

# U.S.S. Constitution

## “Old Ironsides”

Nearly two hundred years after launching, the historic Frigate U.S.S. Constitution remains as the United States Navy's most famous commissioned warship. This impressive ship-of-the-line was designed as a 44-gun Frigate, and embodied design features that added significantly to her superiority as a warship. When she was launched, the “Constitution” was considered to be an extremely large warship. The gun deck was located high above the waterline to enable the cannons to remain operational during combat that occurred in heavy seas. Powered by an impressive array of sails, the “Constitution” was capable of outrunning or overtaking her adversaries. The black hull was sheathed in rugged white oak timber hewn in the forests of Georgia and New England. Displacing in excess of 2200 tons, the gallant “Constitution” ~~was over 200 feet in length and carried a crew of 475~~ seamen.

Although the “Constitution” first sailed in 1798, she first saw combat in 1803 against marauding pirate corsairs off the coast of Tripoli. As part of a small, but skilled American Fleet, the “Constitution” engaged and captured several enemy vessels. During the war of 1812, the crew of the “Constitution” fought the British Warship “Guerriere” in a classic sea battle. Trading point blank salvos, the vicious cannon fire dismasted the British vessel. Amazingly, the British firepower failed to seriously damage the stout oaken hull, earning the vessel the nickname of “Old Ironsides.”

During 1829, the Navy ordered the scrapping of the vessel, but public protest succeeded in obtaining a fairly thorough reconstruction. The U.S.S. Constitution served with the Navy until the early 1900's, and was completely restored over a four year period during the late 1920's. Today, she is maintained as a prized United States memorial in the Boston Navy Yard.



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### READ THIS BEFORE YOU BEGIN

You will need cement for polystyrene plastic, a modeling knife, tweezers for handling small pieces, masking tape for painting, small scissors for cutting the sails and toothpicks for applying cement to very small areas.

Read through the instructions and study the assembly drawings to become familiar with all parts of the model. Once you have done this, begin assembly with step one. Do not rush the assembly — serious mistakes can be avoided by working carefully.

Each plastic piece is identified by a number stamped either on the part or a small tab near the part. The instructions will indicate by number which pieces are needed in each step. DO NOT detach parts from the trees until you are ready to use them.

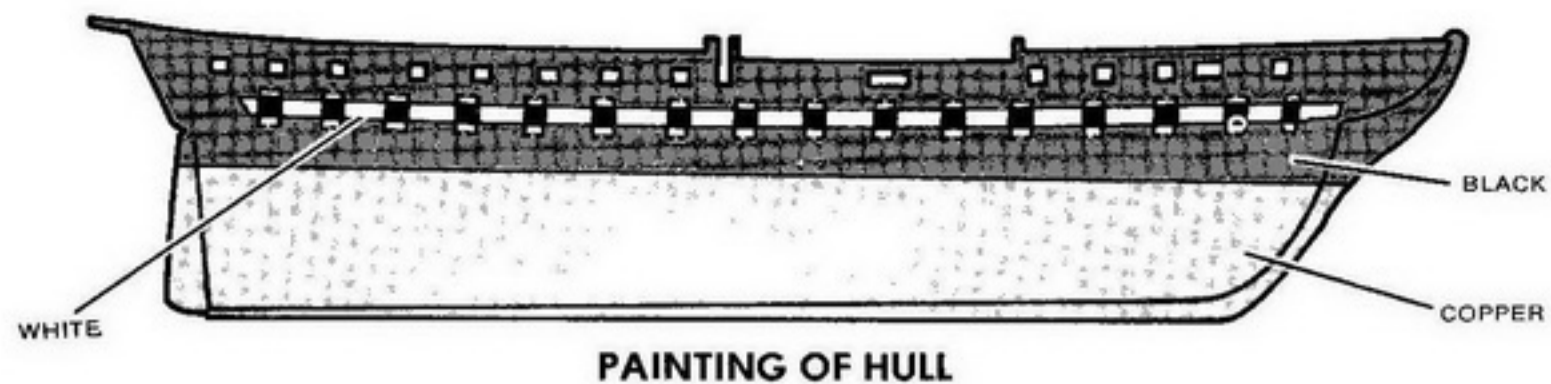
After cutting off the required part, trim away any excess bits of plastic that are not part of the usable piece. Use a sharp knife, such as a modeling knife, available at your hobby counter. Check the fit of each piece before you cement it in place. USE ONLY CEMENT SPECIFIED FOR USE WITH STYRENE PLASTIC.

DO NOT use too much cement to join the parts. All plastic cements contain solvents that dissolve the plastic forming a weld between the parts. Too much cement can soften and distort the plastic, spoiling your model's appearance. The tip of a toothpick is helpful in applying cement to small or confined areas. Keep fingers clean of cement so that the outer surfaces of the parts are not marred when handling them.

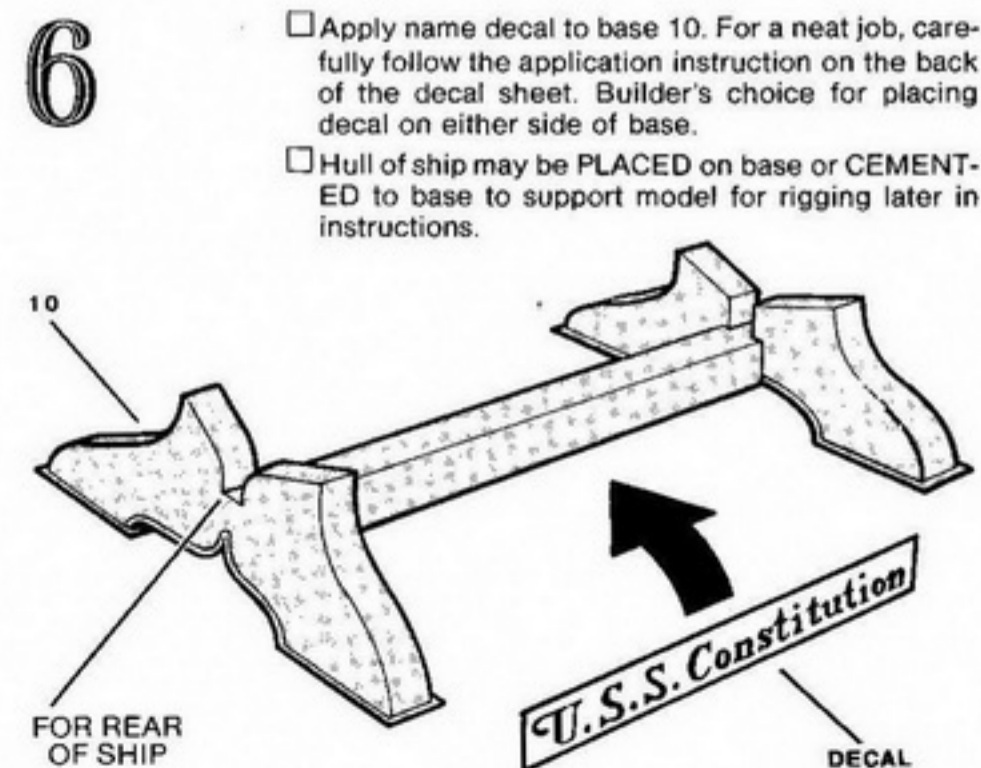
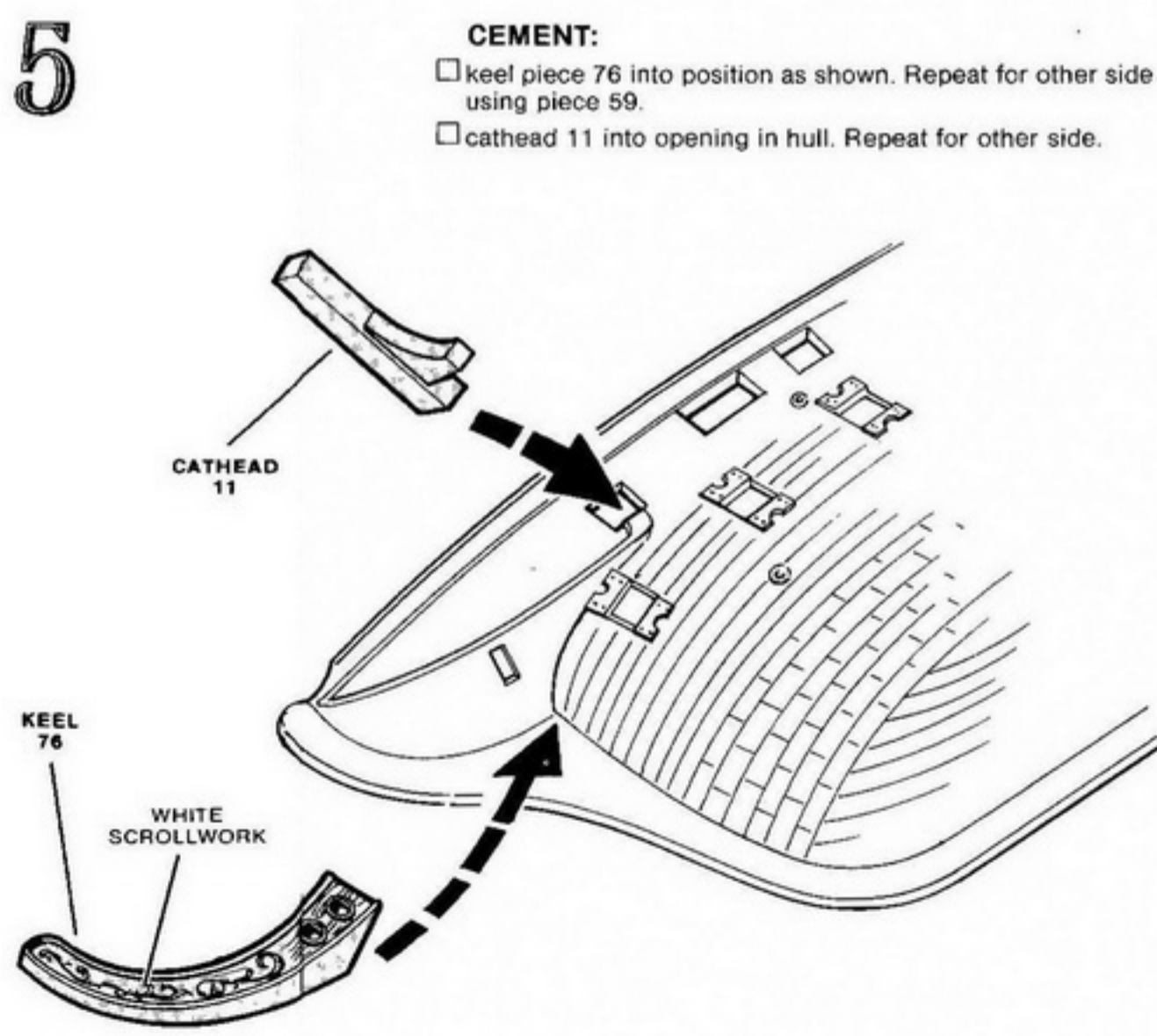
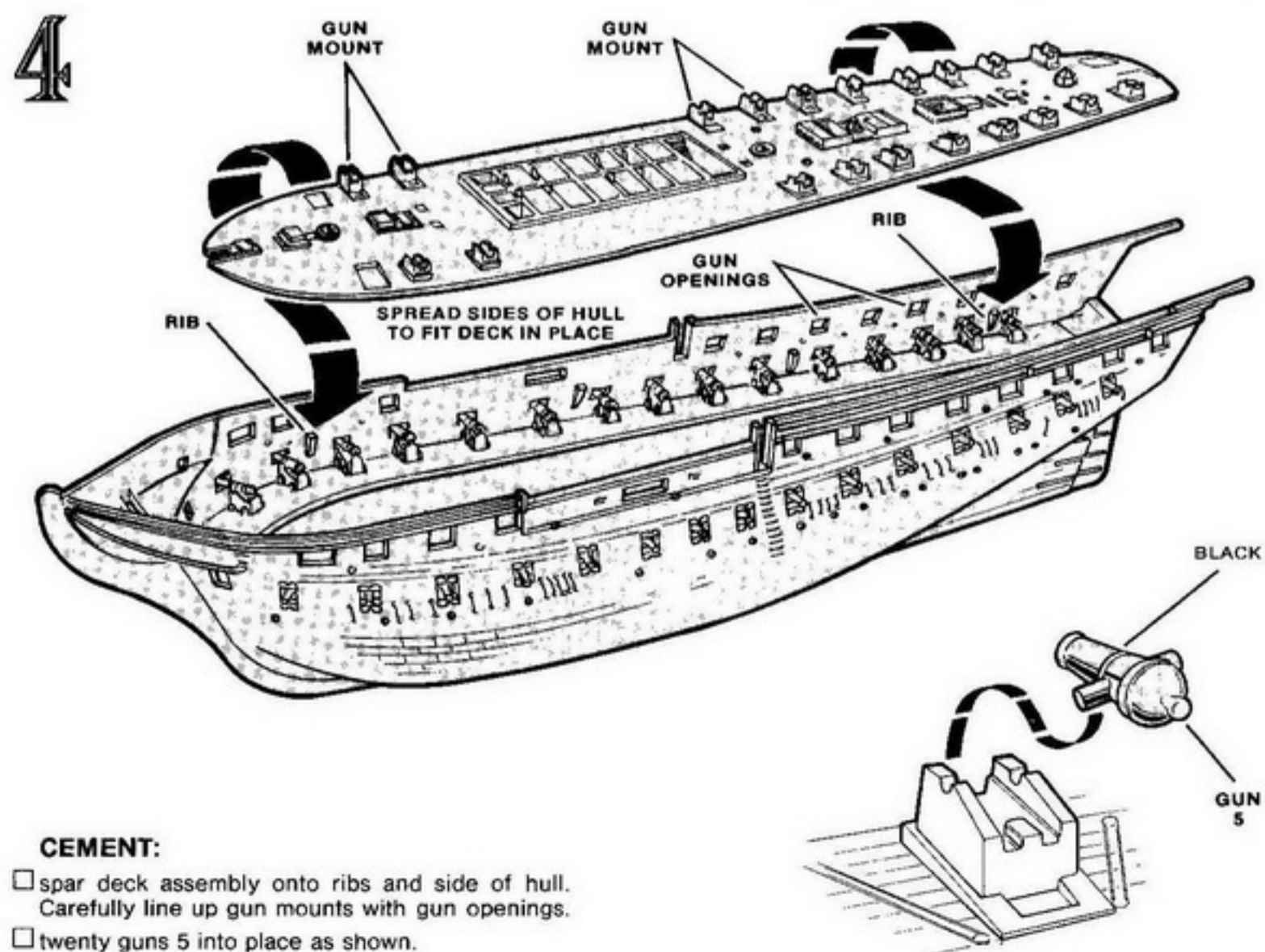
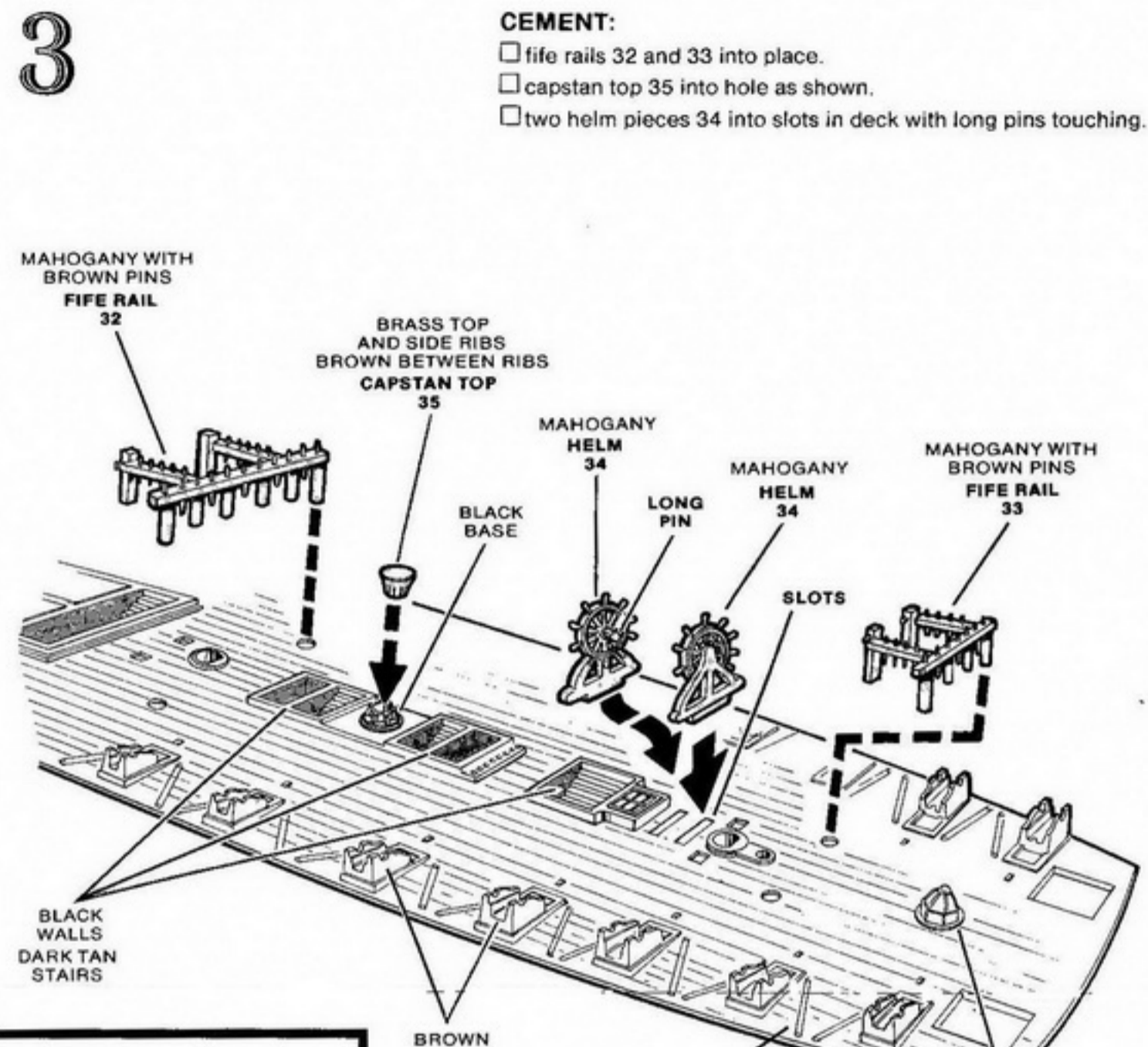
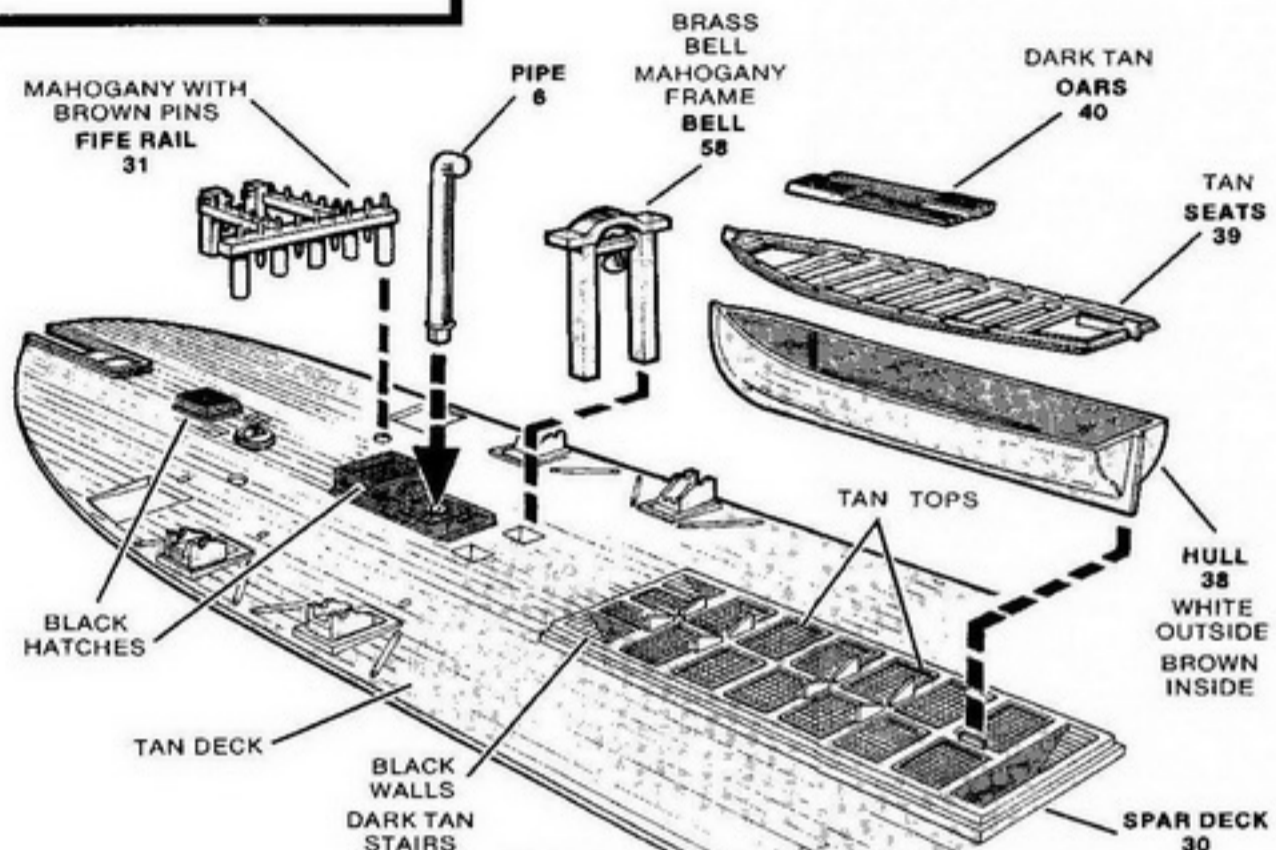
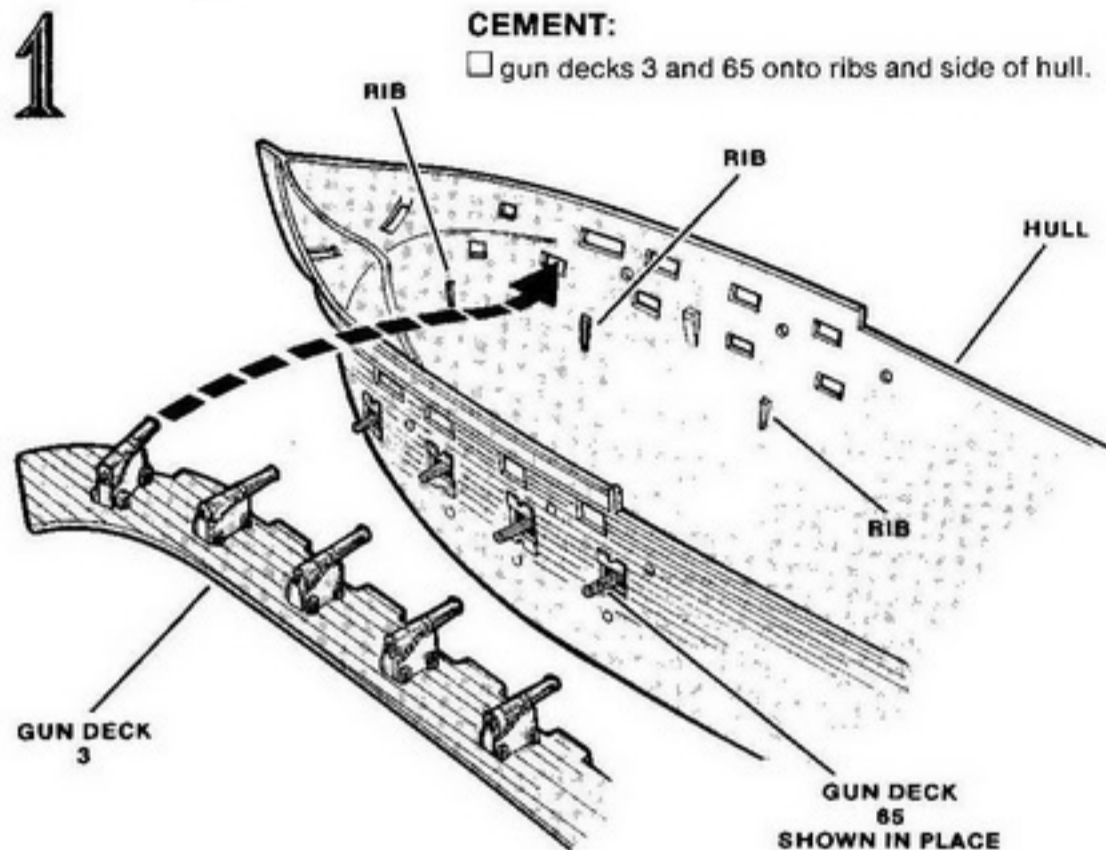
The kit can be assembled into an attractive model without painting. If you wish to paint your model, each illustration in the assembly procedure indicates color to be used and where the paint should be applied. It is best to paint most of the parts before cementing them. Only ENAMEL or PAINT FOR PLASTICS should be used.

For better paint adhesion, it is advisable to wash the plastic parts trees in a mild detergent solution. Rinse and let dry. After washing, handle the parts carefully to avoid skin-oil which may affect the adhesion.

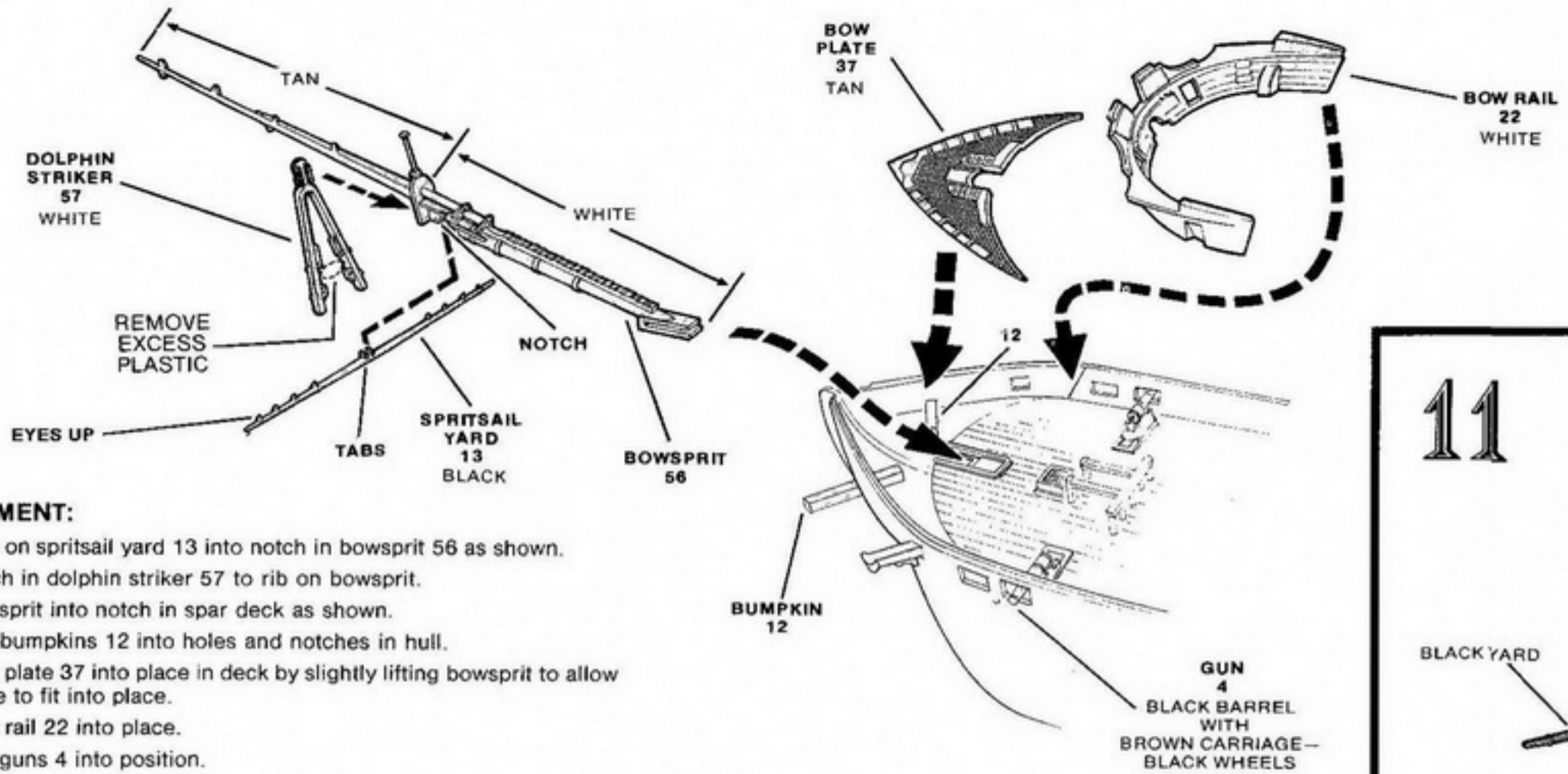
A small pointed brush is best for painting small parts. Larger areas are best covered with a soft brush about 1/4 inch wide. Allow time for paint to dry thoroughly before handling parts. Scrape paint away from areas which will be cemented because cement will not hold to paint.



### PAINTING OF HULL



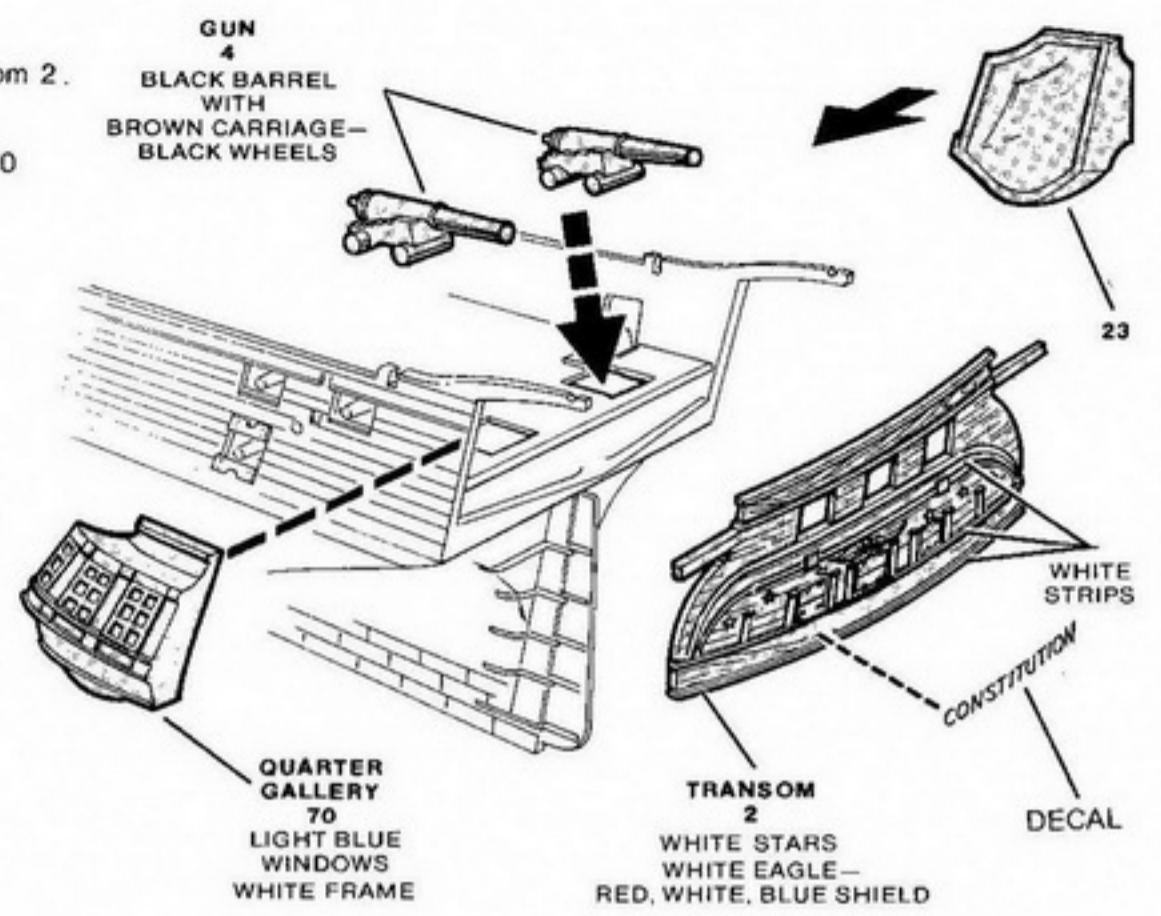
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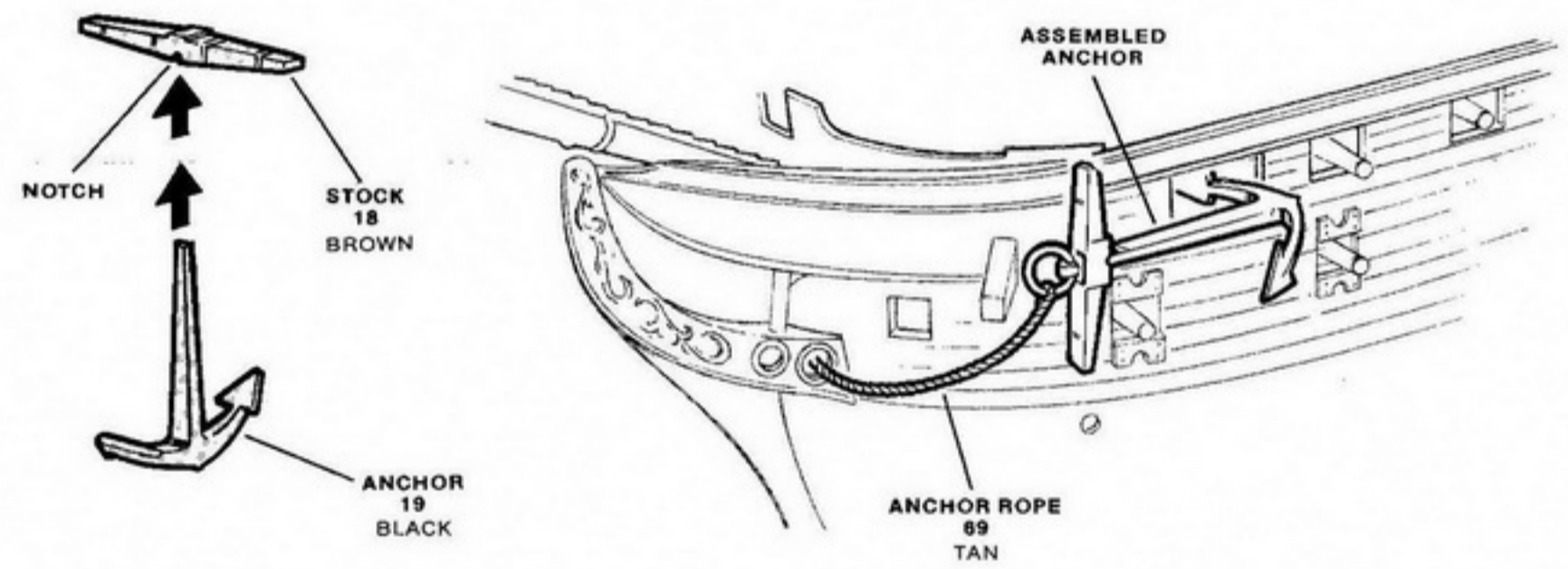
- CEMENT:**
- tabs on spritsail yard 13 into notch in bowsprit 56 as shown.
  - notch in dolphin striker 57 to rib on bowsprit.
  - bowsprit into notch in spar deck as shown.
  - two bumpkins 12 into holes and notches in hull.
  - bow plate 37 into place in deck by slightly lifting bowsprit to allow plate to fit into place.
  - bow rail 22 into place.
  - two guns 4 into position.

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- CEMENT:**
- Apply name decal to transom 2.
  - transom onto end of hull.
  - quarter galleries 23 and 70 to sides of hull and to transom.
  - two guns 4 into position.



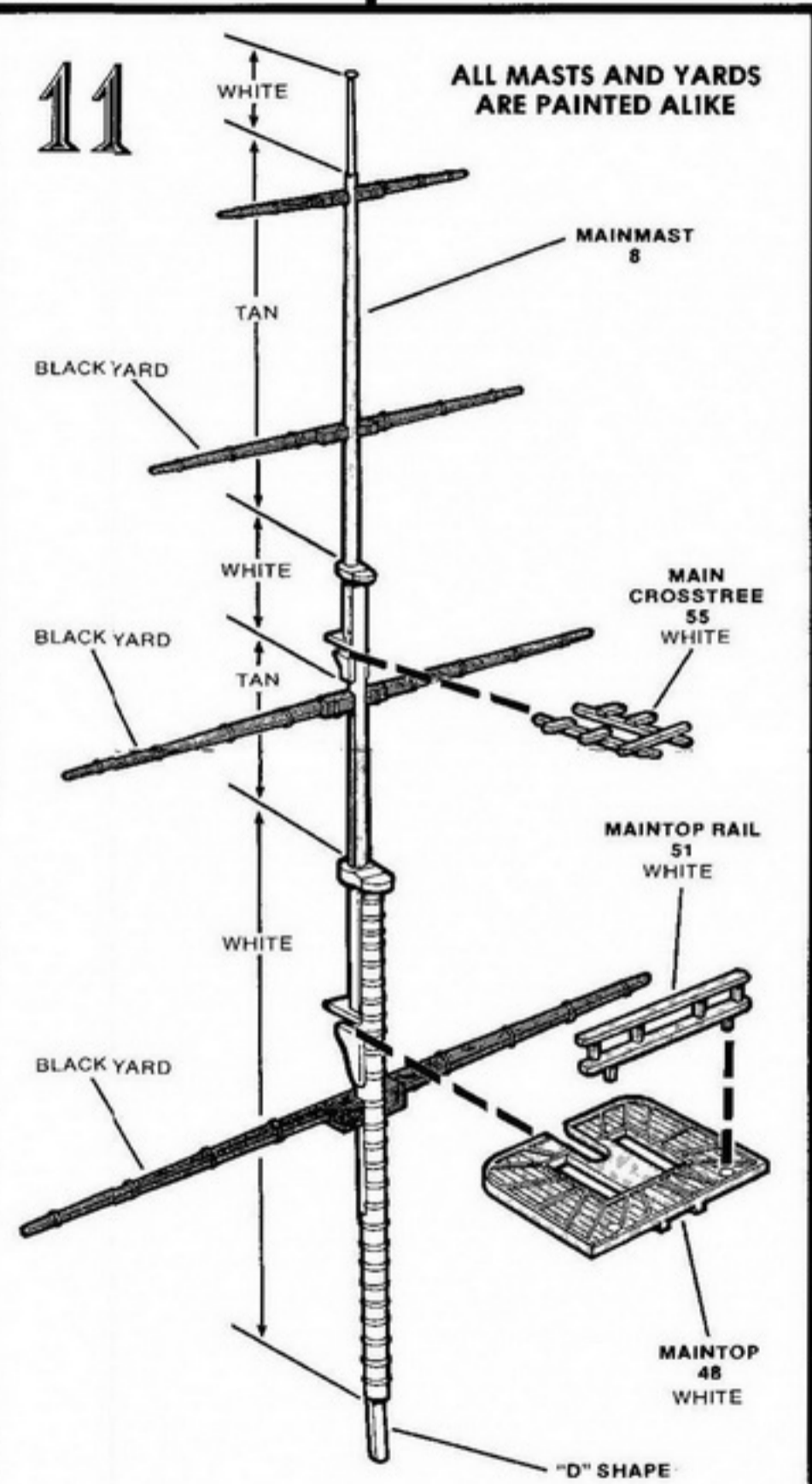
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**RIGHT SIDE SHOWN**

- Assemble THREE anchors as shown using three anchors 19, two stocks 18 and one stock 46.
- Cement anchor (with ring) onto right side of ship as shown.
- Cement an anchor to front of ship and anchor rope 69 into position shown.
- Repeat for an anchor and rope 20 to other side.

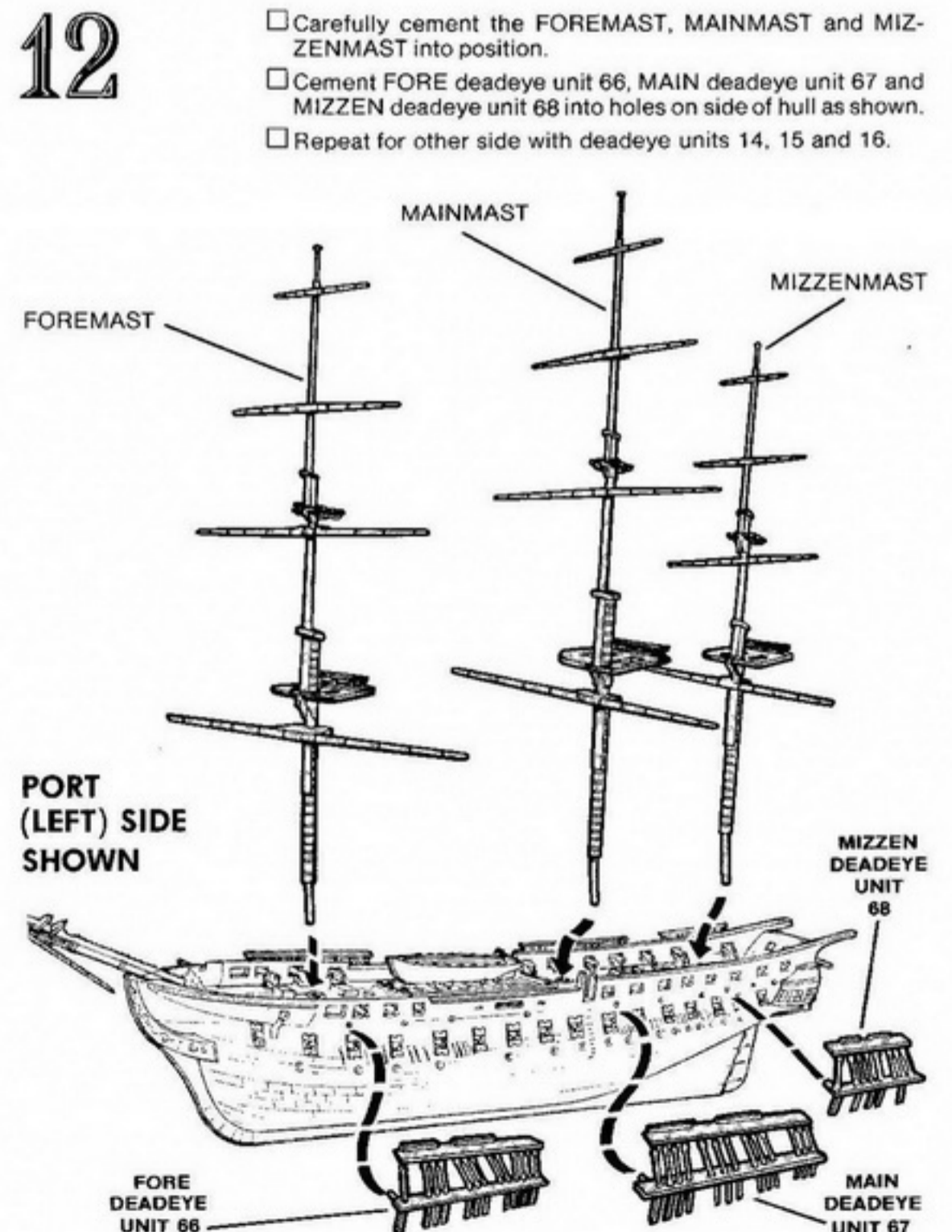
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**MAINMAST SHOWN**

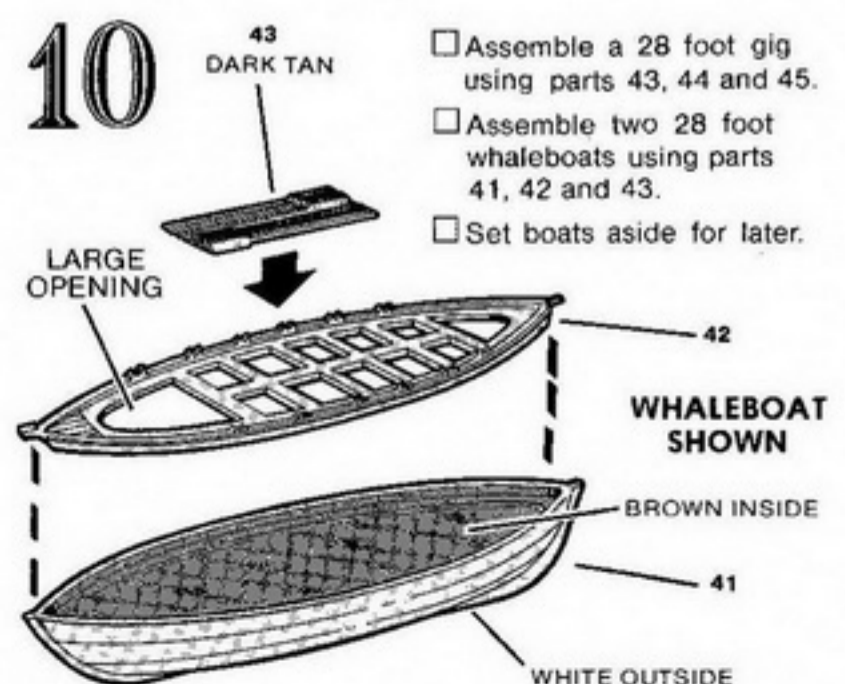
- Assemble MAINMAST as shown using mainmast 8, main crosstree 55, maintop 48 and maintop rail 51.
- Assemble FOREMAST, in the same manner as the MAINMAST, using parts 7, 47, 50 and 53.
- Assemble MIZZENMAST using parts 9, 49, 52 and 54.

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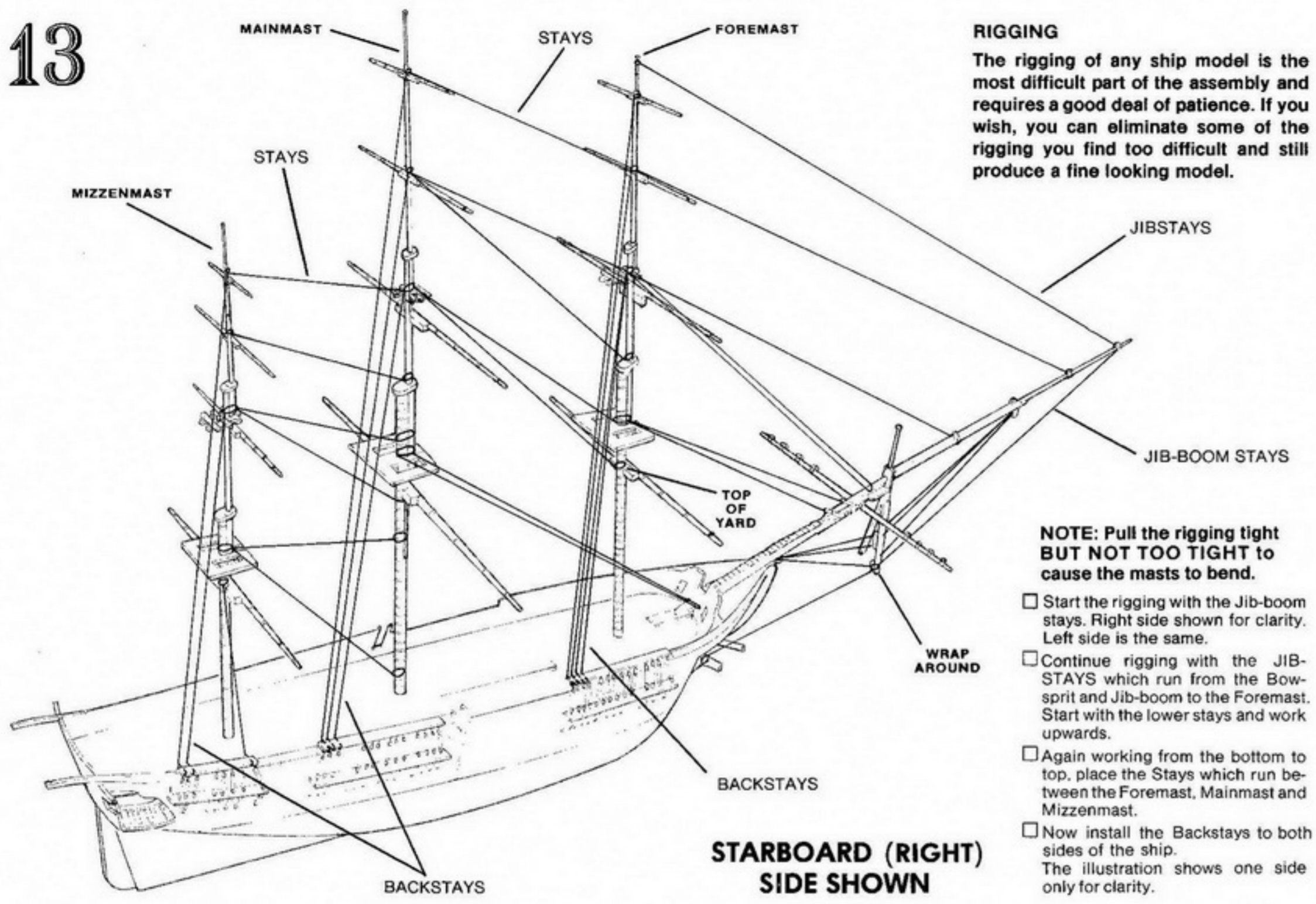


- Carefully cement the FOREMAST, MAINMAST and MIZZENMAST into position.
- Cement FORE deadeye unit 66, MAIN deadeye unit 67 and MIZZEN deadeye unit 68 into holes on side of hull as shown.
- Repeat for other side with deadeye units 14, 15 and 16.

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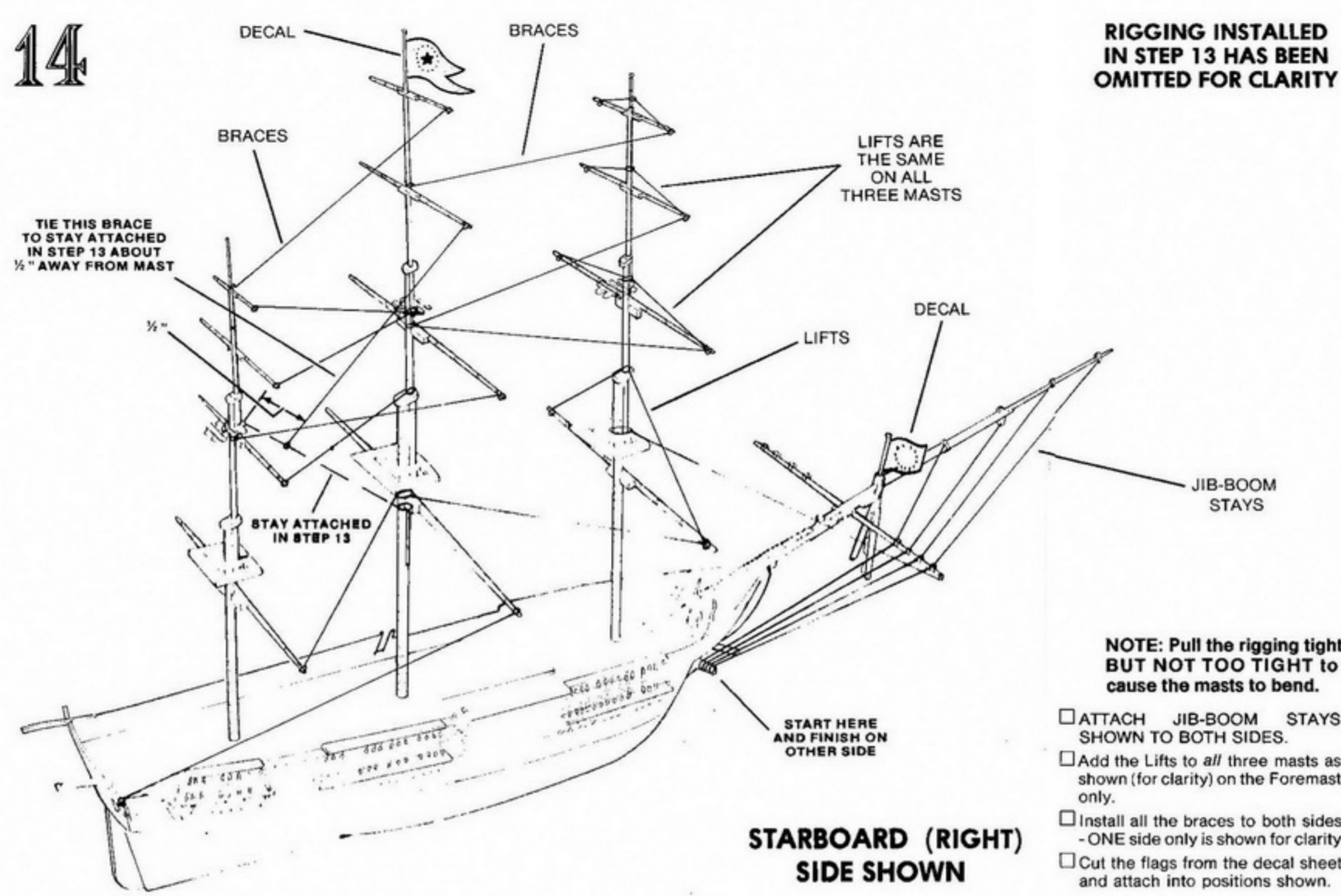
- Assemble a 28 foot gig using parts 43, 44 and 45.
- Assemble two 28 foot whaleboats using parts 41, 42 and 43.
- Set boats aside for later.



**RIGGING**  
The rigging of any ship model is the most difficult part of the assembly and requires a good deal of patience. If you wish, you can eliminate some of the rigging you find too difficult and still produce a fine looking model.

- NOTE: Pull the rigging tight BUT NOT TOO TIGHT to cause the masts to bend.**
- Start the rigging with the Jib-boom stays. Right side shown for clarity. Left side is the same.
  - Continue rigging with the JIB-STAYS which run from the Bow-sprit and Jib-boom to the Foremast. Start with the lower stays and work upwards.
  - Again working from the bottom to top, place the Stays which run between the Foremast, Mainmast and Mizzenmast.
  - Now install the Backstays to both sides of the ship. The illustration shows one side only for clarity.

STARBOARD (RIGHT) SIDE SHOWN



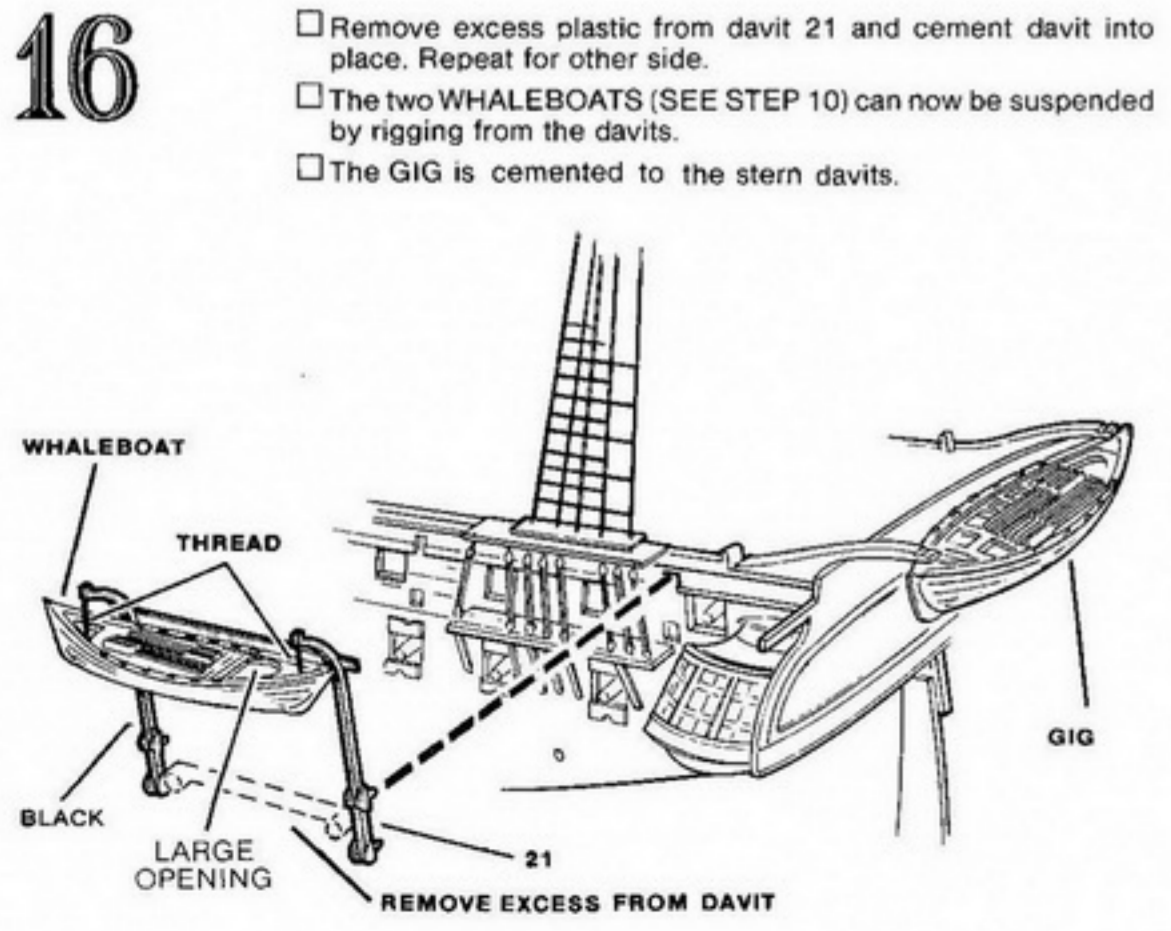
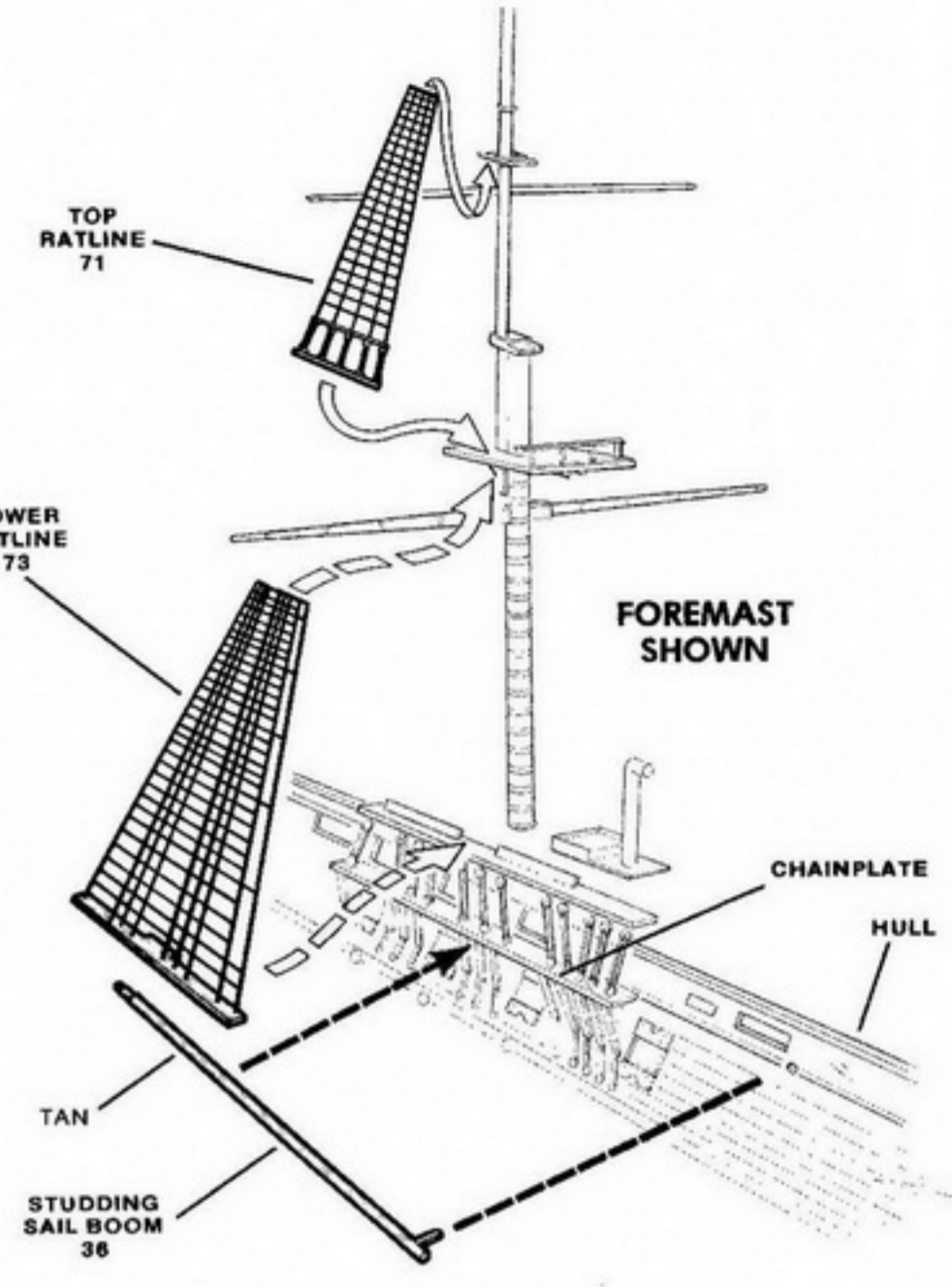
**RIGGING INSTALLED IN STEP 13 HAS BEEN OMITTED FOR CLARITY**

- NOTE: Pull the rigging tight BUT NOT TOO TIGHT to cause the masts to bend.**
- ATTACH JIB-BOOM STAYS SHOWN TO BOTH SIDES.
  - Add the Lifts to all three masts as shown (for clarity) on the Foremast only.
  - Install all the braces to both sides - ONE side only is shown for clarity.
  - Cut the flags from the decal sheet and attach into positions shown.

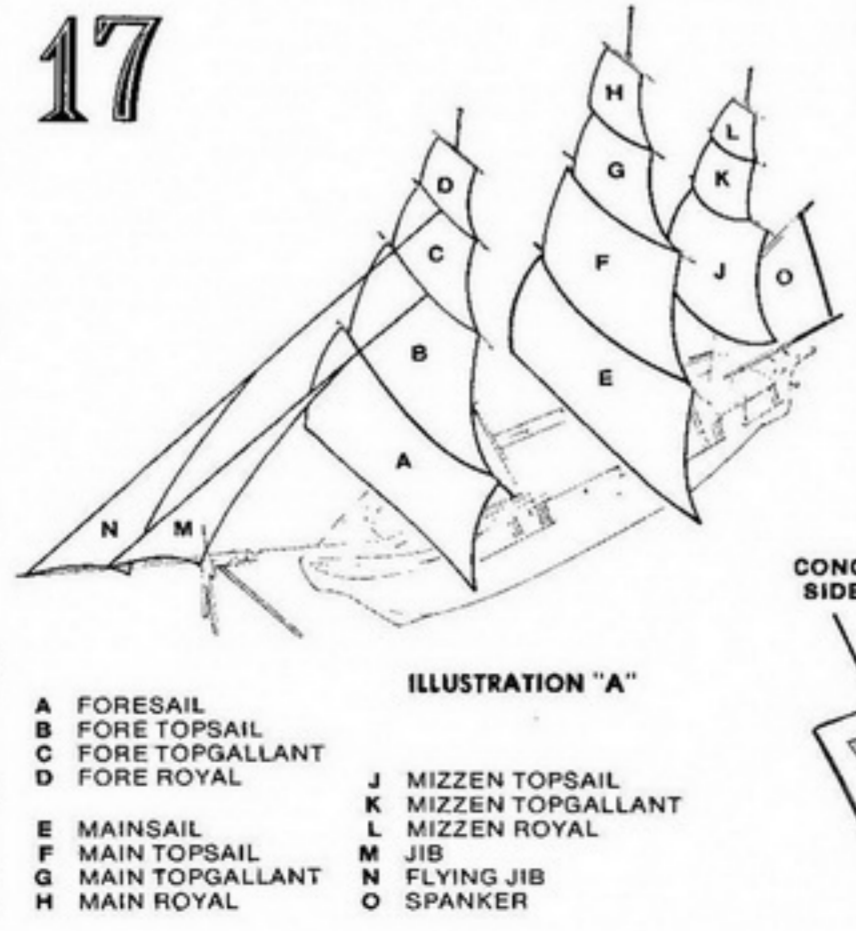
STARBOARD (RIGHT) SIDE SHOWN

PORT (LEFT) SIDE SHOWN

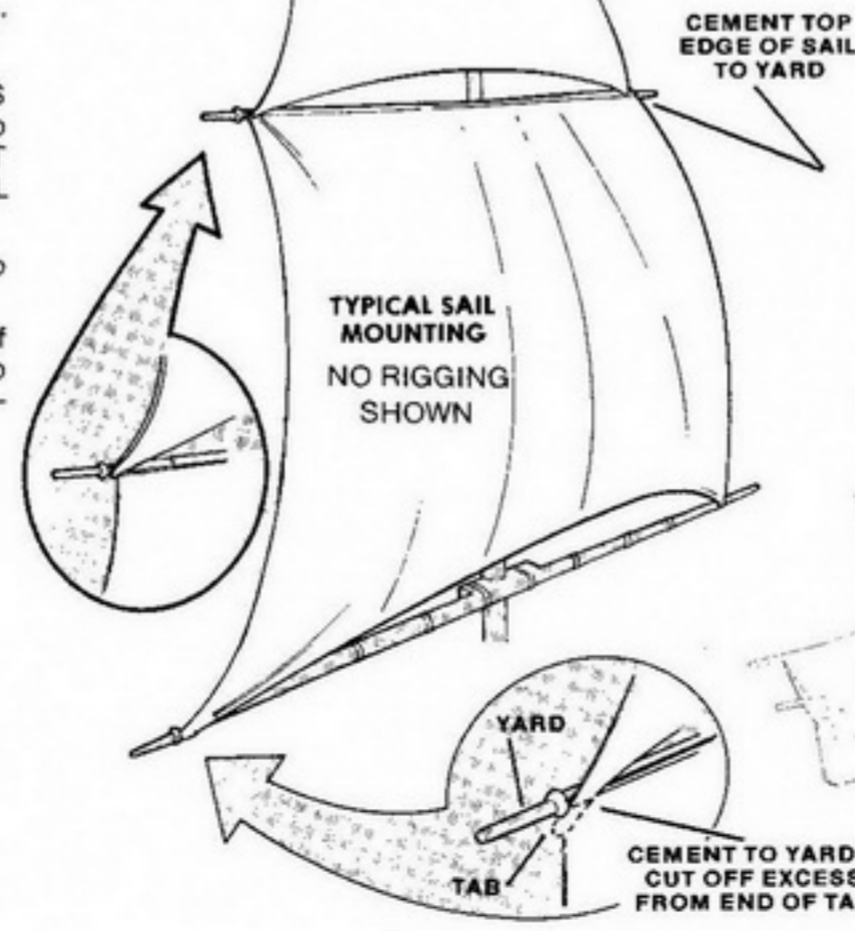
- Cement TOP RATLINE 71 and LOWER RATLINE 73 into place on PORT SIDE as shown for Foremast.
- Cement TOP RATLINE 24 and LOWER RATLINE 27 to STARBOARD SIDE.
- Install PORT SIDE RATLINES 72 and 74 to Mainmast - 75 and 77 to Mizzenmast.
- Install STARBOARD SIDE RATLINES 25 and 28 to Mainmast - 26 and 29 to Mizzenmast.
- Cement a STUDDING SAIL BOOM 36 to hull and Chainplate on each side.



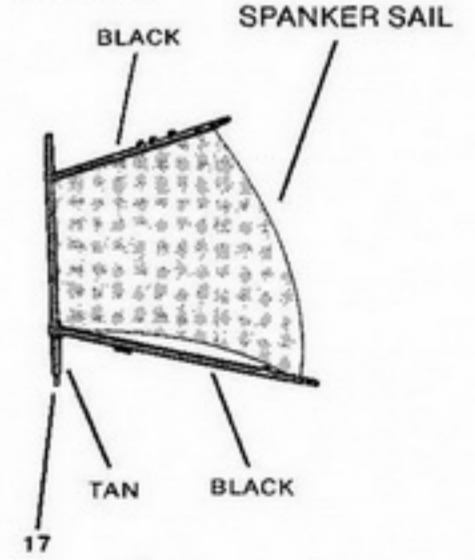
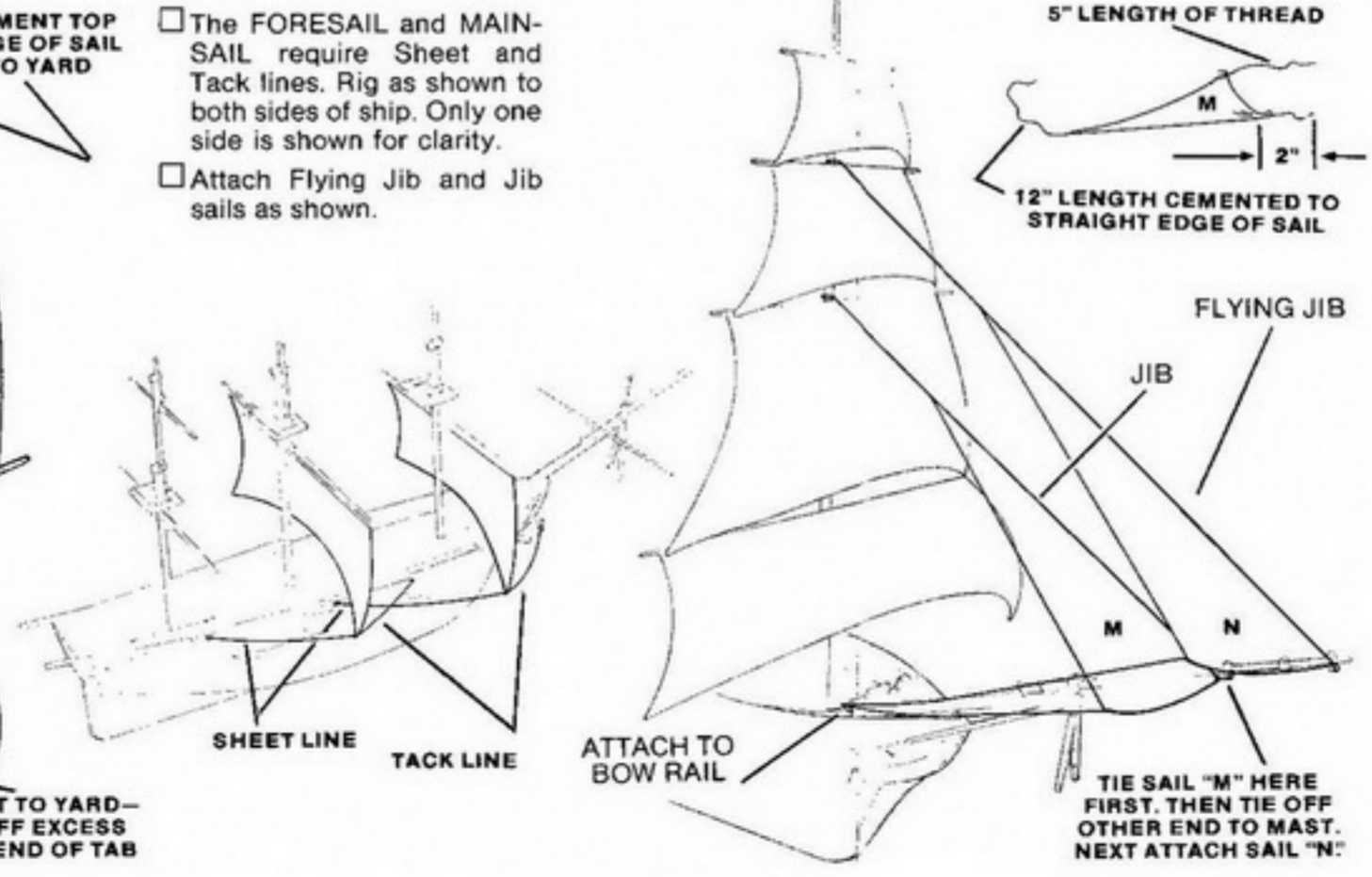
- Remove excess plastic from davit 21 and cement davit into place. Repeat for other side.
- The two WHALEBOATS (SEE STEP 10) can now be suspended by rigging from the davits.
- The GIG is cemented to the stern davits.



- Refer to ILLUSTRATION "A" for the position of all sails.
- CAREFULLY cut SAILS from sail sheet. It is best to remove and attach ONE AT A TIME. START WITH SAIL "A" AND WORK UP.
- Cement top edge of sail to Yards as shown.
- The tabs on lower edge of some sails are cemented to the lower yard. Remove excess from tabs.



- The FORESAIL and MAIN-SAIL require Sheet and Tack lines. Rig as shown to both sides of ship. Only one side is shown for clarity.
- Attach Flying Jib and Jib sails as shown.



- Cement Sparker Sail to mast 17 as shown.
- Cement Sparker sail assembly into place just back of the Mizzenmast.
- Attach rigging as shown.
- Cut the flag from decal sheet and attach into position.

