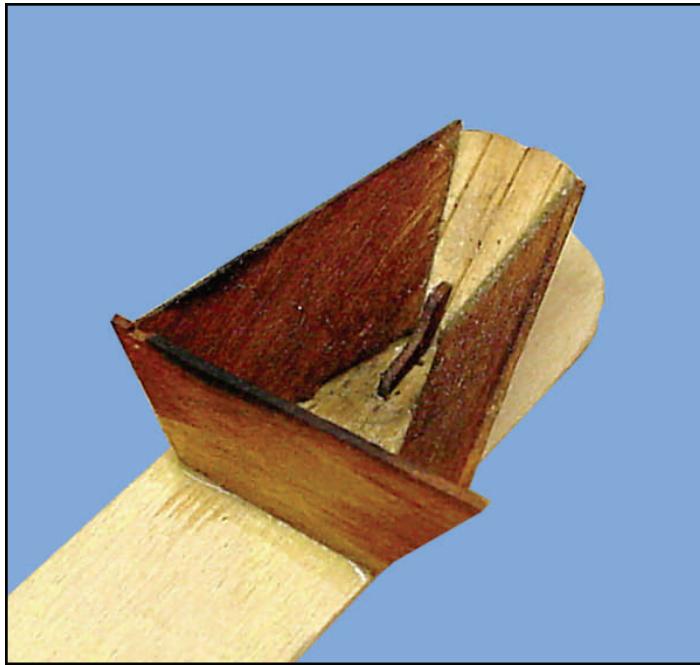


Modeling Rope Coils

By Bob Filipowski

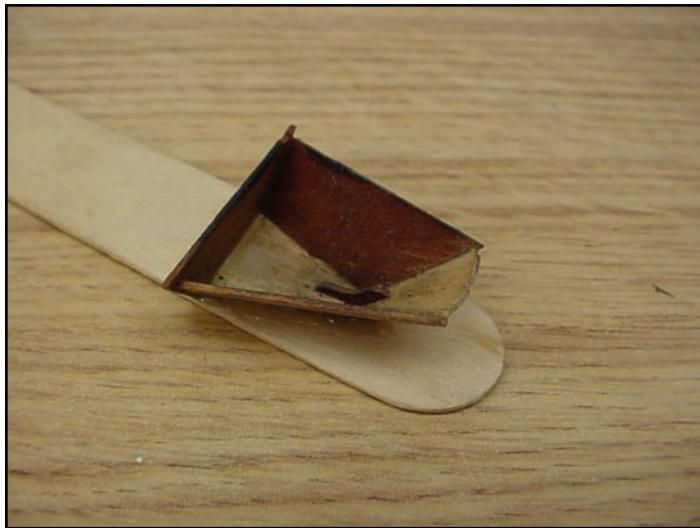
As usual with Bob's programs, his visual presentation on MS/Power Point was flawless and set a good



example for everyone who might like to duplicate his efforts in the future.

We were led directly into the heart of the matter by being given a check list of critical steps we would need to follow to achieve authentic looking rope coils.

First on the list was the advice that we should build a fixture, duplicating the location on the model where we want to display the rope coil. Using such a fixture on which to construct the rope coil eliminates the chance that we might mess up the model itself during the procedure.



Here, we see the stern of a fishing dory with its anchor rope coil and also the fixture used to make the coil.

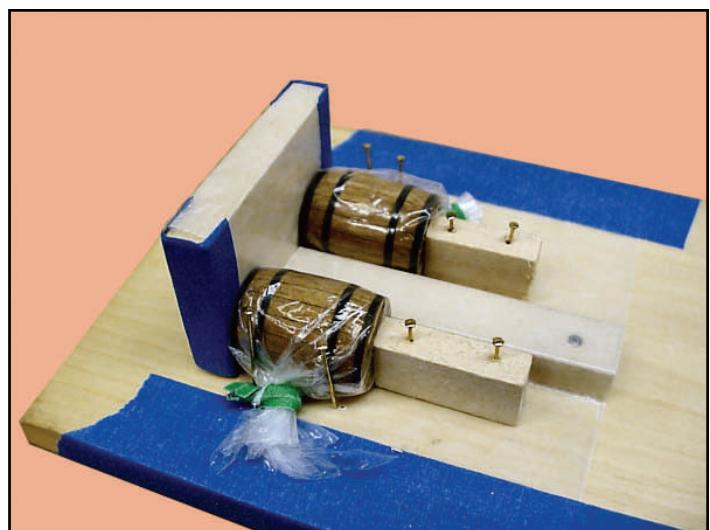


Note the rope coil end attached to the anchor and how it runs left under the coil on the dory deck. This was done with a separate piece of rope, whose end was hidden under the coil.

The coil, in this case, was first glued into one piece on the fixture and then laid into the boat after it was dry. Hiding those loose ends is a real trick of the trade!

It is important to *coat the fixture's surfaces with wax, wax paper or plastic wrap* to prevent the glued rope from sticking to it.

Here we see two barrels, over which will be draped a rope coil. Note how Bob has covered the



barrels with plastic wrap to prevent the glue from sticking to them.

This is also an example of a fixture built to make

rope coils with the barrels held into place with temporary blocks pinned to the fixture base.

The next photo shows the final results with the rope coil draped over barrels in the ship's hold.



While it may appear that there are two rope coils, two barrels and two buckets, this is only an optical illusion created by the mirror Bob has installed behind the barrels to create the illusion of a larger hold. You can see that the bucket bail is backward on the rear bucket (we see it from behind).



Patience is required. The rope coils shown above were laid down over several hours with multiple applications of glue added to help achieve the desired shape. Mix together "Elmer's" white glue, water and a few drops of a wetting agent such as dish washing detergent in a plastic container, and then soak the

rope in it briefly. In the photos, Bob is using a product called "Photo Flo" as a wetting agent. The mem-



bership was advised that this chemical may no longer be available.

Form the rope into the desired shape on the fixture and reapply the glue mixture with a brush, as needed. Let dry and then make any adjustments needed to the rope coil to get it into the desired shape, rewetting it if necessary and reapplying glue. You don't want so much glue in the mixture that the rope coil looks crusty or coated with residues, but you do need enough to assure that the coil will retain its shape. Use your own judgment on this and plan on doing some experimentation to find the right mixture.



Written by John Mitchell