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Modellers Shipyard

(MODEL SHIP BUILDING COLLEGE P/L trading as)
ABN 86 649 049 610

Postal Address:
PO Box 150
BLAXLAND NSW 2774
AUSTRALIA

Phone: +61 (0) 2 4739 3899
Fax: +61 (0) 2 4739 3877

Office & Showroom
35 King St
Glenbrook NSW 2773



Welcome to Modeller's Shipyard

Dear Modeller

Thank you for your interest in our wooden model kits of historic sailing ships.

We are a leading supplier and specialists in the field of Period Model Ship Kits, Plans, Accessories, Tools and Materials for the modeller. We only deal with the quality and leading kit manufacturers and we produce our own range of wooden model kits relevant to Australian colonial maritime history.

We believe we have many clear advantages over the traditional model shop. As we stock only items that are of direct relevance to you, we are able to concentrate on offering the broad and extensive range of specialist items you need. Secondly, because we only supply by mail, our priority is your order and ensuring that it is dispatched with all possible speed. Lastly, and most importantly, we are experienced modellers. We know what we're talking about. Consequently we are able to provide assistance and advice should you encounter any difficulties. Our business has been built on a wide circle of happy modellers by ensuring that we give you every possible assistance to successfully complete your model.

Our hope is to remove as many of the mysteries as possible from what is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating, satisfying and rewarding hobbies available.

Successful completion of a model ship does not demand any particular skills. Rather, it simply requires neatness, an "eye" for what looks right, an unhurried methodical approach and above all, patience. Models are built in four main stages:

1. The framework and deck assembly
2. Individual planks are shaped and fitted to the hull and the masts and yards are assembled.
3. The hull and masts are painted and/or varnished.
4. The "standing" and "running" rigging are completed.

Whilst the time necessary for completion will depend on the complexity of the particular model, as well as the keenness of the modeller, it should be said that even the smaller models in our range will take some time to finish. A time scale of between 6 and 12 months from start to finish would not be unusual.

The project should always be seen as a pleasure rather than a chore with any minor problems that crop up adding to the ultimate satisfaction of building your model. We encourage you to take photos of your work as you progress to record the development of your model.

"Endeavour", "Victory", "Bounty" and "Cutty Sark" - these are ship names in maritime history that spring to mind, however, please also consider the other vessels in our range. Every one—even those that may not appeal to you as first glance—is a potential work of art.

We are quite sure that having made your choice you will derive many hours of pleasure both in the making and the viewing of your masterpiece. So come aboard and join our happy family of thousands of creative ship modellers.

Regards
Modeller's Shipyard

www.modelshipyard.com.au

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Questions & Answers

Do I need any previous modelling experience?

No. Most of our customer friends have never built a model of any sort before contacting us. We have separated our kits into six Skill Levels. These levels are explained in the “Kits” section of our Catalogue.

What tools are required?

A basic range of tools is required to successfully build a model ship. The Tools section of our catalogue presents the “essential” and “desirable tools needed. As you progress with your modelling you can add to your range of tools.

Do I need any books?

The instructions in the kit will tell you “what” to do while a good book will give you guidance on “how” to do it. The Books section of our catalogue presents our extensive range of maritime & modelling books. We also offer DVDs on how to plank a hull. Our Training section of our catalogue presents further information on the range of DVD available.

Kit or “Scratch”

Many beginners to model building decide that they would prefer to build their model from a set of plans rather than purchase a kit. Some think this will be more challenging as a kit would be too easy. Others think it will be cheaper. Our advice is that there is plenty of challenge in producing a worthwhile model from a kit and unless you have access to very good workshop facilities and equipment and can cut your own planks and make most of your own fittings yourself, it is more expensive to buy the various bits and pieces than to purchase the kit in the first place. By all means aim to become a “scratch” builder however we strongly recommend that you build a kit as your first model as this will introduce you to the approaches and techniques to wooden model ship building.

What is “Double Planking”?

This is a simple method by which the hull planking is applied in two layers instead of one. The first layer is usually limewood or similar timber, which is soft and easy to work. The second layer is normally a thinner more decorative timber such as walnut or mahogany which when finished can be varnished beautifully. The advantage is that following the application of the first layer, any “hills” or “hollows” can be levelled off before the second layer of planking is fitted. An additional advantage is that any mistakes with the first layer will be covered-up with the second layer.

Do all models have sails ?

As a general guide, those models in which sails are **not** shown in the photograph will have neither ready made sails nor cloth and patterns in the kit. Of those that do show sails, either fully set or furled, most will have sail cloth and patterns supplied. A few, such as “Shenandoah”, “Flying Fish” and “Resolution” have ready made sails supplied in the kit. With other models, including those in which sails are not shown in photographs, ready made sails are available as an extra.

Is a display baseboard included in the kit?

Yes and no. As a general rule Mantua models do not include a display base in any of their kits, however, some do have a simple plywood cradle. Most other kits do have a display base of some sort but it may not be the same as that shown in our catalogue or in the photograph on the box lid of the kit. In any case, a decision on a final display baseboard can be left until the model is complete.

Is it better to paint or clear varnish?

That’s up to you—most kits have been designed with a variety of naturally coloured timbers, with the idea that you will clear varnish the model. Also applying clear varnish is easier than painting.

Is a nameplate included?

Sometimes. Most, but not all, Amati models include a nameplate. All Mantua kits come without a nameplate. Corel include a blank nameplate in all but their lowest priced kits. Name plates are presented in our Catalogue as an extra.

Which models are suitable for a child?

There are a few model ships we have identified as being suitable for a 12 + year old child with adult guidance. These are identified as Skill Level 1.

Who are we?

Modeller’s Shipyard has been serving modellers for some 30 years. We are a family business. We are experienced modellers so we know what we’re talking about when you need assistance. If you’d like to visit us it is essential to phone first so we can make sure we can give you all the time you’d like.

Why buy a model ship by mail order?

As we specialise in wooden model ships we can carry a larger range of stock than the local hobby shop. Also because our business has been built on providing personalised service to our wide circle of happy modellers we will provide you with all the back-up assistance you might require to complete your model. We are large enough to know the business inside out but small enough to care. Whether you are 10kms away or 10,000kms away, we can give better support than anyone else. We have customers on every continent—yes even Antarctica.

Our Catalogue

Our Catalogue contains colour photographs and descriptions of all our stock. We have endeavoured to present all information clearly to assist you in your choice. If you need any further clarification or details on any item please email or phone us. We are very happy to provide additional information if required.

We consider all items in our Catalogue as normal stock and we endeavour to hold all those listed. There may be times however, when an item is temporarily out of stock or unavailable at the time of your order. If this is the case we will tell you so, giving you an honest appraisal, based on the suppliers' information, of when you can expect delivery.

Our Catalogue should be read in conjunction with our current Price List. Our current Price List will be supplied with our Catalogue along with an Order Form. The prices presented in the Price List are correct and applicable at the time of printing. However due to currency exchange rate variations, changes in manufacturers' prices, variations in international air freight fuel surcharges and postal charges, prices may vary. The item price applicable at the time of placing an ordering will be applied.

Modellers with access to the internet can place their order online from our secure web site at www.modelshipyard.com.au. Alternatively you can place your order by phoning or faxing an order form to our office. You can also place your order by posting an order form to our postal address with a cheque or money order or include your credit card details. Before placing an order please read our Ordering Information & Conditions, Postal & Packaging Charges, Our Guarantee and our Terms & Conditions presented in our Price List.

Our business hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm AEST Monday to Friday (closed Public Holidays)

Our postal address is: PO Box 150 Ph: 02 4739 3899
Blaxland NSW 2774 Fx: 02 4739 3877

Office & Showroom: 35 King St, Glenbrook NSW 2773

If you'd like to visit our office and showroom it is essential to phone first so we can make sure we can give you all the time you'd like.

OUR GUARANTEE

If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase return it in its original condition within 30 days from the date of purchase for a full refund or exchange. (Conditions Apply—See Below)

We also Guarantee to replace any missing or broken part in your kit for up to 30 days from the date of purchase.

When you receive your kit please carefully and thoroughly examine all the contents and familiarise yourself with the plans, instructions and contents. If there is a missing or broken part please advise us immediately.

Please check carefully as some parts of a model kit have to be made by the modeller from timber and fittings supplied in the kit. What may appear to be missing is in fact in the kit but has to be built by the modeller.

If you wish to modify your kit in any way from that originally supplied we are able to supply the parts and fittings as an extra.

Conditions

1. A \$20 Restocking & Administration Fee will apply to all returns or exchanges.
2. We cannot accept any partially built kits or items that have been altered or damaged in any way after receipt.
3. We cannot accept the return or exchange of any DVD unless the DVD is faulty.
4. We cannot accept the return or exchange of any plans.
5. If returning goods please pack them carefully and securely. Also include a copy of the original invoice you received with your order. Returns should be by Australia Post and prepaid postage is the responsibility of the sender.