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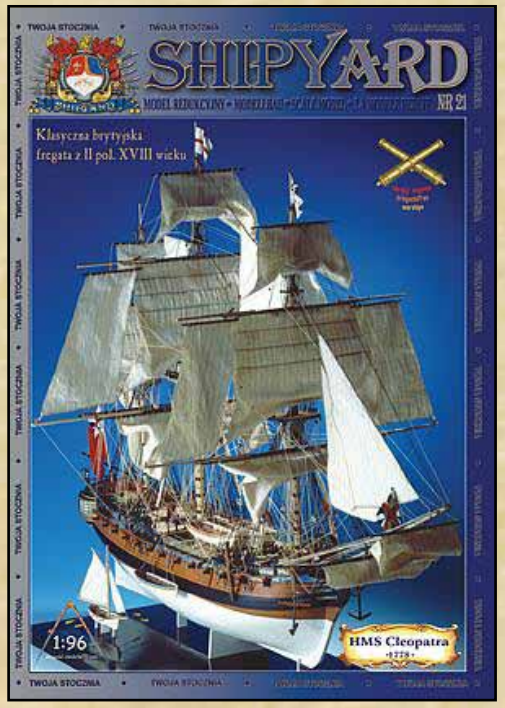
ESPECIALLY FOR SHIPLOVERS

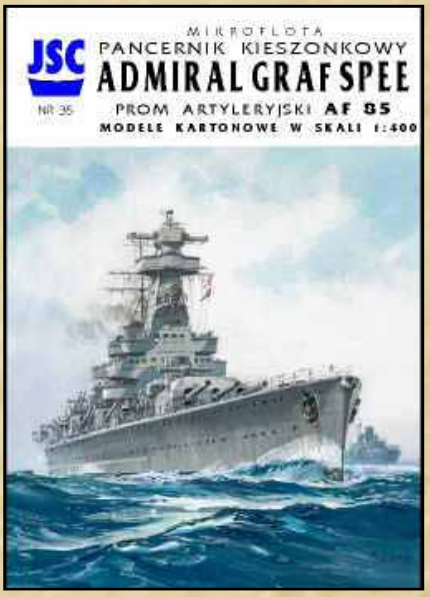
MODEL MARITIME NEWS

July 2009

NEW CARD SHIP MODELS

We have bought in some more card models from Europe to compliment the new Sydney Ferry models featured recently in our newsletter. As we are aware that this type of modelling is increasing in popularity, we are covering a variety of price points to encourage as many modlellers as possible to experience this interesting form of modelling. Printing standard and colour seem very good and we have selected both powered and sailing vessels. Of the three models featured his month, the German pocket battleship "Admiral Graf Spee" has English instructions, so would be suitable as an introductory model for first time modellers. The other two, the Flower Class Canadian Corvette"Agassiz" and the square rigged H.M.S. "Cleopatra" would be more suited to people experienced in this type of modelling, as there are no English instructions. The "Graf Spee" kit sells for $12.50, the "Agassz" costs $25.95 and "Cleopatra", although a fairly challenging kit will only set you back $53.50.





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PLANS AND BOOKS

Many of you will know Float-a-Boat has always carried a very large range of maritime books and ship modelling plans. In addition to our own exclusive plans range, prepared, published and distributed in house by Float-a-Boat, we have hundreds of other plans in stock at any one time from companies all over the world. We are constantly receiving renewed stocks and recently topped up our range of sailing ship plans with a shipment of drawings from the Underhill range. These drawings will need no introduction to most of you as they are some of the finest drawings prepared for modellers. They are certainly not the cheapest in our range but the accuracy and standard of draftsmanship enable the skilled scratch builder to create superb models. Although we have access to any plan in the range, we keep in stock drawings of vessels associated with Australia.

A few plans taken at random would be -

Cook's "Endeavour", a highly detailed five sheet set which retails at $160.00,

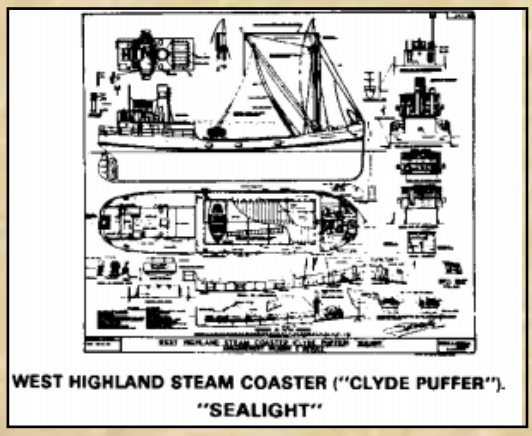
$115.00 will buy you four sheet sets for the Steel Windjammers "Torrens" and "Archibald Russell".

A four sheet set for the four masted Barquentine "Mozart" also retails for $115.00.

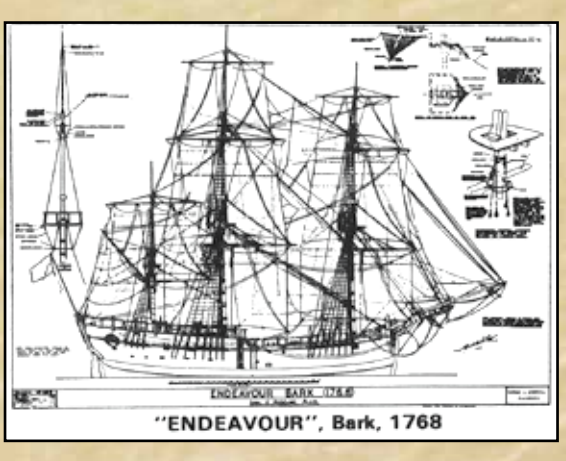
A three sheet set for the famous "Cutty Sark" sells for $85.00 and the equally famous "Herzogin Cecilie" is beautifully drawn on four sheets for $130.00.

Although not an Australian vessel, we do carry stock of the Clyde Puffer "Sealight" as we get many requests from home-sick Scotsmen who are wanting to create these steamers in miniature. A two sheet set for "Sealight" costs $59.00.

There are many more in stock, so please contact us if you wish to have your own catalogues of Underhill Sailing Ship Plans and Powered Vessels. These are available at $12.00 each



WEST HIGHLAND STEAM COASTER ("CLYDE PUFFER").
"SEALIGHT"



"ENDEAVOUR", Bark, 1768

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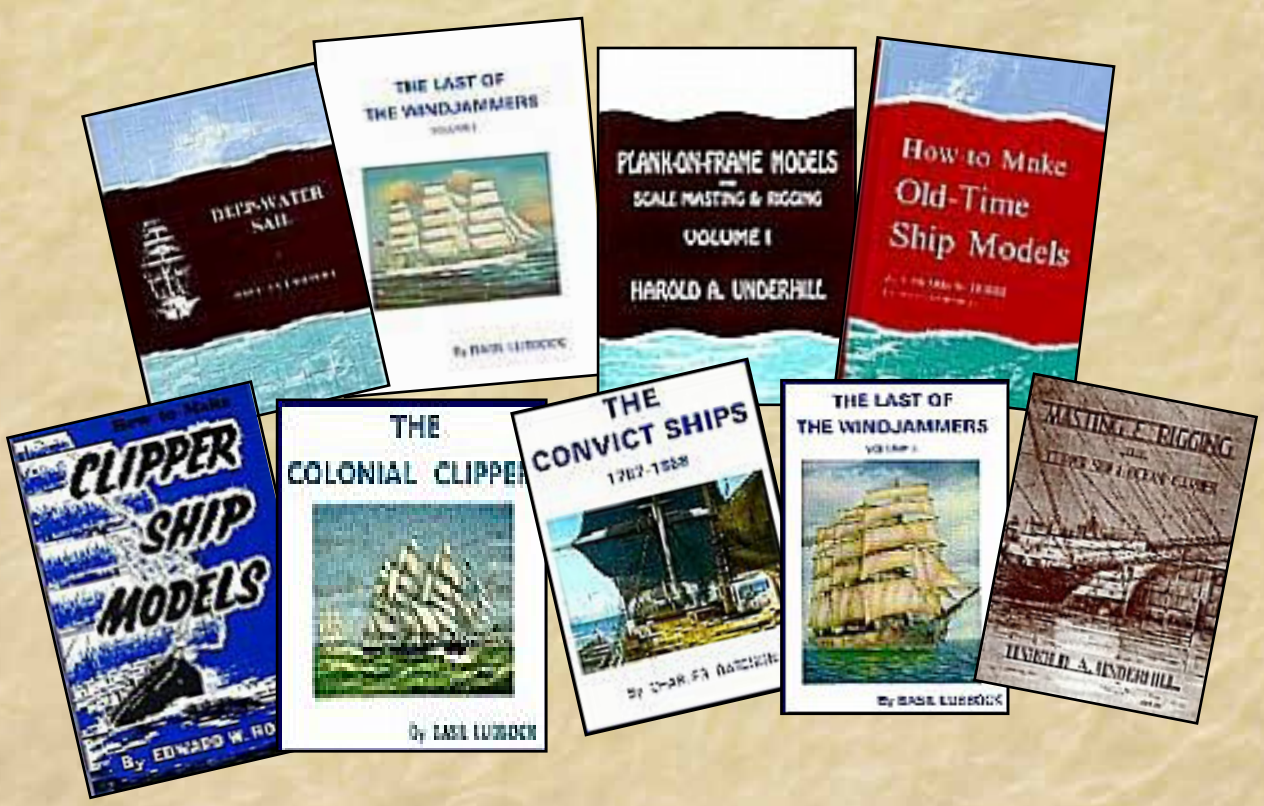
PLANS AND BOOKS cont.

Harrold Underhill also wrote some fine books dealing with modelling and sailing ships in particular. These are part of our extensive range of books along with titles by Lubbock, Bateson, Lawson and the famous Cyril Hume. As an aside, some of you are probably aware that the late Cyril Hume was a superb modeller and his model of the Clipper Ship "Thermopylae" is in the possession of the Museum of Victoria. Although regarded world wide as the definitive model of this vessel, it is in storage and no-one can see it!! This unfortunately has been the fate of most of the models in the Museum's collection and we can only hope that someone gets their brain into gear in the not too distant future and they can be seen and enjoyed by everyone once again.

I digress however, back to the books! Some examples of these fine books would be Underhill's "Masting & Rigging" @ $65.00, his "Plank on Frame Models" Vol. 1 & 2 @ $65.00 & $56.95 respectively. The Lubbock books "The Last of the Windjammers" Volumes 1 & 2 sell for $89.95 each and his "Colonial Clippers" retails for $69.95. Charles Bateson's famous book "The Convict Ships 1787 - 1868" sells for $56.95. These books deal extensively with sailing ships closely involved with Australia's maritime development. Many more such titles are on the shelves - give us a call if there is a specific title that you require.



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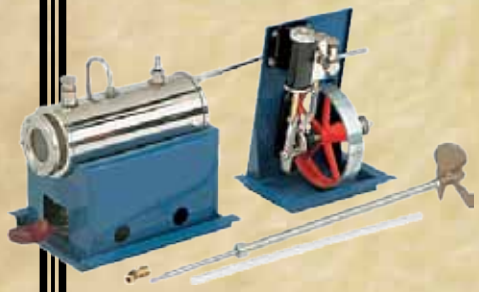
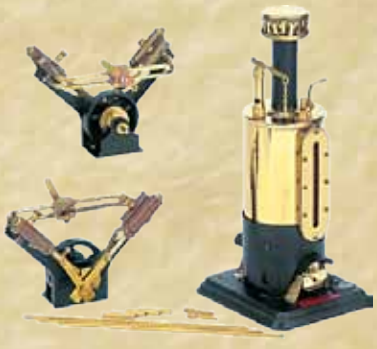


STEAMING ALONG.....
SSSSHHHHHHH !!!

The German company Wilesco have been making small steam engines, boilers and steam powered toys for many years. They also make three marine steam engine / boiler sets suitable for powering model boats. These are excellent for beginners into steam as they are fairly low pressure units and very reasonably priced.

The simplest unit is a small single cylinder vertically mounted, reversible, double action machined brass unit with a 70 diam. fly- wheel. The boiler is horizontal with a diameter of 45mm and a length of 105mm. It has a capacity of 155 cubic cm., and comes with water glass, spring loaded safety valve and steam jet oiler. It also has a propeller shaft and tube 260mm long, a brass universal coupling and a 50mm dia. plastic propeller. The boiler is fired by dry spirit tablets. This engine / boiler set sells complete for $325.00 including a pack of tablets.



For your next open steam launch project, can we suggest the "V" twin cylinder unit with vertical boiler and complete with steam whistle and chain.

The engine is a twin cylinder double action "V"configuration self starting and with forward and reverse lever for connection to the radio servo. The boiler has a diameter of 65mm, a height of 100mm and a capacity of 300 cubic cm. Once again, it is fitted with water glass, safety valve and measures 240mm to the top of the funnel. It is recommended for boats up to 800mm long but vessels with a very narrow beam could certainly be much longer. The boiler is fired by dry spirit tablets included as part of the set. We retail this set for $645.00.

The top of the range unit is a twin, horizontal engine suitable for Paddle Steamers and the horizontal boiler is heated by butane gas. The double action engine is self starting and reversible with a 50mm diam. flywheel. The 55mm diam., 140mm long boiler has a capacity of 250 cubic cm. Once again, a water glass and safety valve complete the boiler. It comes with a removable butane gas holder with filler and regulating valve suitable for all conventional filling devices. This delightful engine / boiler set retails for $925.00.

Although a pack of dry fuel tablets are included with the first two sets, we also stock replacement packs of Esbit brand fuel.

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FUN WITH YACHTS

We get lots of feedback from our customers who purchase the ready-to-run yachts which we stock. In fact, there is a group which has been formed at a nearby retirement village whose members sail these boats almost exclusively and have a great time in friendly competition. The real fun starts when one of the group buys a bigger boat and starts beating all the rest, who then have to update their own boats, etc., etc., etc.

For those with a need for speed, can we introduce you to a few boats which will do you proud!!

A couple of easy to build kits would be the ETNZ America's cup yacht and the recently released Voyager ll, both at 1000mm overall length. Both require the builder to supply his own 2 channel radio but it is easy to fit and the boats are fairly quick to complete. Sailing performance is above average for this type of yacht.

There are also a number of good fun boat available which are factory fitted with 2 channel radios and are completely finished and only require a very short time to rig and to fit the fin and rudder.

Charge the batteries and go sailing! Two boats which fit this category are the 900mm long "Monsoon" and the newly released "Sailor", a bit of a quirky name that doesn't quite fit a yacht that we feel is one of the best looking boats we have seen. This model is larger at 1000mm.

TUROSS HEAD MODEL SHIP & HOBBIES EXPO. Sat 12th-13th Sept.

Ray Sillett has made contact to advise that the above expo is on for another year.An invitation is extended to visit or exhibit your models at the Tuross Sports & Recreation Complex Hall.

Exhibition hours are Sat. 9am to 4pm & Sun. 9am to 3pm.

If you would like to exhibit give Ray a call on (02) 4473 9133,

Tuross Head is situated on the South East Coast of N.S.W. and would be well worth a visit as the show has developed a very good reputation.

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