

8/31/15

## Young America 1853 – POB 1:96

### Part 17 – Bottom Planking

I have mentioned a number of times that the 1:96 POB version shown in these posts was constructed as a demonstration model for the book (now available from SeaWatch). After reaching this stage in the build, the text in the book applies equally to both models and the same methods apply to complete either model. For all of that subsequent work, the 1:72 model was used in the descriptive photos to avoid confusion and the excessive space requirements to show both. Although I believe the book describes both versions well, I thought that anyone wanting to build the POB version would find the many pictures I was taking useful and interesting. For that reason (and because I was having fun with this version) I decided to take it to a further state of completion and post pictures of that work here.

There is no bottom planking on the fully framed model, but this version would clearly require full planking to cover the bulkheads and spacers. The first picture shows the first several strakes above the thick garboard being installed.



I used hard maple for all this planking. The picture shows typical clamping. Thumb tacks proved very useful and easy to use on this work. The soft pine spacers between bulkheads allowed these to be pushed in by hand but some required tapping with a hammer. The clamps were used to close the planking joints in the very lowest strakes.

The next picture shows the planking being levelled off next to the thicker garboard using a flat #0 cut riffler, one of my favorite tools for this kind of work.



The bottom planking is 4" thick above the garboard. I ripped the planks to 5" to allow for some smoothing out and some finish sanding. Since all of the planking on this model would likely be painted or metal sheathed, I dispensed with pre-painting the edges of the planks and the use of dark glue. The next picture shows some work near midship.

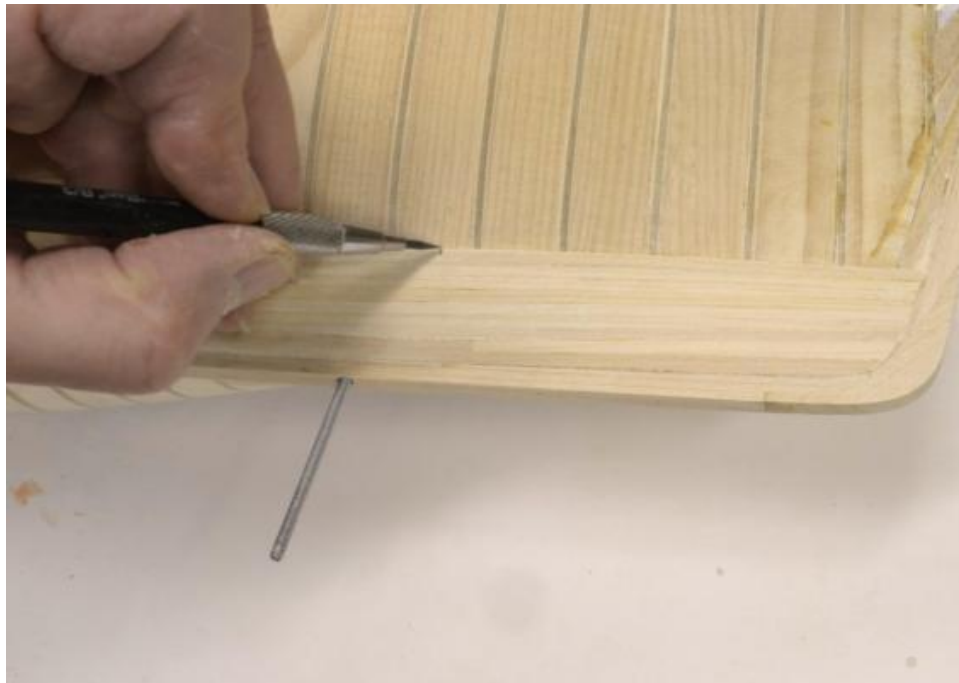


Drawing pins also work well in the pine substructure as shown in the next picture, but in general I used thumb tacks. The type with plastic covered heads are best. With the tapping in and prying out the attrition rate on thumb tacks was high.



The clamp shown at the stem applies quite a lot of pressure to hold the “hooding ends” tight in the rabbet.

As planking begins to proceed upward, additional strakes need to be cut in at the ends so that the planking will eventually match the sheer of the wale above. I began inserting these - as shown in the following pictures – when the lines of planking began to appear drooped at the ends when viewed from the side. In the first picture the cutting in point is being marked.



In the next picture the installed plank is being pared back to one-half its width while preserving a fair line forward.



In the next picture the partial strake has been fitted and is, itself, being marked for another cut in strake.



In the next picture that strake is being glued in place.





Although difficult to see in this last picture, the same process was applying at the stern.



At about this point, work on the lower planking was discontinued until later and the focus shifted to the upper works where much work awaited.