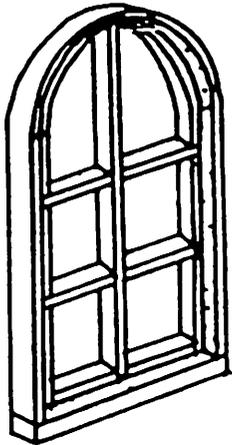


A Procedure For Making Stern Windows.

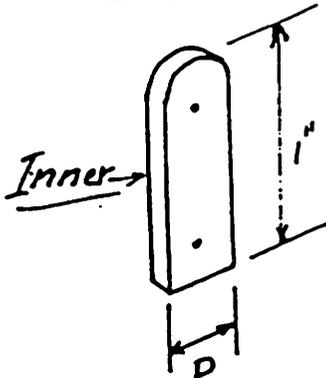
by Tom Palen.



I needed a set of five windows with rounded top frames for the transom of the "Endeavour". Boxwood with a natural finish was desired, and with a bit more detail than is obtained by using single strips for the frame. After a number of unsuccessful attempts to get boxwood to bend to the rather sharp curvature ($\frac{1}{4}$ " diam.), the following procedure was developed. Hot lemon juice had been suggested as an improvement over ammonia or hot water to increase ease of bending. I found no noticeable improvement in bending, but the lemon juice appeared to cause less discoloration to the boxwood, so I used it. Reducing the thickness of the boxwood sufficiently seemed to be the solution to bending.

The dimensions shown here are for the "Endeavour" on a scale of $\frac{1}{5}" = 1'$ (they are what I used--they were not on any plans).

1. Make 2 male forms for bending the casing strips, the inner casing to fit snugly inside the outer one, recessed as shown in the above sketch. See Fig. 1. Use $\frac{1}{16}"$ plywood.



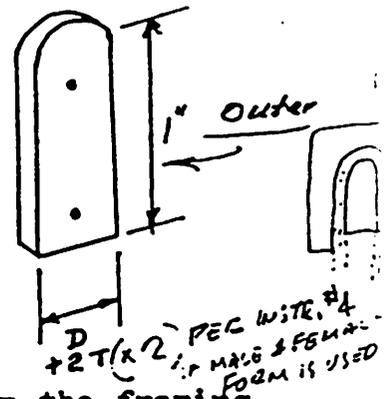
Bending forms.

D= inside diam. of inner casing (approx. $\frac{3}{8}"$)

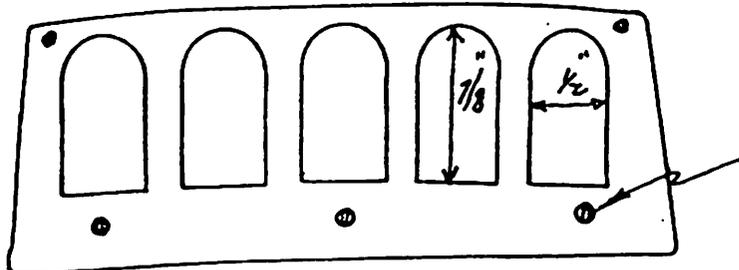
T= thick. of casing strips (approx. $.015"$)

Tack to base board, several inches apart for bending clearance.

Fig. 1



2. Make a female form of $\frac{1}{16}"$ plywood for gluing up the framing (casing) strips and mullions. I made 5 forms because the windows were slightly canted to follow ship camber. See Fig. 2.



Fasten to base with small screws to permit easy removal.

Gluing form.

Fig. 2.

3. Prepare casing strips of boxwood:-

Outer casing, 2 mm wide x $.015"$ thick x $4"$ long

Inner casing, 1 mm wide x $.015"$ thick x $4"$ long

Also, mullion strips, 1 mm x $.015"$, length as required.

I thinned down the strips by clamping on bench between two lengths of brass of correct thickness and sanding.

(continued from p.5)

4. Bend the casing strips (after soaking in hot lemon juice, or ammonia, or whatever) around the appropriate form, using a "back-up" strip of plastic or shim stock, bending slowly and pinning to base board. In addition to providing support for the thin wood strips, the back-up strip avoids the pin dents in the work. When dry, cut to length and glue the inner casing to outer casing in the form (waxed around edges to avoid glue adherence).
5. After glue is dry, cut notches in the inner casing to receive the mullions, vertical one first, then the short horizontal ones. Use a very sharp knife, making a snug fit. Finish gluing the assembly, and when dry remove gently from the form, wipe off wax with paint thinner, and give it a couple of coats of "Deft" except for the back edges to which we will glue the glass panes.
6. For glazing, cut microscope slide cover glass to size, using a carbide-tipped scriber. (For details on cutting the glass, see procedure by Roger Van DeWalker in the SMA Newsletter for Nov., 1977, and reprinted in the SMA Newsletter for May, 1981).

If all has gone well, you now have windows to install in your transom. Voila!

An item from Newsweek,
July 27, 1981

Mothballs for Old Ironsides

Scale models of well-known Navy ships serve as status symbols in the offices of top Reagan aides. But the glass-encased facsimile of the most famous warship of them all, the U.S.S. Constitution, has been banished from the White House and returned to the Navy. The reason: by grim coincidence, the model of Old Ironsides happened to be in John F. Kennedy's Oval Office on Nov. 22, 1963, and in press secretary James Brady's office last March 30 when he was critically wounded during the attempted assassination of President Reagan. "We're not superstitious," says a Reagan aide, "but the ship wasn't exactly in demand anymore."

