

The Naiad Frigate

(38)1797

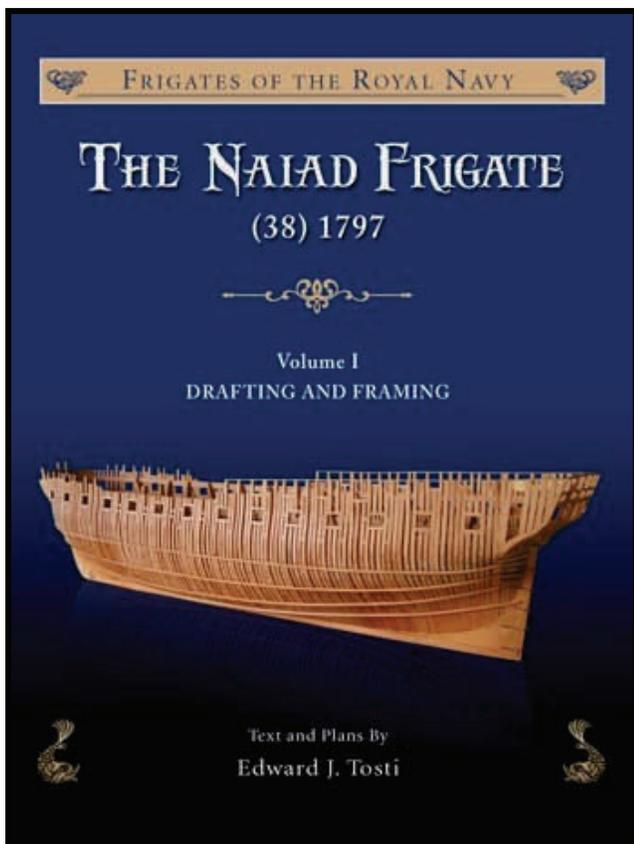
Volume I

Drafting & Framing

Text & Plans by Edward J. Tosti

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SeaWatchBooks touts *The Naiad Frigate (38) 1797*, by Edward Tosti, as the second ship in their *Frigates of the Royal Navy* series. It's interesting to note that HMS *Naiad* and HMS *Euryalus*, the subject of the first book, were launched only six years apart, and designed by the same individual, Sir William Rule. After realizing this, I couldn't help but wonder how they differed?

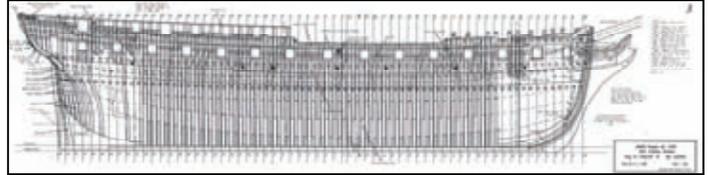


First and foremost, *Naiad* was a 38 gun frigate, and *Euryalus* was rated for 36 guns. *Naiad* was 2 feet longer (147') and proportionately greater in beam, depth of hold and tonnage. A cursory comparison of the plans that come with both books indicated that *Naiad's* additional gun port resulted in a different arrangement of channels, deadeyes, chain plates, catheads, head rails and boat skids. Notable variations also occur on the quarterdeck and forecastle, which are somewhat longer than HMS *Euryalus*'.

Ed Tosti shows the *Naiad* as launched, with the quarterdeck ports configured for a mix of 32-pounder carronades and 9-pounder canons. It is quite evident as to the location of each gun type, since the carronade gun ports are

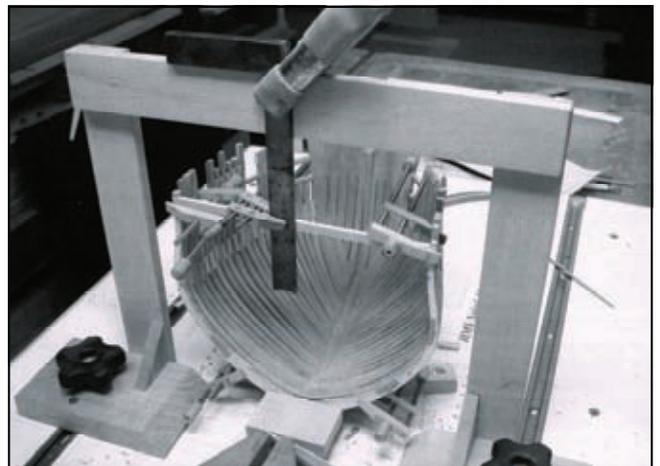
larger. At the bow, this is not the case, since the fore-castle lacks bulwarks, which reflects how the vessel was launched. The author suggests that this situation probably didn't last long, since captains preferred the additional protection they afforded gun crews.

The book starts out with a brief history of world events at that time, and how frigate development was spurred on by the ongoing conflict with France. Historical records indicate that *Naiad* was the only ship in her class, but she represented a transition point, which would influence future designs.



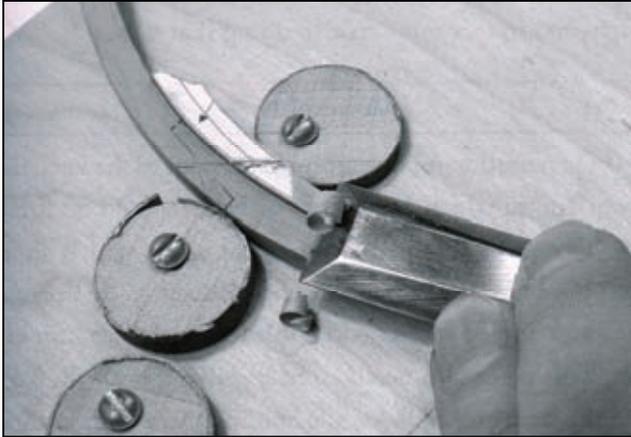
It is not often, if ever, that an author discusses the mental aspects of model ship building, and how it can effect quality. Edward Tosti outlines a series of practices and goals he refers to as "Micro Processes." They are surprisingly simple, yet they require a certain discipline on the modeler's part to achieve them. After viewing the list, there's no doubt that they can result in a significant improvement in workmanship, no matter what model you are building.

The drawings (6) and CD that come with this book are huge pluses. The two go hand-in-hand, as the author explains how the CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) drawings and lofting helped develop the many patterns that are used to build *Naiad*. These patterns can be found, along with many other building aids, in the CD. The drawings, which are done to a scale of 1:60, are produced in four colors, and can be found in a pocket at the back of the book.



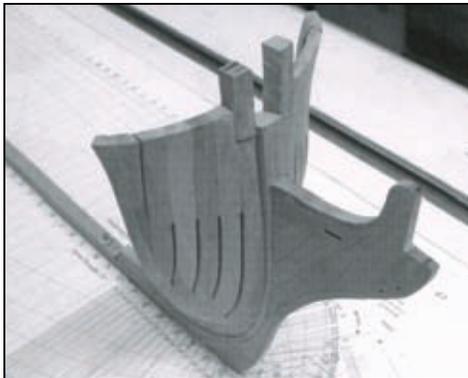
For a model as complex as *Naiad*, preparation is a must, and Tosti walks the reader through the many details that will help ensure that construction goes as smoothly as possible. One prime example is the fixtures that promote proper alignment of the hull components during construction. This is especially important since the model is built in the upright position. They include a model shipway (building board), sliding gantry, clamped squares, end supports and a vertical caliper. Drawings for these

assemblies, with suggested materials and dimensions, are provided.



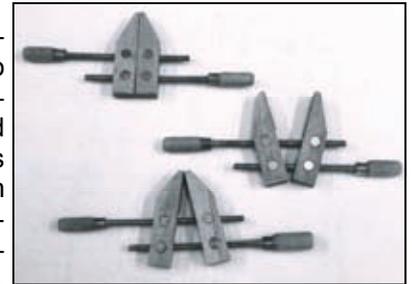
Another notable aspect of this book is the many tips that can be gleaned from its pages. One of this writer's favorites is shown in the above photo. It involves two disks with offset centers, loosely screwed to a board, with sandpaper cemented around the perimeter. This simple device easily holds odd shaped pieces in place during the carving process.

Starting with the keel structure, seventeen chapters are devoted to constructing the model as it is shown on the book jacket. Some chapters deal with single pieces such as the bollard timbers, or the complex hawse timbers located at the bow. These were especially problematic for the author, and he makes every effort to eliminate, or at least minimize, those difficulties for the modeler.



The book concludes with two appendices. Appendix I can assist those who wish to make their own model plans and patterns for fully framed model ships using CAD, and adapting it to a process that essentially follows historical drafting methods. This supplemental information is quite extensive, and demonstrates the author's interest in these concepts.

In addition to the special fixtures used to build *Naiad*, Tosti designed and fabricated some miniature tools that are discussed in Appendix II. They include simple and flexible screw clamps, planking clamps, and paring and mortise chisels. The segment on chisels is particularly intriguing.



The attention to detail, and Edward Tosti's easy writing style, make this book not only enjoyable, but a remarkable treatise on building a fully framed frigate from the Napoleonic period. It is highly recommended.

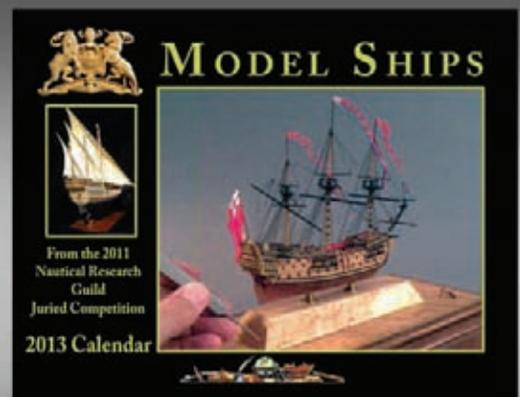


Volume II will cover internal and external details needed to complete the model. The photo above is a preview of what will be featured.

Reviewed by
Bob Filipowski

Keep up to date in style.

If you have not heard about it by now, the hottest thing going is the new 2013 NRG Calendar. The Guild Directors and Officers are justifiably proud of this inaugural issue, which features thirteen remarkable models that were entered in the 2011 Photographic Ship Model Competition and Review. Beautifully illustrated, this calendar would look great in your office or workshop, and would make an excellent "stocking stuffer" for the holidays. Quantities are limited, so please do not wait. For more information, or to place an order, visit our website at www.theNRG.org, or contact our Home Office at (585) 968-8111.



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