

10/14/15

## Young America 1853 – POB 1:96

### Part 25 – Hull Planking

The next task on the model was the hull planking. As with the topside planking, it began with the curved strakes around the stern. In the first picture the planksheer rail has been scraped to its profile, boiled for an hour or so and clamped in position around the stern.



Screw clamps were used for this piece. It is not only curved around the stern but also twisted to be horizontal and not tilt downward. Straight-grained maple was used for all the bottom planking. Its flecked grain will be hidden by paint and metal sheathing. You will note in this picture that the topside planking above the planksheer was not yet installed. This would, of course, be installed before extending the rail forward.

In the next picture that rail has been allowed to dry and then glued in place and the next strake has been boiled and clamped for drying.



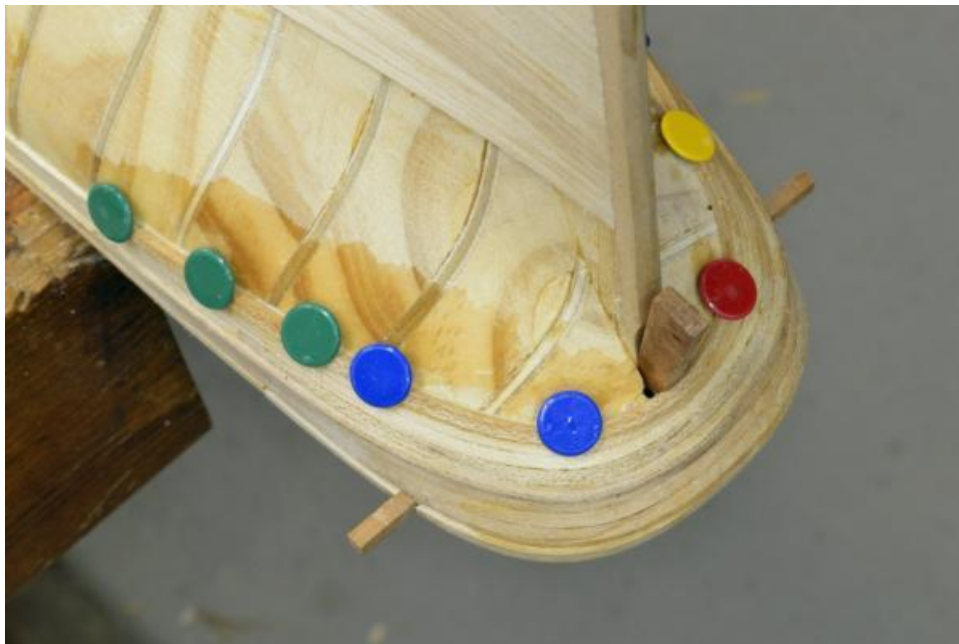
The strake shown above is also highly twisted to conform to the almost horizontal counter at this point. When planks are boiled it is essential that they dry thoroughly and shrink back to normal size. Premature gluing will result in shrinkage gaps between strakes. Waiting for these boiled strakes to dry is time consuming, so other work was done in parallel as shown in the next picture.



In the above picture the planking is proceeding up from the bottom in parallel with the work at the stern counter. The next picture shows the fourth and final curved stern plank clamped and tacked in place for drying.



The thumb tacks and the wedge against the sternpost serve to keep this strake tight against its neighbors. In the picture the strakes above have been trimmed by sanding - after drying and before gluing to fit up tightly with the previous planks. They were slightly oversized initially to allow for this final fitting.



In the next picture this fourth strake is being glued in. The hull is wet from washing off excess glue. The thumbtacks used here have plastic coated heads and are the preferred type. The plastic helps cushion them and reduces damage to the planks. The plastic also prevents wood discoloration caused by wetting uncoated metal heads.

The next picture – taken at the same time – shows the progress of lower planking. To keep the plank in fair lines, stealers (dropped strakes) were used as needed. Some of the process for this will be shown in the next post. It is thoroughly described in the book.



The next picture shows straight planking below the planksheer rail being glued down. The solid soft pine hull allows hammering down of the tacks – making pinning down easy.



In the next picture a screw clamp is being used to close the gap between strakes. This can only be done where there is something for the clamp to grip – in this case the top of the side.



In the next part the remaining planking on this side will be described.