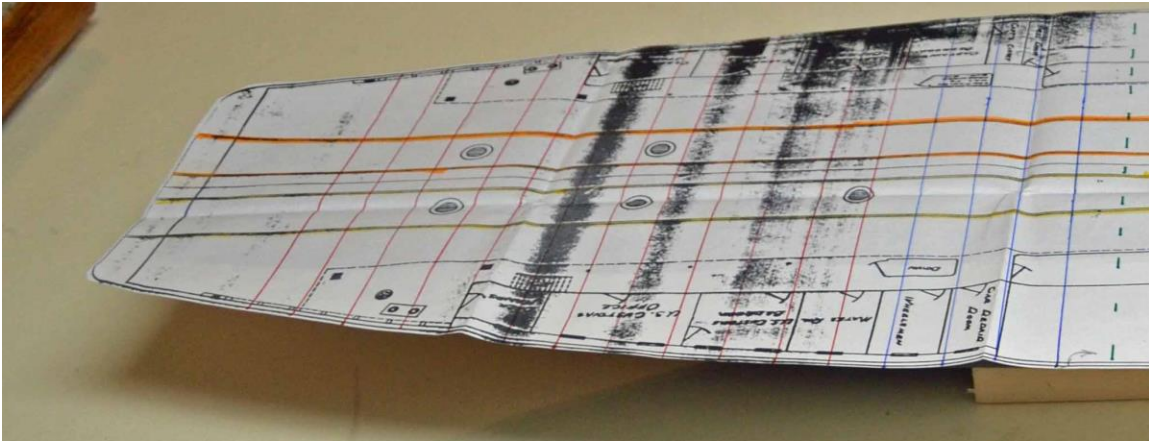


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No. 7: Phase 3 of the Build: The Main Deck – Construction

Sitting atop the steel hull, as to the model is concerned, is the deck flooring. I found that the easiest way to complete the task was to break it down into two phases: The railroad bed and the covering, port and starboard covering out form the bed to the outriggers.



No. 3: 1 The main deck in paper.

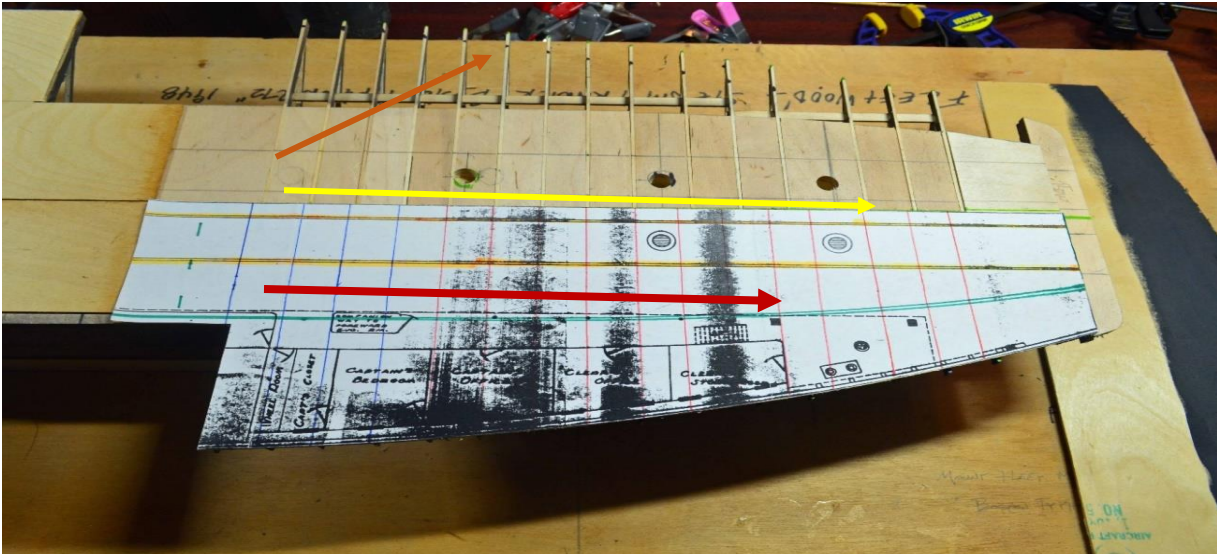
I took a copy of the Main Deck Plan and made a large template. Using hole punch fore and aft I made holes to view the centerline scribed on the hull.

The turning of paper thin to a 1/32" basswood deck flooring and back to paper:

- 1) In **No. 3: 2** below (next page) I marked out from the centerline a “template” area and very carefully, with scissors, cut out fore and aft “pieces of the puzzle.”
- 2) From the 1/32” basswood sheets I transferred two areas: the covering of the hull deck and a covering of the outriggers.
- 3) Using an X-Acto #11 and a ship’s curve, I separated the sheet along the curvature of the hull and then the final curvature of the outriggers.
- 4) Using Elmer’s Glue-All Extra Strong Formula Multi-Purpose Glue, I set the C/L hull section to the full. I use Q-Tips and run a line of glue to the center, coast to coast. Then I spread it working out ward to the edges. What I am trying to do is control the bonding surface so seepage will be minimal when weighted down.
- 5) Now I use the outrigger section to mark the cut-off locations on each outrigger.

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No. 3: 2 Good buildings are all about location, location, and location!

- 6) One the marking has been completed, I take the section, turn it over, and spray paint the surface. When dry glue in place.

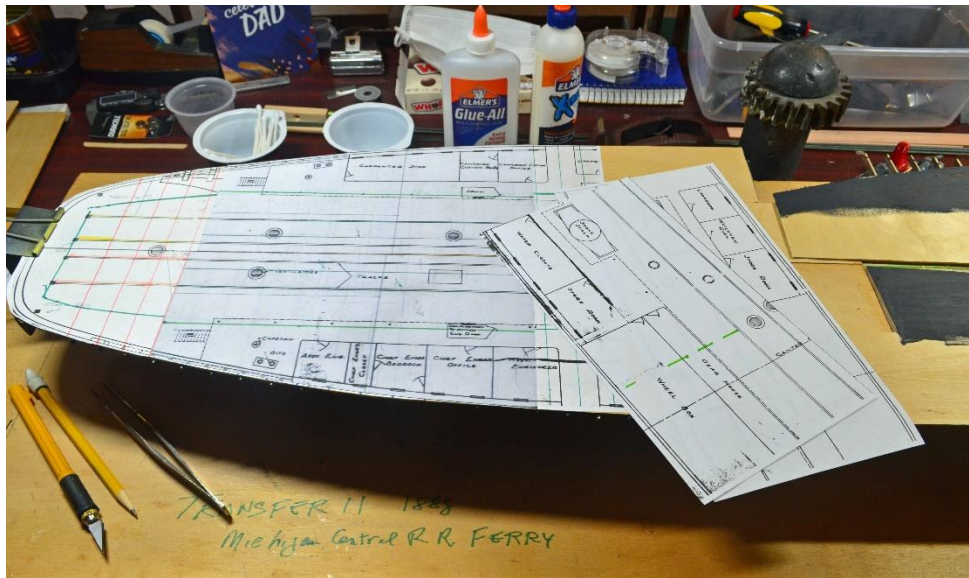


No. 3: 3 Wanted on the flip side!

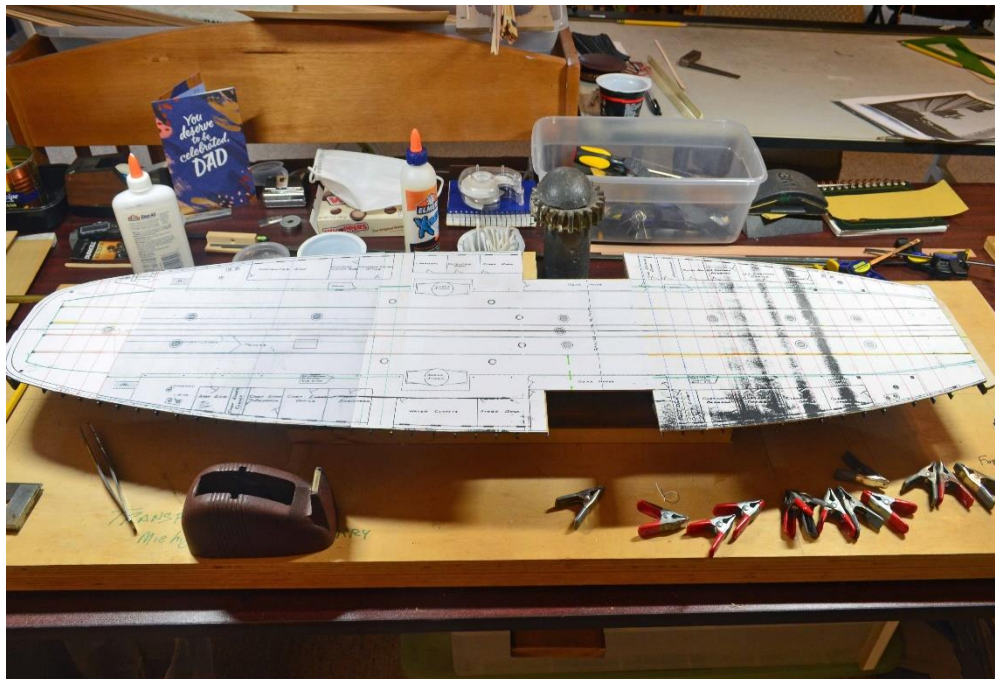
The last step is simple: Use some spray glue and spray the paper plan back into permanent position to the floor. It has to be carefully done. It is a permanent “stick” from which the main deck structures.

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No. 3: 4 Ready for the rest of the main deck surface.



No. 3: 5 This will be the guide to the rest of the build.....

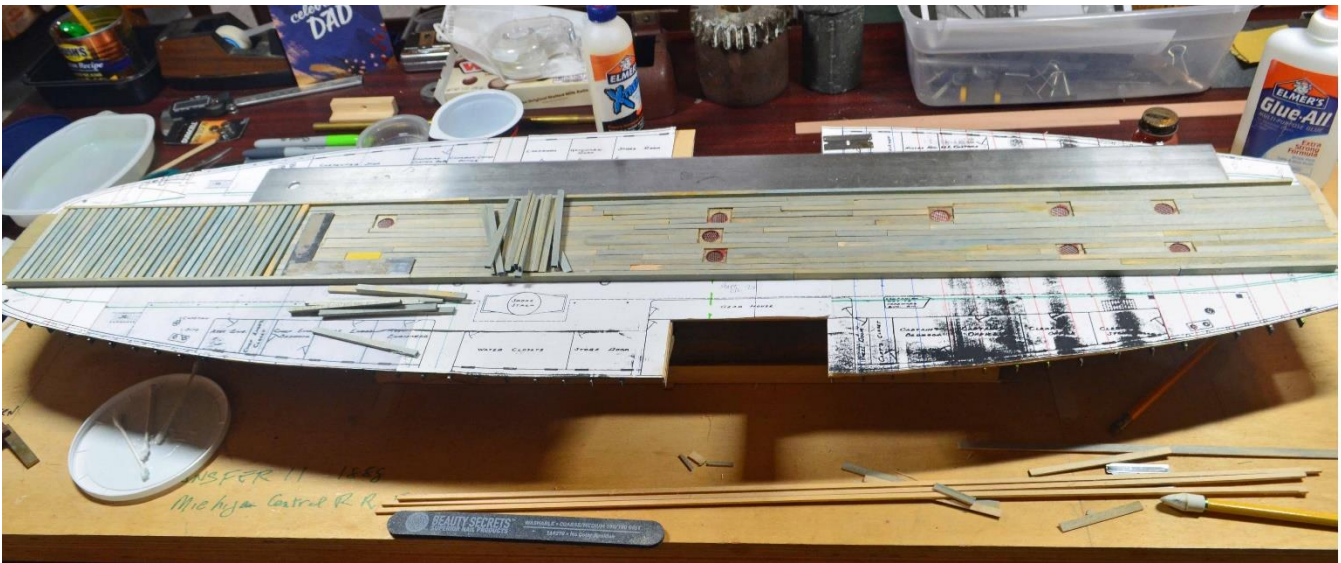
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The Main Deck basswood surface gets some real flooring:

If you have not read the second build log (About the plans, and planning ahead), do so now. The construction of the railroad bed to the testing board was conducted for real. Note that aft there are eight ventilators. I wanted you to see them now, as when the ties are laid over them, they are still there, but and you can see small views through the 3/32" spacing between each tie, and, when in travel, "buried" under rail cars; it was one of those petty things that I do. It is tempting to put on a model something that will never be seen in the finished model. But it adds to the learning curve and trying to do the best you can.

All of the basswood has been "washed" with several (strength) mixes of India ink and water. **Note:** it also works with ammonia, and you will get a little different grayish tint, but I do not recommend it. I like the results, and I use it at times, but it is outside and away from the building. However, Basswood comes in many varieties from hard to soft. Sometimes you do not have to use a variety of washes, but rather, a single mix with a variety of woods.



No. 4 1: I mill my own wood, first with the table saw, and then to finish with my Micro-Mark saw.

The two safety logs are (1/8" x 3/16") running fore and aft. Then the flooring boards (1/16" x 1/4") running fore and aft, are laid. Then comes the ties (3/32" x 1/4") cross wise between the safety logs. Again, using the "Jig" to maintain the 3/32" spacing.

I am fortunate to have the basswood strips cut to 24" lengths from basswood boards (3/4" x 4"). It allows me to bundle each size into 8 to 10 strips. I can then cut the individual lengths needed, very quickly.

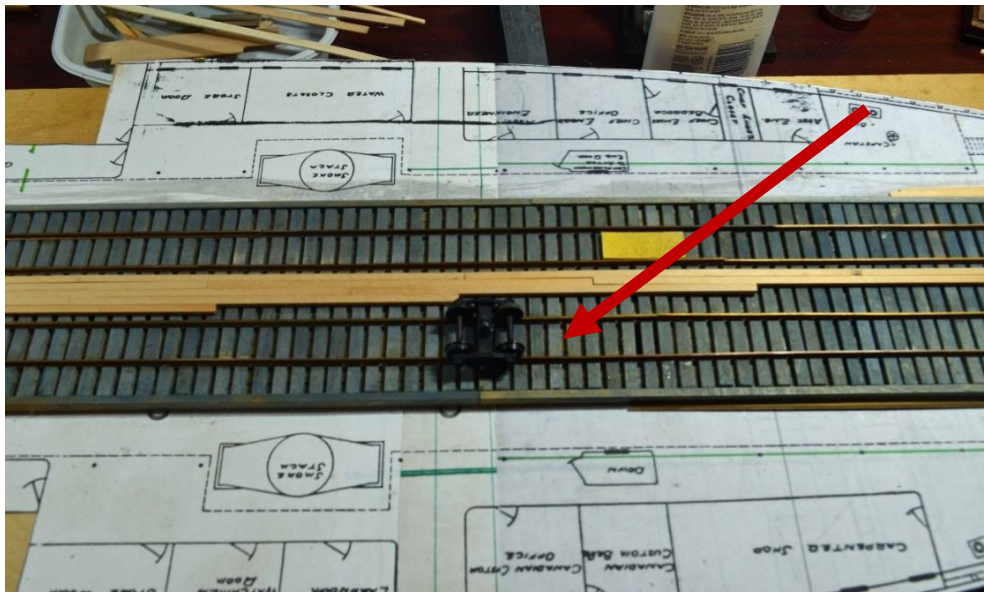
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No. 4 1: Ready to receive on!

The rails were now lined up with the docking holes (**Phase 2 No. 2: 8**). I took a section of HO track and carefully measured the inside-to-inside distance and made a spacer block for alignment. I was a railroader before I was a ship builder and have a stash of old RR tracks. Fortunately, I laid my own track then and kept some brass railing. I cleaned up the brass and decided to leave it brass. I could have blackened it but why bother when the rails are covered with railroad rolling stock. Using Loctite Ultra Gel Control, I attached the rail to the ties about ever 8 inches. I used a railroad truck to make sure the rolling stock could actually roll. Most of the arch bar trucks are **from Central Valley**.



No. 4 2: The central walkway in progress.

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No. 4 3: The central walkway completed.

This finishes the R.R. bed. The main deck planking is underway using 1/32" x 1/4" basswood. On the right side you can see the need for planking that runs, at this point in time, to the wheel house area, then you see two open areas. The outer area is structural waiting for the "foundation" to be set in place and the "Office Mall" to be completed. The roof of the Deck Houses will support the upper deck. The gray area indicates that it is steel plate. **NOTE:** The structure flooring will be 3/32" basswood cut from a sheet to the outline of the plan.

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No. 4 4: The jig saw puzzle has been completed.



No. 4 5: It is now time for the construction crews to take it to the next level: The deck houses. Above you see the transfer of the **interior walls locations**.

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But the first task, to keep it easy and accessible as is assembled, is the **outer railings** and the walkway that goes around the deck housing.



Next up: Phase 4 of the Build: The Main Deck Housing and outer railing-walkway.

Bill Strachan, Connecticut Marine Model Society, December 21. 2022

F: Phase 3 of the Build_The Main Deck_Construction