

To accompany the rules in the previous article about doing battle on the rivers and seas of Middle-earth, here are a few step-by-step instructions for constructing ships of your own.

Tolkien's world offers many opportunities for the tabletop battle gamer to find adventure on the high seas and rivers of Middle-earth. From the Black Fleet of the Corsairs of Umbar, to the White Ships of Dol-Amroth, to the elegant Swanships of the Elves, to the humble raft that the Hobbits use to cross the Brandywine River, battles involving the waterways of Middle-earth can be many and varied.

[Note that rules for small boats can be found in *White Dwarf 290*, and rules for larger craft are in this issue.]

THE NAVIES OF MIDDLE-EARTH

The power of the navies of the Free Peoples of Middle-earth has waxed and waned over the years. At one time, they held dominance over the Corsairs and the ocean. However, as the Third Age draws to a close and the time of War of The Ring is at hand, the ships of the Free Peoples are few. The Corsairs of Umbar are a constant threat. The Elves have all but abandoned their havens, and their Swanships are a

rare sight indeed. The once great Navy of Gondor is in decline. Many of its ships now sit empty and rotting at anchor in the Port of Pelargir. Only the Port of Dol-Amroth and its fleet of White Ships are as powerful as they have ever been. Their numbers, sadly, are too few to keep all the sea routes protected. The dreaded Corsairs of Umbar, allies of Mordor, commenced their terror raids again.

MODELING SHIPS

In this article, we take a look at how to build a ship of Gondor and one of the ships of the Corsairs of Umbar. Although these modeling projects are advanced ones, don't let the large size of the ships discourage you. The supplies you'll need are generally inexpensive and easy to come by. Also, although these ships are involved projects, their large size actually makes work a little easier – certainly easier than painting the pupils on your Gollum model! So take up the shipwright's mantle and join us on the seas of Middle-earth!

ALL AT SEA PART TWO

How to Build Ships for The Lord of The Rings

BUILDING A GONDOR SHIP

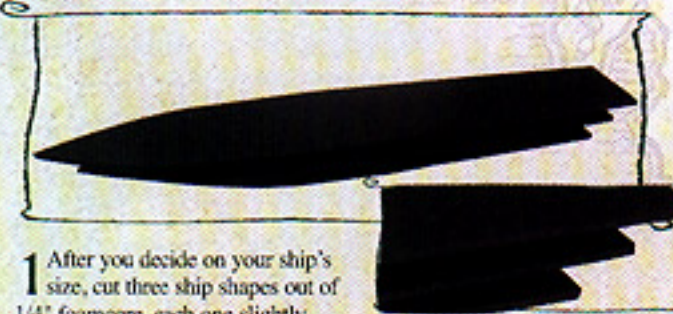
Nick Davis: I decided to build a ship from the Navy of Gondor. The people of Gondor have a natural enmity with the Corsairs of Umbar, and I thought that a Gondorian vessel would have plenty of opportunities to engage the enemy in battle. I settled on building a large three-masted ship, one of the fleet's workhorse vessels that is used to patrol the Gondorian coast and the River Anduin.

MATERIALS

- 3-mm Balsa Sheet
- 5-mm Balsa Sheet
- Toothpicks
- Matchsticks
- Craftsticks
- 3-mm Balsa Rod
- 1/4" Dowels
- 1/2" Dowels
- 1/4" Dowel Rod
- 1/4" Foamcore
- 1/2" Foamcore
- 1" Insulation Foam
- String
- Glue
- Duct Tape

TOOLS

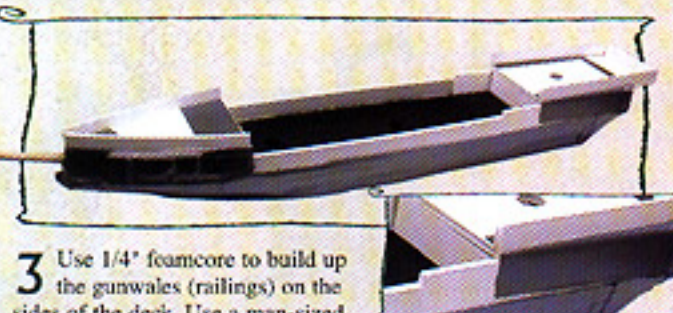
- Hobby Knife
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Model Saw
- Sandpaper



1 After you decide on your ship's size, cut three ship shapes out of 1/4" foamcore, each one slightly smaller than the last. Cut out some 1" blocks of insulation foam to use as spacers. Glue the blocks to the bottom of the largest ship shape, the medium shape to the bottom of these blocks, and so on, until you have the basic structure of your hull (see above).



2 Now take duct tape and block off the sides of your ship. The tape will help form the basic shape of your hull and also strengthen the construction of your vessel. Also at this stage, decide where you are going to put the masts and cut holes in the top of the deck to fit your dowel rods.



3 Use 1/4" foamcore to build up the gunwales (railings) on the sides of the deck. Use a man-sized miniature from the game to make sure the ship's gunwales are appropriately sized. I built a poop deck and forecastle on my ship to add a more height. Use duct tape again to finish off the frame of the fore and aftcastles.



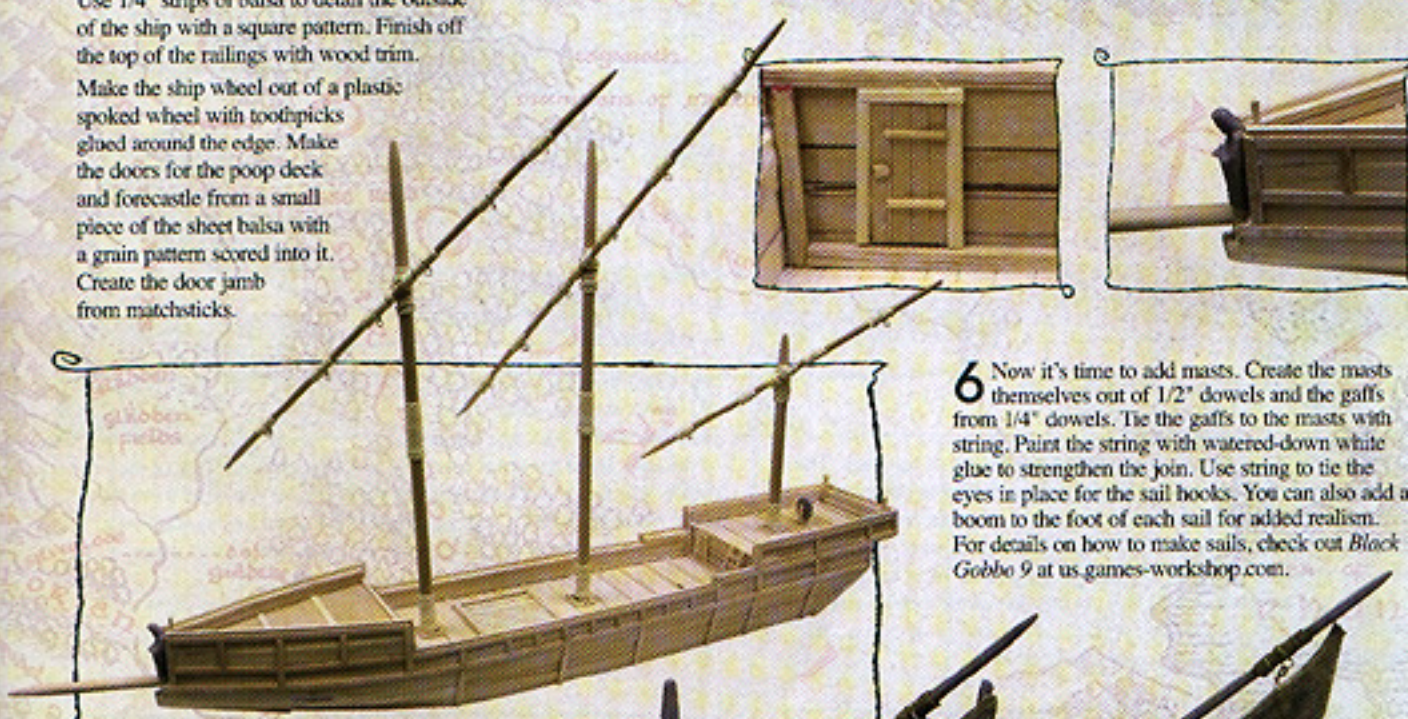
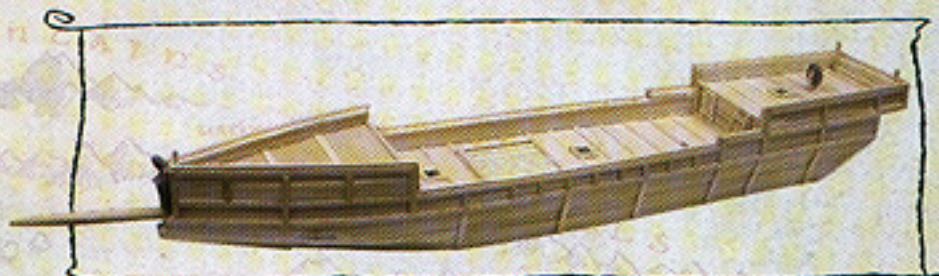
4 Apply planking to your ship. Cut your balsa wood into 1/4" strips and soak them in water for at least 10 minutes (you can leave them in water overnight or longer if you like, though). Soaking the wood helps make it supple. Work around your ship and glue the strips of balsa wood in place with super glue. Cut the wood to size as you go. Make sure to keep the planks parallel to each other.

5 Once the planking is complete and the super glue is dry, use sandpaper to smooth the edges of your ship.

Now you can begin adding details to your ship. Create a bowsprit by sanding one end of a 1/2" dowel rod to a nice taper and attaching it to the front of the ship. If you like, you can make a figurehead from a statue from the Osgiliath ruins sprue.

Use 1/4" strips of balsa to detail the outside of the ship with a square pattern. Finish off the top of the railings with wood trim.

Make the ship wheel out of a plastic spoked wheel with toothpicks glued around the edge. Make the doors for the poop deck and forecastle from a small piece of the sheet balsa with a grain pattern scored into it. Create the door jamb from matchsticks.



6 Now it's time to add masts. Create the masts themselves out of 1/2" dowels and the gaffs from 1/4" dowels. Tie the gaffs to the masts with string. Paint the string with watered-down white glue to strengthen the join. Use string to tie the eyes in place for the sail hooks. You can also add a boom to the foot of each sail for added realism. For details on how to make sails, check out *Black Gobbo 9* at us.games-workshop.com.

7 Begin painting your ship with a Chaos Black undercoat. Drybrush the entire model with Codex Grey, then Fortress Grey, then Ghostly Grey, and finally Skull White (the last very lightly).

Paint the sails with a coat of Scorched Brown. Drybrush with Bestial Brown and then drybrush very lightly with a 50/50 mix of Bestial Brown and Bleached Bone. You can concentrate your drybrushing on certain areas of the sails to suggest stains or faded areas if you like.

