

April blog - Teymour Kashani

As a result of lockdown I am no longer working full time on board the boat instead I'm going in 3 days a week doing bits and pieces such as painting varnishing, fixing leaks on the deck and some engraving pieces to some of the damaged deck planks. At home during the other days of the week I am doing a lot of leather work from home making some new jackets for many of the blocks. I've also started doing my RYA Yachtmaster theory which I chose to do as an online course.



To the left - some of the tools I used for my leatherwork, and two complete blocks.

To the right - five complete blocks in place belonging to the main sheet and the Jib tops'l.



Project: Oarsome

During my time at IBTC in Jan/Feb we were tasked with making boat hooks, however I decided that I would have no use for a boat hook so changed the project into a paddle for a canoe I had the designs for. I thought I would go through how i made my paddle.

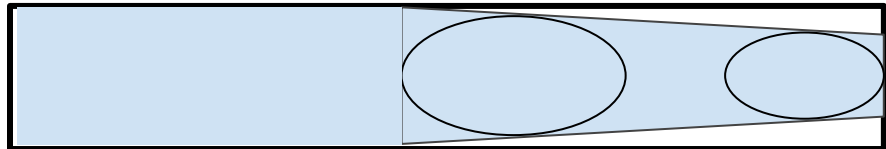


Firstly we were tasked with making a boat hook. We started off with a square piece of wood about one and a half meters long and 3 inches thick then began to score the sides with a marking gauge and started to take the edges off so that our wood now had 8 sides, then marked it again and again until we had 32 sides to our wood, almost round. Then finished rounding it with sandpaper.

Although, I am getting ahead of myself. Before we took the sides off and rounded the pole we added a taper to one side, for

the hook part of the boat hook.

To add the taper we used a series of circles to measure the diameter and then went about rounding the whole thing. To the right is a diagram of how the taper was marked, marked on top and one side of the wood.



After doing all of this and making sure the hook fit the pole to complete the boat hook I decided to change it all up and make a paddle. Over the winter I had been thinking up the concept of a sailing canoe I wanted to build and decided that a paddle for the canoe would be a good place to start. I began rummaging for scrap bits of wood I could use around the workshop and began the process of designing and shaping my paddle.

I started with the blade of the paddle, found a nice piece of mahogany and cut it out into the general shape I wanted. The kind of paddle I wanted is something I could use to manoeuvre the canoe with and something I could scull with. So I planned on the whole thing being slightly longer than your average canoe paddle and the blade a lot thinner.

Above you can see what it looked like.

I then needed to shape one end of the pole to fit the shaped blade. I decided that to match the thin blade I wanted a long thin taper.

To the right you can see what the taper looked like before I glued the blade on.



I glued the blade onto the pine handle using epoxy with a filleting blend, clamped it together for 48 hrs then began to shape the blade. To shape the blade I added a bevel to the whole edge, smoothed all the faces and edges using a spokeshave and some sandpaper glued to a flat block of wood. To the right is a picture of the blade being glued. Top - picture after it was glued.



Now that my blade was all done and I was happy with it I began thinking about how to make my handle where I would grip the paddle, back to the scrap bins I go!



I found in the scrap bins a chunk of mahogany of suitable width, made the basic shape of what I wanted the handle to look like then cut a tenon onto it so that it would fit nice and snug into the paddle.

Above - the chiselled out slot for the handle to fit.

To the right - the handle post shaping.

It took quite a few tries for me to make sure it fit well but I got there in the end and glued it up again using epoxy, then shaped it more so that it looked smoother (picture on the right).



After looking at it for a while and holding it in my hand, standing on a chair pretending to row or scull I decided the handle wasn't quite comfortable enough.

So I went and found some more pieces of mahogany and glued on some extra pieces to the faces of the handle, once the glue was dry I shaped the extra bits and tried to fair everything to make it more comfortable to hold.



Finally, I was happy with how my oar looked, the blade fair and the handle comfortable. I then spent a week sanding the whole thing firstly some parts 8 grit then 120 then 240 for the mahogany. After sanding it was time for treating the wood, I decided to use oil and not varnish since varnish can chip and I was planning on potentially using it and it having it bashed around a bit. The oil I used is known as danish oil, a great outdoor wood oil that doesn't stain the wood.



To the right - the handle with a few coats on it.
To the left - the blade with a few coats on it.



Below and right are a few more pictures of the paddle in the varnishing room with some of the other trainees boat hooks next to it.



Thus concluding my project highlight on my canoe paddle!