

Jeff Troy

Model Shipways

Wooden ships have charmed modelers and admirers since the first one hit the mantelpiece. Model Shipways makes these projects easier than ever with comprehensive instructions, quality materials and three solid wood hulls.

I built my first Model Shipways kit in 1980. It was the Flying Fish, a large clipper ship model that turned out to be a most enjoyable project. This was an older solid hull version of the famous "Fish," and it came in a long yellow box with parts, plans and instructions that had far greater appeal to seasoned shipbuilders than casual modelers.

Model Shipways has come a long way since those old yellow boxes with the black & white end labels. Their new packaging is eye catching, full color and full box, giving modelers numerous positive messages about the contents. Naturally, the bang for the modeler's buck is *always* the contents, and here is where Model Shipways excels.

In the three solid-hull kits shown here, Model Shipways makes it entirely possible for a good result to be produced. Each of these fine kits includes a comprehensive instruction manual with step-by-step written instructions and



Specifications

Sultana

- Length: 17 inches
- Width: 5 inches
- Height: 5-1/2 inches
- Scale: 3/16"=1' (1:64)

Specifications

Phantom

- Length: 13-1/2 inches
- Width: 2-1/2 inches
- Height: 13-1/2 inches
- Scale: 1/8"=1' (1:96)

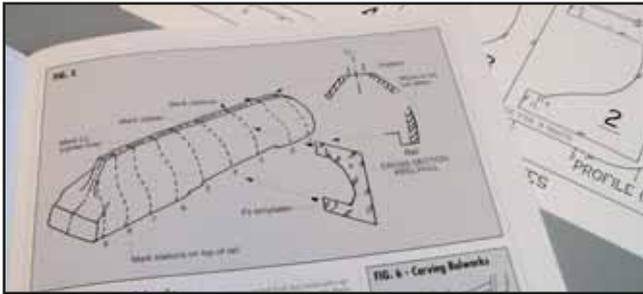
Specifications

Taurus

- Length: 9 inches
- Width: 2-1/4 inches
- Height: 3-1/2 inches
- Scale: 1/8"=1' (1:96)

All Three Kits Include

- Carved, solid wood hull
- Drilled blocks & deadeyes
- Full-size plan
- Cast white metal fittings
- Rigging thread
- Instruction manual
- Brass pins and eyes
- Simulated stripwood deck
- Ship's boat or lifeboat



Model Shipways provides first-class instructional materials with each kit, including an illustrated instruction manual and a set of hull templates..

isometric drawings; a rough-carved, solid basswood hull; simulated deck planking; laser-cut wood parts; cast white metal hatches, companionways, anchors and windlass; rigging thread in appropriate weights and colors, and all the factory-drilled blocks and deadeyes needed to complete the standing or running rigging. The two fully rigged models I examined also provide rolled, full-size plans and a sheet of full-size hull templates.

Model Shipways offers a wide selection of plank-on-frame models, too, from the fully-rigged 28" Rattlesnake to "Old Ironsides," the U.S.S. Constitution. Despite the appeal of these magnificent vessels, first-time ship modelers should be steered toward one of Model Shipways' three solid models. Venturing into ship modeling with the Taurus Steam Towboat, the Phantom New York Pilot Boat or the Colonial Schooner Sultana will all but assure beginners of a better-than-average completed project.

Like me, I'm sure that many of you will also fondly remember the solid hull Model Shipways kits in those long, yellow boxes. However, some of you may not be aware that Model Expo purchased the Model Shipways



Model Shipways offers kits in both the solid hull and plank-on-frame formats. Solid hull models feature carved, basswood hulls with roughly defined bulwarks.

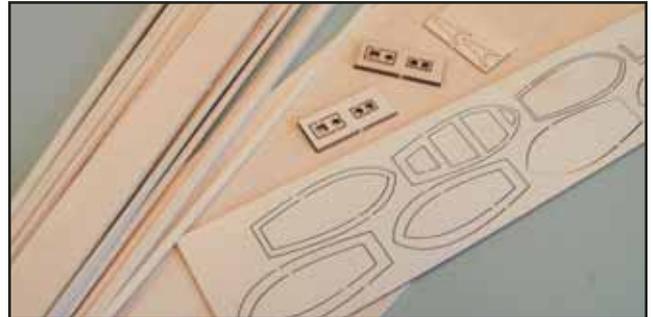
factory in 1984. Since the shift in the company's ownership and direction, a lot more has changed than just the color and shape of the kit boxes.

Many of the original designs have been converted from solid hull to plank-on-frame projects, and several new additions were made to the lineup, including popular, traditional favorites like the Charles W. Morgan, Pride of Baltimore II, an Armed Virginia Sloop and the U.S.S. Constitution.

Although Model Expo has taken every opportunity to improve and ultimately perfect their offerings, they are

also bringing back many of their solid hull models in the original form. The compact yellow boxes will remain a part of history forever, but the Model Shipways Classics line will be identical to the originals in every other way.

If quality sailing ship kits for modelers isn't enough, Model Shipways has several perks for hobby dealers, too.



Wood parts include simulated planking sheets for decks, strip wood for cabin and hull detail, and laser-cut mast caps and assorted accessory parts.



Fittings are plentiful, and come in a combination of cast white metal, copper and brass. appropriate rigging thread is also provided in each kit.

Their Captain's Quarters program is available to dealers who order just one each of their 16 wooden ships kits. CQ dealers get discounts of at least 40 percent, listings on the back of Model Expo Historical Ship Model catalogs, and listings in ad campaigns appearing in national hobby magazines and on the Model Expo Web site.

It's just not possible for anyone to see a masterfully built model ship and not pause to admire it. Sailing vessels are an art form unto themselves, and I would be surprised if there is not a budding ship modeler lying dormant in every RC, railroad and plastics builder you serve.



For more information about Model Shipways and the Captain's Quarters Dealer program, see the ad on page 31, or call Model Expo in Hollywood, Florida, at 800-344-4406. **HM**

Detail is evident in this finished rendition of Model Shipways' Sultana, a Colonial schooner circa 1767.