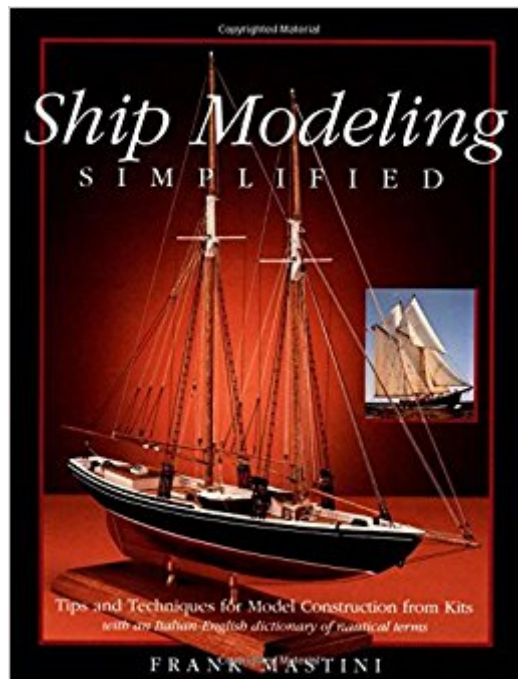




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# Ship Modeling Simplified: Tips And Techniques For Model Construction From Kits



## Synopsis

In *Ship Modeling Simplified*, master model builder Frank Mastini puts to paper the methods he's developed over 30 years at the workbench to help novices take their first steps in an exciting pastime. You don't need the deftness of a surgeon or the vocabulary of an old salt to build a model. What you need is an understanding coach. Mastini leads readers from the mysteries of choosing a kit and setting up a workshop through deciphering complicated instructions and on to painting, decorating, and displaying finished models--with patience and clarity, not condescension. He reveals dozens of shortcuts: How to plank a hull "egg-shell tight"; how to build and rig complicated mast assemblies without profanity; how to create sails that look like sails. . . . And along the way he points out things that beginners usually do wrong--beforehand, not after they've taken hammers to their projects. *Ship Modeling Simplified* even includes an Italian-English dictionary of nautical terms, the key to assembling the many high-quality Italian kits on the American market. Model building is fun, and not nearly as difficult as some experts would have you believe. Here is everything you'll ever need to get started in a hobby that will last a lifetime.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Frank Mastini acquired a lifelong curiosity about the sea and its historic sailing vessels as a youngster in Italy. A graduate of the Italian Naval Academy, Mastini honed his seamanship skills aboard the 270-foot, square-rigged training vessel, Amerigo Vespucci. He began his professional model building career in 1961, developing a clientele of collectors for whom he still builds on commission. Mastini recently finished a scratch-built model of the Mary and John, a ship that carried a group of Pilgrims from England to Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1630. He is the author of a series of articles for Ships in Scale magazine and is in frequent demand as a coach for beginning modelers. When not on the telephone discussing modeling problems, Mastini can be found at his Hartsdale, New York, workbench, enjoying retirement.

Over the past year or so, I've been tempted to adopt wooden ship building as a new hobby. I've modeled for years in other media (plastic, paper) and am also a woodworker, so it seemed like a good fit. Also, my son has been really getting into the Napoleonic wars and life in naval ships, so that was an added inducement. My typical method when becoming interested in something is to read anything I can about the subject. Consequently, I noticed on the net many references to this book and how good it is. So, I bought it. After reading it, I understand much more about the whole process of building these model ships. The author is (was?) obviously very familiar with the process and had developed many techniques that worked for him. Would those same techniques work for someone else? Maybe... One of the main problems for a novice looking to get in to this hobby is that the terminology of the time was unique and not necessarily logical. Nor, are the terms carried through to our own day. So, you have to put up with a fair amount of bewildering words. For instance, did you know that the Vangs connected the Gaff in the same way as a Stay? My biggest two criticisms of the book is that the author used these terms repeatedly and that some of his techniques appear easy but are not. I suppose the use of the proper terms is a good thing, I just wish the approach would have been more descriptive - i.e. add more diagrams or a pictorial dictionary of the terms; this was started with the naming of the various sails and masts, but stopped there. As to the techniques mentioned, some of them were really set up to allow you to build one model after another - but I am not sure that I want to spend the time and money to build these fancy jigs when I might only build one model ship in my lifetime! Another, more minor nit, is the loose organization of the logic flow in the book. At the beginning of each part, the author gives an overview of the flow. Unfortunately, in the body of the text, he then bounces around and does not necessarily follow his own order. Also, the overall sequence I think is flawed. The last two parts have you attach all the rigging and then add the various boats and their connections. But, in those

models that I've seen it seems like adding the stuff on the deck would be easier to do before the rigging is all attached so you do not have to maneuver around that mass of fine wires. Please do not take these criticisms as reasons not to buy the book. I thought I learned a lot from reading this brief book (only 115 pages). I am now looking at the actual model I purchased and can visualize a lot better what needs to be done and why it needs to be done in the order he recommends. So, I would concur that this is a good book - although not a great one.

Good basic book for wood ship modeling. I built wood ships years ago and got away from it for a while. Now that I'm retired and can't do my heavy woodworking I thought I get back into ship modeling again. This book was a good refresher course for me with a few new ideas. Not as comprehensive as I would have liked but that's only because I have had some experience in the past. Great book for beginners.

Ship Modeling covers a lot of good material although it is mostly about sailing ships. I'm working on a T-2 Tanker at this time (my father built them and took them on shake down cruises during World War Two). Never-the-less, there are parts of this book that I find are extremely valuable. The Bluejacket Ship Crafters Co will be saved many phone calls from me as a result. Examples: how do I paint these parts or which part is which (my model has hundreds), For anyone building a model made in Italy (and there are many) this book has a modeling English/Italian dictionary. Mr Mastini knows his business and I applaud him for it.

Most instruction sheets included with ship models can be very incomplete with drawings that leave a great deal to be desired. As I'm currently working on two wooden models after becoming dissatisfied with plastic models, I thought a better source of ideas and information was in order. This book really hits my target. Many good ideas, procedural steps and details on how real wooden sailing ships were built and rigged make this book a bargain for the modeler.

Excellent book for the novice model ship builder. I got to page 11 before determining that model ship building was not only complicated but very expensive. The recommended basic tool set is costly and it only progresses from there. Thanks to this book I did not invest in an expensive model kit!

Great starter read.

Beginner or not this book has a lot of tips and very well written so the novice or the pro will find it useful. There is a lot of tips on building a Blue Nose II (like I am at the moment).

If you making your first foray into the world of ship modeling, this is the book for you. The book is well written and there is a wealth of information along with many photos and diagrams. I would say that this book is written with the novice in mind. If you have already built a model or two, you probably don't need it.

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