

BUILD THE LEGENDARY

H.M.S.

BOUNTY

ADMIRALTY MODEL

ADMIRALTY SHIP MODELS



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ADMIRALTY SHIP MODELS

The origins of admiralty model style date back to the 17th century. At the time, naval shipyards would not use drawings and projects. The conception of a new ship used to be assigned to expert artisans, who would hand the secrets of their craft down from generation to generation.

Before proceeding with the building, consent of those who had commissioned the ship was required. In England, the decision would be up to specific committees, who used to work under the Admiralty and to scrutinise a model reproducing exactly the ship shapes and its structure, before giving the go-ahead for the building of the ship. The assessment of the hull features, of its volumes, and the building techniques were of main importance. That is why, the models made for the committees' approval would also reproduce the ship internal structure. The models would be built for specific technical purposes and assessed by experts. It was the hull to be of interest and not the whole ship, in fact: masts and sails would be left out.

Such a use spread in the majority of the European countries and in the U.S., so that the models built for this purpose were called "admiralty models."

The similar and so called "modélisme d'Arsenal" mostly spread in France. Again, the hull would be reproduced in details, and the ship internal structure used to be displayed, but the aim was basically educational: they were models for students to learn the ships different building techniques of the time.

Modern Ship Models

Still today, the features of admiralty models arouse great interest among people who are passionate about ship models. Such models provide a ship view that is very different from a common replica, indeed, since the latter reproduces the external shape, only.



An admiralty model, instead, is a sort of "anatomy" and allows to grasp the details and the most intimate secrets of a vessel. Obviously, the models are difficult to build and require deepened research. Besides, since the ship parts are not only reproduced in terms of shape but also of thickness, the techniques commonly used to make ship model kits are lacking.

That is why admiralty models are only for few modellers – provided with extraordinary skills and equipped workshops – who can build every single piece by themselves. Like proper shipwrights, the modellers who take on admiralty models must handle carpentry, sculpture and carving...

The final outcome is spectacular, and allows to take a proper journey across ancient naval architecture. Yet, very few are able to achieve such a goal. At least, so far.

An Easy-to-Build Admiralty Model

Model Space, in collaboration with Incipit - Perfect Model, has made a model kit to build an admiralty model of renowned merchant vessel HMS Bounty.

The model combines the features of admiralty model style with easy-to-build traditional kits. All the parts are ready and cut. They just need to be assembled together, at a level of difficulty equal to an assembly kit. Detailed and accurate instructions accompany modellers step by step, and lead them through each phase. Building the vessel is easy but it does not leave room for compromises: each part reproduces the shape and thickness of the original pieces at scale, and final quality is assured by the use of solid wood.

The kit is designed starting from original drawings and allows to assemble the model in compliance with ancient building techniques.

A New Experience of Ship Models

Building the model is a unique opportunity to get to know ancient naval architecture. The hull is open on both sides up to the main deck: the internal structure, such as

the frames and the keel, are perfectly visible. The deck of your Bounty is partially uncovered, to make the structure visible from above, as well.

The vessel is also provided with details, such as cannons, figurehead and launches; all of them are made of solid wood and metal and made in Italy by specialized companies.

The Model Building Procedures

As already said, your Bounty is conceived as a model kit, though it keeps the features of admiralty model style. That is why the assembly starts from setting up a proper shipyard, which reproduces the original building techniques in the arsenal.

The shipyard has functional and structural purposes. The base displays the instructions to place the keel and the frames, which are the framework of the hull.

Differently from common model kits, the keel and the frames making up the main part of the structure reproduce exactly the pieces that were used for the real ship. Hence, they are assembled with several solid wooden pieces, whose shape and thickness comply with construction drawings. For instance, a single frame is made of seven pieces assembled together!



The keel of our HMS Bounty model, built with admiralty techniques.