

10/18/15

Young America 1853 – POB 1:96

Part 27 – Completing the Lower Hull Planking

Installing all this 6-7" wide planking over the entire hull – at least on the starboard side – was a long slog, but I did enjoy seeing it progress to completion. In the first picture, the unplanked area is shrinking. At this stage the focus was on taking it to the point where one last full-sized plank would just fit into the remaining space left for it to complete the job.



Getting that last space to come out to a 7" opening with parallel sides involved some planning in the placement of the dropped strakes that were necessary both fore and aft. The next picture shows the method I used for setting points where dropped strakes butt into the previous plank.



I prefer to mark these on the actual work based on the as-built situation rather than try to draft complex planking plans. The method I use is thoroughly described in the book, so I will only summarize it here. In the picture a gauge is being used to mark the point where just enough room is available for some number of full-width planks. This gauge was made by gluing strips of plank to a slip of paper. The strip was slid along the opening until one of the lines coincided with the edge of the installed planking. At these points two strakes will become the width of one – by notching the installed strake on a taper back to the last point and tapering the new plank to fit. All of these points were marked then later re-marked to make any readjustments as planks were installed. This is a simple process that works very well. I used it on my *Victory* model, *Naiad* and both *Young America* versions – for internal and external plank.

In the next picture the gap is narrowing further and the placement of dropped strakes is becoming more critical.



In the picture the narrow space to the left will just accommodate one strake with a taper to half width at the forward end of the opening. The next picture shows the space left for the last plank at the stern.



At this stage I was regretting using some slightly darker maple for some of the planks - even though all is intended to be painted. In the next picture this plank has been installed and all that remains is the closing piece near midship.



In the next picture that piece is being pressed down into place in a tight fit that required no pinning. A little tapping with a hammer helped.



Finally, the completed planking of the bottom on the starboard side.



And from the stern quarter.



The last picture shows the completed lower planking on the port side down to about midway into the wale. There are 21 strakes of 6" wale planking on the ship. The lower part of the hull was left unplanked on this side to show the method of POB framing used.



Even though this model initially started out as a demo of the POB framing only, I got a lot of satisfaction in taking it to this further-than-intended stage and eventually went a bit further. Next step was to install the channels.....next time.