

Painting and Staining

It may seem strange to begin an instruction manual with directions for applying the finishes to the model. Not so! Much time and effort can be saved and a more professional result can be obtained if the finishing process is carried out during construction. Proper timing in application of finishes and the use of masking tape to define painted edges should eliminate unsightly glue marks and splotchy stained surfaces. In the end, following these general suggestions will be to your advantage.

Paint Colors:

At the time of *Dapper Tom*, 1815, colors were largely determined by economics. Reds, yellows, and grays were cheap mineral colors, hence more common. White lead was coming into use but was still expensive.

A suggested color scheme for *Dapper Tom* is as follows:

Hull Above the Waterline - Black with a cream stripe at gunport level. Painting the Wale strip cream will do the trick.

Hull Bottom Below Waterline - Pale Green to represent weathered copper. A thin wash of black over the green will enhance the weathered look but do not overpower the green.

Deck Planking - Natural or a light tan stain such as pine.

Inside Bulwarks (including the stanchions), Waterways, Top of Skylight, Hatch Gratings, Transom Cap Rail & Side Mouldings, Inside Transom & Counter - Light Buff

Hatch Coamings, Galley Funnel Coaming, Pin Rails, Bitts, Channels, Catheads,

Skylight Sides, Gun Carriages, Anchor Stock - Dark Reddish Brown (preferred) or White (second choice)

Stern Decoration - Gold stars.

Masts & Spars - Pine Stain.

Mast Doublings, Tops, Rudder Tiller, Galley Funnel, Gaff Jaws, Bowsprit Cap, Bulwark Cap Rails, & Gun Carriage Wheels - Black.

Cannon Barrels & Anchors - Iron Black.

Capstan - Black top & Dark Reddish Brown barrel.

Paint:

Use a flat-finish paint. Model Shipways line of acrylic paints are available in the recommended colors. You may also purchase an already assembled *Dapper Tom* paint kit from Model Expo at www.modelexpo-online.com.

Primer:

Use a grey primer (one is provided with the Model Expo *Dapper Tom* paint kit.) The grey color will highlight sanding scratches and other defects better than white primer. Prime all woodwork to be painted, and prime all metal fittings. Lightly sand the primed items. Use a spackling compound such as Pic-n-Patch brand to fill any scratches and defects, then re-prime.

Stains & Finishes:

For natural finished wood, use a protective coating after staining, such as low-sheen polyurethane varnish. You can also use an oil-resin mix like the ones sold by Model Expo or Minwax.

For the deck and spars, Model Expo stain or Minwax can be used. These are a combination stain-finish that will provide a light tone

to the wood. The deck plank scores can be darkened with any dark color to simulate caulking. It would be best to first varnish the surface, wiping the dark color into the scores, then wipe the surface of the planks clean. You can also run a sharp No. 2 pencil down each groove, then varnish.

The staining of all wood parts should be done before gluing, especially if any CA glue is used. Glue will leave ugly white areas in the finish, and the stain will not penetrate these areas.

Brushes & Procedures:

Use good quality soft sable or synthetic hair artist's brushes. A small pointed brush is good for details. For the main hull areas, use a 1/4" to 1/2" flat brush.

Before painting, clean the model with a tack rag. Apply your paint in smooth and even strokes, overlapping them as you go. Thin the paint enough to eliminate brush strokes, but not run. You will need three or four coats of the light colors to cover the grey primer and maybe only two coats of the dark. Check your finish between coats and sand and add spackle as necessary to get rid of any blemishes.

You will be told how to mark the waterline location in Stage A. At this line, and anywhere else two colors meet, use masking tape. Electrician's black plastic tape or any of the hobby tapes made of plastic film are ideal. They leave a nice edge and are not overly sticky. Do not use drafting tape unless it is Chart-pak brand. The edges are somewhat wrinkled and paint may run under them. A good trick; seal the edge of masking tape with a clear flat finish and let dry thoroughly. This will really prevent paint from running under the tape.

STAGE A: SHAPING THE PRE-CARVED HULL

Sanding alone will not shape the hull enough to precisely match the hull lines. Some carving is required, especially at the rail, keel, bow, & stern areas.

1. Using the Templates

For exact carving to hull lines, a template is required for the hull profile and each of the nine stations (Figure A-1). You will find a template set printed on heavy stock paper in the kit. Cut the templates out carefully with a No. 11 hobby knife. Do not use scissors! You will want a nice smooth edge.

Option-The profile template can be cut at Station 5 to make fitting easier. Just make sure you have the keel straight and don't build in a knuckle. Likewise, the station

templates can be cut at the bulwark. If you do this, mark the width of the hull at each

station on top of the bulwark beforehand and carve to these marks.

