

11/25/15

## Young America 1853 – POB 1:96

### Part 35 – Forecastle Deck Beams

The POB model has some real deck beams to install – not many – just enough to introduce the method used on the framed model to POB builders. The method I used to make the forecastle beams – as well as the breast beam at the poop shown earlier – was very similar to that used on the framed model, but somewhat simpler. It begins with a template for the round up of the beams. In the first picture, a copy of one of the bulkhead patterns has been pasted to plywood and the curve of the deck is being sanded on the edge.



Since the round up radius is the same for every frame and every deck, any one of the patterns could be used. The template was then used to trace the round up on to a piece of maple. The curve was then sanded on to this piece as shown below.



Using a compass the depth of the forecastle beams was then drawn along the curve. A blank that will be sliced into several beams was then cut off along this line, allowing some excess for sanding.



I then used the thickness sander to impart the final thickness on the underside of the beams as shown in the next picture.



The thickness sander does a great job with this. The depth is uniform and parallel to the top face. It is also very fast. Without a thickness sander, I would have cut very close the line with the scroll saw, then sanded the underside by hand – not too arduous a task. The individual beams were then ripped off –top side down! – on the circular saw as shown in the next picture.



The last picture shows the six maple beams and the breast beam, for which pear was used since it will be exposed and not painted.



As can be seen, I made these beams long before they were needed - before the planking of the main deck. Cutting and fitting of the beams will be described in the next part.