

11/16/15

Young America 1853 – POB 1:96

Part 33 – Main Deck Planking continued

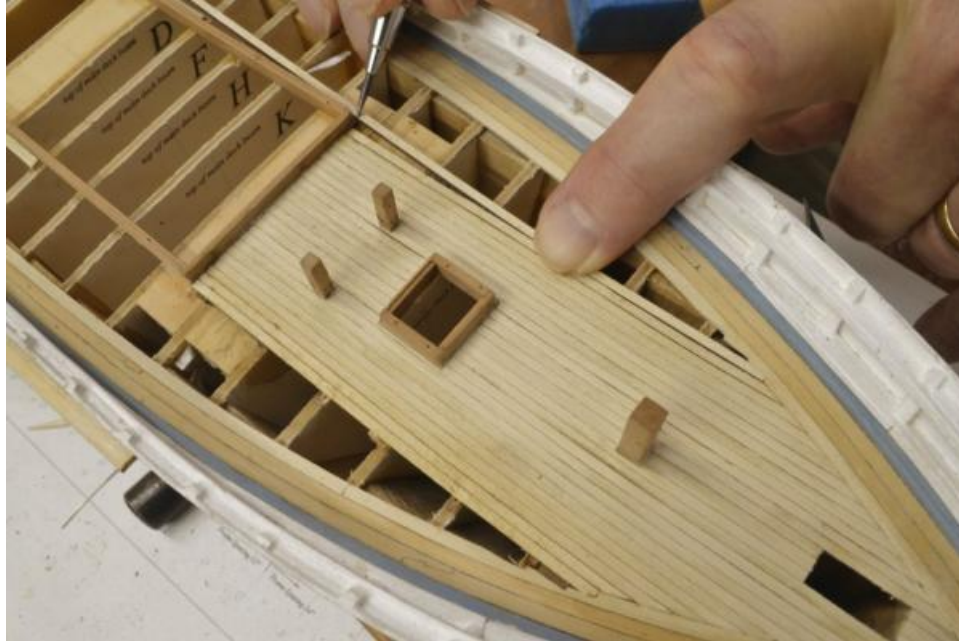
Completing the deck planking on each side involved fitting the straight parallel planking to the wide margin plank inside the binding strakes and waterways. These members follow the curve of the side. The waterways and binding strakes were structural. The curved margin planks allowed the deck planks to be cut in without damaging the structural inner binding strakes.

After the angles of the plank end cuts reached about 60 degrees, further tapering would result in feather edges at the ends that could not be caulked. Forty-five degrees is probably a better guide, but I used sharper angles on these joints that would be completely hidden by the forecastle deck. In the first picture, loose planks are being used to mark the points at which the full plank widths intersect the edge of the margin plank.



These marks define the cutting in points. At each of these a knife or chisel cut was made into the margin plank perpendicular to the deck plank ends and one-half of the plank width. The shapes of the required plank tapers can be seen in this picture. Note that the joints get longer going aft, as the curvature of the side becomes less.

In the next picture the end has been formed on a plank and it is being marked for cutting out further aft where it meets the main cabin coaming.



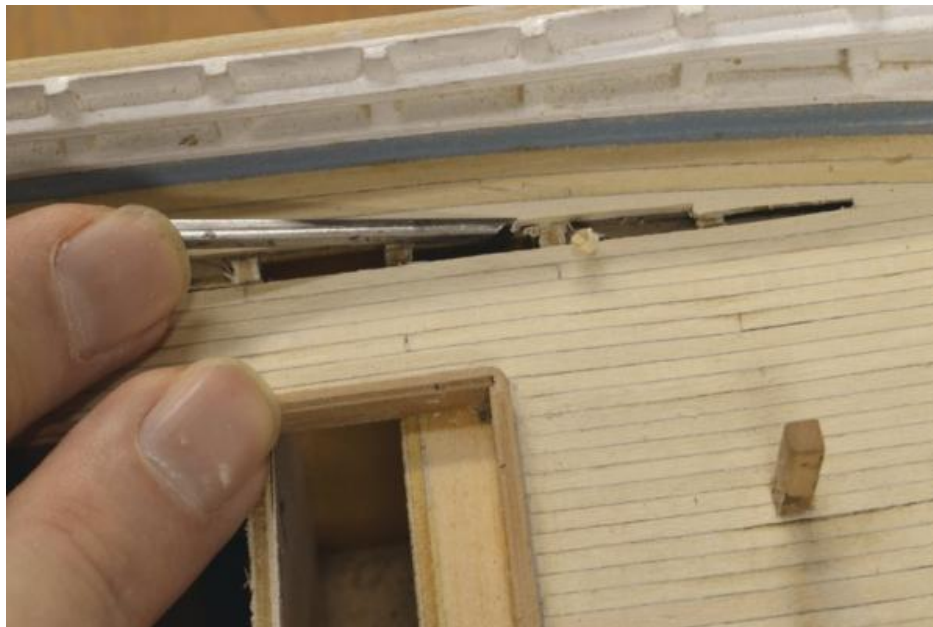
The next picture shows the plank ends under the forecastle.



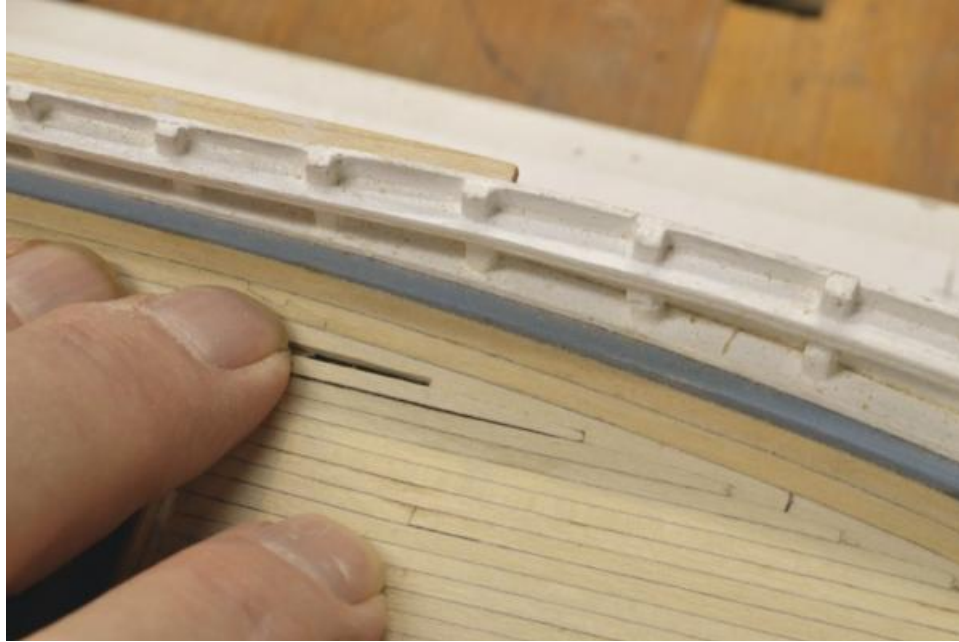
In this picture the Samson post knee has been installed and the breast beam made and laid across the bulwarks. The bowsprit opening has been enlarged to the required 36" width. In the next picture the main deck planking is approaching completion.



The method of cutting the long joint tapers is shown in the next picture.



I cut the joints while there is sufficient space for the chiseling - before the adjacent planks were installed. The chisel is a long, straight, model-sized paring chisel – one of my most frequently used and most essential tools. Directions for making these chisels were included in *Naiad Volume I*. In the next picture a shaped plank end is being fit into its joint.



For best visual results the pared side of these planks should be painted like the inner edges – to show the caulk line. I did not do the on this demo model – relying solely on the dark glue to highlight the joint.

The next picture shows the very last piece – with a very longer taper – about to be installed.



Except for the uncovered hatches, the crude POB framing under the deck was now completely covered – a moment I was waiting for. In the next picture the last plank is in.



The deck is still wet in this picture from washing off excess glue. When completely dry, the deck planking was leveled where necessary using the flat rifflers and then sandpaper. I will cover the methods used for fastenings and final deck finish in the next part.