

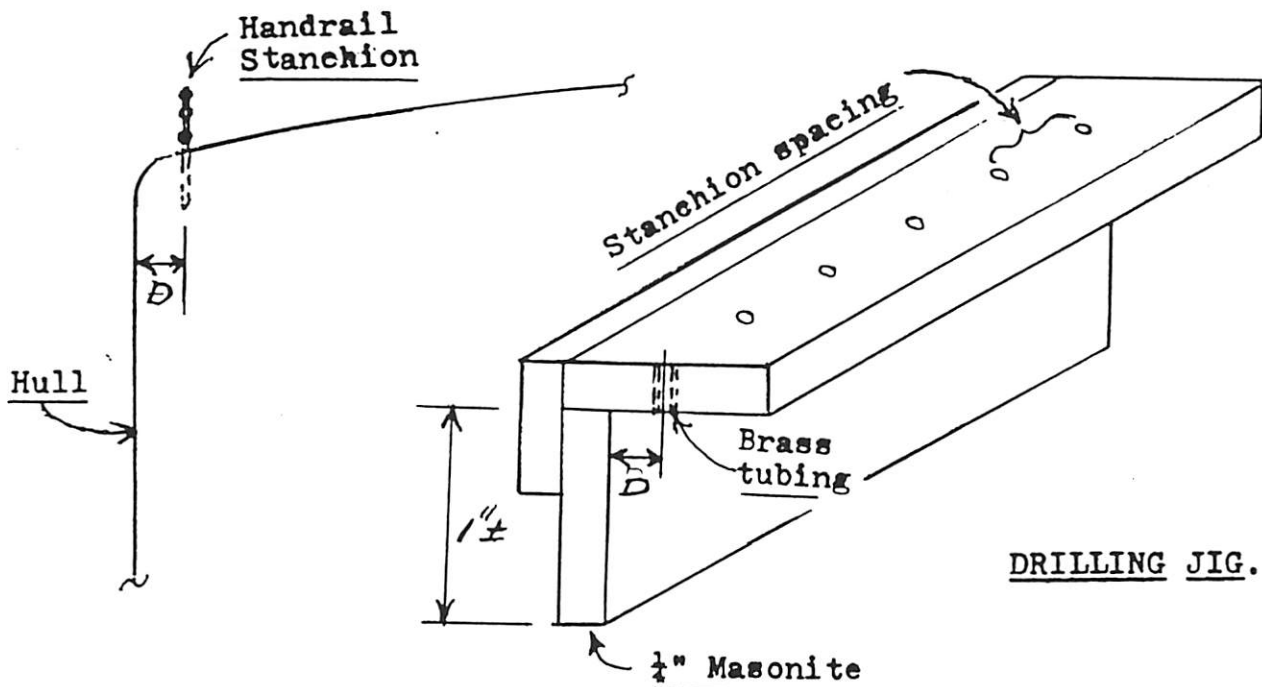
Pearls FROM THE CHEST

Some tips from members of the crew

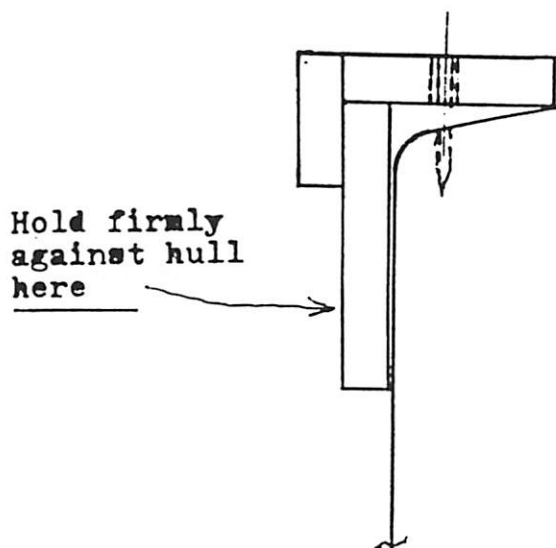


A Drilling Jig For Handrail Stanchions

By Tom Palen



DRILLING JIG.



I had the problem of drilling several hundred holes for hand-rail stanchions in the deck of my tanker. Deck camber and a rounded edge didn't make it any simpler. The idea of setting up a framing jig to hold a small drill press didn't appeal to me. I made a simple hand-held jig of 1/4" Masonite, about 4 1/2" long and 1 1/4" wide, with about 10 guide holes drilled at the proper stanchion spacing. Hole size needed in the deck was .032", so I drilled the guide holes to 1/16" and inserted brass tubing

with an inside diameter of about .033" (1/16" O.D.), and filed it flush. The tubing was to prevent excessive wear in the guide holes, and was held in with a drop of glue. The deck holes were drilled with a hand-held Dremel Moto tool, with foot-operated speed control, and the drilling jig held easily with one hand firmly against the hull.

\*\*\*\*\*