

## The TRANSFER (II), 1888

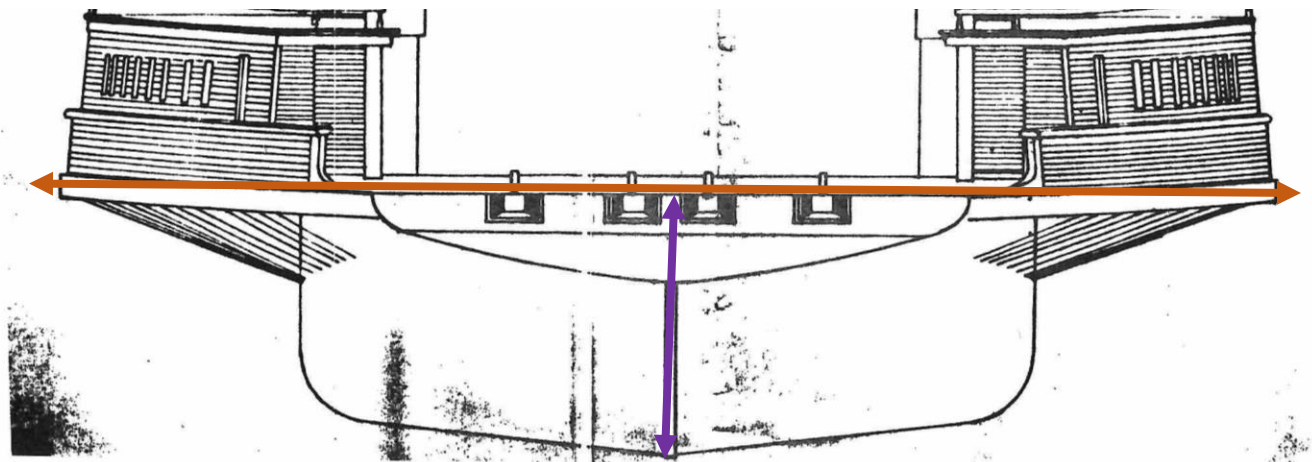
### THE BEAKHEAD: Shop tip on planning ahead

When my aging mind sees what I want to build, I want to be honest with myself. So, I ask myself some questions way before I go ahead.

1. About the plans: Are they available...and if available, is there enough information to precede...
2. About the research: How much is available that can satisfy me to supplement the plans...
3. In supplementing the plans will I be able to construct a step-by-step procedure to the build...
4. If questions should arise, can I just evaluate them and see the results before I have to build them?

I have always acknowledged the “learning curve” in ship modelling, and for that matter, any other hobby you might want to pursue. At age 20, the trip began, and it has been a great run, with lots of help a long the way. But, as I get older (I am 75), I have to start making some adjustments: As long as I am able to model, I will just have to recognize my limitations, and adjust to them, as necessary. And then do the best I can do at that time in my life and be thankful “I still got it!”

### Step 1: The Plan



**No. 1: 1 This tells me that my completed hull has a main deck structure of areas.**

Also, this is 1888 and not yet subject to steel atop the hull.

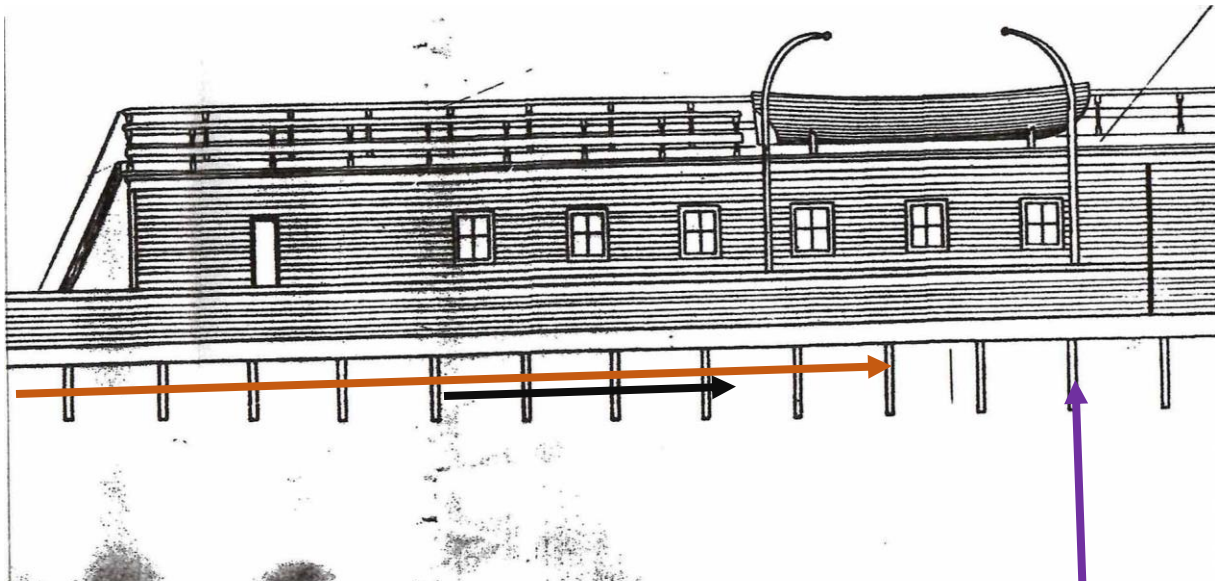
Forget about rail measurements of American and Canadian differences. This is HO rails to accommodate HO trucks at 1/87 scale, and not 1/8" scale adjustments. And once track is laid and accepting rolling stock, it will look fine.

But I like to see it first, and so I made a copy of a section of the deck plan, found a building board, and spray glued the plan on.

Before I decided to go ahead with my build of the Sternwheeler Thomas E. Edison, I built the paddle wheels to see if I actually could. No sense going ahead with the rest of the sternwheeler build if you have no sternwheel.

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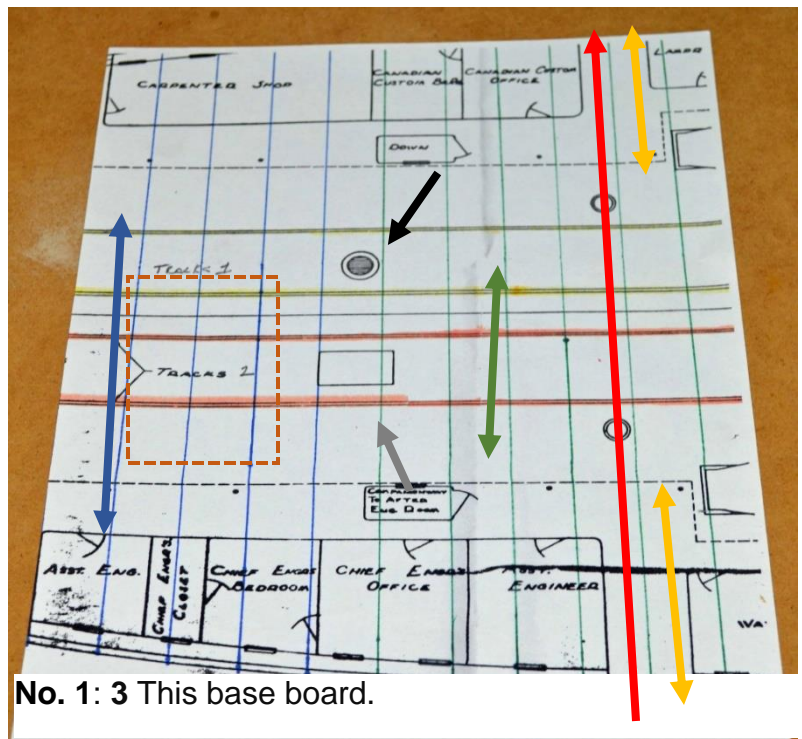
**No.1: 2** The steel hull rises 2" (Purple arrow). The deck floor is at 1/8" (The Orange arrow). The Black arrow notes the outriggers locations and spacing information.

This base board is 10" x 16". The surface beam of the steel hull is 5" (The Blue arrow) The overall beam at the center of this plan location is 12" (The Red area). What does this mean: I have a solid foundation to work with under the "railroad track area" and 7" of outrigger beam support to be planked (3 1/2" port and starboard Yellow arrows.)

The baseboard also shows information of the R.R. boundary of 3-3/8" (The Green arrow).

Within this area I see two items of construction: A ventilator and hatchway to below.

It also points out that the track rails, as drawn need to be adjusted for HO scale. In turn, the walkway distance (C/L) between #1 and #2 will be wider.



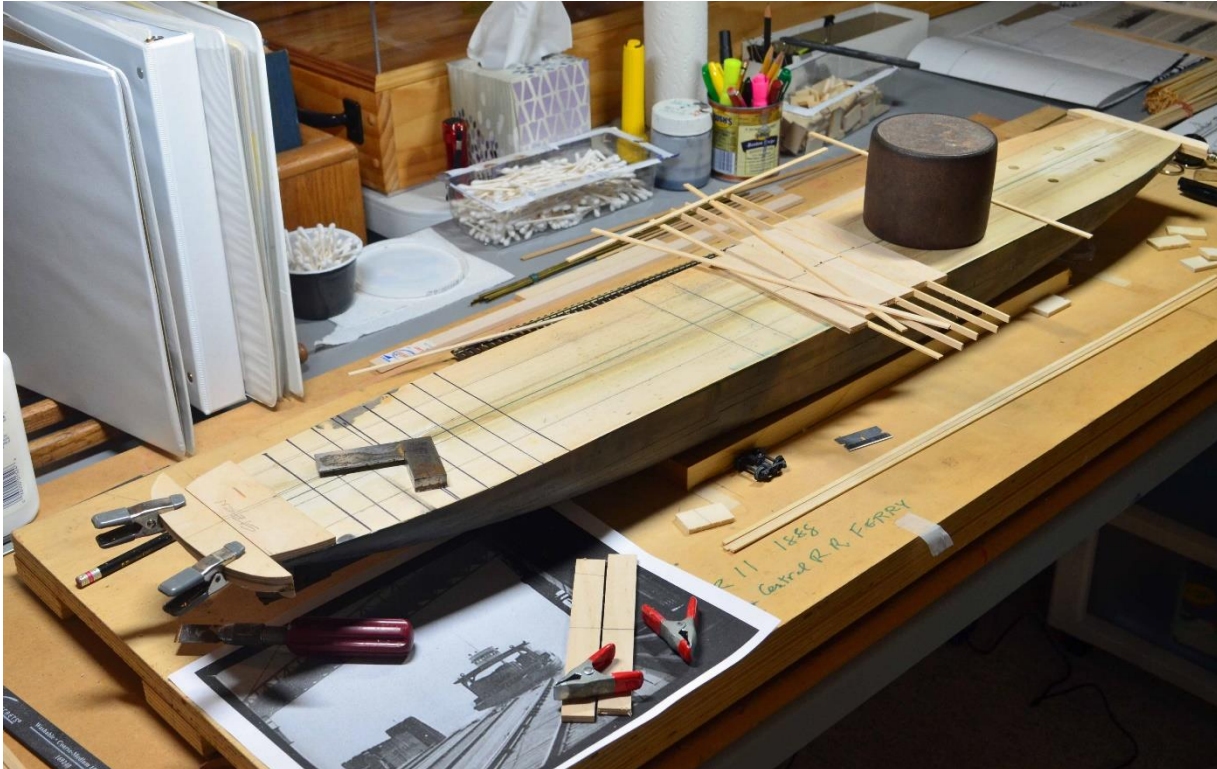
**No. 1: 3** This base board.

OK! So, I have all the information to complete the R.R. yard dimensions. But I have 2" of hull, and I need 1/8" f more to complete the main deck surface of the hull. I chose to stay with basswood

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installation which needs to include 42 outrigger support beams and two sternwheel houses, before I can complete and of main deck construction including the R.R. yard components.



**No. 1:** 4 Deck blanks and outrigger beams.

Going back to **No. 1:2** The space between the outrigger beams is  $\frac{5}{8}$ " with two  $\frac{1}{16}$ " beams (fore and aft), finishes out to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". So, I used sheets of  $\frac{1}{16}$ " x 3 x  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to cut deck blanks to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $\frac{5}{8}$ " x 5" size. I then used the sheets to cut the beams to  $\frac{1}{16}$ " x  $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 13". Next, I scribed the plan's positioning of beams the top of the hull, as shown above. To actually maintain the plan locations, I scribed the **C/L** to the deck planks ( $2\text{-}\frac{1}{2}$ ") and beams ( $6\text{-}\frac{1}{2}$ "). So, with a deck blank glued at both sides with a fore and half beam, off-the-hull on a glass surface. When dry and ready to be set in place on the hull, the location lines scribed to the hull should be correct if the scribed line has a centered beam at each station. **NOTE:** If you are in the mood "run the hull" at this time, do it! Just make sure there is no overrun of the 5" of the hull. They should be flush.

I stopped here. I wanted to jump ahead and back to the Build Blank!

I like to "weather" my models and a lot of the weathering can be done off the boat. This model is no exception. The advantages : the part can be completely weathered. If you have to weather after being attached, you might be able to get to now hidden or hard to get surfaces. As to plastic and wood projects, if glued in place, your adhesive may squeeze out onto the surface and seal, making a surface skin that cannot be weathered.



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The screening was painted with zinc chromate Floquil paint. I then laid a small piece of 1/64" aircraft plywood over a piece of pine scrap wood, put pressure on the plywood and made the same hole with the same bitt. The plywood with hole was then trimmed to square as shown in **No.2: 2**.

Next, was cutting the basswood planks to actual size. I cut extra planks and set the others aside.

I aged basswood with a mix of India ink and water, and sometimes India ink and ammonia. For this build I used water. I have small screw top bottles, with four to six mixtures, for light to dark results. You can use a brush to apply or if a larger amount (as this project goes) you mix enough to pour into a container of your choice and throw the batch of planks in. Which I did. It works it is magic in seconds, so I pull them out, separate them, and lay out individually on a piece of paper towel. Let them dry thoroughly.

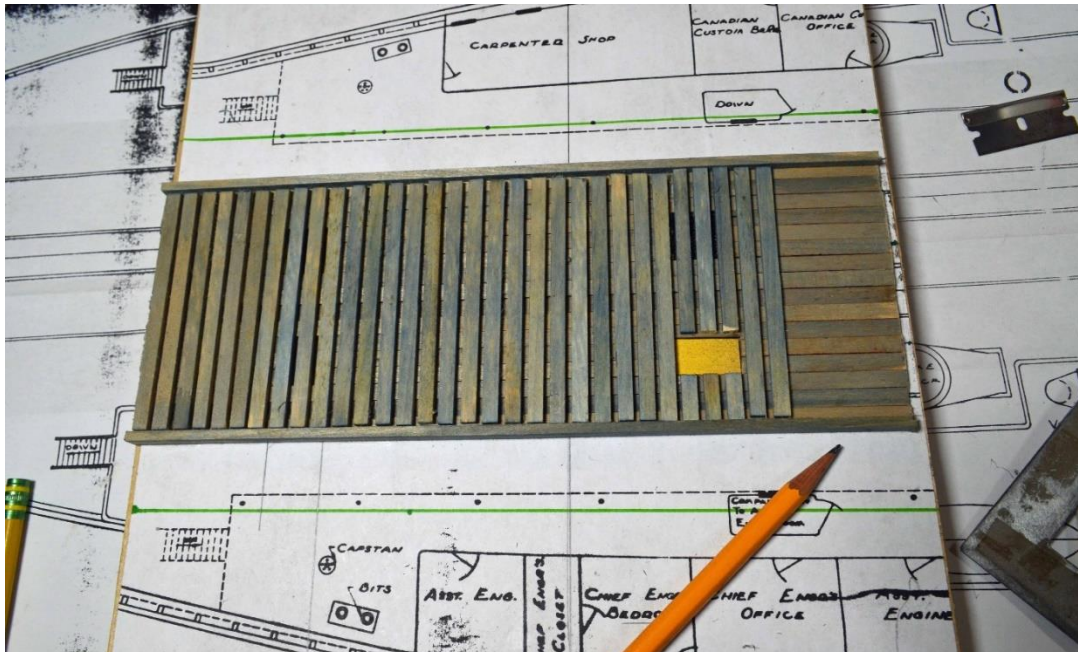


**No. 2: 2** The main deck planks have been completed.

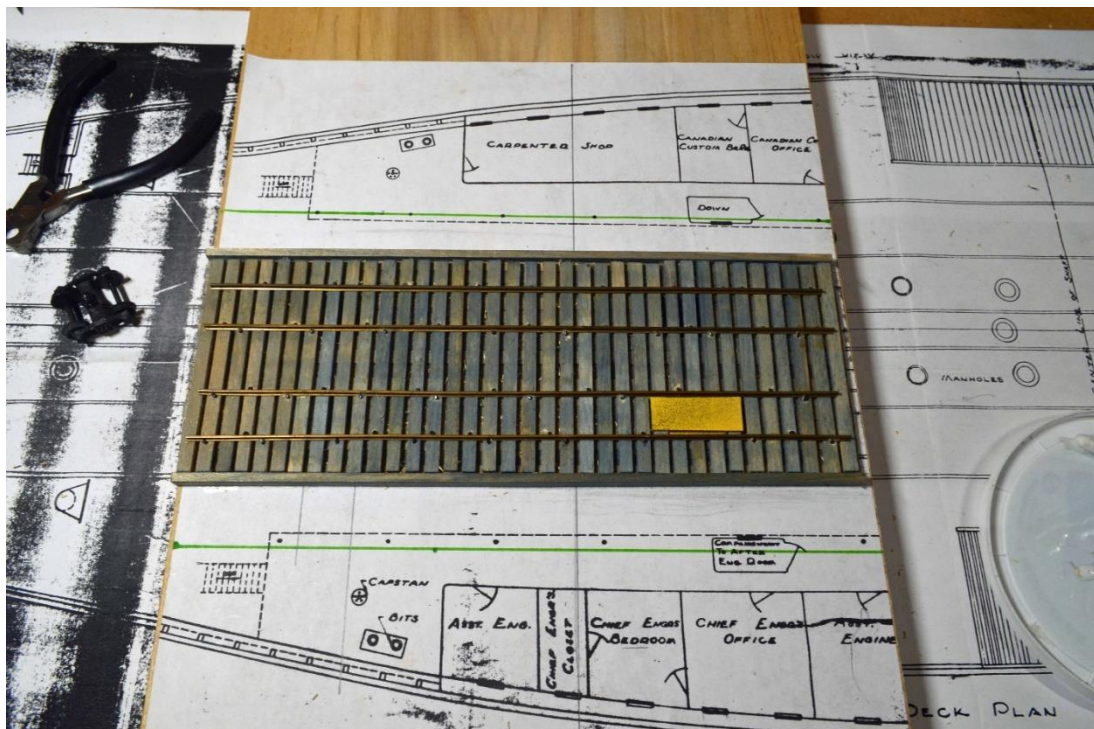
**No. 2: 3** Here shows the R.R. ties have started, I cut a 3/32" spacer to keep the proper distance and an angle ruler to keep the 90-degree angle.

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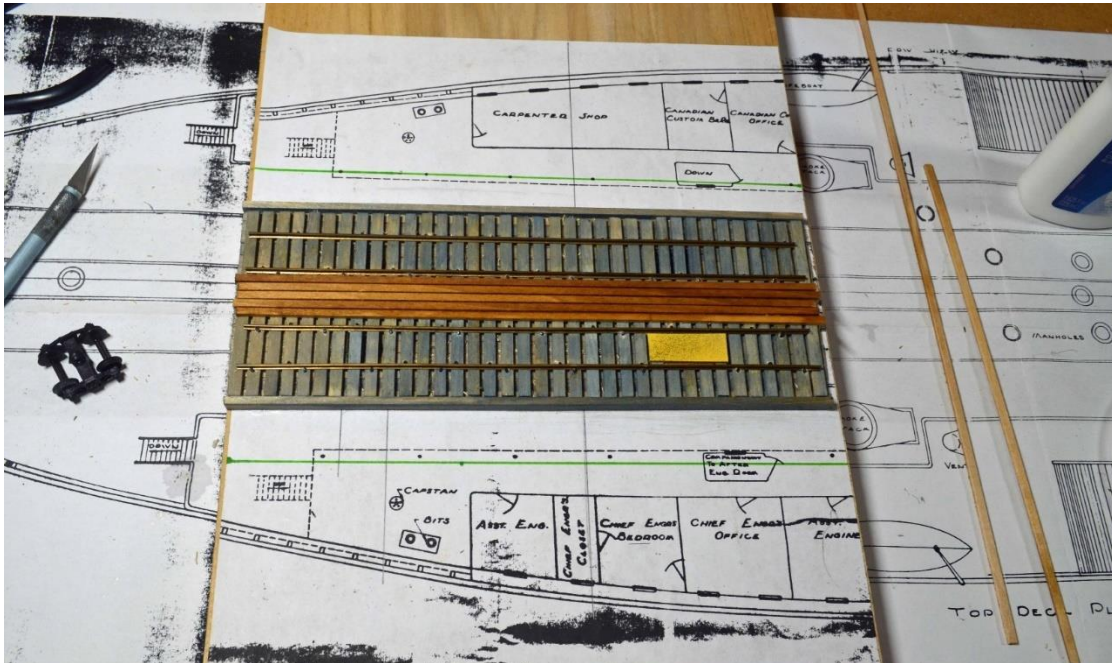
**No. 2: 4** Note the variety of color from ink. It is because I will add and/or take water, time in soaking, and take advantage of all basswoods are not of the same character.



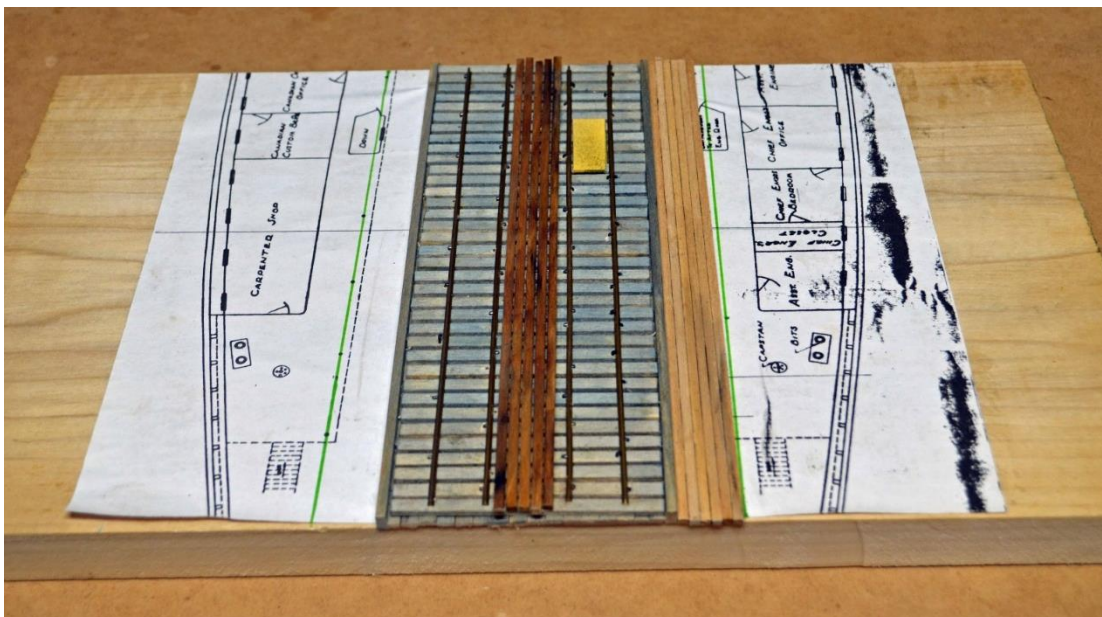
**No. 2: 5** The rails are brass and put down at HO wheel accommodation. Access entry hatch cover is in place.

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**No. 2: 6** The walk way is completed using a Golden Oak stain. It too can be out of the can and into a container dilution with lacquer thinner.



**No. 2: 7** I went out planking headed toward the outriggers to the golden oak I plan to use. The walk way is darker, an attempt to soot from the railroad rolling stock. And now I go forward: Gee! I get to do this again!