

Thank you for purchasing the Swan Class Masting Package! We hope that the package will be a great addition to you build.

If you are a new customer to HobbyMill, here are a few points about your wood package and our manufacturing process that may be of interest. First, our shop is environmentally controlled with temperature and humidity gages spread throughout. I do not feel that we can achieve acceptable dimensional tolerances if the temperature and humidity are constantly changing. When our castello boxwood arrives, its moisture content is always too high to be useable. That is why each board is numbered, moisture content logged, and stickered for up to one year until it has stabilized at the proper moisture content for milling.

Our milling process of castello boxwood, also known as lemonwood, is done in small batches and involves up to twenty steps. The sanding step alone requires up to 40 passes through the sander with the last few passes removing only a few thousandths of an inch. With each pass there is a specific rotation process to assure that the reference surfaces of the part are maintained. All wood has inherent internal stresses and the milling process releases some of those stresses. That is why when milling a seemingly straight piece of wood into smaller pieces, it is not uncommon that some pieces will come out “banana shaped.” We stabilize each component of your package for an additional week after milling and prior to inspection. By then the “bananas” are fully formed and discarded to the kindling box.

Your masting package is designed to be used in conjunction with David Antscherl’s Swan Class Masting Plans in 1:48 scale and his newly released book on the same subject. I attended one of David’s workshops on masting with the primary purpose of assisting me to produce this package and I would highly recommend this workshop as a companion to this product. David uses a chisel to convert square stock into tapered octagonal pieces and eventually into finished masts. A couple things that I took away from his class...

1) You can do most things with a sharp chisel and almost nothing with a dull one; therefore, learn to sharpen a chisel before you start and 2) There will be “OOPS” during your masting build, so that is why there are two complete sets of materials included with your package along with some practice pieces. The practice pieces are random pieces included with each package that were pulled from the manufacturing process because of their color, perhaps slightly undersized, or having a defect.

- The package includes nearly every item on the plans which means that there about 100 pieces covering 80 different sizes.
- Each package contains two full sets of material so there are nearly 200 pieces per package.

- All parts are individually packaged and labeled using the same legend as on the plans. The part numbering on the packaging is a HobbyMill number and does not appear on the plans. Most individual packs contain two pieces; however, in a couple instances instead of two separate pieces there may be sufficient material for 2 masting sets from a larger piece included in your pack.
- There is a selection of additional practice pieces with each set and I would suggest that you start with one of those to hone your skills with a chisel.
- David recommends that the starting square stock be equal to the largest dimension of the mast or spar. For masts this will typically be the dimension at the partners. Your stock has been milled to just a few thousandths oversize of this dimension. Care should be taken when you are sanding not to take too much off; otherwise, the finished mast will be undersized.
- The lengths of all of your stock have been left longer than your finished mast or spar on purpose. This will provide an area to hold and if there is a variation in your stock it will be at the ends. That means that you may need to trim a small piece from both ends prior to construction.
- A fixture to hold your masts or spars when using the chisel has been included with your package. It has different size grooves to accommodate the variety of diameters.
- David used thin plywood to produce his platforms. Included in the package is .015 boxwood sheet stock to make your plywood using 3 layers.
- The crosstrees on the upper masts are actually curved pieces, so sheet stock has been included to produce those parts.
- As a first step, please check the contents of your wood package with your parts list. There should be **77** packs including practice pieces and the construction jig. Note part number Mz05 was duplicated elsewhere and deleted. Please contact us if you are missing any of the items in your package. If you require additional replacement parts, please contact us at hobbymill@cinci.rr.com. Unfortunately we will need to charge you for the additional materials along with shipping.

Thank you again for purchasing one of our products. Please let us know if we can improve on its design or if we can be of further service.

Best Regards,

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