

# *HMS Euryalus (36) 1803*

## A Plank on Frame Model Volume I

Text by Allan Yedlinsky  
Plans by Wayne Kempson

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If one were to look at the lineup of books that have been published over the past few years by Sea Watch Books, the list is truly impressive. This company has consistently hit a homerun as far as model ship builders and maritime historians are concerned.

Their latest offering, *HMS Euryalus 1803* deals with what might be considered the quintessential example of an English frigate from the Napoleonic period. Although not part of the line of battle at Trafalgar, *HMS Euryalus* was an important part of Nelson's fleet, and was a key contributor in the ultimate victory.

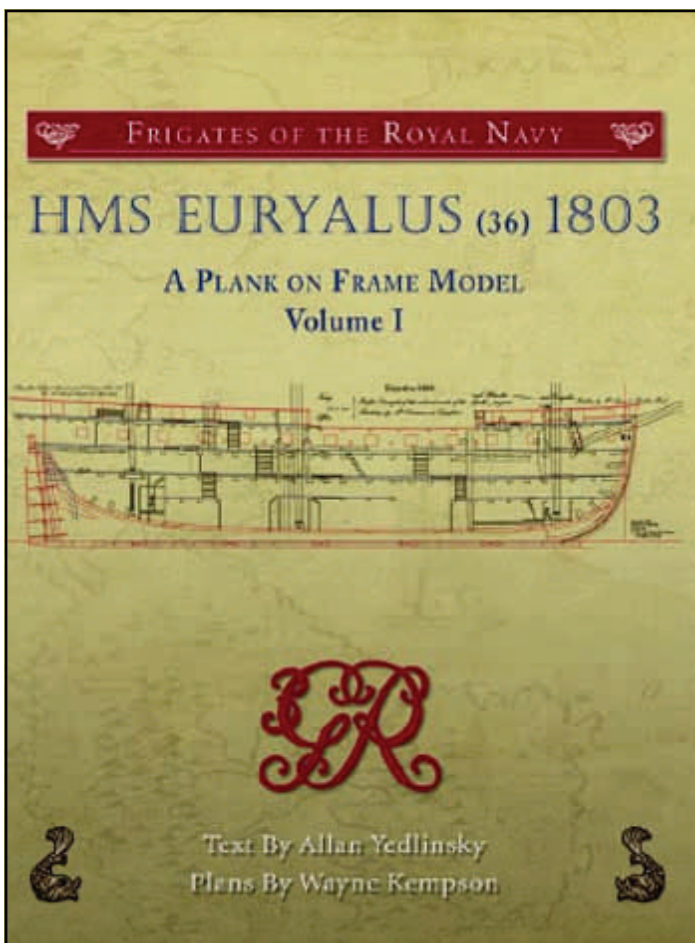
The first chapter provides a detailed history of the ship. It's interesting to note that very little information exists concerning the first two years of *Euryalus'* life. For that reason, the authors, Allan Yedlinsky and Wayne Kempson relied primarily on personal



letters written by a junior officer who reported aboard prior to her first cruise. These documents provide some insight concerning life on board an English man of war during this period and shed some light on the frigate's movements prior to Trafalgar in 1805. During the battle, the log of this frigate, which is reproduced in the book, would be the most detailed of any ship involved in the conflict. Other intriguing entries include a proposed duel between *Euryalus* and the *USS Constellation* during the War of 1812, and the frigate's final disposition as a prison hulk for children. This last portion briefly describes the penal system practiced in 19th Century England, which is fascinating.

The level of research that went into this book is remarkable. The authors studied hundreds of draughts and numerous publications in an effort to produce the most accurate treatise possible. On several occasions, they reveal obscure building practices that references and the majority of plans archived in the National Maritime Museum omit.

The next five chapters deal with the construction of a plank on frame model using the David Antscherl upright method. Volume I completes the model up to the lower deck. With the inclusion of some great hints and tips, the authors make every effort to make construction as straight forward as possible. Never the less, on numerous occasions, they warn the modeler to be prepared for the possibility that some



pieces will be scrapped. This is due to the complexity of some components, which cannot be accurately portrayed in two-dimensional drawings, and will require the use of custom made templates

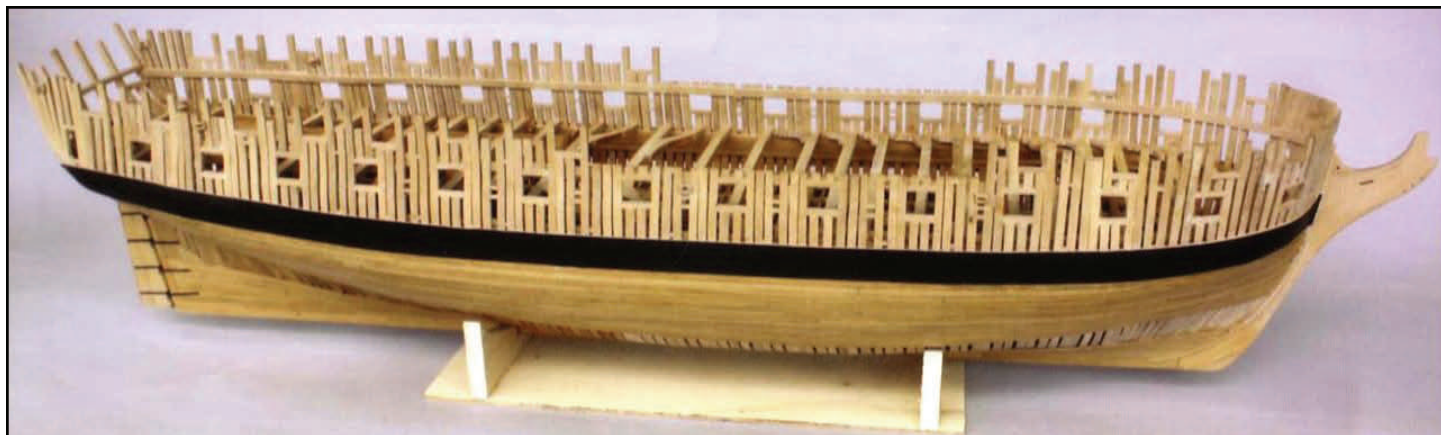


As one reads the chapters on constructing *Euryalus*, you are treated to a mini-history lesson on how

predecessors. In most cases, limited natural resources dictated these changes. After describing actual practice, suggestions are commonly made as to what would be practical from a modeler's point of view.

The book has two appendices. Appendix A lists the ships of the *Apollo/Euryalus* class, and includes the date their keels were laid, when they were launched, and their ultimate fate.

Archival information on *Euryalus* was not always complete. As a result, the authors were required to consult the contracts of other ships within the class in order to conclude their research. Appendix B contains passages for *Curacoa's* and *Astrea's* contracts, which give some



the construction of this frigate, and ships in general during the early 19th century, differed from their

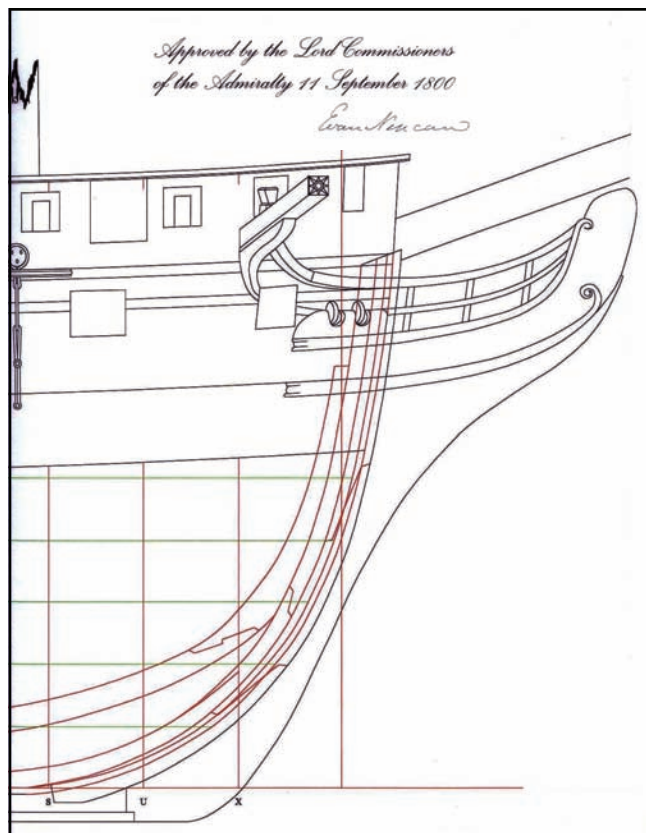
incite as to how construction differed within that class of vessels.

Located in a back pocket, there are 14 sheets of plans in 1:48, which are drawn in four colors for easy interpretation and use. They are done in a retro style that adds a unique touch, but in some cases, the finer text is difficult to read, and "older eyes" may require magnification. Never the less, with each sheet measuring 12" X 47", these plans are impressive.

Frame diagrams are not included in the actual plans. They can be found on an enclosed CD that will allow you to print them on 8 1/2 X 11 or A4 paper. Each futtock diagram includes front and back shapes for easier fabrication.

With almost 140 photos and 60 line drawings, this 9" X 12" book is profusely illustrated. Overall, they are done well, but some photographs suffer from focus and contrast issues, which compromises their usefulness. Fortunately, there aren't many, and the book still offers a great value.

Allan Yedlinsky and Wayne Kempson are to be congratulated on this remarkable treatise. Volume II is expected to be out in the fall of 2012, which for many of us, can't come soon enough!



*Reviewed by Bob Filipowski*