

Note the molding strip added on top of the 3/16" wide strip to finish it off

Chapter Nine

Planking the Bulwarks

To start planking inboard, the stern will be addressed first. Planking below the stern lights, you will need to use three strakes. The first of these (3/16" x 1/16") will be placed directly beneath the stern lights/windows. The top of this strip should be flush with the top of sills. It would be best to pre-bend these strips to acquire the curved shape needed. It will be easier than fighting to form the strip to the curved shape in such a confined area as you glue it into position. These three strakes could also be placed along the stern in two pieces. Just remember to stagger the butt joints of each strake if you choose to add them this way. You should also simulate the tarred seams between each strake by running a graphite pencil down each edge of the strip.

The next two strips will be placed just below the previous one but they should be 1/18" wide.

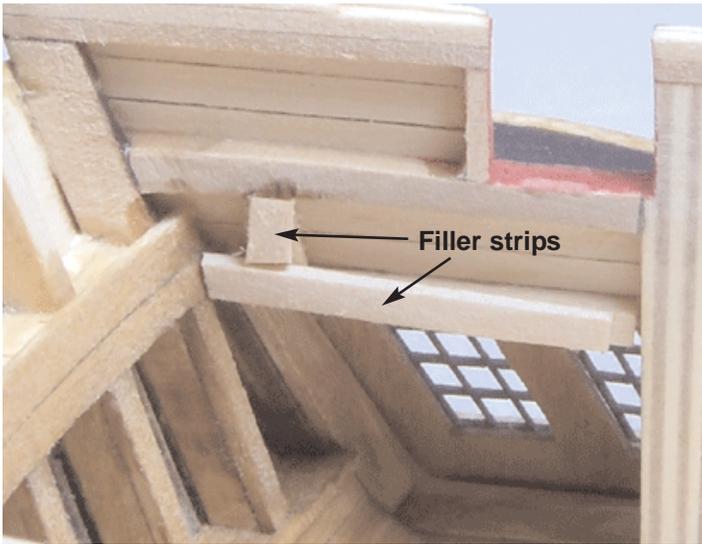
Once completed, add two more strakes of 1/8" x 1/16" strips above the stern lights in the same manner. This will leave the frames between each stern window ready for the next step. Measure and cut 1/8" x 1/16" strips to fit over the

stern frames. This will finish off the internal stern planking. You might choose to add a 1/16" x 1/16" strip along the bottom of the stern lights. This molding will add a nice detail. Simply round off the outside edges to create a nice profile on the strip before you glue it into position. The top edge of the strip should fit flush with the top of the window sills.

Prepare the bulwarks before you start planking...

This model of the Confederacy was designed to show a fully framed quarter deck and forecastle deck. In order to make sure that the deck beams for the quarter deck and forecastle are placed the same height off of the gun deck, extreme care should be taken while planking the bulwarks in this chapter.

Before you begin, it will be necessary to glue a few filler strips against the bulwarks at the bow and stern. The filler strips will give you a surface to glue to bulwark planking onto in these areas. At the stern, you will need to place a strip along the top of the entrance to the quarter galleries. This strip should be the same thickness as your bulkhead extensions. You can use 1/16" x 1/8" strips. Once glued into position you can fair these filler strips to match the inboard shape of the hull. Another small length of wood is also

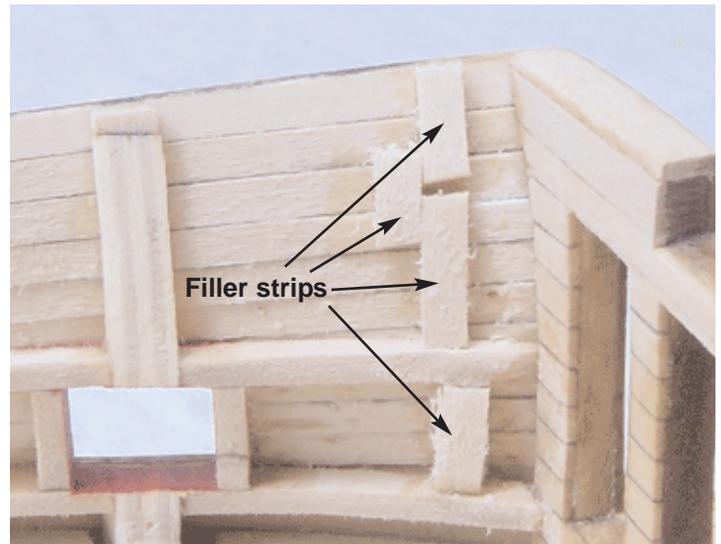


needed between this strip and the quarter deck gun port sill. See the photo provided that shows these two filler strips glued and sanded.

At the bow, a few filler strips are needed as well. The bulwarks have a distinct curve there so it may be better to add the filler strips in several short pieces. See the photo provided. It doesn't have to look pretty. These strips are purely functional and will be covered up entirely by your bulwark planking. You can see in the photo how four pieces were used on the prototype and staggered to best match the curve (flare) of the bulwarks at the bow. They were sanded afterwards to match the shape and thickness of the bulwarks.

Sheaves for the fixed blocks...

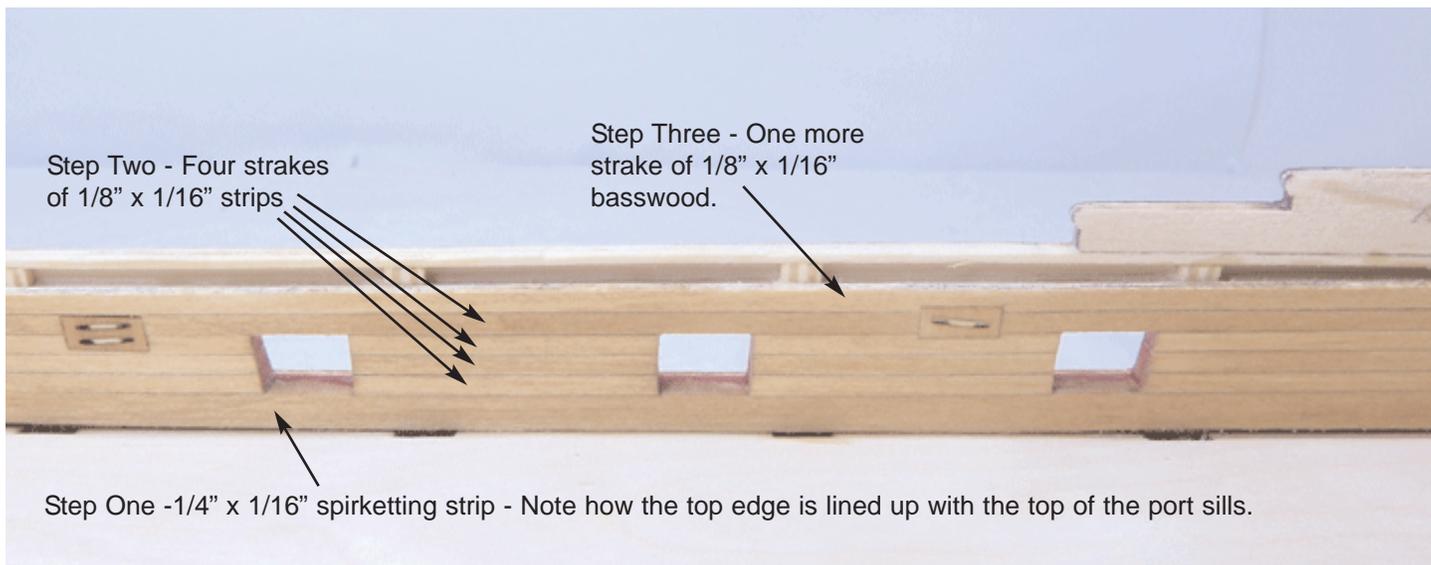
You can add the sheave shells inboard now as well. They should be aligned with the sheaves



on the outside of the hull. Use the corresponding laser cut sheave shells as you did before you planked the outboard side. To help you align them with their outboard partners, you can stick two lengths of wire through the sheave holes you drilled through the bulwarks earlier. This will help you register the inboard shell correctly in position in relation to its other half on the outboard side. Then use some scrap wood to simulate the actual sheave in the slot of the shells. See the photo showing one of the "fixed blocks" completed along the bulwarks.

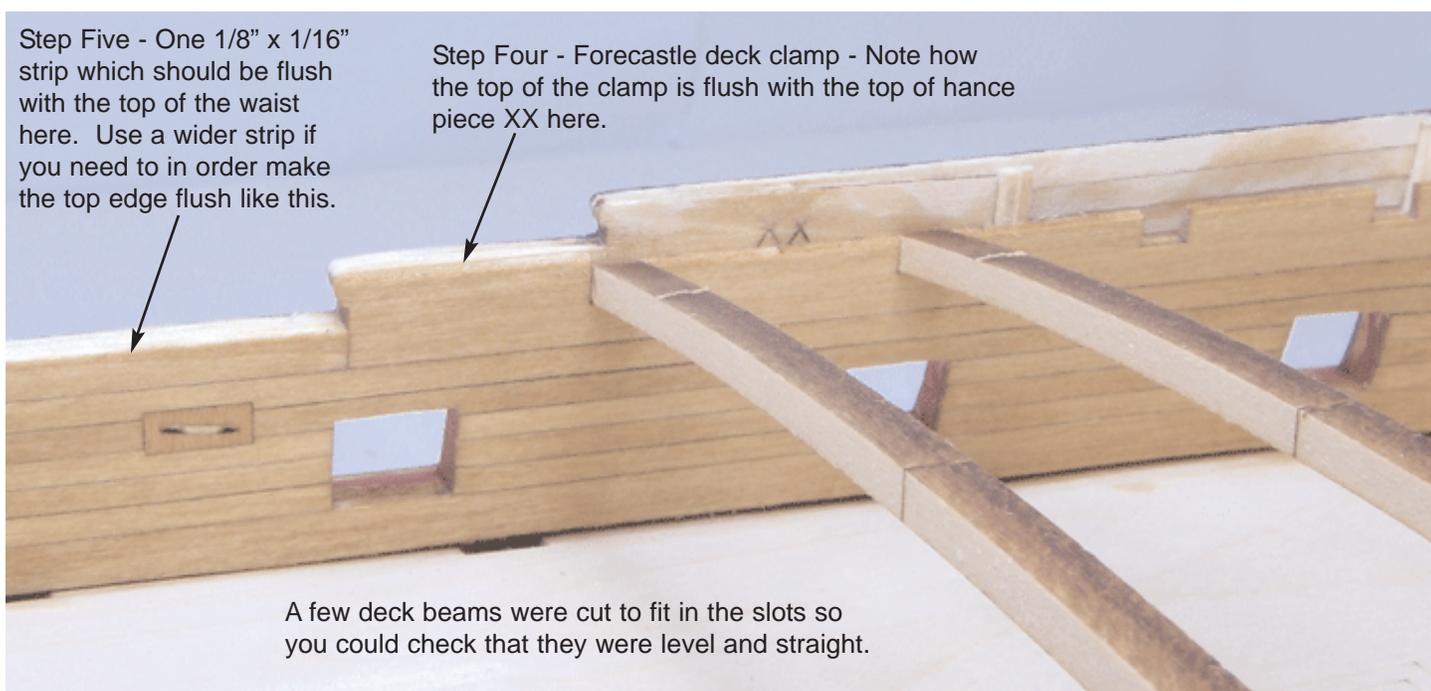
Planking the inboard bulwarks...

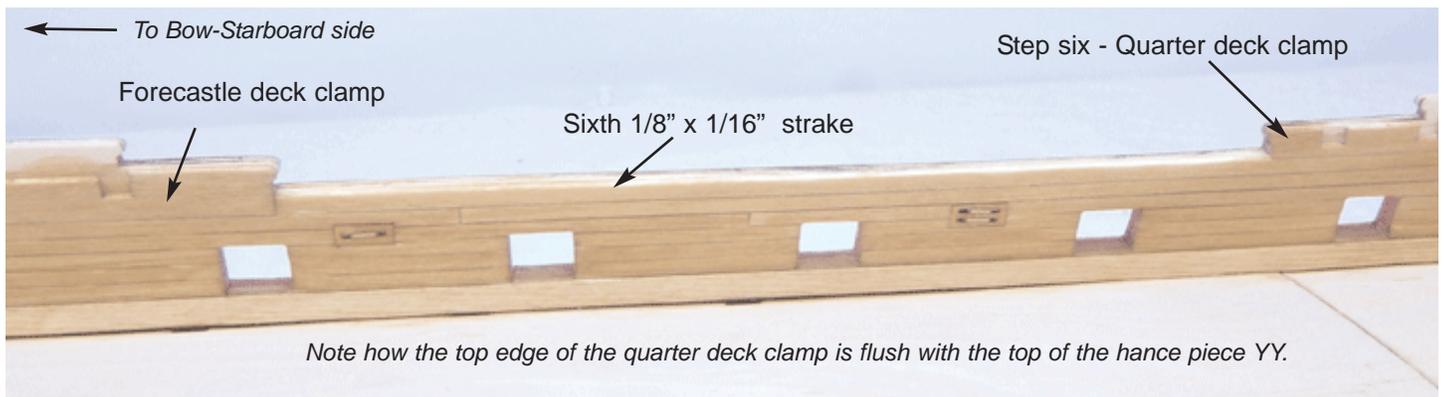
Step 1 - The spirketting – The spirketting is the thicker planking that runs directly below the gun ports inboard. Just like the wales, we will address its thickness in two layers. For now though, only one layer will be added. Use a ¼" x 1/16" strip for your first layer of spirketting. The top edge of this strip should be flush with the top of the gun port sills. This is very important so proceed carefully. If the ¼" strip is too wide (it really shouldn't be) then cut it down until it fits comfortably flush with the tops of the sills. If it is too wide, then that probably means that you placed your gun port sills a little lower than called for. This won't have a huge negative impact on the model other than the fact that your cannons will probably sit "higher" through each port opening. It will however, mean that you might have to make some adjustments in step three.



Step 2 – Four strakes (rows) of 1/8" x 1/16" strips – Add four strakes of planking above the spirketting. Cut them to fit around the port openings as needed. These planks should be cut flush with the sides and top of each port opening. On the prototype, they were cut slightly longer and filed down flush with the port openings afterwards. The bulwarks will eventually be painted red once completed except for the area in the great cabin. Even though this is the case, you should run a graphite pencil along both edges of each plank to simulate the caulked seams. The seams may show through the paint and some folks find this detail appealing. It will not be necessary to treenail these bulwark planks but in reality, they would have been.

Step 3 – You will need to add one more strake of 1/8" x 1/16" planking on top of the previous four. But before you do, it is **REALLY important** that you take some measurements first. Hold a length of planking against the bulwarks at the bow. In addition to this strip, also take the bow deck clamp and position it on top of that planking strip. The bow deck clamp has been laser cut for you. It has notches cut along the top edge to receive the forecastle deck beams. It is crucial that this deck clamp be positioned the proper height off of the deck. It is also crucial that the deck clamp on the opposite side of the hull be at the same height as well. Otherwise your deck beams will be crooked.





The forecastle deck clamps should be lined up perfectly with the forward hance pieces (XX) along the waist. The deck clamp was left a little long on the other end so you could trim it to fit snug against the beakhead. As you hold these two pieces against the bulwarks, check that the fifth plank is wide enough so the top of the deck clamp sits perfectly flush with the top of the hance piece (XX). If it doesn't, you may need to use a wider or narrower plank for that fifth strake. Take your time here. Cut a planking strip to the width you would need to make the top of the forecastle deck clamp sit flush with the hance piece (XX). Then glue that fifth plank into position along the entire length of the hull. See the photos provided.

Step 4 – Glue the forecastle deck clamp in position on top of the fifth planking strip you added in the previous step. It would be a good idea to repeat steps one through four on the other side of the hull before you move ahead to step five.

Before you permanently glue the forecastle deck clamp on the other side, just clamp it temporarily to the bulwarks. Take a deck beam (or just a strip of 3/16" x 3/16" basswood) and test it in a few deck clamp slots. Check to see that the beam is level port-to-starboard. Also check to see if it is perpendicular to the center line of the deck. When you are happy with how the beam sits in the slots of the deck clamps you can glue the forecastle deck clamp into position permanently.

Step 5 – Add one more (your sixth) 1/8" x 1/16" planking strip along the top of the fifth strake you added in step 3. This time the forward end of the plank will butt against the edge of the forecastle deck clamp. It should run the entire length of the hull. The top edge of this strip should be flush with the top of the waist. If the top of the strip doesn't sit flush with the top of the waist you should custom cut a planking strip so it does. It is very important that this plank fit flush with the

View of the two sections of quarter deck clamps glued in position. You can also see the second 1/32" x 1/4" layer of spirketting as described in Step seven.





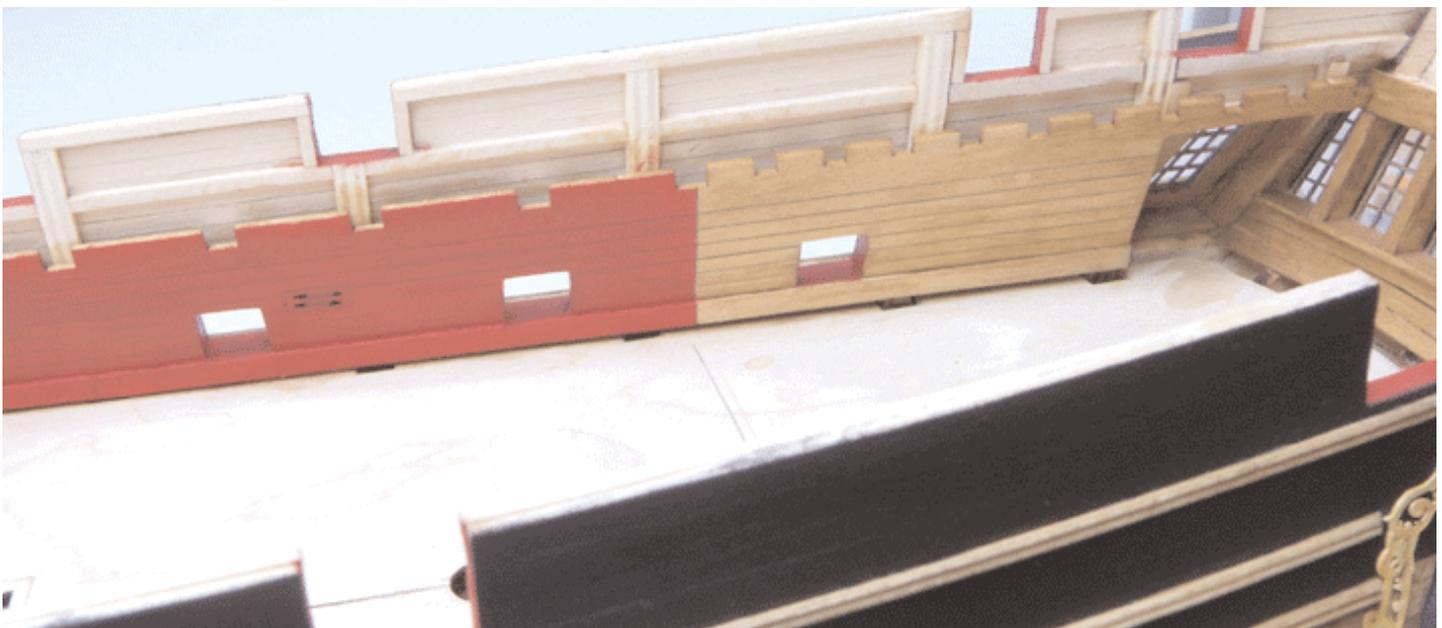
A nice view of the deck with a few beams temporarily placed in the deck clamp notches.

top of the waist. The reason for this is simple. The quarter deck clamp will be positioned with hance piece YY in same way that the forecandle clamp was positioned over hance piece XX. The quarter deck clamp is much longer than the forecandle deck clamp. It has been laser cut in two sections. Take the first section of the quarter deck clamp and test it in position before you commit to gluing this sixth plank into place permanently.

Step 6 - Take the two quarter deck clamp sections and glue them atop the sixth strake you

added in the previous step. The top of the quarter deck clamp should sit flush with the top of the hance piece YY. Sand all of the bulwark planks smooth when you are finished. Be sure to check that the quarterdeck clamps on the opposite side of the hull are consistent port-to-starboard. Clamp them in position temporarily first and place a few deck beams in the notches to see if they are level and perpendicular to the center line.

Step 7 – Add the second layer of spirketting. With the bulwark planking finished for the time





being, glue a $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{32}$ " strip on top of the first layer of spirketting you added in step one. Be sure to align the top of this second layer with the top of each gun port sill just like you did for the first layer. Soften the top edge of the spirketting so it doesn't have a hard edge. Just run some sand paper down the top of it to knock off/round off the sharp edge.

Step 8 – Paint the bulwarks red. The bulwarks in the great cabin will be left natural and was stained "Golden Oak" on the prototype. There is a laser etched line across the false deck which delineates the bulkhead for the great cabin. This line should fall directly beneath the quarter deck beam above it. Place a $\frac{3}{16}$ " x $\frac{3}{16}$ " strip in the deck beam notches above that line and verify that it is indeed directly beneath the beam. If it is not, then redraw another line to reference the bulkhead for the great cabin so it is actually centered under that beam. Then continue that line up the unpainted bulwarks to the beam notches. This will give you a line marking where you should stop the red paint along the bulwarks. You can see this in the photo provided.