

From the Workbench of Bill Lanning, SMA

PLANKING THE ORLOP DECKS

Small orlop decks, near the keel, are often difficult to fit and install. Here is an easy method to fit these decks to the contour of the hull frames:

1. Install the deck beams.
2. Mark beams with the ship's center line.
3. On cardboard (manila folder) draw a sketch showing the centerline and beam spacing.
4. With dividers, determine distance from centerline to end of each beam - in both directions. Transfer these distances to the sketch (A).
5. Draw the deck outline by connecting all the deck beam ends using a french curve.
6. Cut out the cardboard replica of the deck and place it on the beams to verify its accuracy.
7. Starting at the centerline, using rubber cement, glue overhanging lengths of planking to the cardboard deck replica.
8. Turn the glued assembly over, trim and sand overlap areas of the planks, down to the cardboard, beveling outer plank edges to conform to angle of the frames. Allow a small clearance at the sides to accommodate widening due to addition of wood glue between planks during their installation.
9. Starting with the centerline plank, remove each plank, rub off the rubber cement, darken plank edges, if desired, and glue each plank into place on the beams.

