Building the Corel ‘Endeavour’

Photos and commentary by Leon Griffiths

One of the more popular kits of the HM Bark Endeavour is the kit made by Corel Ship Models. Leon has built a number of these over the years but this time we are again privileged to be able to publish Leon’s article in which he shares his experience in building the entire model from the box, from laying the keel to the finished product with photos and comments. Leon built this wooden model ship kit on commission by Anthony Davis. The model from the kit is of double planks on frame construction and is for an intermediate level modeller.

HM Bark Endeavour, was a British Royal Navy research vessel commanded by Lieutenant James Cook on his first voyage of discovery, to Australia and New Zealand from 1769 to 1771. Launched in 1764 as the collier Earl of Pembroke, she was purchased by the Navy in 1768 for a scientific mission to the Pacific Ocean, and to explore the seas for the surmised Terra Australis Incognita or "unknown southern land".

Renamed and commissioned as His Majesty’s Bark the Endeavour, she departed Plymouth in August 1768, rounded Cape Horn, and reached Tahiti in time to observe the 1769 transit of Venus across the Sun. She then set sail into the largely uncharted ocean to the south, anchoring off New Zealand in April 1770.

In April 1770 Endeavour became the first seagoing vessel to reach the east coast of Australia, when Cook went ashore at Botany Bay, now a Sydney suburban area. Endeavour then sailed north along the Australian coast where she was almost lost having run aground on the Great Barrier Reef, but after repairs she finally returned to England on 12 July 1771. She had been at sea for nearly three years.

Largely forgotten after her epic voyage, Endeavour spent the next three years shipping Navy stores to the Falkland Islands. Renamed and sold into private hands in 1775, she briefly returned to naval service as a troop transport during the American Revolutionary War and was scuttled in a blockade off Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island in 1778.
1 All the frames are locked in position with the decks insure correct alignment.

2 The first plank is placed and the fairing of the frames is complete.

3 The dark plank is marking the gun deck. The maths is correct with both sides equal.

4 The planning of the planks now includes stealers at the rear to ensure the gap from the planks to the keel remains equal.

5 All decks have the mast holes in the correct place. The planks have been tapered at the front to a measured formula.

6 While the planks where drying, the cargo hatches were made.
3 Clamps are needed to lock all difficult planks onto the frames.

7 Changing the direction that the planks lie, allows for the planks to be installed without stress.

9 The cannon port holes are located and the gun carriages installed.

10 The plank next to the keel is laid. This plank is known as the Garboard Plank.

11 The hull will be sealed with 3 more planks.

12 The planks have to be crimped so that the timber turns to the frame with ease.
13 The hull is seal closed.

14 The hull will be left to dry for 24 hours then the hull will be smoothed with files and glass paper.

15 I am continuing the planking below the main whale. Cannon ports are cut and will be sized.

16 The planking of the hull is closing. Triangle gaps or stealers are created at the AFT end of the dead wood.

17 All planks are crimped and shaped to the hull with a minimum of stress.

18 The walnut hull planking is sanded and sealed.
Cap rails made of flexible beech are installed. All the decks are laid using silver ash and the inside bulwarks are lined with walnut.

The stand is constructed. The hull planks are cut, trimmed and sanded to form the rabbit joint around the stem of the bow. Later this part of the stem will be covered with walnut. Animal cage at the rear is constructed.

The transom is completed and installed and the gallery windows are glazed and put on.

Fenders are added as well as the accommodation ladder has been installed. All cannon ports are sized ready for completion.

The hull is complete and the deck furniture is being added.

The stairs are in, grates are finished, and bilge pump, capstan and helm have been installed. The surrounds for the mast are called mast heels.
25  Two anchors, two cat heads for the anchors and the assembly of the ships boat have been painted. Ship's stand has been adjusted to the hull. The name tag has been made for presentation.

26  Boat cradle, windlass, cannon and cat heads are in.

27  Rudder has been installed and the cannon port holes have been sized.

28  Note the correct alignment of the ports.

29  All planking, whales and fenders meet together at the stem post.

30  All deck furniture now installed and sealed with estapol
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>All the channels have been put on.</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>The bow sprit housing has been installed.</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>The pin rails for the rigging are complete.</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>A beautiful shot of the rudder and rear gallery windows glazed with clear plastic now finished.</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>The dead eyes have been mounted on the channels and the anchors have been rigged.</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>The anchor cables have been set through the haws pipes.</td>
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37 All swivel guns have been fitted.

38 The ships boat is finished and rigged into position in the waste of the ship.

39 The chain link assembly has been added to the dead eyes and secured with nails.

40 Tying the ratlines

41 All the ratlines are on the lower shrouds

42 Lower ratlines cut
All rat-lines are even.

Upper shrouds and ratlines are on.

My lovely wife Josephine making sails.

All the sails have been soaked in a PVA and water solution and are attached to the yards.

The sails are held in place on scrap thin MDF and are dried to the shape required.

Starting from the aft end the sail is rigged to this mast.
49 Lower sails are on

50 Note, the mainsail is omitted

51 All square sails are on and the lifts have been rigged

52 Jibs have been added

53 All other sail rigging now on

54 Packaging hull blocks have been added and screws have been drilled through the keel
Another wonderful project Leon!

Thank you for sharing it with us.