FLOAT a BOAT
Fine Models Since 1962
ESPECIALLY FOR SHIPLOVERS

MODEL MARITIME NEWS

Seasons Greetings

December is here again and we look back over a really good twelve months. Float-a-Boat has grown significantly over this past year which has been entirely due to the support of you, our customers. We sincerely thank you for your continued support. Adrian and I wish you all, and your families, a very happy Christmas time and a great New Year.
We will be taking our customary break between Christmas and New Year.

We will close at 5pm on Christmas Eve, 24th December and re-open on Tuesday, January 6th 2009.

GOOD HOLIDAY READING

The "Model Boats" special edition on Tugs and Warships which we told you about in the last newsletter, disappeared very quickly, but for those who missed out, we have managed a few more copies to be sent from the U.K.

Besides our own plans catalogue which details the range of drawings produced by Float-a-Boat, we also stock the plans catalogue from "Model Boats" and "Marine Modelling International" magazines.
They are priced at $14.95 each.

The 'Model Boats" catalogue is shared with aircraft plans, but it contains the full range of boat plans supplied by this company. Most of these we have in stock but can easily re-order out of stock items.
The M.M.I. plans catalogue is for boats only, but also contains many useful plans and articles on boat modelling.

"Marine Modelling International" has also released a special on Submarines which many of you ordered before Australia even got their copies. Good reading for those of you who prefer to sail secretly, out of sight.
The price is $15.50 per copy.

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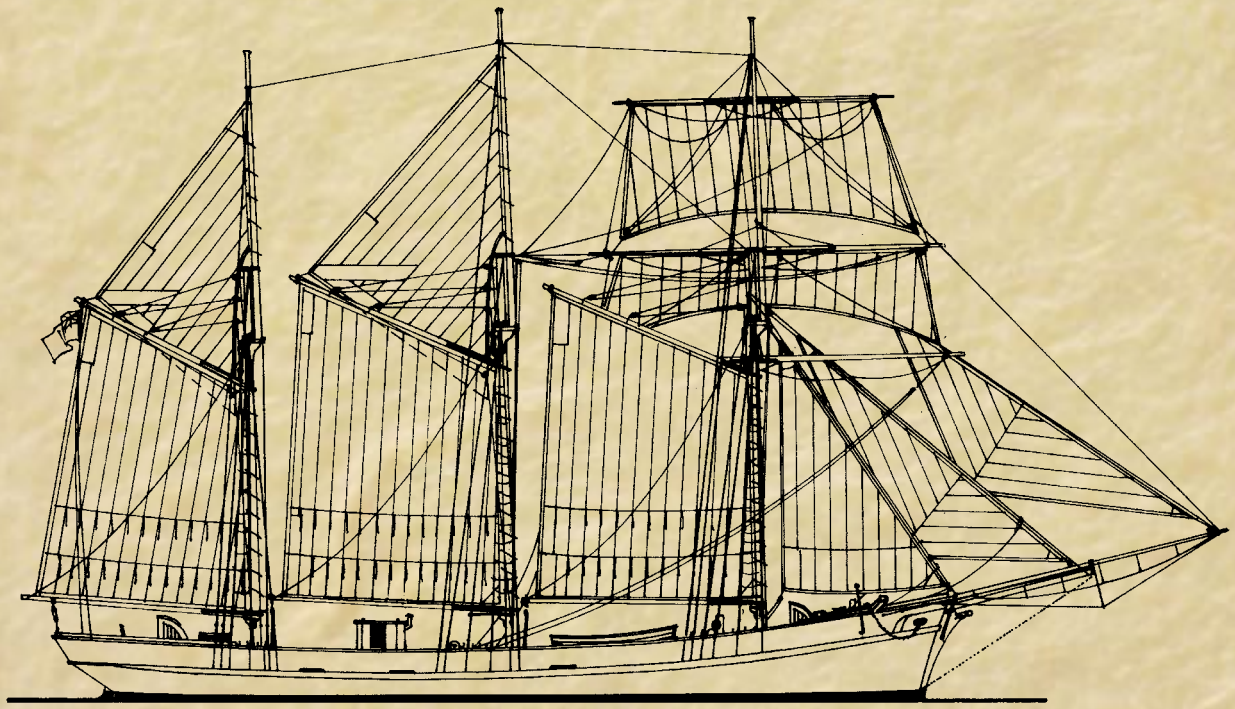
Topsail Schooner "ALMA DOEPEL"

We have wanted to draw this vessel for a number of years now, but more pressing jobs have kept it on the back burner until recently. "Alma" has had a number of "lives" over time and it is always a bit of a headache to decide at which period to draw her. These plans show her when first built as a trading schooner, as we had a copy of the original builder's plan and spar dimensions. Additionally, vessels usually look their best in the first few years before successive owners chop them around. "Alma Doepel" is the last surviving Australian trading Topsail Schooner, built by F. Doepel, Bellinger River, N.S.W. in 1903 on registered dimensions of 109.3 ft. B.P. x 26.6 ft. x 7.8 ft. depth. She traded under sail into the 1960s but in the 1970s was restored to become a sail training vessel on Port Phillip Bay. She has been in N.S.W. for the last few years but is expected back in Melbourne in January 2009 to resume sail training. Drawings show Hull Lines, General Arrangement and Sail Plan on two sheets at 1:48 scale. Price is $50.00 per set.



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MINIATURES FOR THE COLLECTOR

For those of you who collect miniature warships we have a number of well detailed, small scale ready made models of a number of submarines and small warships.
The Submarines are in 1:700 scale and consist of Russian Kilo Class & Akula Class, Japanese Owashio Class, the US "Seawolf" & "Jimmy Carter". There are also three W.W.II German U-Boats, type 9B 1941, 9B 1943 and 9C 1942.
The surface warships are in 1:1250 scale and at present consist of the US ships CG-47 "Ticonderoga", CG-49 "Vincennes" and CG-59 "Princeton". As more are released we will add them to our range.
Prices range between $16.50 and $29.50.

SELF ADHESIVE LINING / STRIPING

Many times we have been asked if we have striping for boat hulls. Where once we would suggest that people go to an auto shop, we have found that it is not currently popular on cars and most do not carry it. We have come across some striping recently so if you do need some cove striping or a nice crisp waterline on your model, please give us a call. In fact there are many additions like hull draft markings, specialised lettering , plimsol marks, etc., so hopefully we will have that extra detail feature that you require.

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EASY PADDLE WHEELS

The most consistent reason people give us for not building Paddle Steamers is the difficulty of building suitable Paddle Wheels. We now have a solution. A new Australian made kit of a set of fixed blade paddle wheels is now available. They are laser cut from sheet styrene and consists of all the parts needed to build a really neat set of paddles. There is even a little right - angled square included to assist in creating a perfect job. Overall diameter is 100 mm (4") and other larger sizes are being investigated at the moment. The fixed blade paddles are the main type found on the majority of Australian inland Paddle Steamers. Price for the set is $75.00.

Another Paddle Wheel set we have carried for quite a while is for a wheel with feathering blades, manufactured by Graupner of Germany. This is a much more complex kit which produces a wheel of 140 mm Dia. x 65 mm wide. This kit sells for $165.00.

CUSTOMER REQUEST

A couple of our customers have asked if we are aware of any scale modellers in the areas in which they live - Metung, Victoria and Kensington Park in South Australia.
If you are aware of any groups, or if you are a lone modeller living in these areas, please let us know and we will be pleased to pass on this information to the guys concerned.
It is always good when people of like interest can enjoy their hobby together.

To all of you who will be competing in National Championships and other Regattas over the holiday period, we wish you good success.

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