

MODEL SHIP BUILDER

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INSIDE: Take Your Model Out To Sea

Part Two

An Operational R/C RATTLESNAKE

by Albert Lheureux

In the last issue of *Model Ship Builder* (#25), I discussed the construction of the hull. Now, we will look at installing the internal controls.

It is easier to put in the internal controls now before the mast and rigging are in place. Photos one and two show how the electrical units are fitted inside the hull. Once the controls are in, I double planked the hull inside and over the deck line. I also finished the deck lines, gun ports, railings and installed the channel to receive the masts shrouds.

I made the lower part of the three masts with their tops ready to install. Contrary to full size practice and static models, my masts do not go down in the hull. They simply rest in a ring on top of the deck and are held in place only by the shrouds and stays. This is done in order to leave the area below the deck clear for operational equipment. It has proven itself strong in all kinds of wind.

The chains below the channels holding the lower deadeyes had to be custom made. I needed to bend brass rods and silver solder each link. For shroud ropes I used "tarred" nylon lines used for tuna boat nets. They come in various sizes and have the look and feel of the real thing. The lines are superglued for strength. The main and forestays have six strands of the same tarred lines.

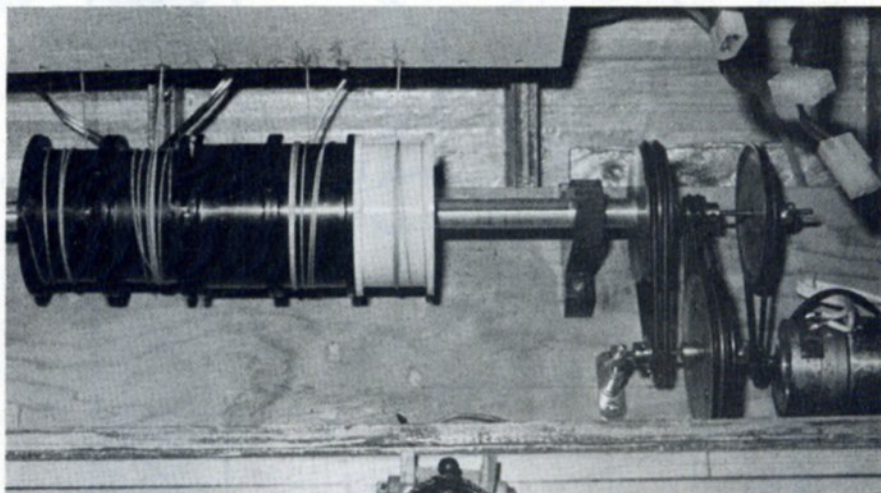
After the shrouds and the stays have been secured solidly on the lower part of the three masts, it is time to work on the sail winch mechanism. It is a series of spools mounted on 1/2-inch ply-base which is screwed to the ship frame. There is a pulley system to slow and increase torque. This is necessary to pull the lines which in turn brace the yard for proper sailing. The system is driven by a 12-volt Pittman Motor.

The lines are routed through the ship by a combination of nylon tubes called "Nyrod". They are most commonly found in model airplane supply shops. By applying epoxy to each end of the tube, they can be bent around the inside of the hull. The lines are also routed through two blocks at the base of the mizzen mast up to the mizzen top through two more blocks, then to the end of the main yard. As the winch pulls the line to pull the yard, the other pulley gradually releases the other side line and the elastic holds the pulleys under the mizzen mast. It also prevents any line from tangling. ☺

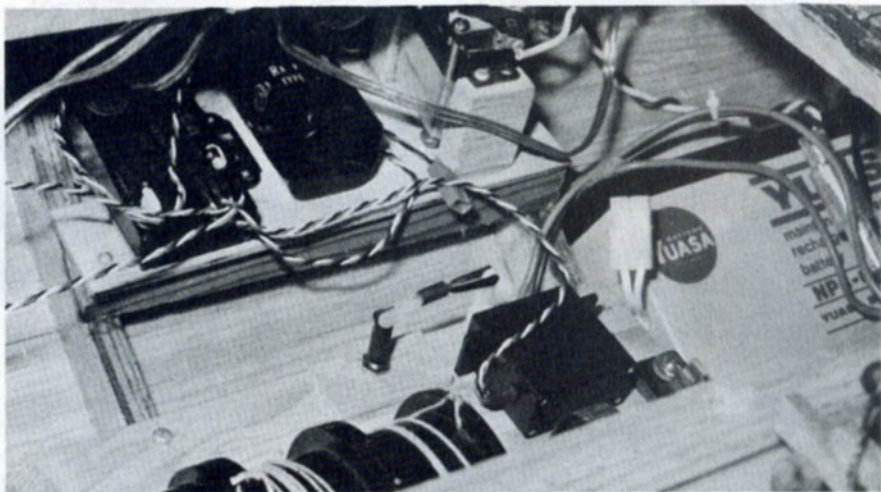
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BLOCKS ON MIZZEN mast that operate the main yard.



WINCH ON 1/2" PLYWOOD base with 1/2" aluminum shaft and multiple nylon spools. Note pulleys to slow down speed and increase strength of winch.



RADIO EQUIPMENT installed in hull of ship.