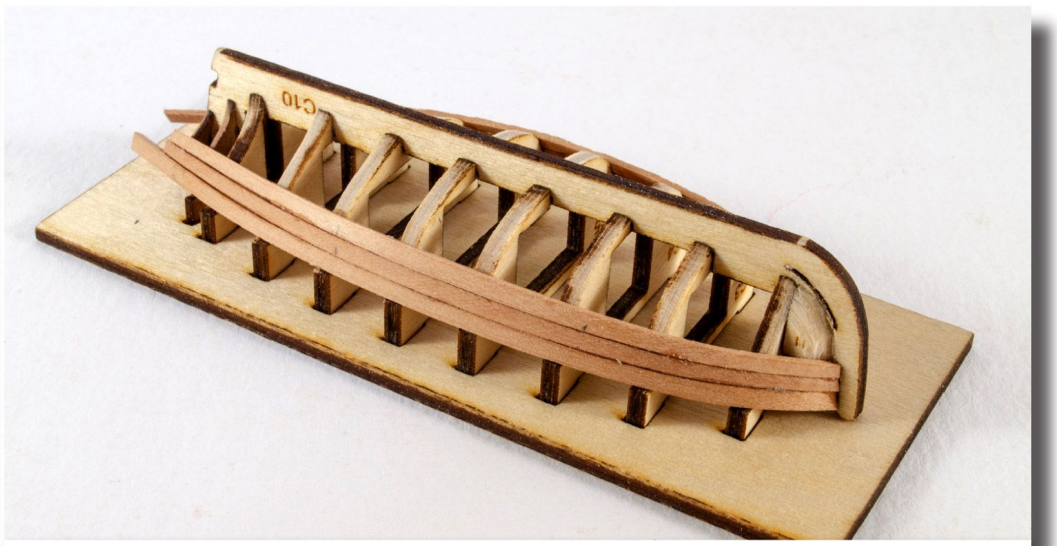
18ft Cutter, ***optional feature:*** Flirt would have been fitted with a cutter like this. First, we need to build a jig for creating the hull. Cut out all parts from the 2mm MDF sheet (C1 – C11) Also cut out C14 and C15 (bulkhead and stern board) from the 1mm wood sheet. Glue parts C2 – C15 into position on the Cutter Keel C10, and lightly apply glue to a couple of these bulkheads and slot the frame/jig into the Frame Base C1.

Bevel and glue into position the Cutter bow planking patterns C11, as shown here. When these have dried, sand the frame smooth, or fair it. This allows for the planks to lie across them with most contact.



Run the first plank along the lip of the fames. You will need to bevel the front end of the plank to suit the bow curve. We opted to use CA gel for this as there should be no pin marks in the planks. Add additional planks and work towards the keel. Subsequent planks will need to be tapered slightly. To do this, check where the plank naturally tries to cross over the previous and make a pencil mark. From that pencil mark, cut a line towards the end of the plank, removing only about 20% of the plank width. You will need to taper and bow and stern. As you progress towards the keel and the planks don't sit easily, then let them run naturally and use small scraps of plank as stealers/infill. As a lot of the hull is painted, you won't see it.

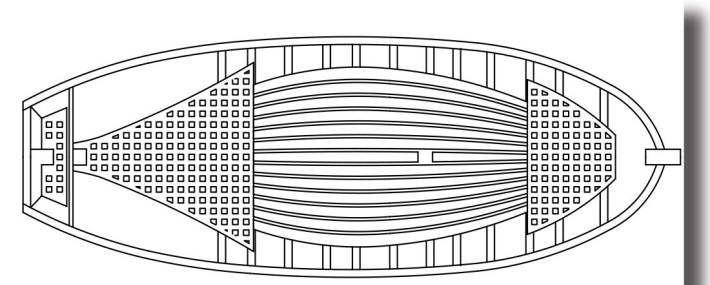
We will now plank the hull using the 1mm x 2mm x 100mm Pear Wood Strip (C23).

Gently remove the base C1 from the frame/jig. Very carefully twist the frames to remove them. If you feel more comfortable, use a razor saw and then a knife to trim them away. Still leave the bottom part of the frames in situ, as shown. Sand the interior if you need to create a better finish. The remainder of the frames are now hidden by the addition of the floor gratings, CPE-1, 2, 3 & 4. After painting these in a wooden colour, first glue the larger CPE-1 into position with CA. Follow this with the other parts.

Using 3mm x 1mm strip, cut into either 1mm or 1.3mm widths, add the internal ribs, spaced roughly as you see in the illustration. You may want to soak the wood if it won't push into the internal contours.

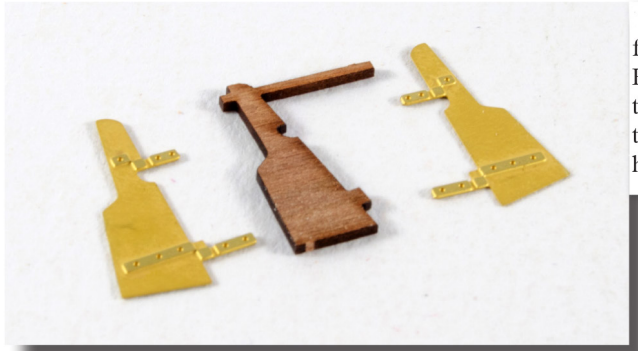
Now we need to fit the inside rail. I marked the top of the rail on my prototype as 2.5mm down from the top of the bulwark, but with evaluation, this would be better being located about 4mm from the top bulwark, but the sequence you see is the same. Split another 3mm strip and glue the rails 1.5mm wide, along the ribs using PVA and allow to set. Trim and sand the protruding ribs from the top of the bulwarks.

Now glue the seating in position, C16 – C19. You will need to bevel the underside edges of C16 to allow it to sit within the inside curve of the hull. When dry, fit brackets C20 and C21 as shown.



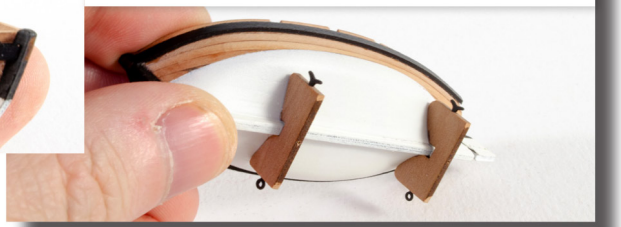
Mark the hull waterline using drawing reference and mask the model before spraying the underside with white paint.

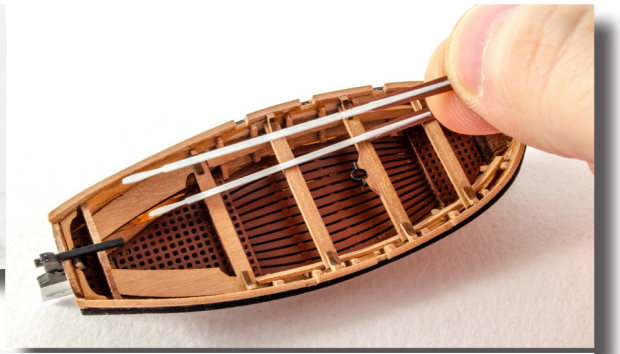
Add a strip of 1.5mm x 1mm wood along the top of the bulwark so it sits at the same height as bulwark top. Paint this black. Add the gunwale by simply cutting 1mm x 3mm wood strip to 1.5mm width, and gluing to the top edge of the bulwarks, leaving 1mm gaps for the oars to sit.



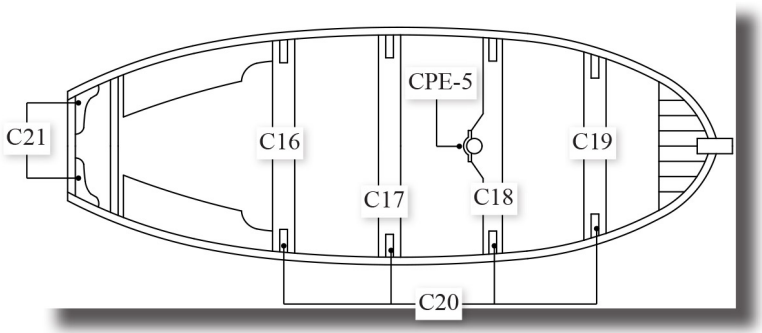
Remove the Cutter Rudder C22 from the 1mm wood sheet, and also Rudder Sides CPE-6 and CPE-7 from the 0.4mm brass sheet. Glue the parts together. Paint the rudder to match the hull, but with black above the waterline.

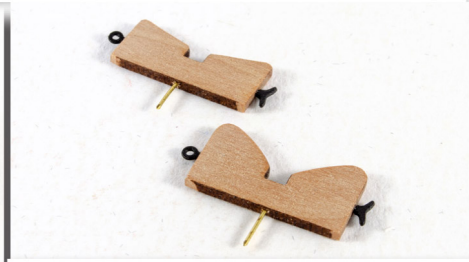
Drill a 0.8mm hole to accept the metal parts and glue using CA. Also drill a 0.8mm hole in the underside of the cradle parts and insert the sharp end of a brass pin so the cradle can be pinned to the deck.





Assemble the kedge anchor and paint this black, along with the pikes. Paint the oar blades in a wooden colour and use white for the shafts. Position and glue these into the hull with CA.





Remove for Fore and Aft Cutter Cradle parts C12 and C13 and attach a Closed Eye-bolt PE-8 to one side, and a Small Cleat PE-33 to the other.

Glue the cradles to the cutter and use 0.5mm natural thread to lash the boat. The cutter can now be installed to the deck, or later, after main rigging.