Now to look at what's next. I need the Mortar Pit Beams (38/1) and they rest on the top of the shell room and the Mortar Deck Clamp. The shell room fits on the floor riders, also in slots. I cut and fit the beams to slots cut in the Mortar Deck Clamps. Since I had a question as to my accuracy, I did not cut the slots for the upper shell room support beams.

In Part 4 of the log I showed that I cut the slots in the floor riders before the Shell Room was built. Here is another one of the things I learned and will not repeat. So this what should have been done. Build the Shell Room after you fit the riders to the frames and mortar deck clamps. Do not glue the riders and clamps down permanently and do not cut the slots for the Lower Support Beams (37/1). If you do not want to complete it now, you could leave the shelves and deck till later. At least assemble the support beams and the shell room deck beams and filling timbers. This will allow the shell room to be fit to the riders and the mortar pit beams. Hold off on the slots in the mortar pit beam and mortar deck clamp.

There is considerable joinery involved in the posts, shelves, etc. If you cut them by hand be careful as they need to fit quite closely. This was my first time to give my Model Machines (Jim Saw) a workout and it was sure handy.

First I cut the shell room's Lower Support Beams (37/1), Upper Support Beam (37/4) and a strip for both the Shell Room Deck Beams (37/2) and Filling Timbers (37/5). I did not cut the individual pieces yet since they have to be fit individually due to my not building the shell room first. “Learn well Grasshopper”. 

The Pillars (37/6) were cut and sanded to correct width and depth and left a little long due to the reason above. Using a slitting saw I cut slots for the shell racks. The mike on the saw was very handy for offsetting the cuts. Next I cut and sanded a strip of stock to fit those slots, and that will later be the individual shell racks. Since the location of the shell dimples is consistent I drilled them before cutting the shelves. I spaced the holes far enough apart to allow me to cut shelves later. My apologies to the original designer but I am not going to attempt to drill 72 holes for the Pillars, Glue will have to do.

Mea Culpa

No this is not a photo from the past. As I mentioned before I was not happy with the ports and I was going to redo them later. At about this time I noticed that things were 'Out of Whack'. Time to rip out and repair. With
acetone and a pry bar I was able to get the clamps unglued and removed.

Wondering why there were problems, I did take a few minutes and measured the building jig. I found that that was my problem.. The Jig was level to the building board and at the correct (Waterline) height. **Or so I thought.** When I was building the jig I used a square. I measured carefully from the plans and placed a strip of tape on the square so I would not have to read the measurements every time I adjusted the jig. [OK Sherlock – any clues yet?] I set up the jig on it's supporting screws and 'eyeballed it' to get it level. Then I took my carefully marked up square and adjusted one side of the jig. The side facing me on the work table. I checked it and adjusted it until it was level fore and aft. Turning the building board around I did the other side and got it level. So I commenced to proceed with the build. [Spot the problem yet?]

Now when I looked at the jig from a distance the idiocy of the builder became obvious. I had carefully aligned the top of one side of the jig with the top of the tape on the square, and aligned the bottom of the other side of the jig with the top of the tape on the square. I had never checked the level port to stbd. All the measurements were taken from the jig and so were correct, but one side was the thickness of the jig (1/4”) off. And so all my problems. Dumb! Dumb! Dumb!

By this time you have realized that the builder is not the strongest trenail in the hull. You are perfectly justified in not reading further. But since this is a “log” all the 'warts' and “Band Aids” are shown.

I will have to level things out and trim the one bulkhead down. By lowering the height of the shell room I can reestablish the correct distance from the top of the upper support beam to the underside of the main rail, on the lowest side. This will give me a normal looking deck after I trim the higher side. The difference in the model vs the plans will be that the hold will be not as deep.

I reestablished the lower mortar deck clamp, ripped some from the bottom of the upper mortar deck clamp and trimmed the top of the riders to fit. Then placed the mortar pit beams. Reduced the thickness of both the
upper and lower support beams in the shell room and shortened the pillars just enough to allow the rounds to be placed and removed. No notches were cut in the underside of the mortar pit beams. With the mortar pit beams relocated to their correct distance from under the main rail on the lower side, work can continue and I can put this episode behind me. I will shorten the high side later.

Fin

I determined that I was off level so rectifying that was the first thing. After measuring things I decided that the key to the model, as far as I was concerned, was the Mortar and its framing. The riders were left alone as they were too solid. I sanded off residue and thinned the clamps a wee bit to make it easier to slide in and out. Cut some off the upper clamp. I refit the Lower Support Beams (37/1) to the riders and clamps, leveled the hull and fixed two supporting legs to the frames.

Now the model is square to the building board and measurements can more easily be made. The ports I cut are off, but I plan to plank both sides of the Bulwarks and hide the errors.

The next item – finally – is the shell room. First I fitted the lower support beams and the floor timbers at the ends. I used some of my Holly as flooring, pinning with copper. I glued up modules of pillars and shelves and then assembled them to the floor timbers, followed by the upper timbers. Copper was used around powder since it does not spark.
The Shell Racks (37/7) have dimples to hold the shells and I chucked up a big ole 3/4” bit in the floor drill press and drilled a small dimple to hold a bit of CA and the fit solid glass custom made Mortar Shells (black painted marbles). Over the years I have lost some of my marbles, as if you haven’t guessed, and only found 16 for the shells.

The room is complete and resting nicely on the timbers. The lower support beams have not been installed yet.
Looking at the plans again - [ I really do – regardless of what you think ] I saw that it would be prudent to do the limbers and footwalling before the mortar deck supports. I cut material, twice as much as necessary, for the Linber Board (34/1), Limber Strake (34/2) and Footwalling (34/3). I milled the slot in the limber strake and beveled the limber board to fit. If you place both the limber strake and limber board at the same time, rather than trying to mill a good fit after the limber strake is installed, you will find it easier. The hole in the limber board is to allow something to be inserted to help remove the board for limber hole and bilge cleaning. My buddy 4-finger Al, does not endorse the obvious method. I recommend
cutting each length of limber and footwalling to fit the openings, rather than from the plans. Limbers and footwalling complete.

Illustration 8: Limbers and Footwalling in place