

## Chapter Fourteen **The cap rail details**

**The timberheads** - Now is time to add those details to the top of the cap rail. You can see the timberheads in the photo above (left). There are five on each side of the hull. The first is slightly taller than the others. This is the timberhead that butts up against the cathead. All of the timberheads are made using a strip of basswood 3/32" x 1/8". Shape the tops just like you did for the posts on the fife rail. They are shaped slightly different but the methods for making them are the same. You can use the plans as a guide for their shape and length.

Start by making a stop cut all around the diameter of the timberhead. Use a sharp #11 blade in your hobby knife to score this 1/64" deep cut around the top of the basswood strip. Then slice down toward this stop cut at an angle which will create the desired shape. To finish it up simply sand a chamfered edge all around the extreme top edge of the timberhead. It is easier to shape the end of the timberhead on a long basswood strip that you can hold comfortably in your hands. When it has been shaped to your liking just cut it free from the strip. Use the plans as a guide to find the correct length. You will notice that the bottom of each timberhead should be cut at an angle so it rests on top of the cap rail vertically. If the bottom is not angled properly the timberhead will look like its leaning over rather than being an extension of the ships frames. They should be perfectly vertical. They will be centered along the cap rail. The 1/8" wide side of the timberhead should face outward. Paint them black when you are finished.

**The stern davits** — The davits at the stern are laser cut from a 1/8" thick sheet of basswood. After sanding them a little bit you should simulate two sheaves on the outboard end of each davit. You can make them just like you did on the catheads earlier in the project. See the photo provided. Test fit the catheads in position at the stern. You will quickly see that the transom prevents you from being able to rest them atop the cap rail. You will need to either notch the transom to accommodate the davits OR notch the davits on an angle so they fit properly over the transom. Either way would be good, but you should choose the method you are most at ease with. You can see in the other photo provided that the transom was notched on the model prototype. A sharp #11 blade was used. Once again make a stop cut along the top of the transom where

the inside edge of the davit will fall. Don't go too deep. Even though this stop cut will need to be about 1/8" deep you should cut it a little at a time. Use the davit as a guide to draw a reference line on the transom so you cut the notch at the proper angle. The davit should be centered on top of the cap rail.

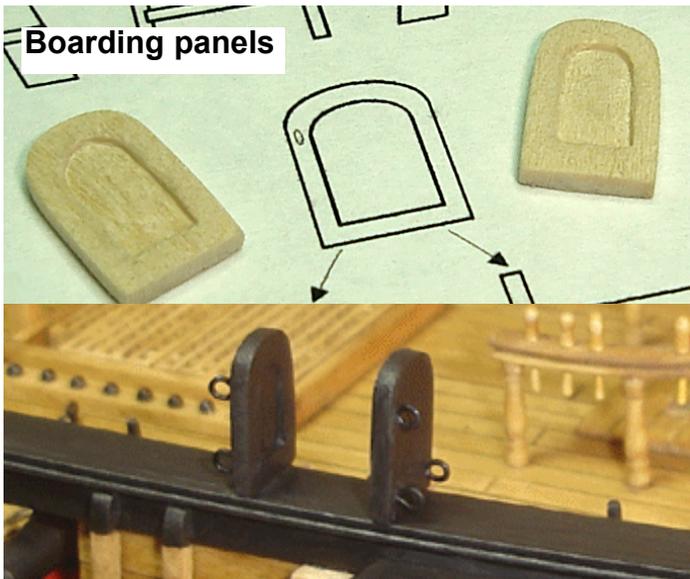
Once you have your first stop cut along the top of the transom, you can cross cut towards that stop cut. The stop cut will prevent you from over shooting your reference line. The first sliver of transom should pop free after cross slicing a sliver towards the stop cut. Proceed in this manner only removing a small sliver or shaving with each cross cut. You will need to make your stop cut deeper from time to time but remember not to go too deep. This process should go slowly and cautiously. You don't have to remove very much so take your time. Before you realize it the notch will be level with the top of the cap rail. Glue the davits into position and fill any gaps between them and the transom with some wood filler. Paint the davits black as shown. To finish them up glue a 5mm cleat on top of each stern davit as shown on the plans.



**Transom notched out to receive the davits**



**Stern davits in place, The cleats have not been glued into position yet.**



**Boarding Panels** — The boarding panels are the two supports that form the opening between the hammock netting along the cap rail at mid ship. They are positioned above the ladder inboard. These boarding panels were laser cut for you. You can use them as is but thin them down a little bit OR you could carve them on one side to give them a raised panel/molding edge. You should give it a try. The worse that could happen is you won't like them. If that should happen just throw them away and make some new ones. Its an easy shape to cut from a wood sheet.

Trace the profile of the molding around the boarding panel and score it with a sharp blade on this line. This will be your stop cut. Then slice back towards this stop cut with a micro chisel/flat blade. Three eye bolts should be glued into pre-drilled holes on one side of the boarding panel. You will seize the rigging line for the hammock netting to these eye bolts. Paint them black when you are finished and glue them on top of the cap rail when you're done. Be careful to position the port and starboard sides in the same location opposite one another.

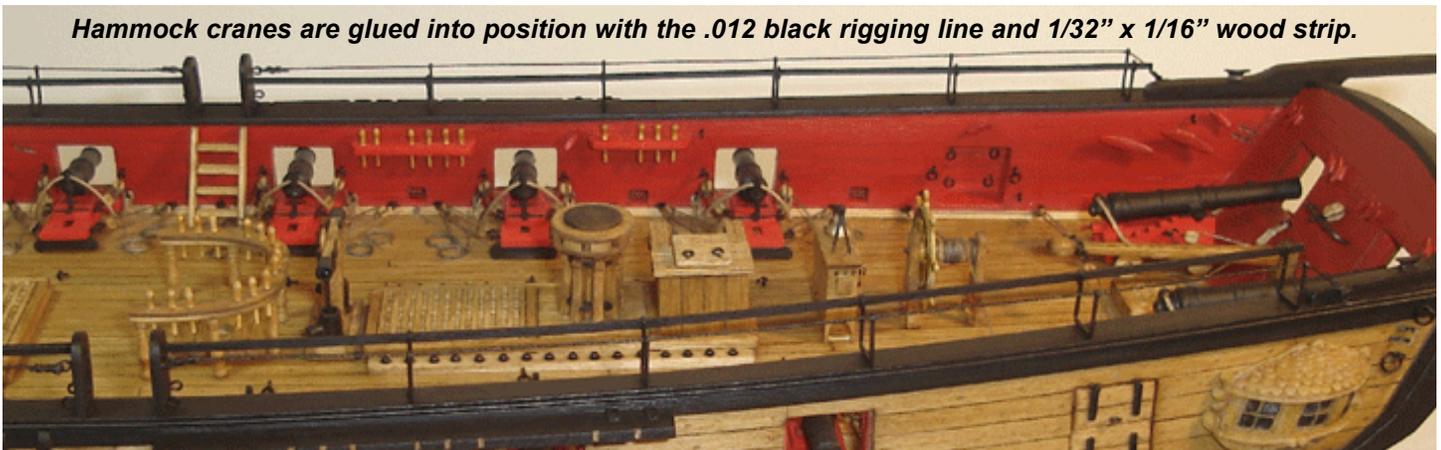
**Hammock Cranes** — Paint the photo etched hammock cranes black before you remove them. Cut them free leaving the bottom about an 1/8" long which will be inserted into a pre-drilled hole on top of the cap rail. Position the

hammock cranes along the cap rail as shown on the plans. There are ten on each side of the hull. The rings on the outside edge of the hammock cranes are positioned so they face outboard. They will bend easily so be careful not to damage them. When they are all in position you can cut a 1/32" x 1/16" basswood strip to length. This strip should be glued into the slot of each hammock crane along the inboard side. The end of the strip should butt up against the side of the boarding panel. See the photos provided. The other end of the strip should extend 1/4" beyond the last hammock crane. Then run a length of .012 black rigging line through the rings on the outboard arms of each hammock crane. One end of the line should be seized to the eye bolt on each of the boarding panels. The other end is seized to another eye bolt. Insert that eye bolt into a pre-drilled hole in the cap rail adjacent to the last hammock crane. Be careful to apply just the right amount of tension so you don't pull the boarding panel off of the cap rail. It should be tensioned only enough so the line is not loose and sagging between any of the hammock cranes.

**The hammock netting** — The next step would be to lash the netting to the hammock cranes. This is a finicky process so take you time. Start off by cutting a strip of netting about 2 Ω" wide as long as you will need it. Bend it in half along its length. Gently insert it into the hammock cranes. You can use the eraser-end of a pencil to push it down into position. Make sure the pattern of the netting is running evenly across the cap rail and not twisted. When you are satisfied with its placement lash the ends of the netting to the last hammock crane. Tie it off with some black sewing thread. Tie it off on each of the arms on that last hammock crane. Then lash the other end to the eye bolts on the base of the boarding panels. Don't stretch the netting because it will distort its shape. Make sure the strip of netting is the correct length so you won't have to stretch it.

The netting should be somewhat secured now. Place a scrap piece of cardboard into the hammock crane so you can see the top edges more clearly. Trust me on this one. It will make your eyes bug out after a while if you don't. The cardboard makes it easier to focus on the top edge of the netting since it blocks out all of the deck fittings and distractions that can be seen through the other side. Start by carefully trimming the netting to the top of the rigging

*Hammock cranes are glued into position with the .012 black rigging line and 1/32" x 1/16" wood strip.*



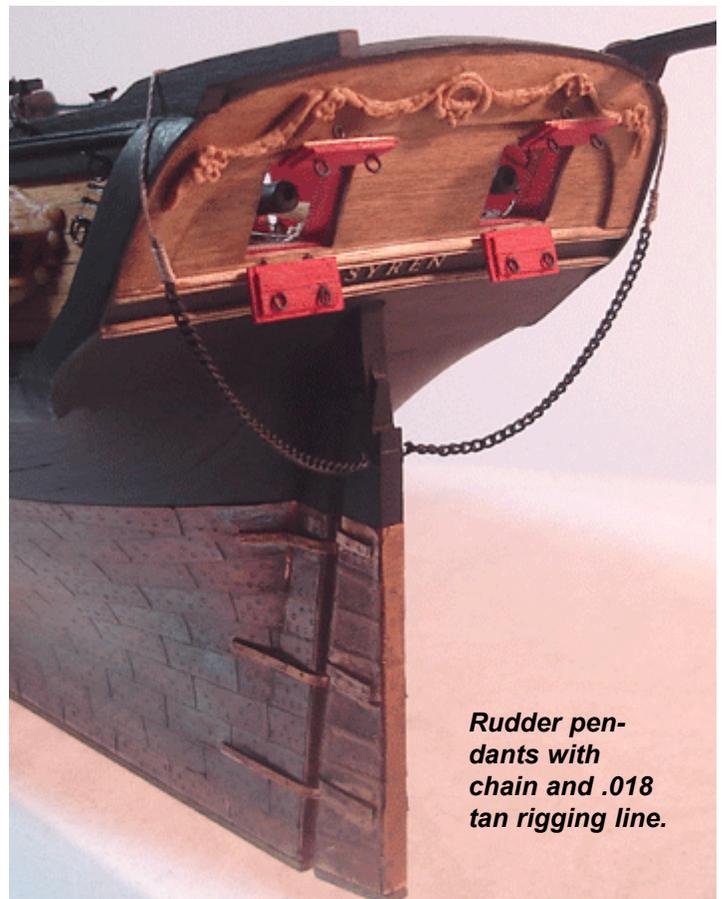
*Trimming and securing the netting into place with small knots. Apply a drop of CA afterwards.*



line you ran through the cranes. Be very very careful not to cut through that line. Use a small pair of scissors. They sell some very tiny hobby scissors which cut flush to any surface. Model Expo sells a few that are very suitable (SCI105, NS450, SC1338).

Only trim between one or two hammock cranes at a time. Then lash the netting to the rigging line in three places between each pair of cranes. Apply a tiny drop of CA glue to each knot and trim off the excess. When you're finished securing the outside of the netting you can turn the model around and do the same thing on the inboard side. This time trim the netting down to the top of the wood strip and then lash the netting to the strip between each pair of hammock cranes. When you are all done touch up the knots and hammock cranes with some black paint. The CA will leave some shiny spots on the rigging which is not desirable so paint over them to conceal it.

**Rudder Pendants** — To complete this chapter the rudder pendants can be added to the model. The pendants helped to secure the rudder if it lifted free from the ship during rough weather. It was also used to steer the ship in the unfortunate event that the tiller was shot away during battle. The rudder pendant is made by seizing some .018 rigging line to the end of a blackened chain. The chain can be cut to length as well by first attaching the last link to the eye bolts on the rudder. Let the chain hang free so you can see how it drapes. It shouldn't have too much of a drape to it or be too taut. When you are satisfied with how it looks cut the chain as desired. Then seize the rigging line to the end of the chain. The loose end of the line is taken up over the stern davits and is belayed to a cleat on the inboard side of the transom. Check the belaying plans for details. Finish it off by placing a rope coil on the cleat. See the photo provided.



*Rudder pendants with chain and .018 tan rigging line.*