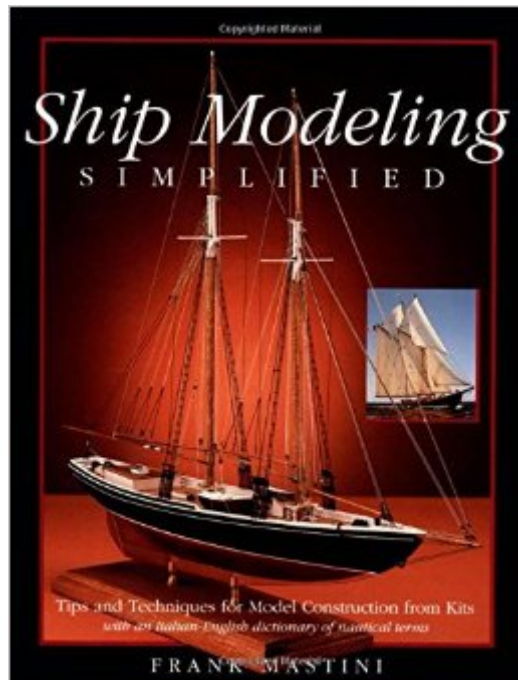


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# Ship Modeling Simplified: Tips And Techniques For Model Construction From Kits



## 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

After years of plastic and wooden airplane modeling, and having taken up sailing a while back, I decided I just HAD to build a wooden sailing ship, complete with planking, masting, rigging, the whole smash. To avoid the frustrating (and expensive) experience of learn-by-doing in a new medium, I decided to seek out and purchase a library of "how to" books on the subject, and

managed to drain several "boat bucks" (one boat buck = 100 regular bucks) from my bank account in assembling a library of the most highly recommended tomes on the subjects of construction, detailing, rigging, etc. Each of the construction-related books I bought had something of value, but each was sadly lacking in describing the process clearly, and few had consistently clear photos and easily understood text. Most had slightly different ways of approaching the project, and none made me feel warm and fuzzy about turning an expensive box of wood strips, plans, and other bits and pieces into that masterpiece I still have no room to display (another story). Mastini came the closest, with clear, simple, logical instructions, sharing his experience with loads of useful practical hints and tips along the way. The book is reasonably well organized, has clear photos and drawings that are near the related text (some authors/editors seem to take some perverse delight in describing a very complex procedure and then referring the reader to "figure 4" which is found some six or eight pages from the text.... Argghhh!) The book includes an Italian-English nautical dictionary and English glossary of terms, useful for the Italian kits whose English translation is weak or non-existent. Can't comment on its usefulness yet, but it seems like a nice touch.

November 2008 a time to be grateful..A warm follow up:I wanted to thank all of my Dad's fans..he left a legacy, and I think about him everyday. I remember when he handed the autographed copy of his book to me saying "here's my legacy to you"...I miss him very much, but it's heartwarming to know that he is not forgotten. I recently was the proud recipient of the original Blue Nose model that is on the cover; how wonderful to have him so close to me...keep on working on those models everyone, it is a tribute to him and extremely fulfilling...steph  
July 13, 2006 My Dad, wrote this book as a labor of the love and devotion of his talent to share with the world. He is considered by professionals and hobbyists as the greatest master of his craft. He has been cited in articles all over the world and recently we were sent an article from a major Fla. newspaper concerning a model ship builder. The article made reference to my Dad's book as being the "Bible" of model ship building. It made my modest but gravely ill father smile. I hope you have all enjoyed his book and will continue to for years to come. He is now living in Virginia Beach, VA. I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all his fans and most importantly my father, who has influenced many in this wonderful art. He has been my guiding light throughout my art career. Goodbye Dad. You will always be my shining star. Stephanie Mastini.  
Epilogue: My father, Frank Mastini, passed away at home, peacefully in his sleep on July 15th, 2006. He fought a courageous battle to the very end, sitting 4 feet away from his gift to all of our family to enjoy. The "Amerigo Vespucci". I know that is the way he wanted to be remembered.

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.

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