

# The Baltik



Date	Hours	Comments
2006		
4/5 Aug	5	<p>Apart from research, which proved I could find out nothing about the Baltik, this was the start of this project. The previous owner had completed the deckhouse, and had done it well. Time had damaged it slightly. I will fix it in due course.</p> <p>This was the Malkara show weekend, and I took this kit with me to commence on the rest of the ship.</p> <p>Frame 1 fitted well after sanding but frame 2 was too tight a fit , broke and required re-making from the tracing I had done. <a href="#">Note: lesson was learned from building the Harvey to trace the parts before fitting. Sadly I didn't trace the keel as well. Hopefully I will not have to reconstruct it.</a></p> <p>Frames were badly cut, not being equal on each side and required quite a lot of shaping.</p> <p>Frames 3,4 &amp; 5 were OK after work.</p>
21 Aug	1	<p>Frames were recommenced. Frame 6 was distorted when taken out of its box so had little option but to try to straighten it out overnight. Frame 6 caused quite a problem. Because even though it had been straightened it was manifestly too small, and required re-cutting. Thank the Lord for the tracing. There are no end lines on the plans. I recut it slightly larger than the tracing.</p>
22 Aug	2	<p>Fitted frames 6 – 11 and 12, although the latter is not really a frame. I still had a real problem with frame 6. It was slightly larger than the tracing but was still far too small so had to be redesigned.</p>

23 Aug

5

The frames are all now finished until I check them after the decks are fitted. I then glued the frames in place.



I next fitted the reinforcing blocks. The bow blocks were very badly cut and I had to make up new ones. Note; blocks are 33 & 58mm from the front of the false deck and 262 & 289mm from the stern.



The instructions said that the fitting of the foredeck would be simple and probably didn't even require wetting to shape. OO's. It required a full soaking in ammonia and then considerable bending overnight.

It became very obvious from dry fitting the deck that the frames were really out of kilter being either too large or too small. This is exemplified in frame 3 (from the bow) in the photo. The gap between the top port side of the frame and the edge of the deck required much building up.

24 Aug 2

The next step was to glue the deck to the frames. I was using contact glue. After a good wait to set each surface I attached the deck to the frames. The shape was not too bad but the frames were very thin and would not take pins.

25 Aug 1


As can be seen from the photo above, Velcro was needed to hold the deck down to the frames whilst gluing. This proved to be partly satisfactory even if very time consuming. There was only one real way to fix those still not glued down and that was with super glue with quick setting spray.

27 Aug 4

Re-examination of the frames after fitting the decks showed that on the starboard side 2, 3 & 4 needed adding to and 5, 6 & 7 needed filing down. On the port side 1 needed filling and 2,3,4,5 and 6 need filing down.

28 Aug 2

Continued reshaping frames. 12 is going to prove a problem. It looks as if I might have to scrap the one already fitted and recut one to fit better.

29 Aug	3	Continued reshaping frames.
30 Aug	2	Continued reshaping frames.
1 Sept	4	Finished off frame shaping. They look reasonably good. I think the shape will come up well.
		I then tried to dry fit the bulwarks to see if they had been cut reasonably well because of where I had to start the hull planking.
2 Sept	2	Spent time reading and trying to work out how I am best going to use the short limewood strips. They will obviously have to be staggered.
w/e 2 Sept	6	I spent a lot of time on the internet trying to chase up data on the Baltik. There was nothing overt so I got onto Shipmodels site (thanks David P) and I might get somewhere now. If nothing else I would be delighted to get good plans even if it means I have to start again. Chuck's article on building the Sultana has proved invaluable.
Sept to 5 Oct	65	Detailed notes were not kept because there was pressure to get as far on with the model as possible for the 2006 Expo.
		









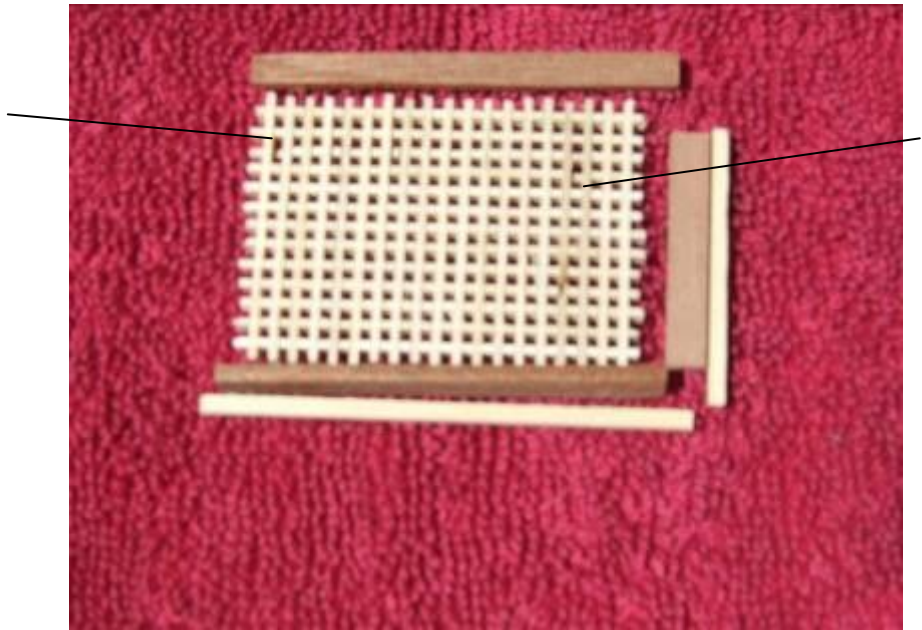
I was lucky enough to find some old limewood strips which were of sufficient length to fit on strip the full length of the model. So I proceeded to apply the

<p>14 – 25 Oct</p>	<p>first skin. I found the stern shape difficult to get right and finished having to fill quite a lot. Obviously my measurements were not as good as I thought. I must remember “measure twice, cut once”.</p> <p>After sanding the hull shape looks quite good, though I will need to do a little filling work on the starboard bow.</p> <p>I cut out a couple of cannon ports and lined one for the Expo. Also I started planking to demonstrate the technique. I was going to prepare the waterway board at the bow so that I could show some juggling. I didn’t have the right material so had to leave it as shown for the time being. None of this proved beyond my normal capabilities.</p> <p>Of course during this period Amanda got married so I was not able to spend as much time as I really needed to get the model to the best stage for the Expo. Nevertheless, it was appreciated and commented upon by a number of visitors. After the Expo we went to the coast for a break. I took some of the deck fittings to start if time became available. The only tools I took were a knife with various blades, surgical clamp, pencil and sanding block. These were not sufficient so I will take a slightly more comprehensive set next time we go away. Time did indeed become available and the work and comments thereon, follow.</p> <p>2.5 <b>Gratings/coamings/toe boards.</b></p> <p>The gratings were badly made so much so that some of the remains between saw cuts had broken off. The material was also cut roughly. It will need considerable sanding and repair. I had a go at fitting the coamings and toe boards. They had been cut incorrectly (too short) so I will have to wait till I get home to get some spare timber.</p>
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2

4.5



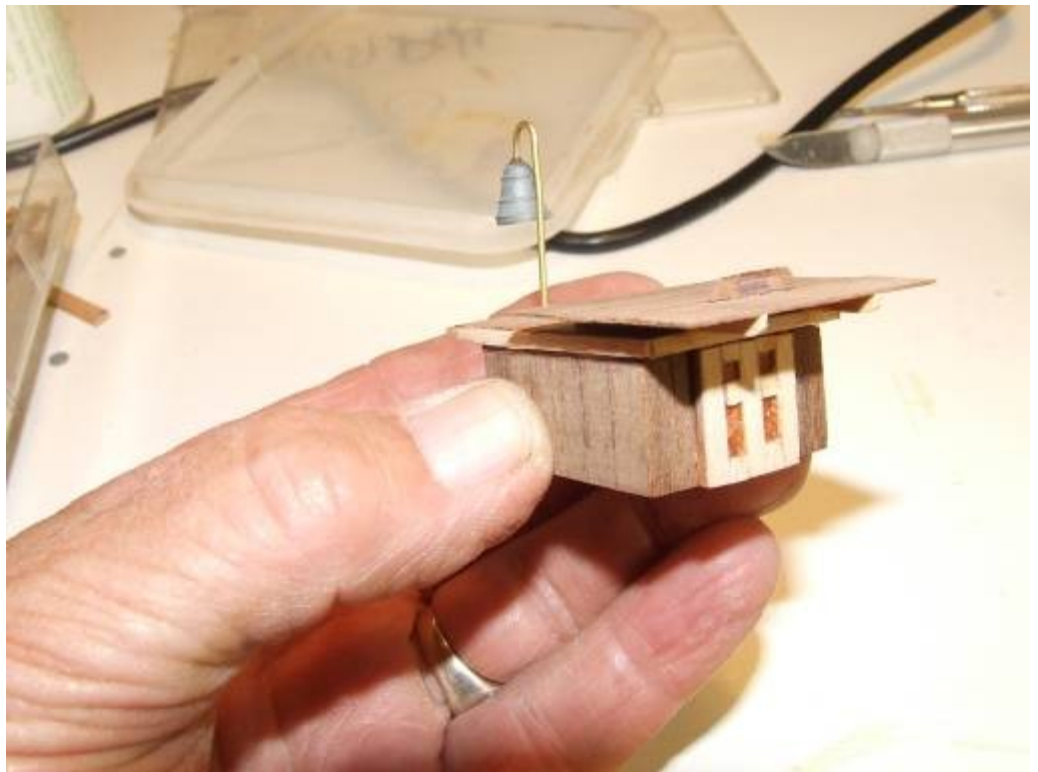
The 2 pointers show where the pieces were already broken. Look along the sides and see how uneven the lengths of the pieces are. They are so flimsy that it was very hard to sand them on the edge without breaking.

#### **Tool cupboard.**

I spent the time building the box only to find that the lid pieces were too short. Again I will have to wait until home.

#### **Companionway.**

Once again it was noticeable that the plans were awful. After much deciphering I did manage to complete this item.





### Windlass

I was somewhat dismayed when I had a look into the kit part for this item. I suggest that this is the worst bit of a kit I have yet seen or been shown. 9 pieces made up the pack and were plain wrong. 4 of them appeared to come from another kit altogether that required capstans. I have therefore decided to build an octagonal windlass from scratch. Little did I realise what I had chewed off. These 4 parts of the windlass are octagonal and two of them are tapered. I managed to get a piece of fairly soft wood and started to try to whittle them down to the correct shape with little success. I somehow couldn't get the sides equal.

29 Oct

1

Completed the tool box and it now looks OK.



The brass rod provided with the kit was rather misshapen so I used a slightly thicker piece.

- 1.5 I then had another go at a windlass. The octagonal pieces are still proving a problem. A milling machine would be ideal, but I don't have one and using a router bit in the drill press is not the answer. I also did some more research into windlasses in general.
- 30Oct 3 Did some more research into scrolls and joggling and went out and acquired things for joggling, scroll and decorating the windlass – pinstripe.
- 2 Nov 2.5 Worked on the windlass again. Still not satisfied with it.
- 8 Nov 4 I did a bit more work on the windlass to try to get it OK but without success. I was not happy with so I thought about how I could go about improving it.



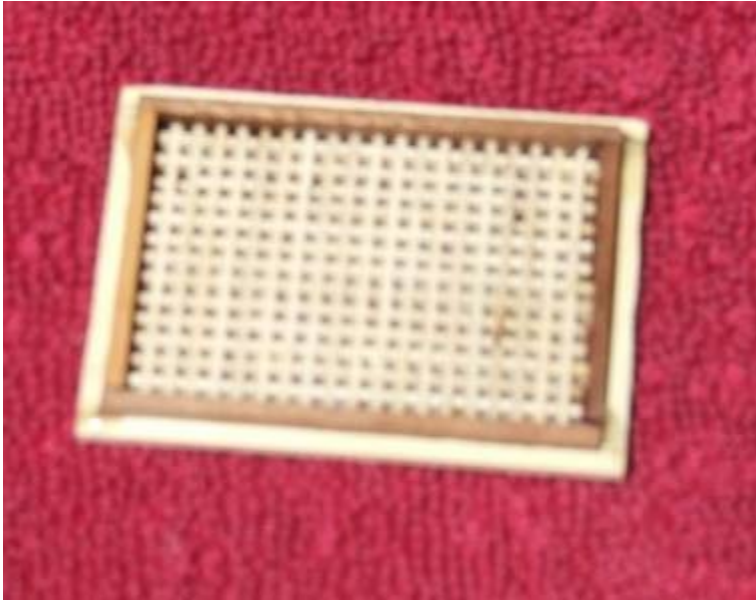



The above was the best I could do from a soft wood.

So I tried a harder wood – walnut, of which I had a nice piece. I thought it rather strange but the harder wood was much easier to ‘carve’ and within about 3.5 hours I had remade it to my satisfaction.



I drilled the holes for the handle to be inserted but because the handle is square I used a copper nail (left over from repairing my old Trailer Sailer – Sinbad,) which happened to be square, to square up the drill holes. I used a few pieces of (car) pinstripe to represent the rope bindings on the drums. I am now satisfied with the result.

10 Nov	.5	Completed the gratings/coamings and toe boards.
		
	3	<p>The finished product doesn't look too bad.</p> <p>The next step is to restart the waterways at the bows into which the planks will be joggled. The one piece part came out satisfactorily and I have done two joggled planks now. There is a lot more work needed on this area, to get it something like OK.</p>
13 Nov	3.5	<p>Continued with the deck planking. I think I am getting the idea of joggling now. The cutting out of the shapes is time consuming so I expect to need another few hours without having started the poop deck, which is straight planking without joggling.</p> <p>I now realise that the waterway was cut too wide. I don't think it will matter in the long run because of the extra bits that have to be added yet. In any case it would be too difficult to replace it now. It would mean replacing all of the planking on the forward part of the deck as well as the waterway itself.</p> <p>I don't expect to have much time for the next few weeks because of Gordon and Linda's visit.</p>
2 Dec	1.5	Continued with the joggling. Not much more to go but I will still need another few hours.
3 Dec	4	Completed the joggling and most of the foredeck planking
5 Dec	1.5	Finished the foredeck planking and marking. It still needs final sanding before varnishing.

12 Dec 31 Dec	1 2.5	Finished the sanding of the foredeck and laid the central plank of the poop deck. Finished the poop deck planking.
	.5	
1 Jan	1.0	<p>Restarted cannon ports. Got one done before the Ayatollah called. 4 more to go.</p> <p>Examination of the shape of the poop deck shows some problems. The two bulwark pieces that extend above the deck are not of equal size, so that part above deck will have to be removed and replaced as required. After that I will have to fit the transom to determine the exact size of the replacements.</p> <p>I filed down the bulwarks on the poop deck successfully and tidied up the stern poop deck planking. I then took out the transom piece (pre-cut) and found it warped rather badly. I soaked it and by tomorrow it should be straight.</p>


3 Jan	1	Transom was straight but I decided to start the second planking. So I re-examined the shape produced by the first planking and adjust as required. I then decided to prepare the garboard strake on each side out of material not supplied in the kit, using some walnut which I got from Scott Mitchell some time ago now. The band saw worked very well giving me a 1.95 mm. strip. This is thicker than the supplied walnut, but this doesn't matter because this strake is customarily made of thicker material than the other planks.
4 Jan	2	I measured out the first garboard strake and shaped it to the required dimensions. I started bending it to the correct position. This will take some more time, yet.
5 Jan	4	Completed shaping the garboard strake. It is still damp so I'll leave it overnight and fit it tomorrow.
6 Jan	3	I glued the strake to the first planking of the hull. I am very satisfied with it.



		I started the port side strake next. I was able to use half of the cut off that I used for the starboard strake so I should get a similar result. I commenced the shaping and got to the stage that required completion of the bending to confirm the correctness of the shape.
7 Jan	3	I soaked the timber overnight so it was ready for steam bending. This worked out satisfactorily and after final shaping I left it to dry out overnight.
8 Jan	2.5	The shaping proved to be satisfactory when dry so I attached it to the hull. It looks fine.



9 Jan	2	<p>As I entered my shed I remembered some words of wisdom given by Michael Pearson, when I was building the Harvey. “Don’t forget the final mounting method before its too hard to do”</p> <p>Having remembered that I looked at the method of mounting included in the kit. I do not like it. I prefer a pedestal type fitting. Making the pedestals was the next task that I commenced on the lathe. I cannot say they are as accurate as machined brass fittings but they will look fine when the painting is finalised.</p>
11 Jan	2	I am using a Golden Kauri pine base for this model. Today I spent sanding it to provide a smooth finish to compliment the model.
13 Jan	1.5	<p>The pedestals were sanded down and look much better now. After drilling for the locating holes in the pedestals, the keel and the base the pedestals were glued to the keel.</p> <p>Today, I made a mahogany nameplate for attaching to the base. I can’t decide whether to use a brass plaque affixed to the nameplate or to paint, transfer, print etc on to the mahogany. I will leave this to a later date.</p> <p>The rudder assembly was worked on today. The plans give little or no help in this area and parts are not provided for the top end of the rudder.</p> <p>I decided in the end to have the rudder ‘fixed’ into position, unable to move in the finished model. I’m not too happy about this but I don’t know that I will be capable of finishing it better even if I modify the bits provided. I then cut out the rudder to take the gudgeons and drilled for the false rudder stock where it comes up through the deck.</p>
14 Jan	2	I masked off the garboard strakes and other necessary bits and painted the first coating on to the keel and pedestals.
Feb/ Mar	4	<p>I had little opportunity to progress much further because of being away from home and having other things to do. In all I only managed to complete a little more final planking</p> <p>Most of these months we were away from home. I took the model with me but inevitably there was too much happening to get anything done. Perhaps it is worth recording that I did spend some time sanding the base, so that when I eventually restarted it was ready for a final sanding before applying varnish – Cabot’s Crystal Clear, satin finish.</p> <p>Another job I completed when I got home was fixing my shed. Like many sheds it is a gable roof with a corrugated roof. There is a cover over the top centre which is made of straight metal that leaves gaps through which all sorts of debris and dust penetrates. The shed was a helluva mess when I got home. I never realised just how much build up there could be in such a short time. This is now fixed and there are now no gaps. My white work bench is now clean when I get there to restart work.</p>
2 Apr	1.5	Restarted planking. There is still a lot to do.

3 Apr	2.5	<p>Applied the first coat of varnish to the base.</p> <p>Applied second coat of varnish after a light sanding.</p> <p>I reviewed what I needed to do and decided that I really needed to fix the wales before doing much more planking. I took the pieces that were supposed to be for them, from the kit, and found they were ludicrously short. Indeed there were only 2 although there are both upper and lower wales in the plans.</p>
4 Apr	3.5	<p>So I had to set about making some. This would be a simple procedure if I had a Proxxon type saw but the best I have is the band saw. I was pleasantly surprised to find I didn't have to do much to the strips I cut to make them suitable. Needless to say they were of a different type of timber to that included in the kit. Because of this the timbers were much more difficult to bend and required a lot of soaking before applying the heat. Nevertheless, they did come up well and I fixed the upper wale to the starboard side, and prepared the port side wale for fixing.</p>
5 Apr	1	<p>I applied three more coats of varnish to the base with sanding in between coats. It is beginning to look good now. I think it will only need a couple more coats.</p> <p>Fixed upper wale to port side. It fitted nicely.</p>
6 Apr	5	<p>I knew I only had about half an hour left for modelling today, so I made a 25 mm deadeye spacer for when I started to do the standing rigging.</p> <p>Added another coat of varnish to the base.</p>
		

I've found the problem with the timbers being short. The model is 52cm long stem to stern, but is 57cm round the bulwarks. There is the 5 cm that the timbers are short.



A handrail lying along the deck shows the length of the timber provided. There's no way it will go round the top of the bulwarks.

I did more planking today and it is beginning to look OK. I'm really going to have to do some painting, particularly between the wales, to make the end product look any good. This was caused by the short timbers when I have had to substitute other timber that I have had in stock.

Another coat on the base.

Completed the planking up to the upper wale. It looks quite good despite the timbers supplied. It still needs a lot of sanding before varnishing.

7 Apr

5.5



I have decided to paint the planking between the two wales and have chosen a dark blue. I tested the colour on a spare plank, then covered it with Cabots Crystal Clear and it comes up really well. I've decided to paint the upper wale black and the lower wale white, or maybe both white.

The next task is to bend the handrails. I traced the shape on to tracing paper and laid this on my "bending" board. I then put in some panel pins on the line. I then started the bending and put a "stopping" pin for the night.



8 Apr

2.5

Complete the planking. It came up quite well.

Painted between the port side wales.



10 Apr	3.5	<p>Bent the handrails a bit further. Still needs some more bending at the bows. Tried to bend the handrails further when they decided that enough was enough and they broke!! Oh well, the wood strips were too short anyway so these are now on the scrap heap and I will cut more tomorrow, but this time from a piece of timber which I can obtain the shape when cutting. Cutting them out will show how much/little I have learned about the use of my scroll saw.</p> <p>The timber I have got to replace the handrails is red cedar which is fairly close to the sapelia supplied in the kit. Unfortunately the timber is about 10 mm thick and will have to be cut down. I tried to put it through my band saw without success because it was too wide to go through the throat of the saw. Warwick Riddle is coming to the party and allowing me to use his saw to thin it down. But that is for tomorrow.</p> <p>I decided to use Letraset for the nameplate. This proved very hard to get. The Art Store in Mort Street, Braddon had some sheets left. First attempt at fixing a letter to the wooden nameplate I had made told me that it was impossible to transfer the letters direct to the wood. I applied a couple of coats of varnish and when dry tried again. This proved successful.</p>
11, 12,13 & 14 Apr	23	<p>I managed to get the red cedar down to about 3 mm thick using Warwick's band saw and from there I was able to use my own bandsaw to get the pieces I needed. After sanding the handrails came out quite well. The fact that they are red cedar does not seem to detract from the overall unvarnished look of the model.</p>
23 Apr	7	<p>Having completed the handrails it was necessary to finish off the stern. The plans seem to require no walnut covering. Looking at the model said that this could not be. So I proceeded to plank it with vertical rather than horizontal planks. I think it looks much better now.</p>
18 – 24 May	16	<p>Three funerals in a very short space of time provided me with little enthusiasm to continue with my model. However, I've got over that now and restarted. The work done in this period was sanding and painting. This has really been a detailed task and required a lot of patience.</p> <p>I acquired an Ozito detail sander that was returned because the switch was faulty. The replacement was OK until it started to leak oil from just above the sanding triangle that splashed on to some of the planking. This machine was also returned and I got a Ryobi in its place. This seems to work well but does not have a speed control that the Ozito had.</p> <p>Not happy Jan!! It took me 5.5 hours to remove and replace the oil affected planks. They are now OK.</p>

27 May

3

Finished the painting that I intend to do and gave the hull its first coat of varnish.



29 May

5

Gave the hull its second and third coat of varnish. I had to do some touching up

1 Jun

3

of the paint in between these coats but they came up nicely.

I made the first of the six cannons. The plans do not call for any breeching ropes, side tackle or train tackle. I have decided to add these to the cannons, based on the US 1776 frigate "Raleigh"

Spent this time making up one breeching rope for the first cannon. It required making up a template to ensure that the measurements from the in-board end of the cannon to the bulwarks are equal. This template will be useful for all the other breechropes.



The two holes , one on top of the other, are to hold the eye pins with the bend placed over the nail to the right.



3 Jun



I made a template, using the same piece of backing wood, for the 5 carriages still to be made. This proved very useful and I was able to make all 5 in the space of 30 minutes after completing the template.



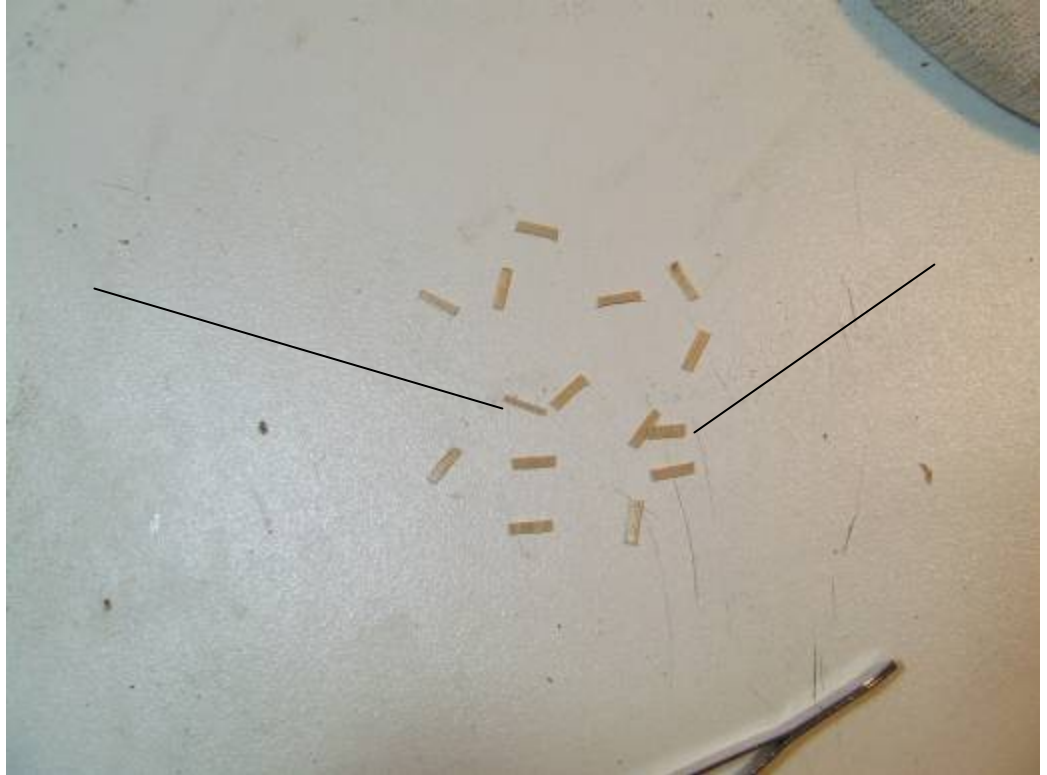
I wondered how I was going to glue the wheels of the carriages to the axles because the vices I have would not allow for the short distance between each wheel – they being far too large. I remembered I had a fly tying vice; this turned out to be perfect for the task. It only took a further 30 minutes to complete 5 sets of front wheels.



5 Jun

3.5

Using the template I made up 3 more breeching ropes and fitted them to the cannons. Unfortunately I ran out of eyes so have to wait until my order comes in.  
I decided to build the ladders included in the kit. Yet another problem with the kit.



The differing size of steps can be clearly seen. The left line shows a step of about 2 mm whereas the right line points to one of nearly 5 mm. I had to cut new ones, of course. Even the ones of equal size were not the correct for the sides of the ladders provided.

6 Jun	4	<p>Thank the Lord for my new Proxxon saw. With care I was able to cut a 0.6 mm thick strip down to 2.5 mm wide. From there it was not too difficult to cut it into 9 mm lengths. I made up a template to hold the sides of the ladder whilst dry fitting the individual steps. They fitted just fine so glueing was a snack. The second set of ladders was a different kettle of fish. The slots into which to drop the steps were out of alignment. I will have to cut one or two new ones.</p>
8 Jun	3	<p>Made the ladder side which turned out satisfactorily. I the painted them black after cutting them down to the right size. I received the 2 mm blocks today so started making a side tackle. I completed one which turned out OK.</p>
10 Jun	6.5	<p>I made up 2 pumps which are now ready for varnishing. Varnished 2 pumps.</p> <p>Made up the stern windows and fixed them to the false stern after applying a red cedar surround. Fixed the false stern in to position.</p>



Fixed the two bulwarks. The handrails are still to be done and will have to be cut out.



		<p>Gee, put like this I don't know how I could have spent so much time. I did though. I have had a look at the handrails provided in the kit and they are quite inadequate. I think that I will have to make them out of red cedar again. But that is for another day.</p>
14 June	2.5	<p>I decided that this was a good time to start on the masts. So today I started making the bowsprit. This came well and quickly, so I was able to complete the jibboom as well</p>
15 June	2	<p>I fitted the bowsprit cap to both the bowsprit and jibboom and left it at that for the time being.</p>





16 Jun

4.5

I started making the foremast and found that the lathe is useless for this sort of process. So I went back to a power drill that worked much better without having both ends supported.

I restarted the sanding down of the foremast and found it wasn't quite as good as I thought. The drill is a high speed Black & Decker drill and was working nicely until I failed to hold on to the sandpaper well enough when it decided to wrap itself around mast. I couldn't get the drill switched off quickly enough so the \*\*\*\* mast broke. Sadly the break wasn't quite close enough to the chuck so I couldn't salvage anything from it. Started again and successfully completed the lower foremast.

Next task was to make the topmast. This proved to have the usual problems I've found with the kit. The dowel provided was too short! Heaven knows where they got this measurement from. Fortunately I had a spare piece of dowel of the right size so was able to taper it down nicely. I fitted the two together with the cap.



The plans are very ordinary for the mast fittings so I have decided to experiment with these masts and provide cheeks, woodings etc. If nothing else this will improve my knowledge of what goes where. I next tackled the main mast and its associated topmast. They turned up nicely despite the size problem that reared its ugly head again.

17 Jun

4

I am really jack of the quality of the kit. It is appalling. I checked the cross trees and no 2 pieces were the same so I had to remake them all. In addition the bibs were just awful. I remade all of these and fitted both masts therewith and they looked quite good. These items are really quite small and were a real challenge I am enjoying the experimentation. I've never done anything like this before and it is proving to be most satisfying.





From now on I am going to finish the ship off so that it looks authentic and pleasant to the eyes but I do not give a damn whether it becomes a model of the Baltik or a composite model of any number of ships. I'll stop whinging about the quality of the kit from now on: it's just not worth the effort. It's so poor it's not worth further thought.

18 Jun

1.5

The plans did not call for the spritsail sling, gammoning or jibboom saddles but most of the reference books show that these were in use and in the preponderance, also the bees. I therefore made these with differing degrees of success. The jibboom saddle was far the most difficult because of its size, but is acceptable.



19 Jun	4.5	<p>After much examination of reference books I decided to apply wooldings to the Bowsprit and jibboom. This came up nicely as did the single block at the front of the jibboom. I also applied a brass band on the front of the jibboom. It looks OK but the wooldings will need an application of varnish to keep them tightly bound. I'll do this next to preserve them.</p> 
20 Jun	1	Varnished the bowsprit and jibboom. They now look good.
21 Jun	2	<p>Varnished the bowsprit an jibboom again. Fixed the chain stays from the bowsprit to the stem and hull.</p>  <p>I also attached the handrails to the bulwarks at the poop deck. This was easier than I thought.</p>





22 Jun

4

I am not entirely happy with the decorative "swirls" at the front end of these bulwarks. I don't know why the whirls have disappeared with sanding. I will do some experimentation before I finish off this area.


26 Jun

2

I did some experimenting and found that the material was producing a similar effect however I tried to work it. I still think it can be done better so will make further attempts when time permits.

The next step was to add the next row of bulwarks to the poop deck. I painted these first. This took quite some time as the masking tape is really not good enough. I don't know why because it is supposed to be much better than its cheaper cousin.



28 Jun	1	Finished off the painting of the bulwarks and glued them in place.
30 Jun	2	I found to my horror that I had glued the bulwarks to the wrong side of the handrails. Thank the Lord for Flash Back. Removal, although time consuming, was quite easy. I also had some time to research chains and chainplates of the era. The method included in the plans would be OK but I prefer to make a better job of them. I will have to learn how to cut out brass strips, though so the end product may take some time yet
1 Jul	2.5	I reglued the bulwarks to their correct position and bent the handrails into their required shape. This was not that easy as the bends were quite severe and I suffered 5 breakages before getting the first bend right. The second bend on each side was a matter of wetting the timber for long enough then bending and leaving overnight.
3 Jul	1	The front section of the bent timbers fixed on to the handrail really well. I also fixed the stanchions ready to support the rest of the side handrails. I also soaked some more handrail timber for bending to fit across the stern. This again had to be left overnight.
4 Jul	2	I completed the top handrails on the poop deck.
		
5 Jul	2	<p>I am now turning my attention to the masts. Various books have indicated that fish or cheeks were asked to strengthen masts in that period so I have decided to add them before applying wooldings. I have some suitable material so cut it up ready for shaping for subsequent attachment to the masts</p> <p>I attached three fishes to the main mast and applied four wooldings.</p>

6 Jul

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These came up nicely. I also cut the mast to size and attached the sails rings and the collar.

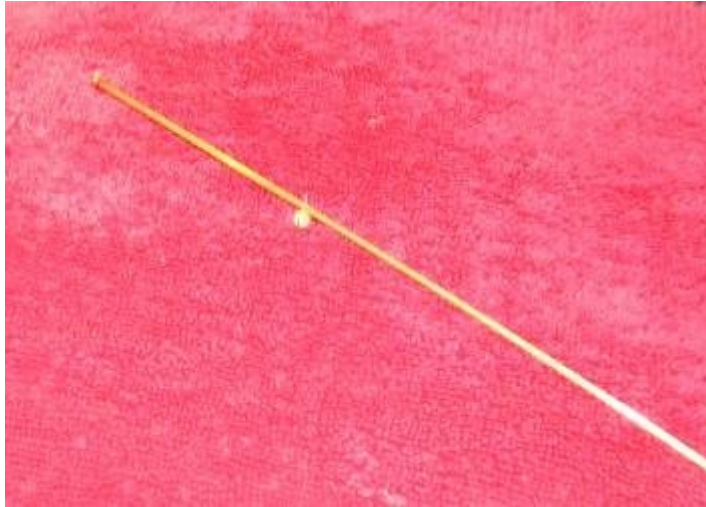
I did some research overnight into the chains which were in use at the time and they were certainly not made from twisting wire, per the kit. I decided to make some of my own which would look much better and be more accurate for the period. I also found that the channels/chainplates provided were far too short for the main mast because of the positioning that required the cannon ports to remain clear so that the cannon could be fired! Wouldn't it be strange to see the cannon fired and your own mainmast come down around you!!

I've never made anything like this before so I first had some soldering practise. This proving OK I then wrapped some 0.5 mm wire around the deadeye.



Next I put both ends of the wire into a tube to hold it whilst soldering. I put the tube in the vice to keep both hands free.

I then applied flux and solder, removed the work from the tube and cut off the tube and other useless wire. I then inserted a 3 mm flat bar immediately below the deadeye within the bounds of the wire.



I had previously made a small bend in the bar so that when the bar was pushed right through, the bend prevented it from travelling any further. I then completed the bend so that it was flat. I then cut the bar off to size.



When I had made three, I put them into the channels I had previously made, glued a fascia on, and cut the fascia to size. Next I drilled a hole in the bottom of the chains ready for fixing to the hull.




I then sanded it all off, glued the channel complete with chains to the model and nailed down the chains.




7 Jul	0.5	<p>Before packing up for the day I made another 9 deadeyes up with wire and solder.</p> <p>I was obviously meant to be a meat eater because I had 2 vegetarian meals last evening – the first and the last. I thought I was recovering today so went out to my shed – every Aussie boy needs a shed – and finished making 3 more chains and felt too crook to do any more.</p>
10 Jul	2	<p>Restarted making more chains. I thought I had it off pat but I hadn't done a very good job on the soldering and three broke whilst attaching the bar. Si Have to restart again.</p> <p>I should have mentioned above that the drilling of the hole in the chains was not as easy as it looked. There was so little room that it was essential to make a mark for the drill bit to run into. This in itself proved to be difficult because I don't have a hard enough point to make the mark and it is surprising how far the point moves when hit by the hammer. There must be an easier way.</p>
11 Jul	6	<p>I remade all nine chains because the soldering came undone. I thought I'd got it right but apparently not. They came up OK this time and are now ready for putting into the channels when they themselves are completed.</p> <p>After lunch I made up the channels that are a vast improvement on those supplied in the kit. Why am I surprised? The new chains I made this morning fitted well and after proper shaping of the forward channels were fixed to the hull and the chains pinned. They look quite good.</p>
12 Jul	2	<p>I attached the fish to the foremast and applied the wooldings, I also fixed the chain to the mast for securing the main sail.</p> <p>Just before I was rudely called away to go shopping, I made up two bitt rails for the main mast running rigging. These came up better than I expected, the drill holes being nearly in line. I dry fitted them and then realised that I had better fit the cannon into position otherwise I wouldn't be able to see what I was doing after the bitt rail was attached. I was in the midst of fitting the first of two sides of the first cannon when I was called to duty!! Never mind tomorrow is another</p>

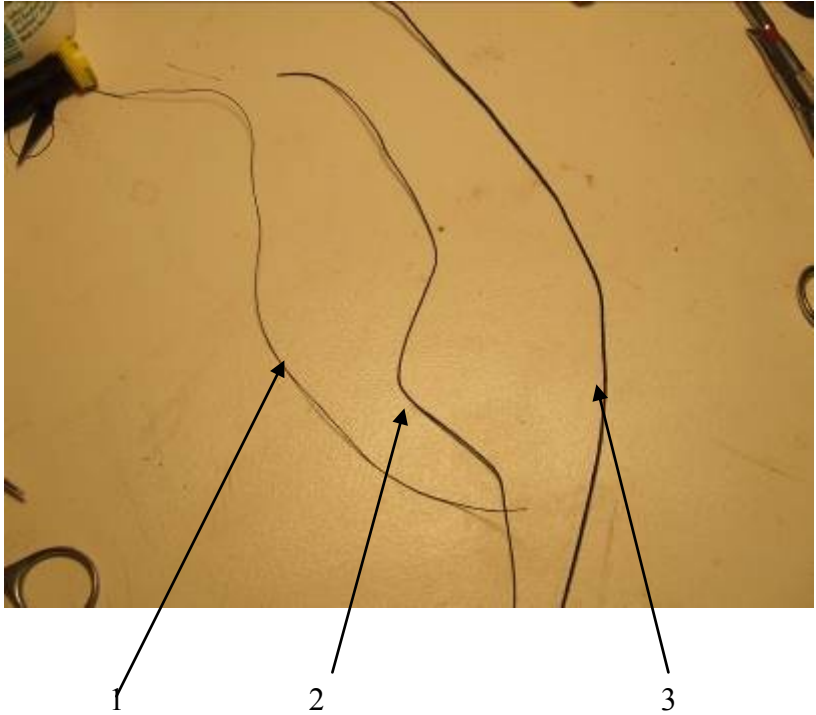


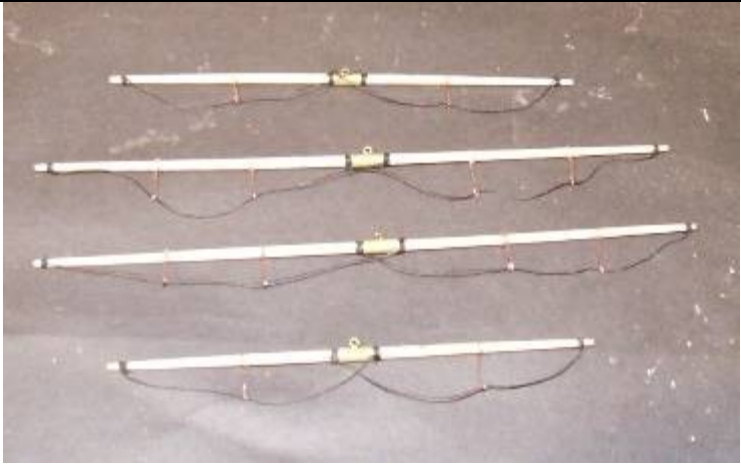

		day.
14 Jul	3	I made two further bitts and having fixed them I decided to complete the rest of the rope fittings for the cannons. This means tying eyes to single blocks. I started doing them with the Dremel vice and a fly tying vice when I realised that I couldn't get them close enough together this was, so I got out another fly tying vice. This proved very satisfactory and I am now able to do one of these in about 8 minutes. There are thirtysix to do altogether. I finished 9 today.
15 Jul	2	I made a further 9 pieces today. 18 to go. I can't fit the after bitt rails until all these are complete because of the site of the two sternmost cannons. The more I look at it the more I realise that it would be absolutely impossible to fit these cannons after installing the bitt rails. I was lucky this time. I'll have to make a mental note of this for the future.
22 Jul	2.5	Finished off the last 12 eyelets to single pulleys and attached al lrequired to one cannon ie 3 x 2 eyelets and pulleys.
23 Jul	2.5	Attached all eyelets and pulleys to the remaining 5 cannons They are all now ready for fixing into place.
24 Jul	2.5	Started on the catsheads and anchors. I can't make the cavils yet because, being away in Port Macquarie to see their model boat show, I don't have the hull with me to confirm shape. The catsheads and anchors are now ready for fixing to the hull.
25 Jul	3.5	Started shaping the booms and gaffs and got them down to the diameter needed.
6 Aug	6	<p>Now back at home, I started to fit the cannons into position on the hull. I fixed the breeching ropes into position then realised that I better make up the hatch covers otherwise I wouldn't be able to determine where the train tackle would fit. Needless the pieces provided by the kit were badly cut so I had to make all the timber pieces up myself. This took quite some time but I did manage to fit the after two covers to the deck. This allowed me to determine where I could put the train tackle. Having fixed the train tackle for the after most starb'd cannon I then attached the side tackle for this cannon. Finishing off I coiled up the train and side tackle ropes. It looks quite good now. I devised a small tool to make up the coils.</p> 






7 Aug	5	Carried on fixing the cannons to the vessel.
8 Aug	3.5	Finished off fixing the cannons. It was at this late stage that I realised that I had really mad the coiling of the ropes more difficult than it should have been. There is no reason why they should not have been done off site and attached later. Sadly, I had already done 14 out of the 18 needed before I realised.
		

		<p>I then made the first overbound rope for the foremost shrouds. I am quite pleased with this. It looks really good. One down three to go.</p> <p>The thickness of the linen used is shown below</p>  <p>1 is the thin thread, 2 is the thicker thread and 3 is the finished overbound shroud.</p>
9 Aug	3	Finished off three remaining overbound shrouds.
10 Aug	4.5	<p>Fixed all 12 shrouds to masts.</p> <p>Found some quite realistic brass paint at Monaro Models so painted the ship's bell appropriately.</p> <p>I've re-examined the rigging plans and they are either deficient or plain wrong if the Baltik is really a prototype of the Halifax, Sultana and the Hanna. I'm going to follow a path between the Hanna and the Halifax having had a good look at the movies of both Ian Knapp's and Col South's Baltik. I'll probably finish up something between the two. I will also consider whether it is worthwhile preparing a "half" overbind for the stays between the bowsprit and the masts.</p>
14 – 16 Aug	6	Made the footropes for the yards

		 <p>This was not without its problems. I started by using ropes for the stirrups but on reading more carefully I found they should probably have been made from a metal of some sort. I stripped the old footropes off and started again using brass for the stirrups. This came up much better</p>
20 Aug	4	<p>Fixed the port cathead in place as well as the windlass and anchor chain covers.</p>  <p>I later fitted the starb'd cathead.</p>
23 Aug	3	<p>Fixed up the anchor chain and attached the chain through the bulwarks and deck.</p>
25 Aug	5	<p>Spent today making up blocks, parrels etc and fitting them to the yards. This is proving to be very time consuming because I did things in the wrong order. For example it would have been much easier had I not already attached the footropes.</p>

		
26 Aug	6	<p>Today I finished off the yards so that they are now ready for attaching to the mast when I am ready.</p> <p>I also stepped the masts. This has not gone as well as I would have liked. And I don't know what I can do about it. I'll just have to see what leverage I can put on some of the standing rigging between the fore mast and the bowsprit to pull the foremast forward.</p>





27 Aug	6	I started some of the rigging that will take quite some time. Most of the deck fittings have already been completed so will be fitted in position whilst I can still get to their position easily.
28 Aug	7	Just a continuance of the rigging with emphasis this morning in making sure the foremast is properly raked. Its much better now but I will not be able to correct it fully.
29 Aug	4	More rigging
30 Aug	5	More rigging. Started to join up some of the dead eyes. Unfortunately I put too much tension on the first one I tried and broke the chainplate. I have no more 2 mm flat brass strip so had to order more. Placed order and Sid (Modellers Shipyard) went to some trouble to send it by overnight express.
31 Aug	5	More rigging. Overnight express did NOT arrive again so could not remake the chainplate.
1 Sept	2	More rigging
2 Sept	4	More rigging. Being Fathers Day I am going out to Gundaroo so got into my workshop by 7 am.
3 Sept	6	More rigging.
4 Sept	5	More rigging
5 Sept	5	More rigging. Start of ratlines as I finished most of the rigging. I really didn't do the rigging in the right order. I have made it very difficult for myself to do the ratlines because some of the rigging, now firmly fixed, gets in the way of the knotting of the ratlines.
6 Sept	2	More ratlines
7 Sept	1	More ratlines. Didn't have much time today because of the Woodworking



		Show. I forgot to leave my credit card at home. When will I learn.
8 Sept	1	More ratlines. David P wanted to go to the Woodworking Show so I showed my nice side and offered to keep him company. I didn't really want to go!!! and, once again, forgot to leave my card at home. I can foresee a spot of bovver with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
9 Sept	1	More ratlines
10 Sept	1	More ratlines
11 Sept	2	More ratlines. I've now finished half of them with very few errors. When I was building the Harvey, my last effort at modelling, I had never done ratlines before. I had to take six sets down before I was satisfied with the result. I must have learned something because I have not found it too difficult this time despite having a lot of running rigging in the way. Couldn't do much more work on the model today because the blade broke on the bandsaw. As I am something less than useless in fixing up tools like this I had to take it Fyshwick – much time lost. Also I had to spend a lot of time contacting radio and TV stations etc to try to get advertising for the show next month.
12 Sept	5	Finished the ratlines at last. Started to make the rope coils for fitting to the belaying pins. I really will have to reconsider the order I do things. It was decidedly difficult to finish things like these coils because both standing and running rigging was in the way. Any rat, all's well that ends well.
18 Sept	4	Finished the coils off fitted them and fitted the finished product to its stand.



## Epilogue

This has been an interesting model to build. I've completed it despite the shortcomings of the kit. Not all has been made of the correct timbers and many errors have been made. The satisfaction has come from the improvements in many skills since I last year completed the Harvey. There is still an enormous room for improvement but since I have acquired a few new tools, such as the Proxxon saw, I will be able to do better again with the HM Yacht Chatham which is my next project.

This model cannot be called as built from a kit. Things such as plans, the false keel and frames, the false deck and some of the timber provided for the masts and yards were used but otherwise I substituted different timbers and other materials. From that point of view it has been greatly modified.

Sadly it is not good enough to win prizes but I am satisfied that it is the best I could do.

Max Fitton  
Canberra A.C.T.

18 September 2007