

10/10/15

## Young America 1853 – POB 1:96

### Part 23 – Mooring Bitts, Boomkins

Before moving on to the hull planking, I decided to work on some structural details topside. The first of these chores was to install the aft mooring bitts and the horizontal timbers – boomkins - that extend outside of the hull to support the main yard braces and some other rigging.

Because the plywood bulkhead spacing along the poop deck does not correspond to the actual poop deck framing, some surgery was needed to fit these structures. In the first picture a slot is being cut into the top of bulkhead 48 to fit one of the aft mooring bitts.



The next picture shows the slot being chiseled out on the other side.



In the next picture the two after bitts of the pair are being glued in. They will be cut down to size and shaped later.



With these in place, wood chocks were fitted to both sides of the installed bitts and between bulkheads 48 and 46 – to secure the forward bitts of each pair. The forward bitts are being glued in place in the next picture.



A temporary pine spacer was placed between the bitts to provide correct spacing for the horizontal boomkins. Note the height of the outboard planking around the poop. This will permit the deck planking – specifically the margin plank - to be set flush with the top of these planks. This joint will be covered by the wide “fancy rail” at the top of the side.

In the last picture the outer wood chocks and the outer planking have been notched and the boomkins fit between them. These too, will be cut to length and shaped later.



The spacing between the bitts is actually smaller than the size of the boomkins, so they had to be mortised to fit into the allotted space.

This last picture shows supporting chocks for the mizzenmast installed – at the top left of the photo. Because the bulkhead spacing is on main frame lines (Stations) only, there are no intermediate beams, carlings or headers for support of the various above-deck structures. Wood spacers, chocks, etc. have been put on the drawings for this purpose and will be installed in the next part.