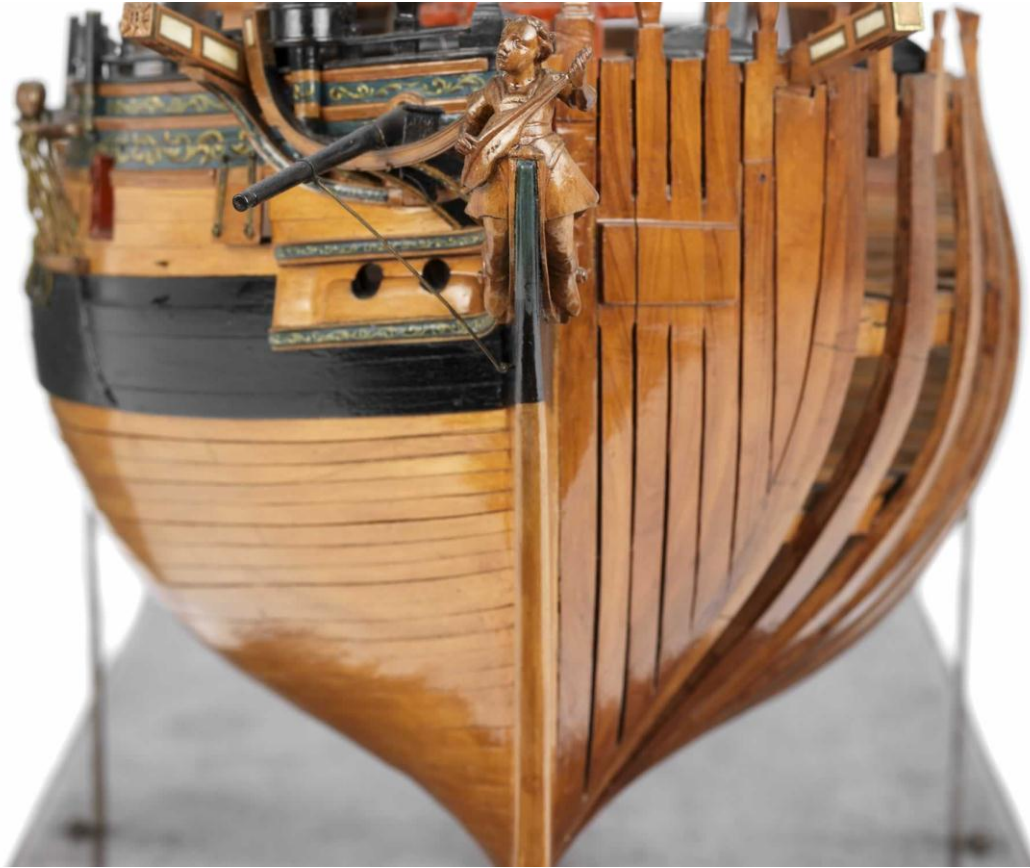


Lining Off your hull for planking



Planking with no stealers or drop planks below the wales. Avoid This!!



No drop planks at the bow – Winchelsea Contemporary Model

Few contemporary models have more than one drop plank at the bow. If there is one, it usually appears in the first strake below the wales.



No drop planks at the bow – Minerva Contemporary Model

Few contemporary models have more than one drop plank at the bow. If there is one, it usually appears in the first strake below the wales. Examine the NMM website to study hundreds of photos of contemporary models.

The Collection

Your selection


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Pomona(1800)(?);
Warship; Frigate; Fifth
rate; 40 guns

Warship(1757); Frigate; Fifth rate; Richmond class; 32 guns

[Sailing warships](#)


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**Study as many
contemporary
models for planking
as you can. Zoom in
and you can actually
count the number of
planks. Look for drop
planks. Look for
stealers.**



No stealers at the stern

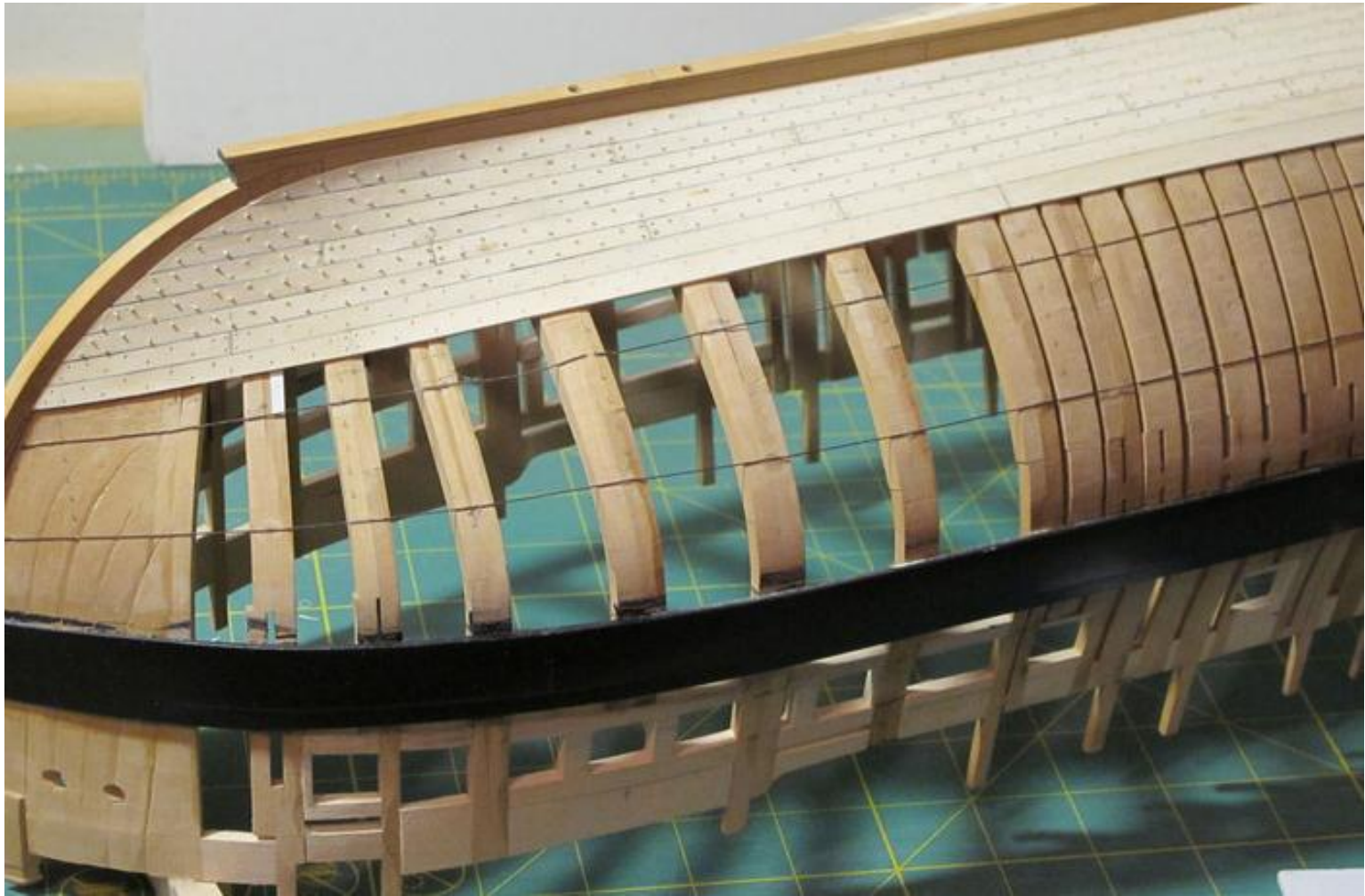
The planking gets wider towards the stern post.....BUT

Do all of the planks get wider???

Which planks don't get wider?

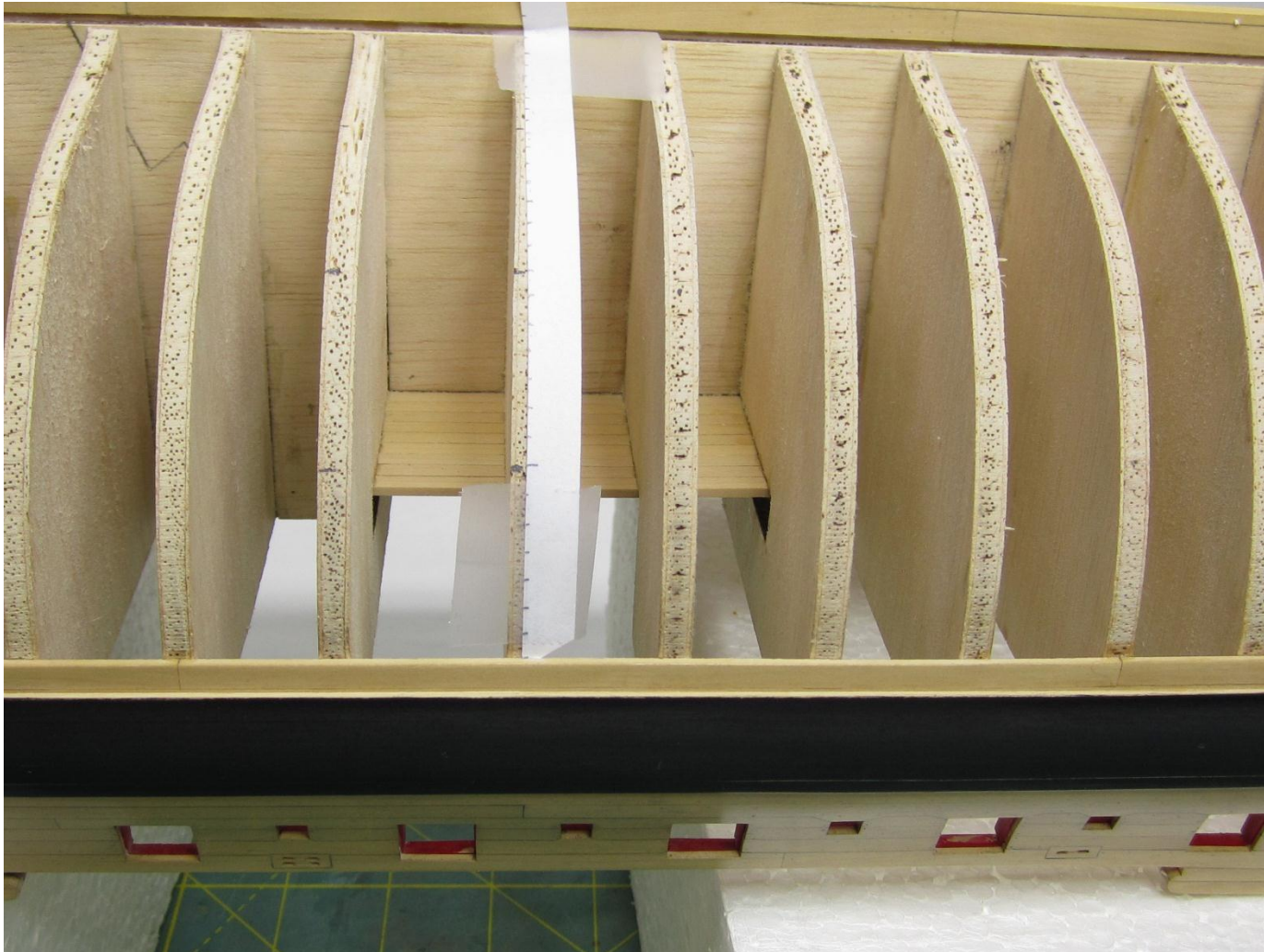
Which planks do?

This is very important when lining off your hull.



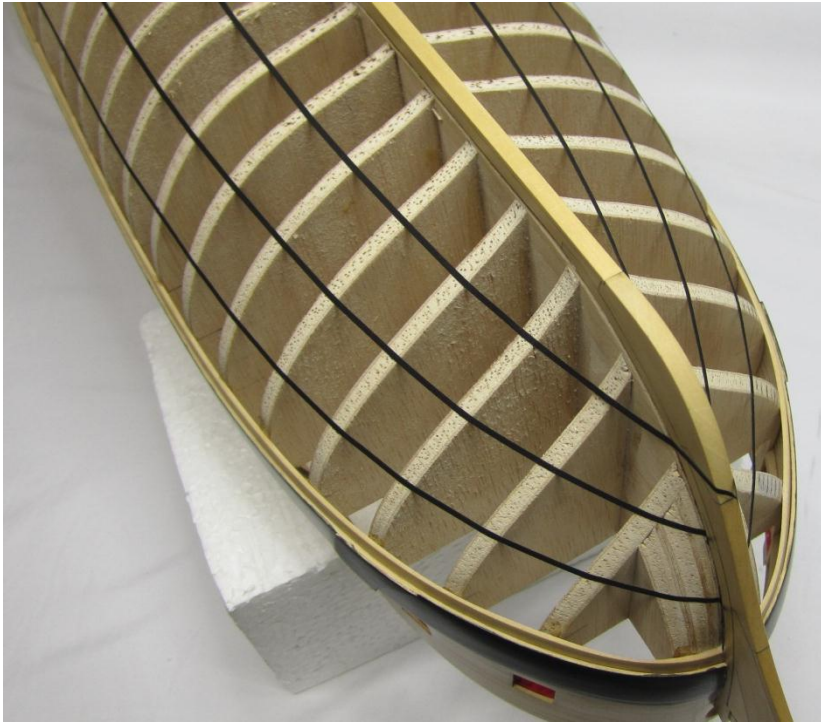
Lining off with string.....I use art tape

David Antscherl's Comet. He uses string. You can use whatever is most comfortable. The principle is the same.



Step one – Determine the width of your planking at mid-ship.

Should be 10-12" wide mid-ship on a frigate like this. Make a tick strip and divide it into equal 10" or 12" widths. In my case....5/32". Then hold it against mid-ship bulkheads to determine how many planks...I need 29. 28 plus garboard. It wont come out even....so make the garboard wider. Transfer the tick marks to the bulkhead edge.



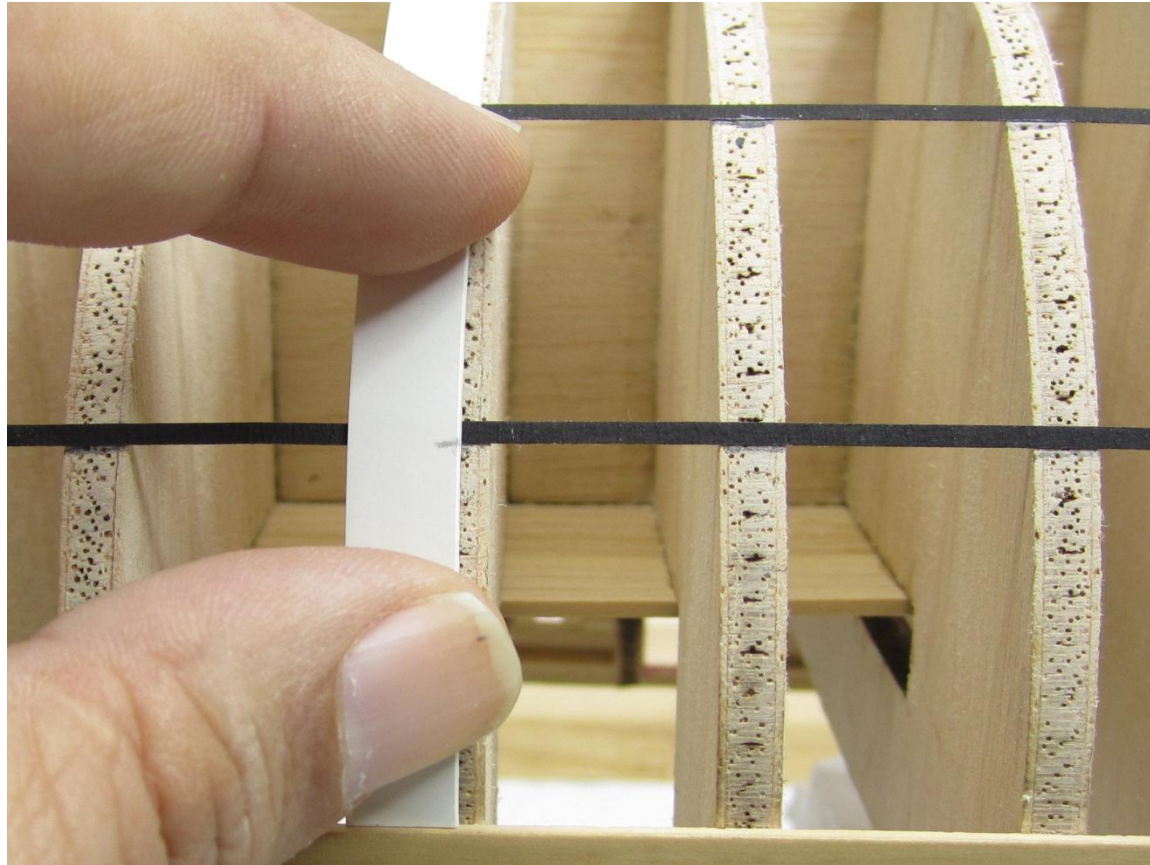
Step Two- I use art tape instead of string. Establish four belts

I know from the previous step that I will need 29 strakes....divided by four belts is7 strakes (planks) per belt. The lowest belt with Garboard will have 8. Start at mid ship and use your tape to add the middle divider line. Pick one edge of the tape to define the belts. It splits the hull in two. Then add the two other tape lines.....this creates your four belts. Each belt will narrow at the bow.....and widen at the stern. Remember the contemporary models???? Some belts actually get narrower at the stern.



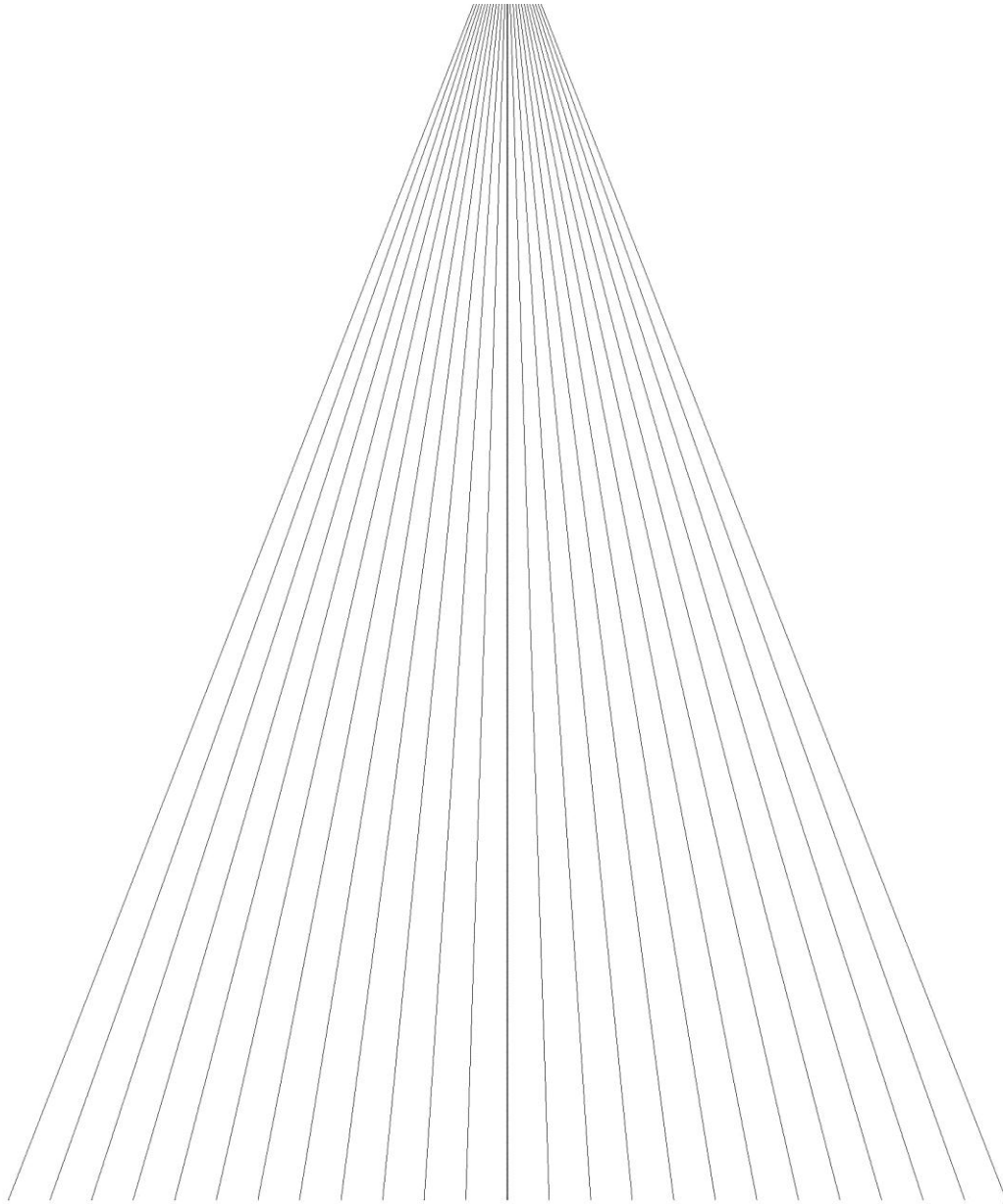
It won't look right initially...tweak them at each bulkhead

Slowly adjust the tape at each bulkhead until it looks good based on your contemporary model observations. Take your time with this. When one side is done, take measurements and replicate on the other side.

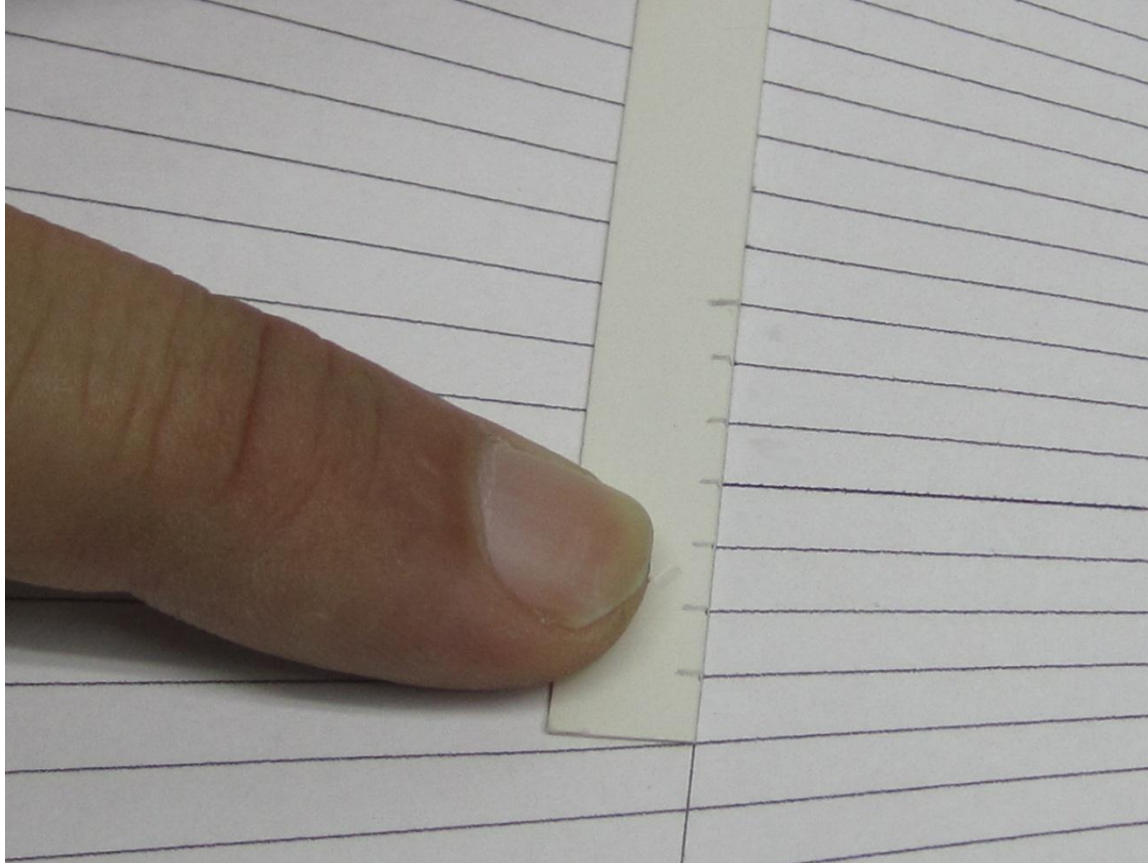


Step Three- Now you can determine the width of each plank in each belt. It was impossible before lining off the hull.

Take a blank tick strip and hold it against one bulkhead to measure the width of the entire belt. You know there will be seven planks.....so now we can use a fan planking template to determine the seven plank widths.

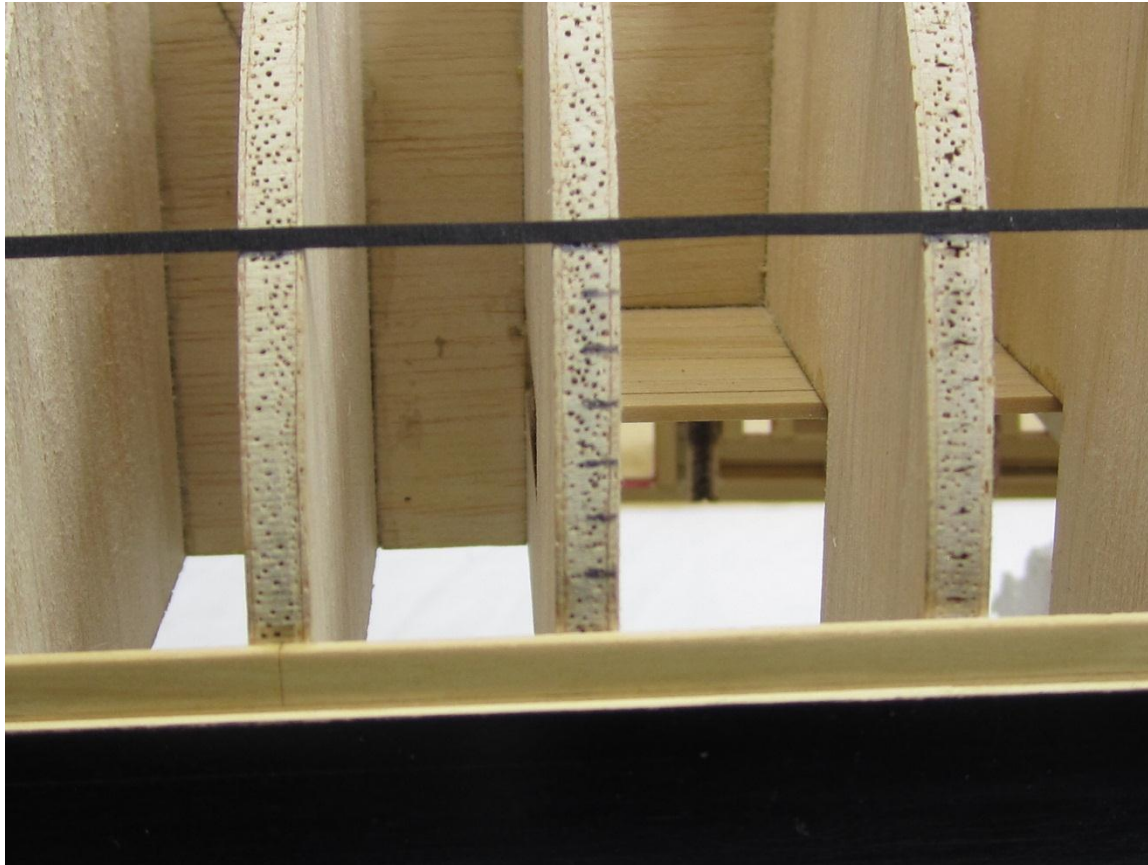


Planking fan template



Step Four – Slide the tick strip across the fan template until...

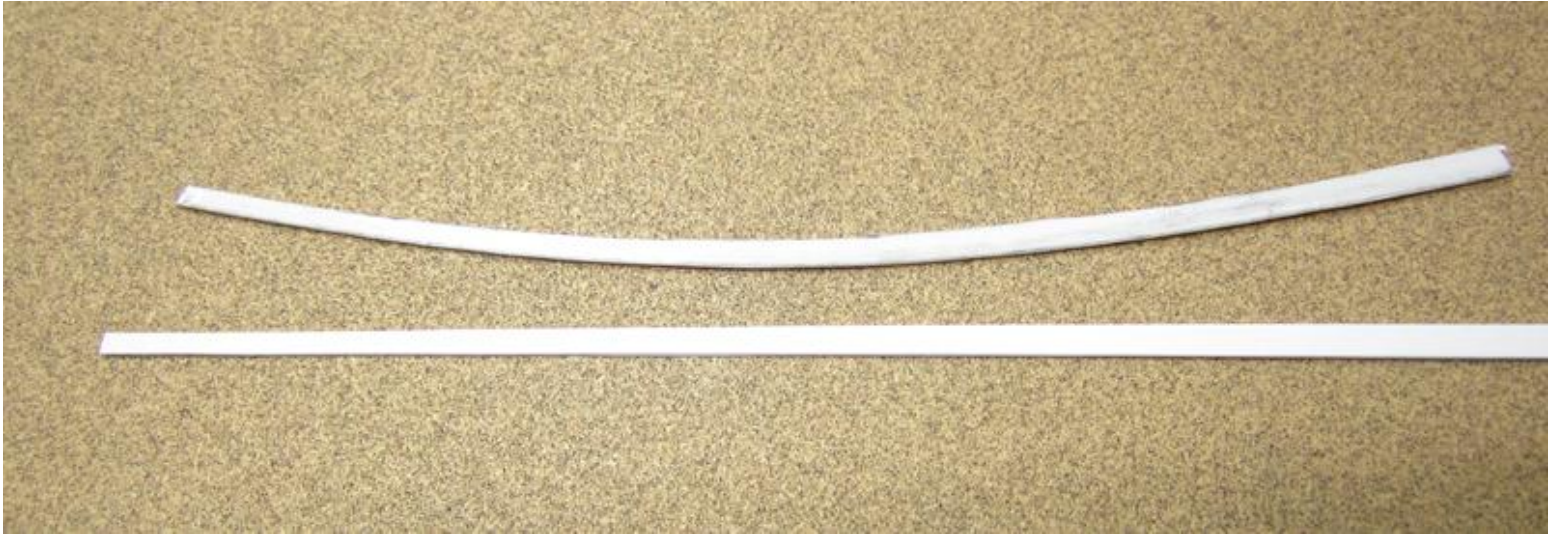
You see that seven strakes fill up the space for that belt FOR THAT BULKHEAD. Mark the seven planks on the strip with a sharp pencil. Do this for every bulkhead in every belt.



Step Five- Transfer the tick marks to your bulkhead edge...

Do it for every bulkhead

Spiling planks



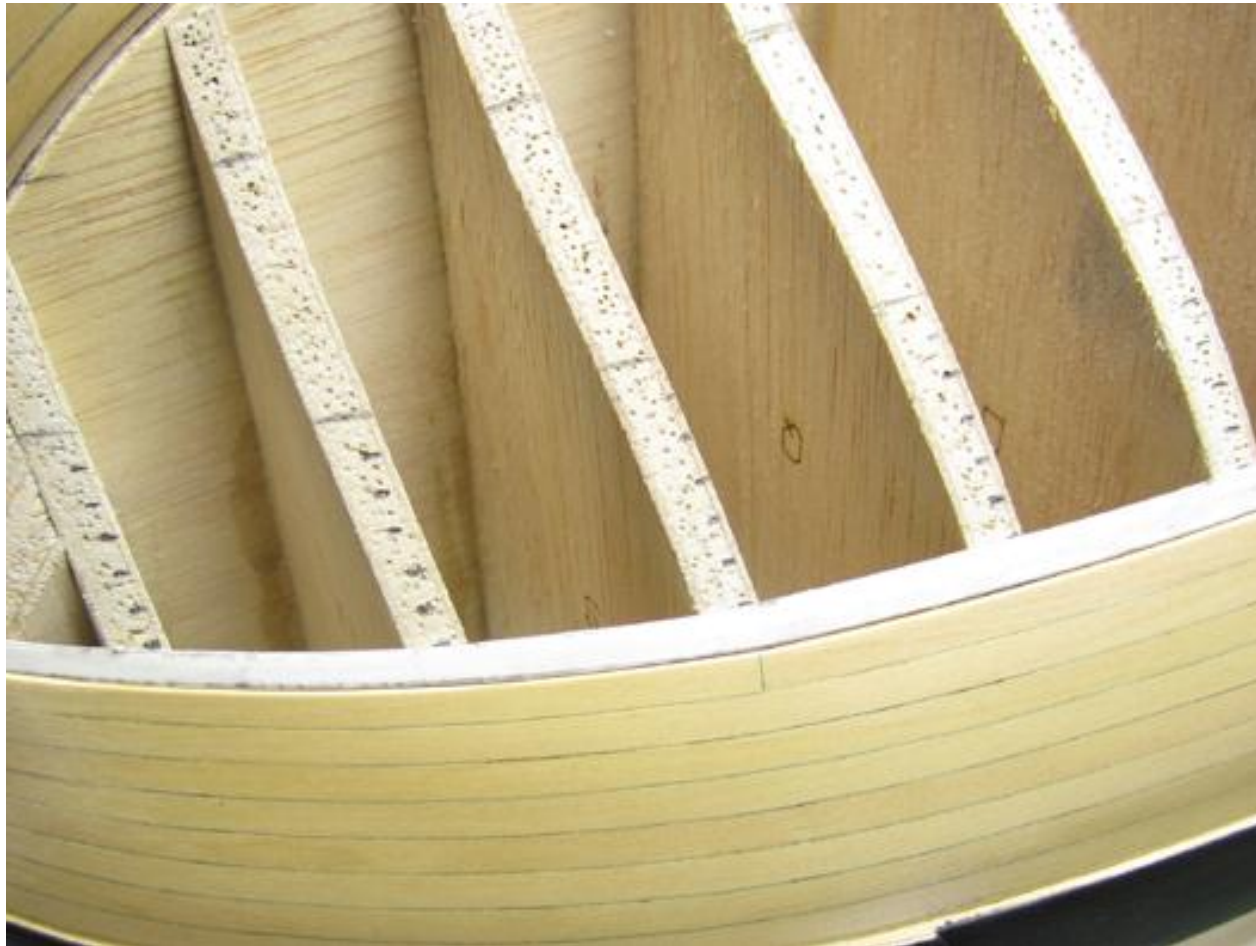
Using card for demonstration purposes...One straight plank

And one that is curved and spiled properly.....



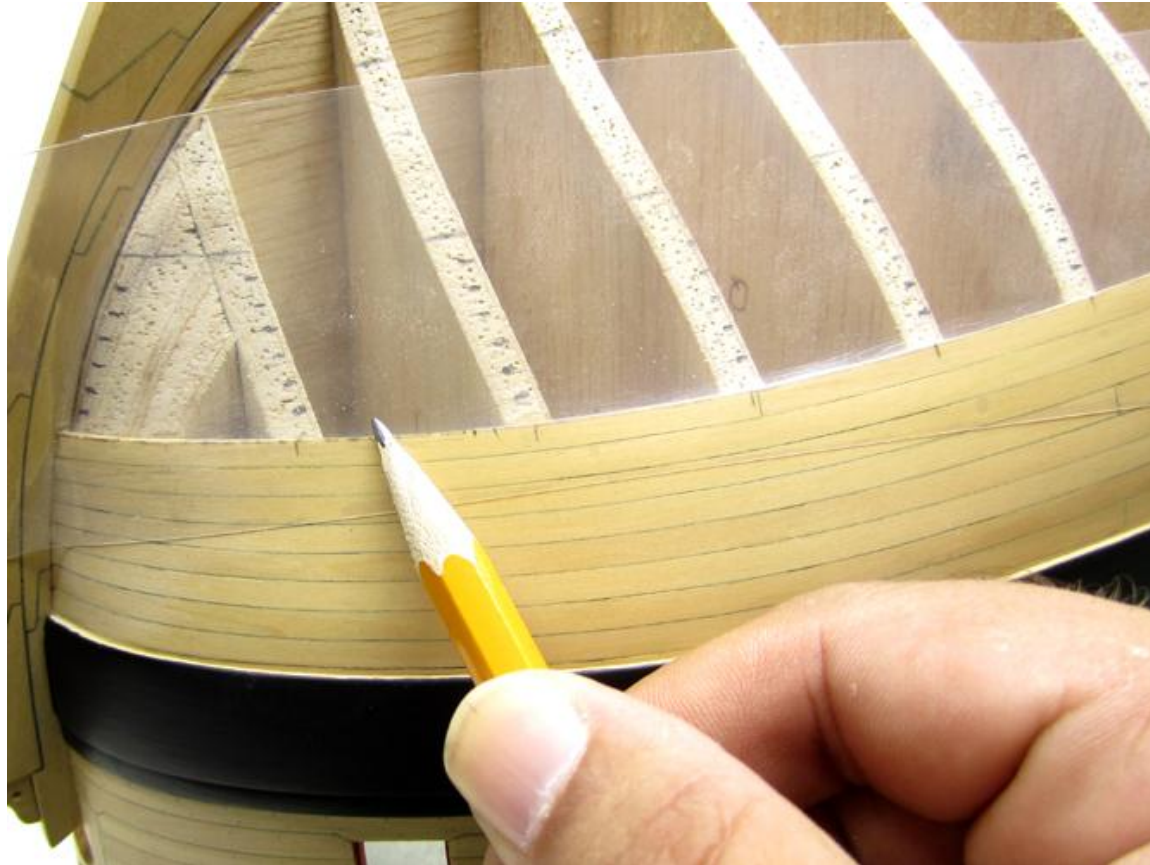
Straight plank wont lay flat against bulkheads

The bottom of each plank at the bow lifts off the frames giving you a clinker effect. Force bending doesn't work. This is no good.



Curved and spiled plank sits flush against the bulkheads

No forcing required. Easy-peasy but takes more time. It is well worth it.



Use wide see-through tape to splice

Rather than a compass. Try using tape. Wide tape is best. You should be able to write on it. This is low-tack scotch tape. You must not flex the tape on your hull edge-wise. The wide 3" tape makes edgewise flexing hard to do by accident. This is how you determine the curve for your plank so it fits perfectly. Also mark the bulkhead locations.



Transfer the widths at each bulkhead from your model.

Based on your lining off the hull, you can now transfer the marks at each bulkhead to your tape. You already have the widths of every strake at every bulkhead. This is done after you remove the tape from the hull and place it on a wood sheet. I am just using card stock for this exercise. This will create the correct taper for your plank.



Connect your reference marks with a French curve

Then cut your plank out with a scroll saw. You can just use a sharp blade if you are using basswood. It takes more time and uses more wood but the results speak for itself. You will still have to pre-bend the plank lengthwise to fit the curve at the bow or stern.



I planked two belts from the wales down...

Then I switch directions and plank the final two belts from the keel up.

Questions???

