

APPLYING DECK PLANKING STRIPS MADE EASY.....By Jerry Smith

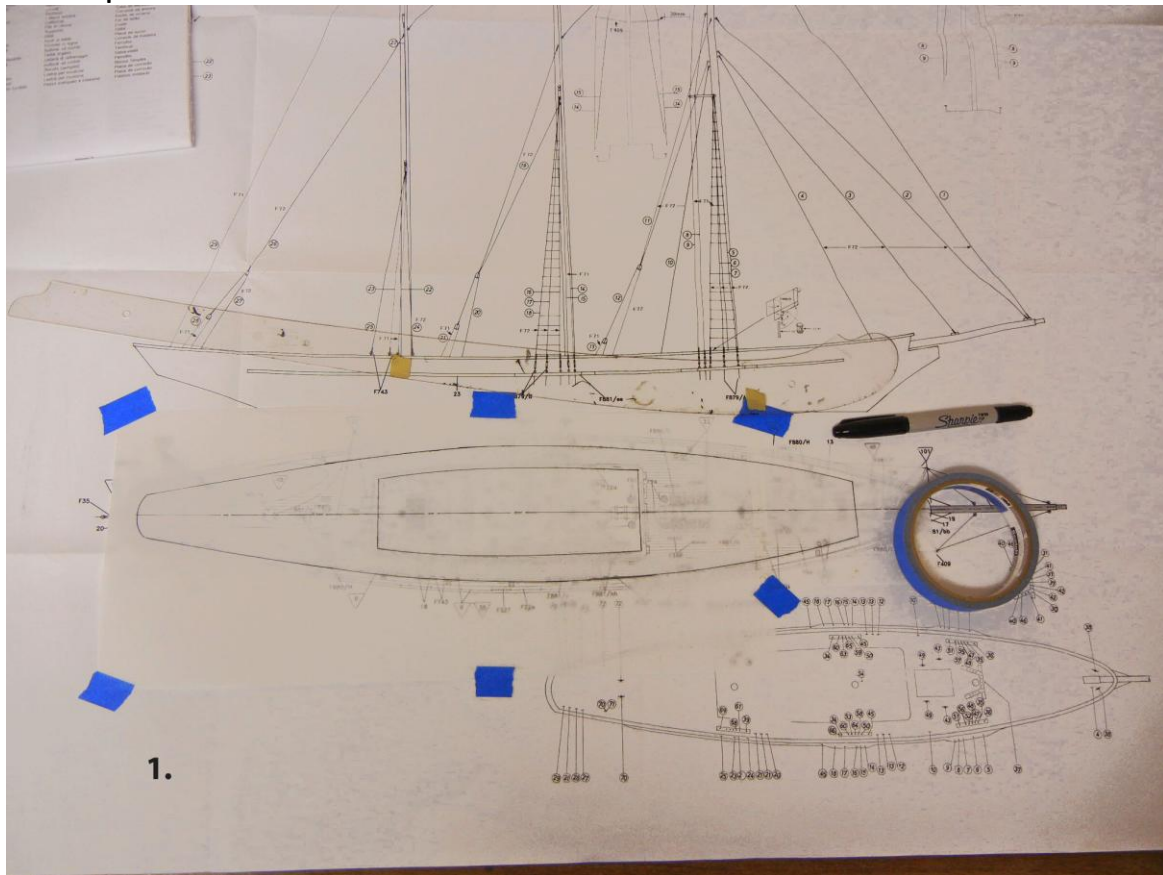
Being a newbie to boat building I always look things over closely to see what I have to build next. So after the hull was about completed, I looked ahead and the decking caught my eye. My thoughts were....."my this looks like a daunting task." To lay all those little planks on the deck, trim them, stain them; all in a restricted space would certainly strain my patience and many others as well. There must be a better way to do it. While looking the situation over my thoughts turned to.....why not make it a complete unit, cut to shape and stained, ready to be glued on the deck in one piece, completely finished. Well, why not.

The key to this idea is the tracing paper substrate, which supports the decking as well as providing the shape to cut it. The paper is .001 thick and takes very little space in thickness but holds the decking when glued down very nicely in a flexible way. When applied you don't even know it is there. The photos shown below illustrate how I went about it on my first building projectA Billing Boat, Sir Winston Churchill No. 706.

This idea can be applied to decking in a confined space as well. Cut a pattern on the tracing paper to fit the area, glue down the decking, stain it and glue in place as a unit when ready.

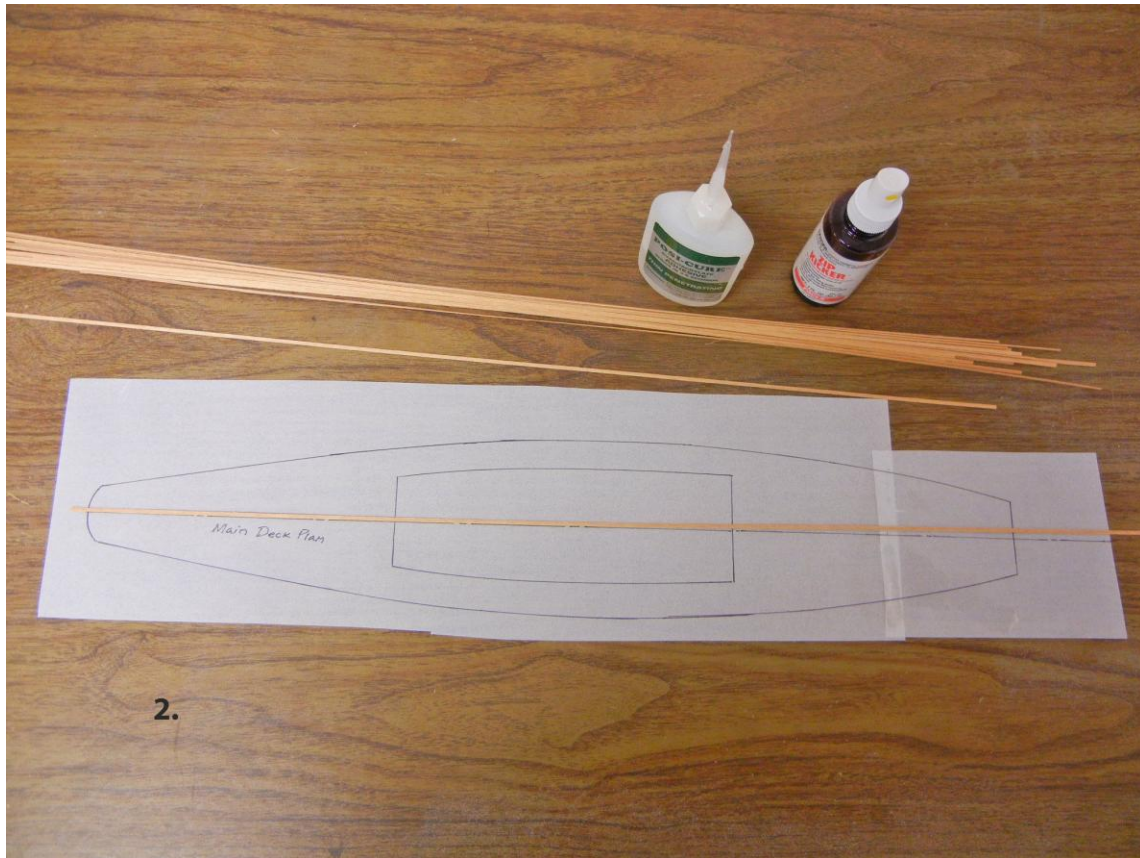
The benefits of this suggestion are: The decking can be glued down in an unrestricted space on your workbench. It can be accurately trimmed with a pair of scissors. It can be stained and finished and glued in place in one piece. Additional enhancement to the decking can be performed with ease before gluing in place.

Photo Captions

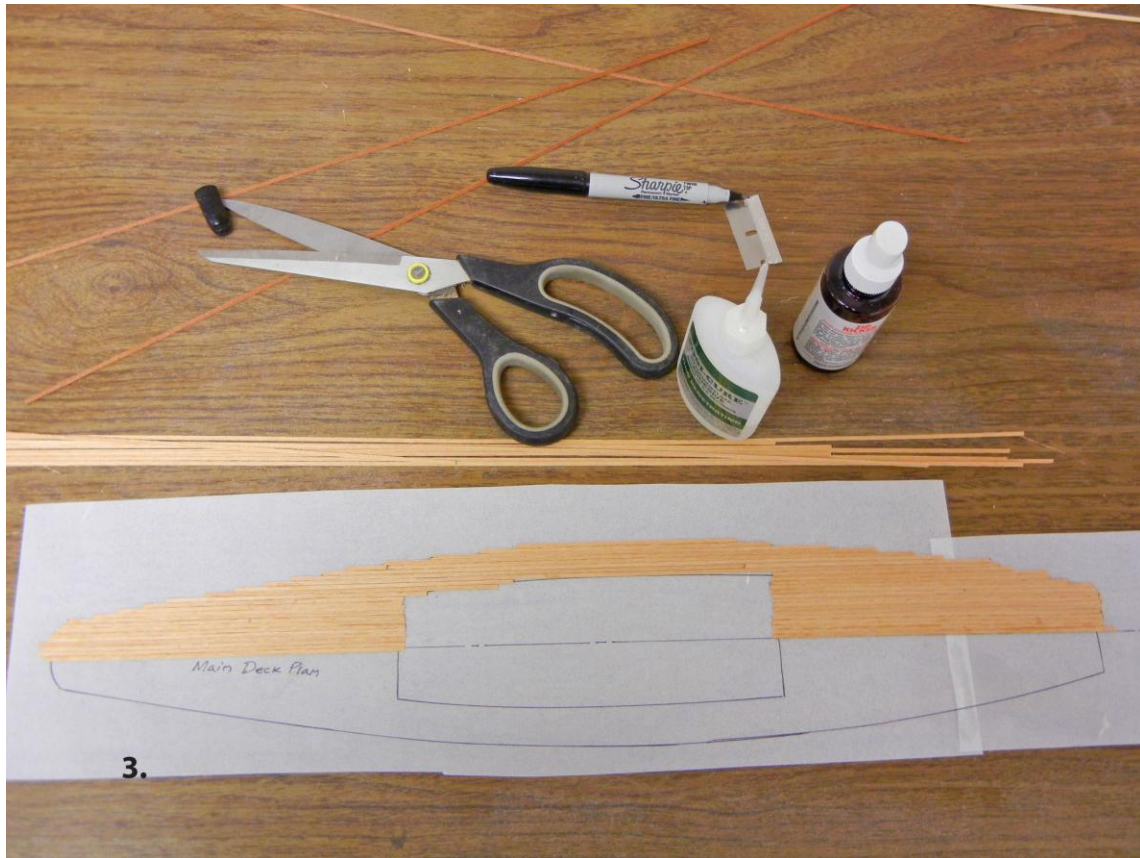


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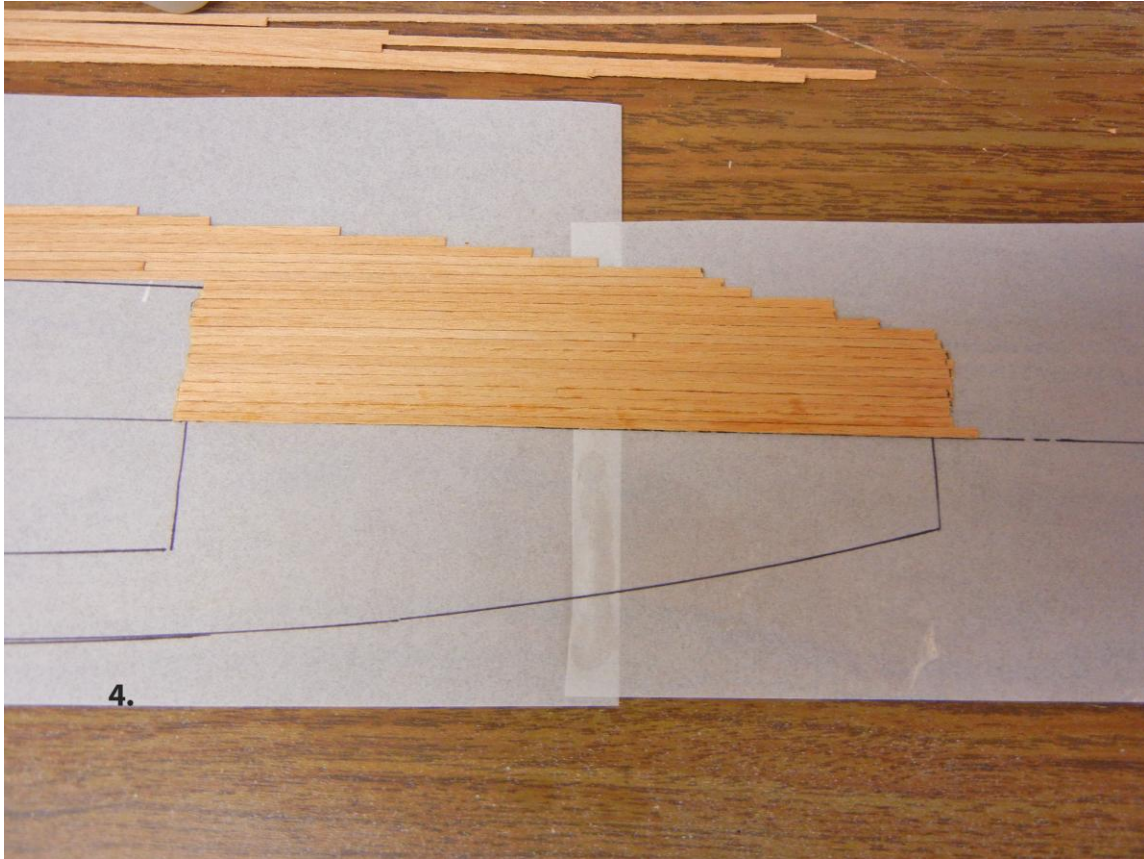
- 1) Tape down a piece of tracing paper over the plan. Carefully trace the out line of the deck with a pen. In this case if you don't have a ships curve to draw the sides pin down a thin strip of wood over the line to draw it. Be sure to include a centerline as a starting place for laying the planking.



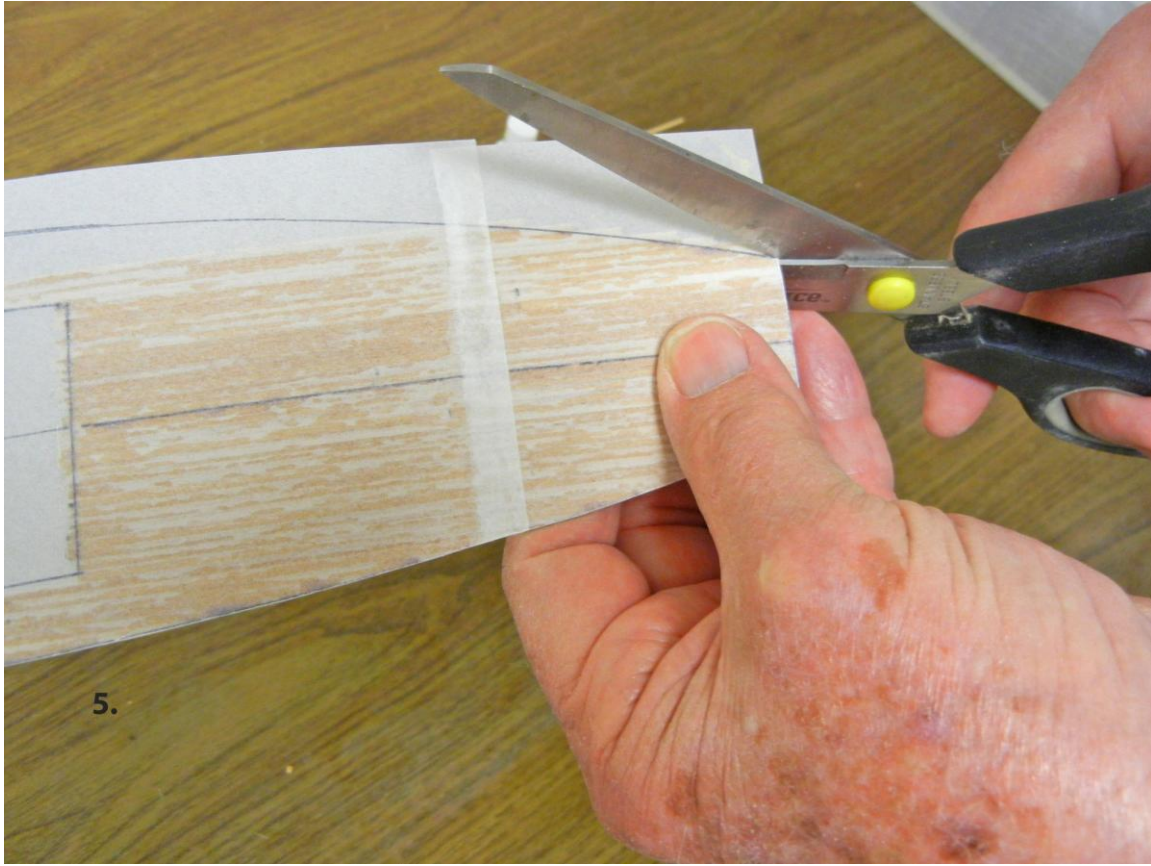
- 2) Lightly spray the paper with CA kicker. Begin by laying the first strip next to the centerline. This will get you started straight. Note: I did not put decking under the cabin. A small tip on the glue bottle is key to dispensing the right amount of thin CA glue. You don't need a lot.



- 3) Here I have completed 1/2 the deck in about 40 minutes. Make sure you count the number of strips from the centerline so they are the same on each side of the cabin, then the strip that ties the front and aft sections will be straight.

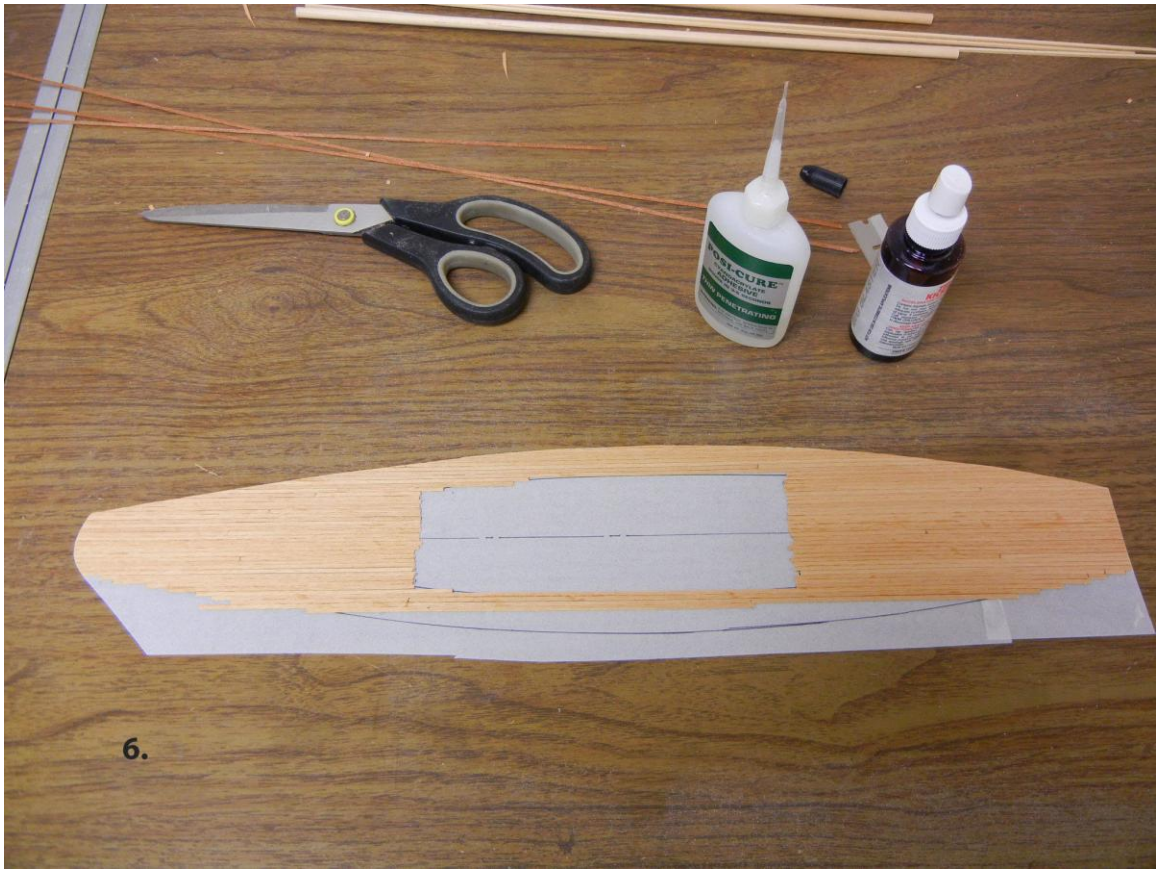


- 4) A closer view showing the decking. Note that I had to join the tracing paper to get the proper usable length. This overlap will not be noticeable in the finished deck. Make sure you leave enough deck so the cabin will cover it.



5.

- 5) Once the deck is completely glued in place, turn over and trim with a scissors. Proceed carefully and get a straight line. It is easy to do.



- 6) Here is the deck trimmed on one side and the ends. I ran out of decking to complete the rest. However, by now I am sure you get the idea.



- 7) I placed the cabin on the deck to see how it would look. No need to remove the paper under the cabin, as it will not be seen.