

## Scalescenes Clyde Puffer kit modifications and enhancements

- Useful references: The Clyde Puffer; Dan McDonald, publ. David and Charles, 1977-85, ISBN 0 7153 7443 5  
Puffers; Guthrie Hutton, publ. Stenlake Publishing Ltd., ISBN 9781840334143
- Other materials: A couple of bamboo skewers, a few toothpicks, quick setting (qs.) Araldite or similar glue.  
From Cornwall Model Boats (<https://www.cornwallmodelboats.co.uk/index.html>) or other supplier;  
AN5627/04 5627/04 Brass Chain 1.5mm links 1m length  
CCA72049 Medium Cowl Vents 1:72 Scale, consisting of four short and four tall ventilators.  
4020/20 Kedge Anchor 20mm

I found a set of chemists' corkborers useful but these aren't easy to come by. Brass tubing sharpened on the outer edge will do as well. To do this, cut a 10cm length of tubing and mount it in the drill chuck. Clamp your sharpening stone in the vice and spin the tube vertically for a few turns to get an even starting edge. Now angle your tube at about 30° to the horizontal, grinding the edge until it forms a sharp cutter. If you get it wrong, return to the vertical and try the sequence again.

### Modifications to puffer kit.

1. Bulwarks and hull A sections require hawse holes (pardon the expression) cut or otherwise delineated for anchor deployment (37+38) prior to assembly.
  2. Print wheelhouse on to transparency for cutting out windows. Print, scan and, using Paint, reverse wheelhouse front panels for pasting to inside. Paste windows and reversed wheelhouse panels (back not required as it is included in kit).
- 7-8,15. Unclear if upper stem/stern are 'set in' from bulkhead to allow bow and stern infills (19- 22) to fit within the rebate. If not, hull infills (17) need thickening to maintain line. This shimming has an effect on the line of the poop and main decks (24-27) which might need extending outwards, a little.
- 69-74. To allow funnel support wires, do not use full length of rolled card but wind to appropriate thickness over a pencil. Pierce with needle at 45° to bow/stern line, just below lower funnel band. Thread cotton through holes but don't glue until funnel mounted on cabin and cotton secured to deck. Many puffers had a shallow cone topping the funnel. Make a short, 2mm collar of about half funnel diameter and glue to the funnel cap. Mark out a paper ring external diameter ~1.5cm, internal diameter ~0.5cm and blacken. Cut, overlap and glue to form a very shallow cone (strictly 'frustrum of cone' as its top is chopped off) and glue centrally to collar. (Here, corkborers are helpful). Safety valve vent is made from thinned toothpick, cut just short of the funnel cap and mounted behind the funnel. The whistle consists of 3mm fine brass tubing soldered to a 4cm length of ~0.6mm brass or copper wire and mounted in front or to one side of the funnel.
- 87-89. Latterly, navigation lights were mounted on a board at wheelhouse window level, probably for better visibility. Build shelf with back and ends – front ends are shorter than rear to mask port/starboard lights from both being in view until viewer is directly in front.
92. I made bollards from bamboo skewer which is a better scale thickness.
- 93-95. Lifebelts were mounted in various different places. Here, smaller ones go directly below navigation light shelves. Print an image and fix to 1mm card before cutting inner and outer rings with corkborers or sharpened tube.

103. Sand and clean up boat shape, re-establish clinker shape with fine file. Seal with PVA and paint with white acrylic. Looks more effective.

114. With a fine drill, pierce axle positions in winch sides and open up to toothpick diameter. As with funnel, roll winch reel (115) and drum end centre (119) on to tooth pick using less than the full length. Try in position on winch sides and mark sufficient on the outside to allow drum ends (121) to be glued into position. Trim toothpicks to length and insert into winch sides. Glue down sides and centre. Roll drum ends, just the printed parts, over a toothpick and glue to form short tubes. Glue on to exposed toothpick ends of winch reel and drum end centre.

Bow section requires 'davit' and tackle for hoisting anchor overboard. Thin down a toothpick, soak overnight and bend the top carefully round a hot soldering iron. Do several and pick the best. Puffer requires a galley funnel, also, made out of paper rolled round a toothpick and painted in black. It stands about twice the height of the companionway and may be glued up against it. Thread used with any tackle may be held straight with a little PVA worked into it. Two square section, vertical posts are mounted port and starboard just inside the bulwarks at the junction of fore and cargo decks. These are ~2mm sq. cross section and come ~1.5mm above the bulwark rail.

Three ventilators are required and photographs show various different heights. Sourced from Cornwall Model Boats – 1/72 scale ventilators come in short and long sizes in resin on the same sprue. Paint and glue two short ventilators to Deckhouse roof on either side of the bevelled sides of the wheelhouse. The third, tall ventilator needs thinning down all round and mounting on a 6mm length of bamboo skewer before painting and gluing, located just aft of the bow cap. An anchor is required which can be scratch built or bought. Recommended type, which can lie flat when not in use, is illustrated – don't go for the sort you'd find on the Victory. Stow it behind the winch.

[4020/20 Kedge Anchor 20mm]

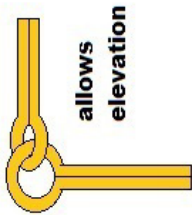


Mast and derrick/boom need to be made from slightly tapered wooden dowel: mast 13cm long tapering 4mm-2mm; boom 12cm tapering from 3mm-2mm. The setup is best illustrated with diagrams. A double pin arrangement in wire replaces the card 'gooseneck' and should be attached to the mast at this time. The boom, pierced for the pin, may be added later.

Shrouds run from the bulwark rail to an anchoring point below tackle ring and masthead light. A simple card jig makes construction easier. Shroud length from bulwark rail to mast attachment is 10cm, width at Bulwark rail, 1.5cm. Use button thread for verticals and cotton for horizontals. Glue and pin threads to jig and, when dry, put a dab of PVA at each crossing point. Let it set well before trimming off the spare thread. (See photograph and pdf). Follow the diagram for standing rigging.

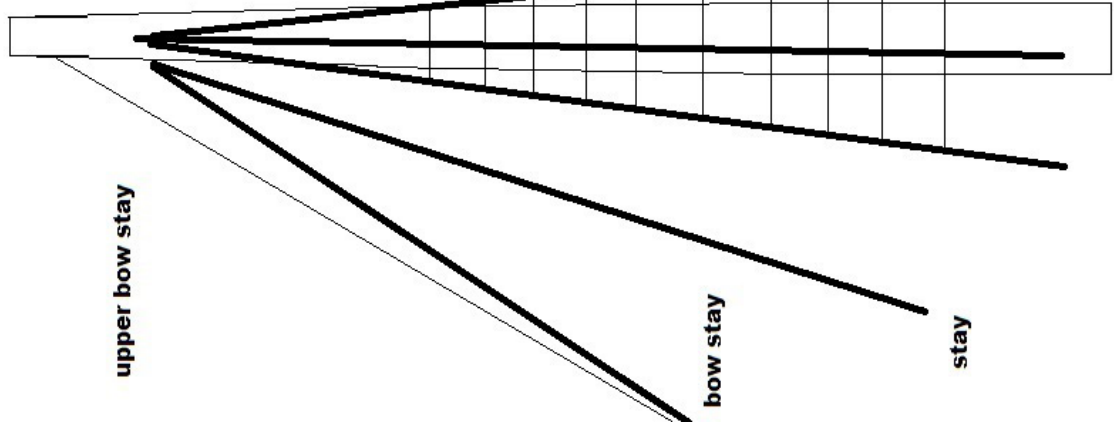
When this is dry, you may attach the lifting gear to the boom and mast. Short lengths of chain need attaching with qs. Araldite or similar glue. Pulley blocks may be made of rolled card, glued and sliced when dry, or discs of card punched with cork borer or sharpened brass tube. Bamboo skewer tends to split when rolled underneath a craft knife or scalpel.

*Notes and diagrams courtesy of Eric Franklin.*



allows elevation

allows rotation both from brass wire



upper bow stay

bow stay

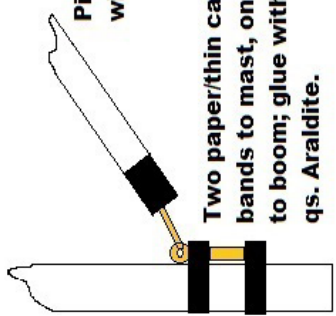
stay

**standing rigging**

Pulley blocks: roll and glue a tube of card. Let it dry well and cut into short lengths

shrouds for climbing - see photographs for construction

all stays and shrouds attached to bulwark rails.



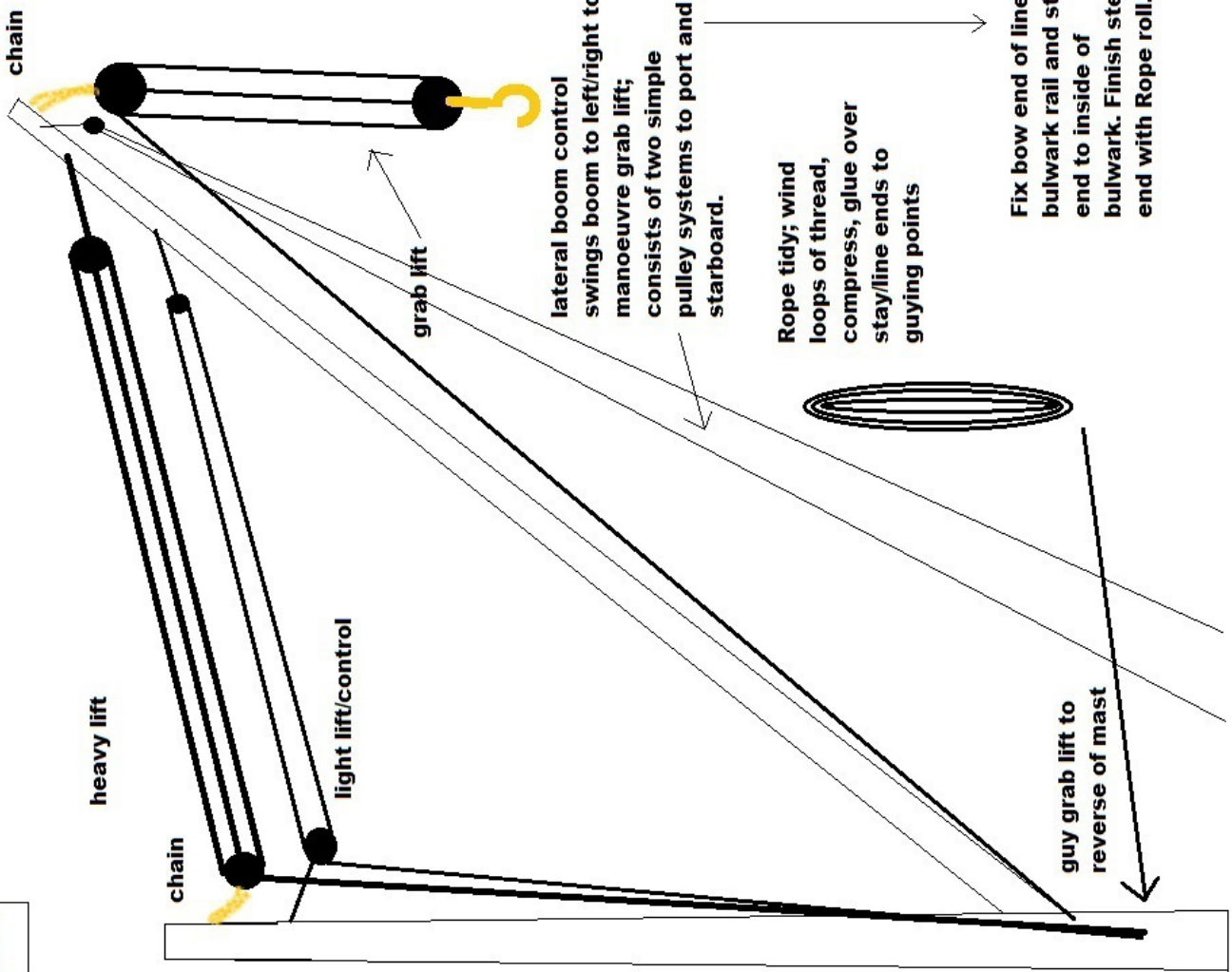
Pierce boom end with pin for link.

See: Dan McDonald, the Clyde Puffer, p22

Two paper/thin card bands to mast, one to boom; glue with qs. Araldite.

**boom control and lifting gear**

Paint chains black



chain

grab lift

heavy lift

light lift/control

chain

lateral boom control swings boom to left/right to manoeuvre grab lift; consists of two simple pulley systems to port and starboard.

Rope tidy; wind loops of thread, compress, glue over stay/line ends to guying points

Fix bow end of line to bulwark rail and stern end to inside of bulwark. Finish stern end with Rope roll.

guy grab lift to reverse of mast

