rail...

The mizzen rail is also laser cut for you. The uprights are 1/8" thick and the rail is 3/32" thick. You may choose to assemble the rail in its entirety before gluing it into position against the fore side of the deck beam. The rail was painted red on the prototype but you may opt for a different approach. The belaying pins were also added and painted before the rail was glued into position.



Planking the Quarterdeck...

Plank the quarterdeck with 1/8" x 1/16" strips. As mentioned earlier, the prototype will be planked on the starboard side only. Only half of the deck will be planked leaving the deck beams and knees visible on the other side. The prototype was planked from the center line towards the margin plank. A pencil was used to simulate the caulking between planks. It was finished to match the color used on the gun deck planking below it.

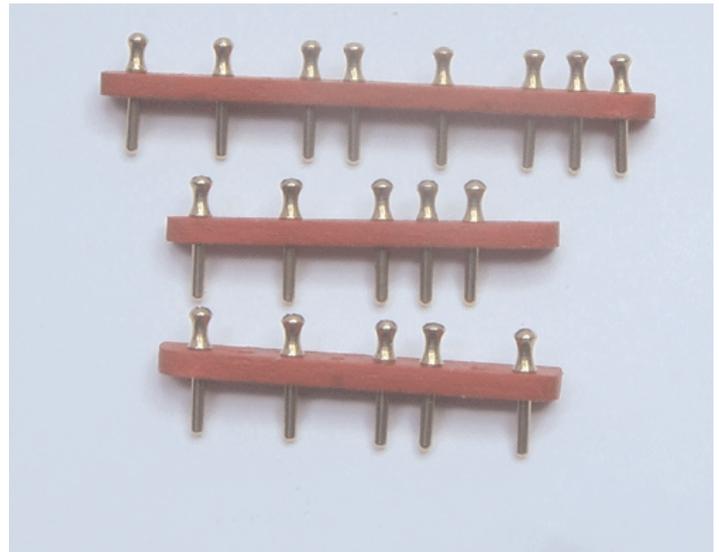
Note how the planking was completed at the stern to create a clean appearance yet leave the great cabin visible. Short lengths of planks cover the last deck beam and are cut flush against the transom. You can also see how planks were notched to accommodate the speaking tube. The second base for the tube was slid up to rest on top of the planking afterwards. See the photos provided.

The deck planking should be "nibbed" or scarphed along the margin plank. Choose the same method that was used to plank the gun deck.

Detailing the Quarterdeck Bulwarks...

There are several pin rails, eyebolts and cleats positioned along both sides of the quarterdeck bulwarks. Examine the plans and install them. The pin rails on the prototype were painted red. The belaying pins were added and painted before gluing them into position along the bulwarks. They were painted to look like wood. Carefully line up the pin rails consistently port to starboard.

The cleats shown near the stern were also painted red. Since the quarterdeck is not planked on the port side, the 6 pounder cannon will only be displayed on the starboard side. Install all of the eyebolts for the cannon tackles and breech lines. If you are displaying all of the guns, remember not to install the eyebolts for the breech lines. These will be attached to the breech lines in advance just like they were for the gun deck cannon. You can drill the holes for them now in



preparation for adding the cannon later in the project.

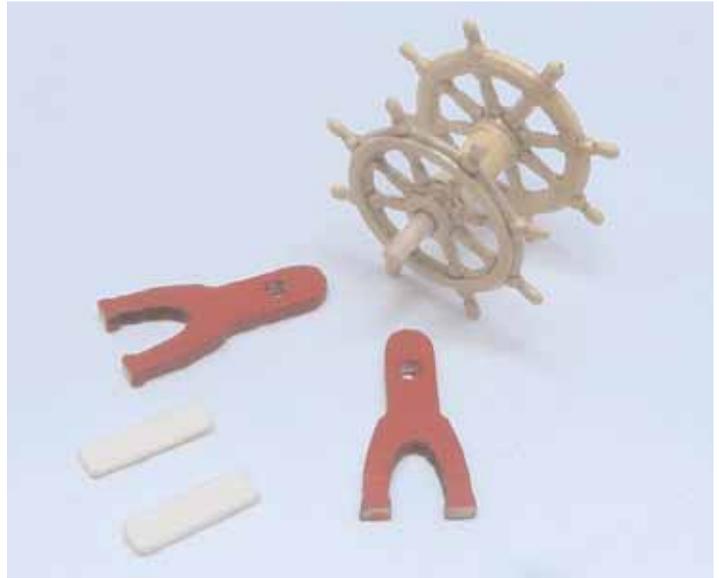
The Ship's Wheel...

The ship's wheel is provided as a casting. There are two of them. Clean up any flashing on each of them and paint them to look like wood. The stand for the wheels is made up of several laser cut parts. A photo is provided that shows them all before assembly.

Step one – the drum is made by cutting a 5/32" dowel to length using the plans as a guide. Then attach the two circular end pieces. They are laser cut (1/32" thick). These discs have a laser cut hole in them as well. You may have to enlarge them a bit. Insert a 1/16" dowel into this hole on both sides of the drum. It doesn't have to go straight through the drum. Cut two lengths (one for each side) and leave them extra long initially.

Step two – Slide the wheels into position on the drum. See the photo provided. The two sides of the stand can be painted red. Then glue them on top of their bases. The bases are shaped using 1/8" x 1/32" strips cut to length. Just round off the four corners and glue each side on top of them. Slide these onto the wheel assembly and glue them into position. Cut any excess from the 1/16" dowel that remains. They should stand proud of each side by about 1/32".

Position the completed wheel on deck. Don't



glue it into place yet. Just mark the location. If you only planked the starboard side like the prototype, you must mark the location in order to drill a hole through the deck. This hole will be used to bring the rigging up through it and around the wheel's drum. Not the orientation of the hole on the plans. Only one hole is needed for the starboard side. The rigging line on the port side will clear all of the planking.

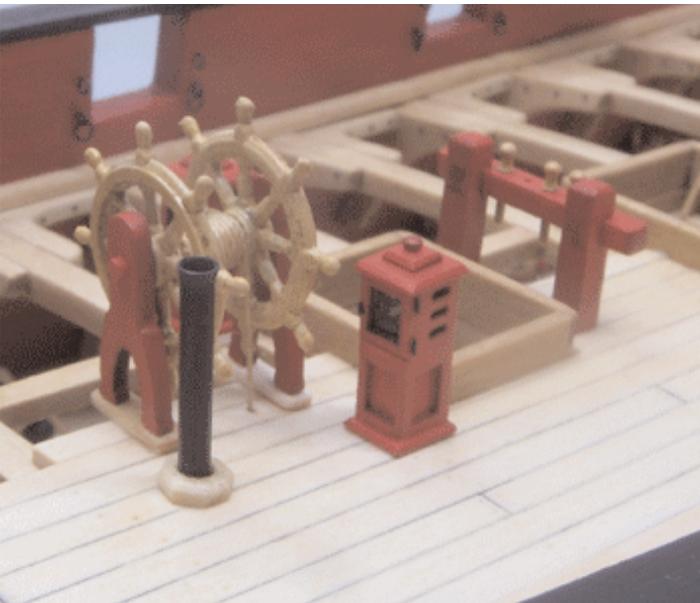
Bring each rigging line up to the drum and wrap it around the drum four times. The port side will be wrapped from the stern towards the bow. The starboard rigging line runs in the opposite direction along the drum. Both lines come up through the deck and are taken around the top of the drum. To simulate that this is actually one length of rope, the ends should terminate under

the center of the drum. Glue the ends firmly into position before cutting off the excess rigging. Both lines should be wrapped so they meet in the center under the drum. Do what you can to tuck the ends up against the drum to hide the seam. It should not be visible.

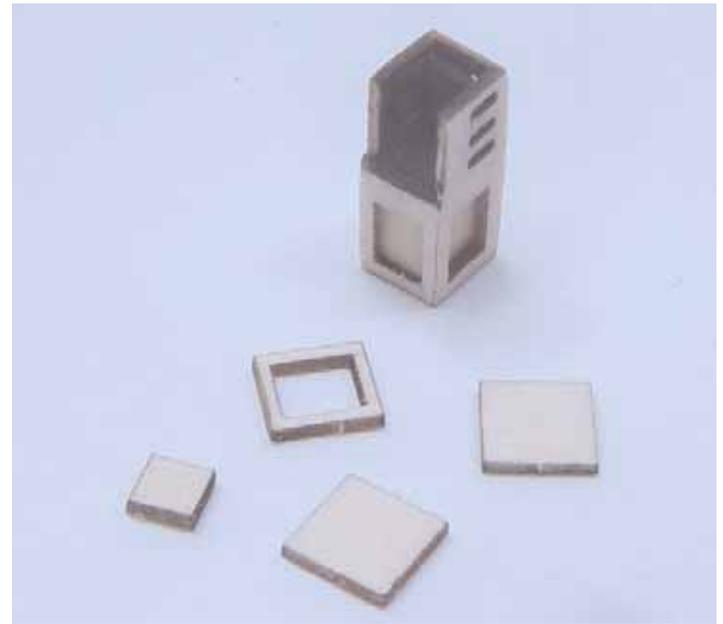
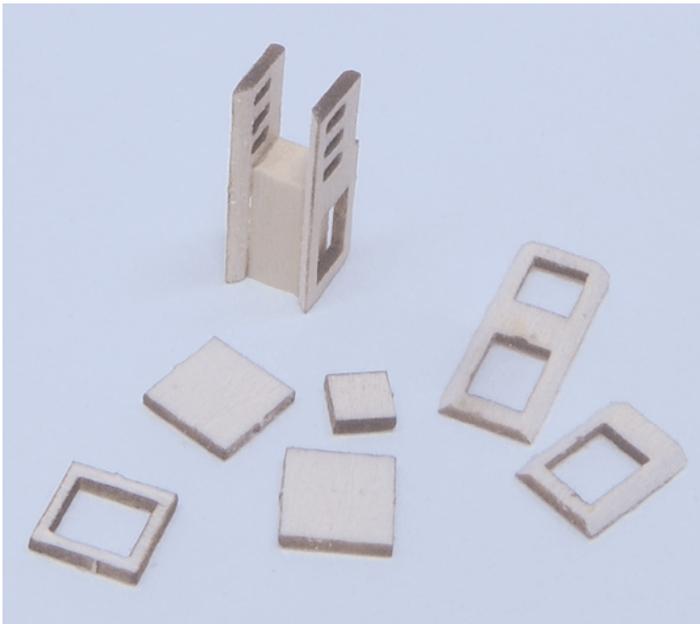
See the photo provided that shows the wheel rigged and glued into position. Note how the wheel hangs over the deck planking on the port side. The completed binnacles are also shown in that photo.

Building the Binnacles...

There are two binnacles on the Confederacy. Both were painted red on the prototype model. They are made using the laser cut pieces sup-



Completed Binnacles....



plied. These pieces are quite tiny so be careful not to lose them after you remove them from the laser cut sheet. The laser cut sides will be glued around a 1/8" x 1/8" strip. Cut the strip to length using the plans as a guide.

Step one – The four sides of each binnacle are 1/32" thick. The corners should be mitered for the best results. It is best to use a sanding stick to bevel the edges on each corner. Examine the first photo and you will see how the corners were beveled before the sides were glued around the 1/8" x 1/8" strip. Glue the two sides with the vent holes into position as shown in that photo. Note that the bottoms of these pieces are angled. Make sure that the angles are consistent on both sides. The quarter deck is sloped

and in order for the binnacles to stand properly vertical, the bottom was angled to compensate for it.

Step two – Then glue the front and back panels into position. You can see how the open areas on each side simulate raised panels after they are glued into position. The top panel on the "fore" side of each binnacle will still be open. You must close it up using the small laser cut square provided. Sand it to fit against the opening from the inside. This will make the top and bottom panels match on the fore side of the binnacle. The exterior layers will be a little thick. You should carefully sand them down thinner just like you did for the beakhead doors and bulkheads. This will make the raised panels look



more to scale. In the second photo provided, the sides have not been thinned down yet.

Step three – Glue the binnacle door into position. Don't sit it on top of the lower panel. Leave a small gap between the lower panel and the door. See the photo that shows the completed binnacle for this detail. Paint the interior of the binnacle black. Once the paint dries, glue a small square of acetate on the inside of the binnacle door. This will simulate the glass panel on the cabinet door.

Step four – Glue the binnacle on top of its laser cut base. Then glue the top on as well. Both pieces are the same size. Round off the edges first before you glue them on. One smaller laser cut square is glued on top to finish it off. The edges of this piece were also beveled to add some detail. Lastly, the head of a brass nail was glued on top. Snip the heads off the little nails supplied in the kit. Glue them into position. A small bead can be used as well. It's entirely up to you.

Step five – Paint the binnacle red. A small (really tiny) length of 28 gauge wire can be used to simulate the hinges for the cabinet door. Another tiny length can be inserted into a pre-drilled hole to simulate the door handle. Just let it stand proud of the door's surface a little bit. They should be painted black. Glue the binnacles on deck when you are done. Note: in order to make both binnacles the same height on deck, you must glue some 1/16" thick planking strips to the bottom of one of them. If you only planked one half of the quarter deck, this extra planking is need to even them out. On the prototype, a small square of planking was made that was

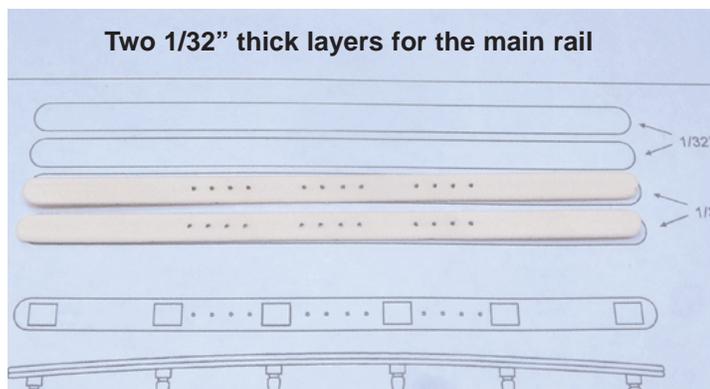
1/32" large than the binnacle's base. Then it was glued on top of the deck beam so it matched the height of the binnacle on the starboard side.

Finishing up the Main Quarterdeck Rail...

The horizontal Rail has been laser cut for you. There are two layers that are 1/32" thick. Round off the edges for both the top and the bottom layers. This will create a nice double beaded profile when the layers are glued together. Paint the rail black and glue it on top of the lower uprights. See the pictures provided. Then install the belaying pins and paint them to look like wood.

There are six fancy round pilasters supplied with the kit. Paint them black and glue them into position on the top of the rail. Make sure you line them up properly over the lower uprights. Then glue the top rail in position on top of the round pilasters. The top rail can be made in two layers like the lower rail. This is optional. You may prefer a lighter more elegant rail. In this case, only one layer is needed. The edges should be rounded off before you paint it black and glue it into position. A photo is provided that shows the quarterdeck rail completed.

To complete this chapter, add the photo etched stanchions around the quarterdeck companionway. Use 28 gauge black wire to create the



hand rail for it just like you did for those on the gun deck. Another rail is shown along the forward edge of the quarterdeck. Use the same photo etched stanchions for this rail. But instead of using 28 gauge wire; this time you should use

the heavier 22 gauge wire. Cut it to length and run it through the eye of each stanchion. Snip off the excess on each side. Place a drop of CA glue on each eye to help keep the wire from shifting.

