

## A comparison of deck layouts for the clipper ship *Flying Cloud* built by Donald McKay in 1851

I measured the spacing of the masts on the paintings, a photo of the Boucher MFA model and from the Currier and Ives print. I also diagrammed the deck layouts from the various sets of plans I have collected.

- 1851 *Flying Cloud* Launched
- 1852 Currier and Ives print from a painting by James E. Buttersworth\*
- 1852 Painting made for the captain of the *Flying Cloud* by a Hong Kong artist\*
- 1854 Painting by Edward Meyer Kern: *The Flying Cloud lying off Whampoa*\*
- 1860? Plan, may have been drawn by McKay's wife, Heart collection, MIT
- 1863 Painting by unknown artist, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland\*
- 1871 Painting by John Scott: *The Flying Cloud off Whitby in North Yorkshire, England*\*
- 1874 *Flying Cloud* ran aground and was later burned for her iron and copper fastenings
- 1916 Model by Boucher Ship Models, now in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts
- 1926 Plans published by F. Alexander Magoun, Heart collection, MIT
- 1928 Plans published by Popular Mechanics
- 1929? Plans published by Boucher Ship Models, NYC
- 1930 Model by Boucher Ship Models, Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy
- 1933 Plans published by W.A. White, Heart collection, MIT
- 1934? Plans published by A. J. Fisher, Inc., Royal Oak, MI
- 1986 Plans published by Bluejacket Shipcrafters
- 1987 Plans published by Mamoli
- 1997 Plans in *The American-Built Clipper Ship 1850-1856* by William L. Crothers
- unknown Plans published by Sterling Models, Philadelphia, PA

\* created while the *Flying Cloud* was in service and may have been created from direct viewing of the ship

## Notes:

There are significant differences in the deck layouts shown by different plans. There is no evidence that there were any plans made at the time the Flying Cloud was built so all plans were created from partial knowledge and much speculation. I have only transferred the more significant details from the plans to the attached drawings, refer to the original plans to get the full details.

Five of the images were made while the Flying Cloud was in service and are generally accurate enough (e.g. have the right number of yards) and depicted in ways (e.g., not in a storm) that it is reasonable to assume the artist could have been working from the actual ship.

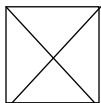
The mast placement is quite similar for the Currier and Ives print, the Scott painting, the Boucher model, and the McKay, Boucher, and Mamoli plans. A number of the other plans are close. The McKay plan, perhaps drawn by McKay's wife using information from McKay's files, may be the most likely to be accurate.



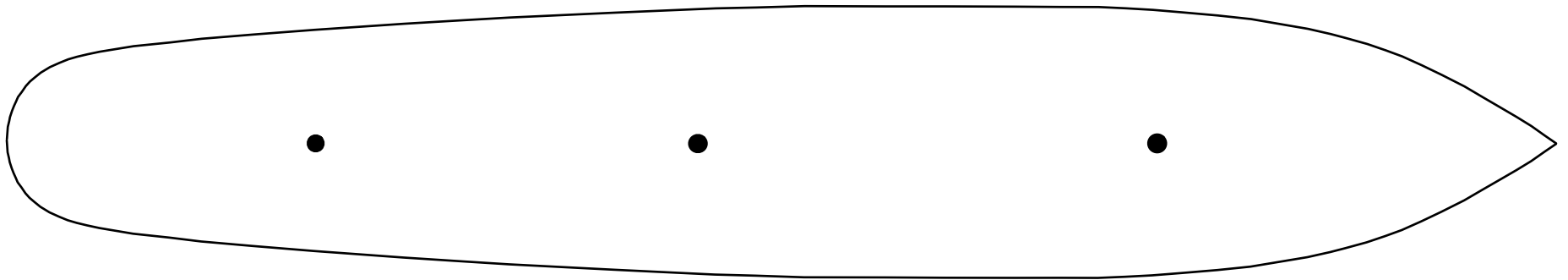
mast



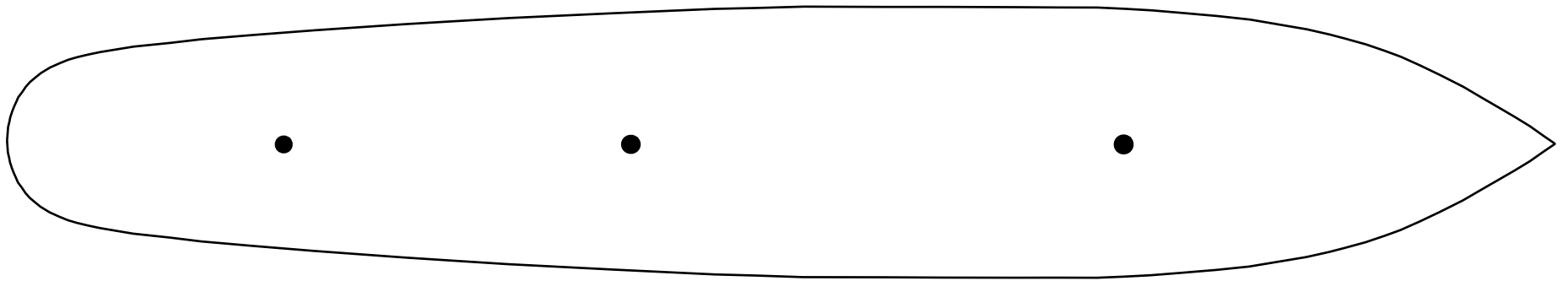
capstan



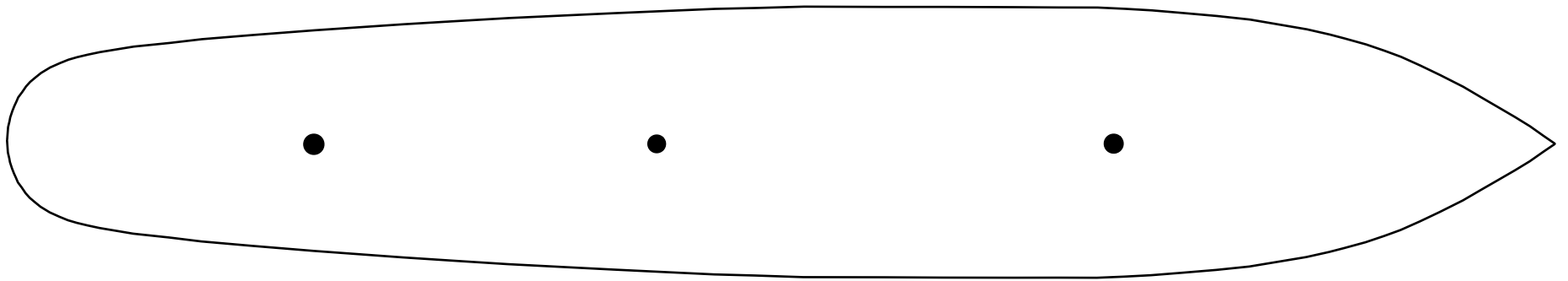
hatch



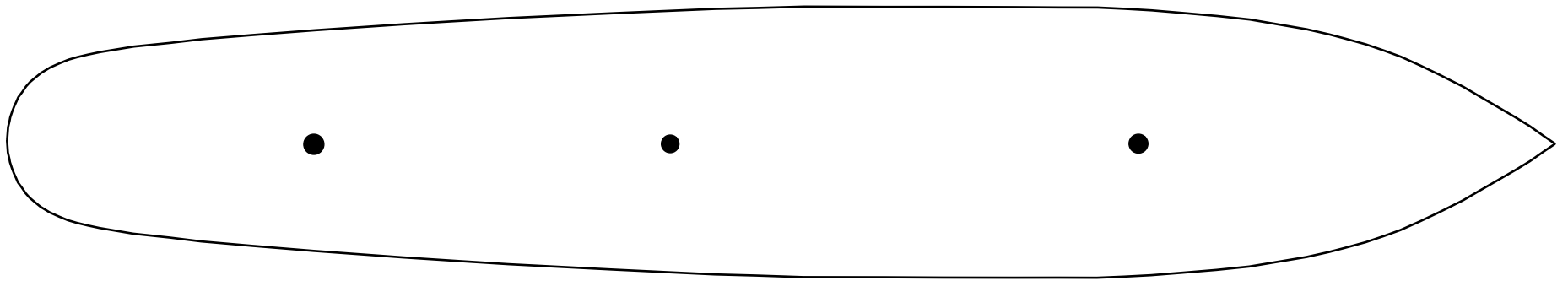
Currier & Ives



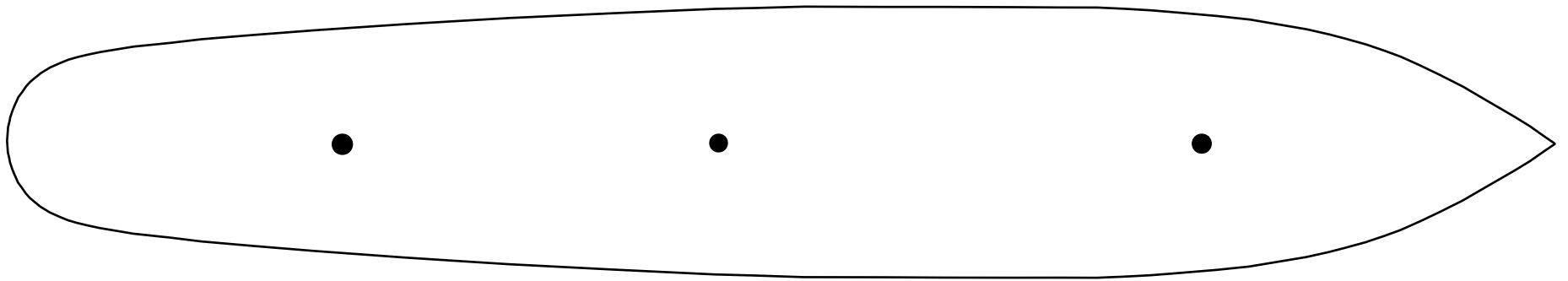
Hong Kong Painting



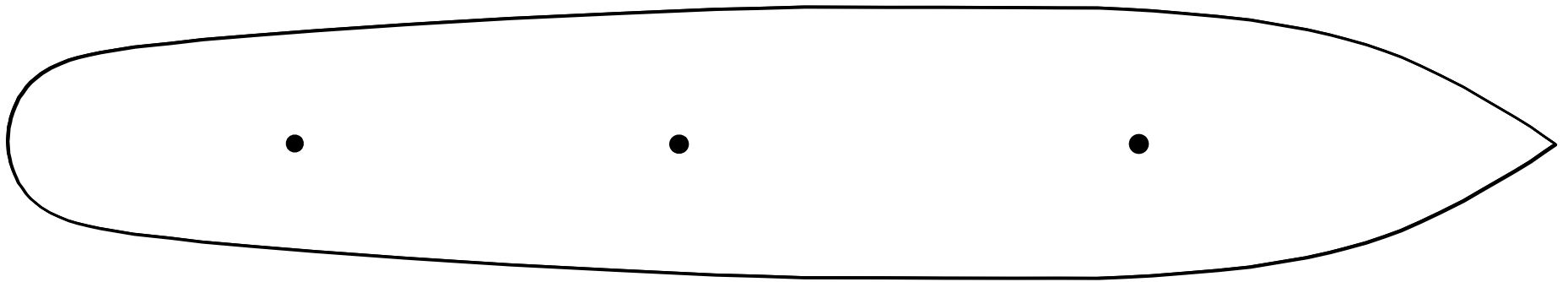
Kern



McKay

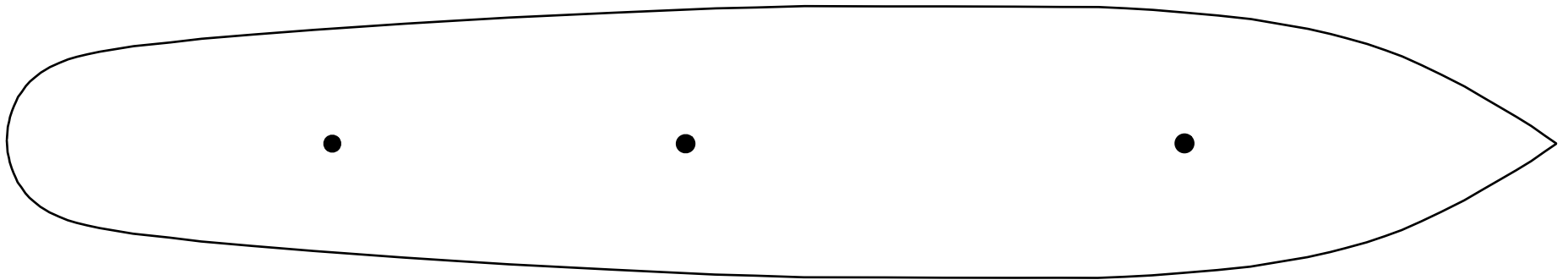


Unknown - John Oxley Library

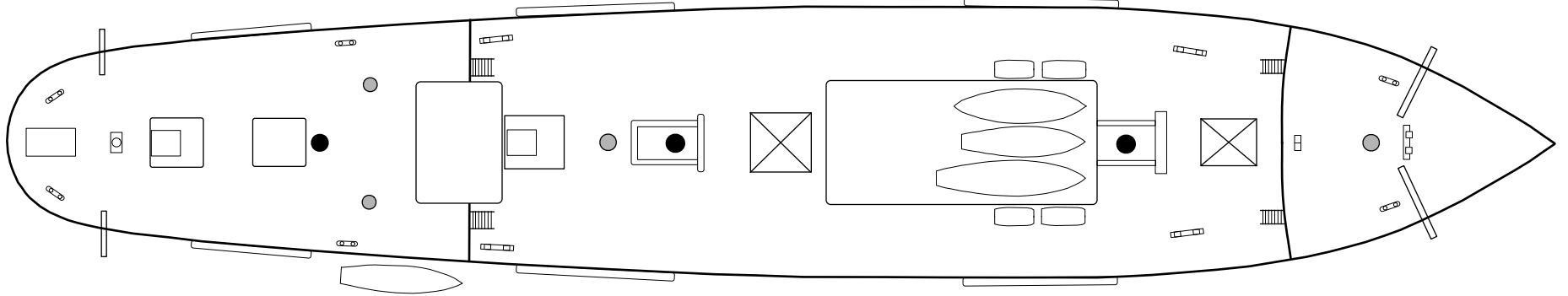


Scott Painting

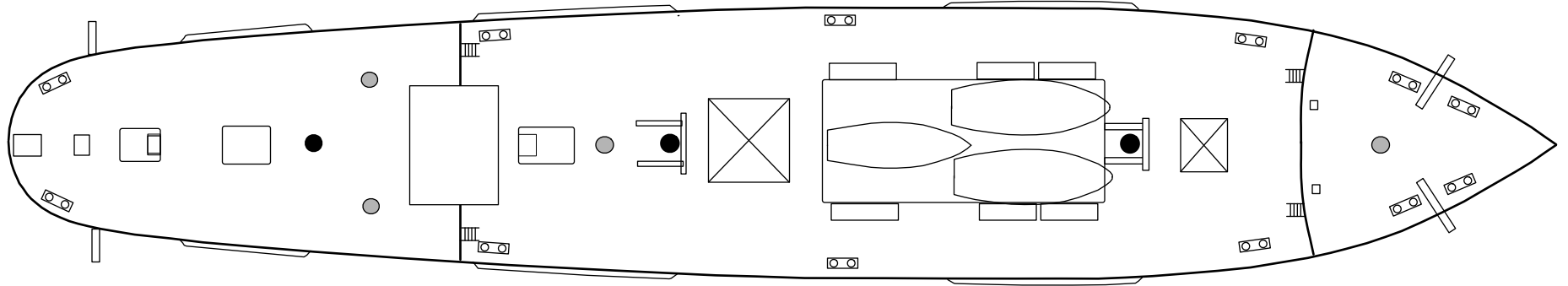




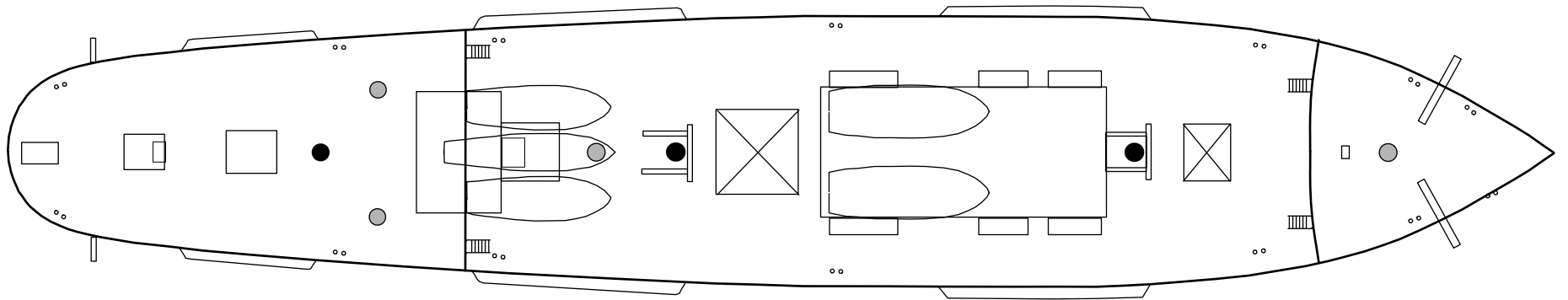
Boucher MFA



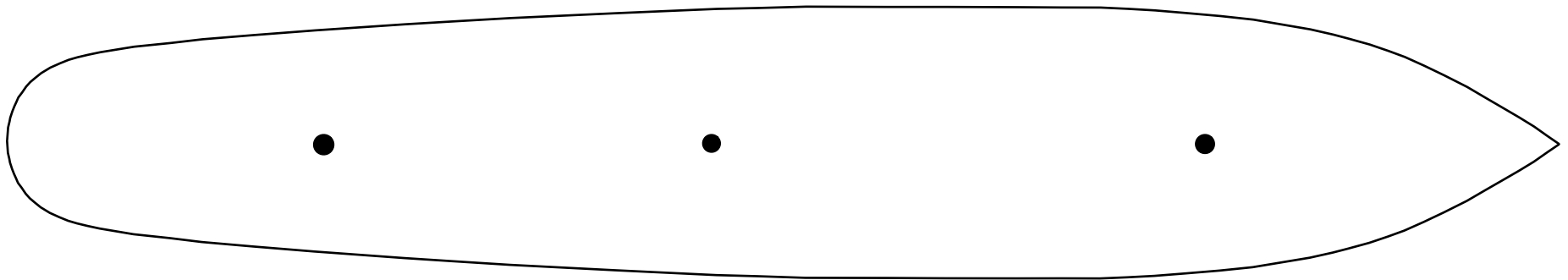
Magoun



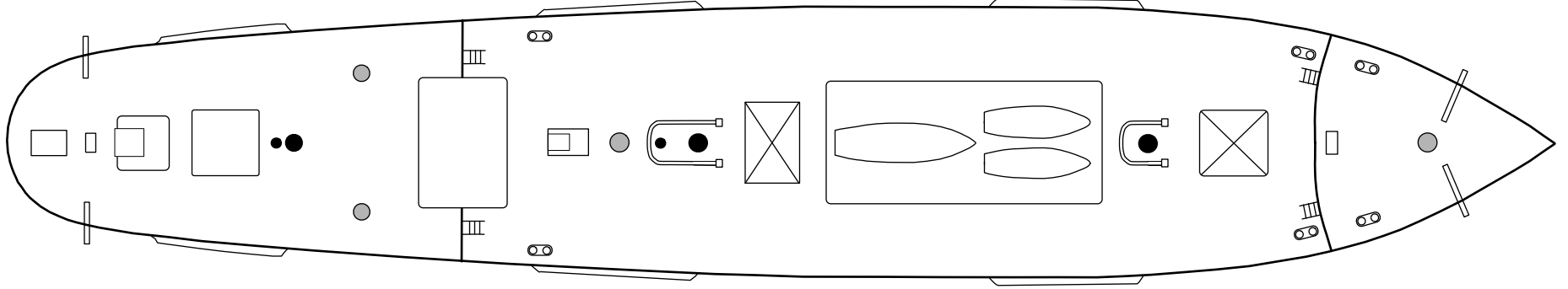
Popular Mechanics



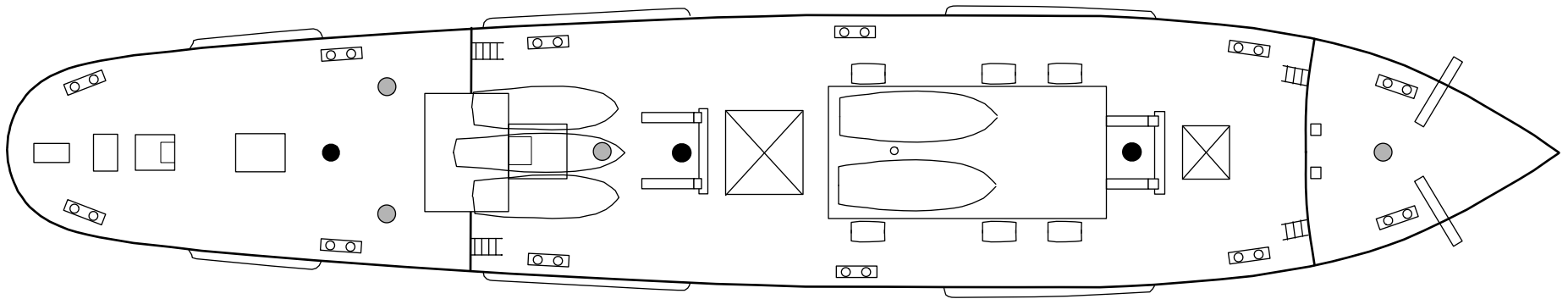
Boucher



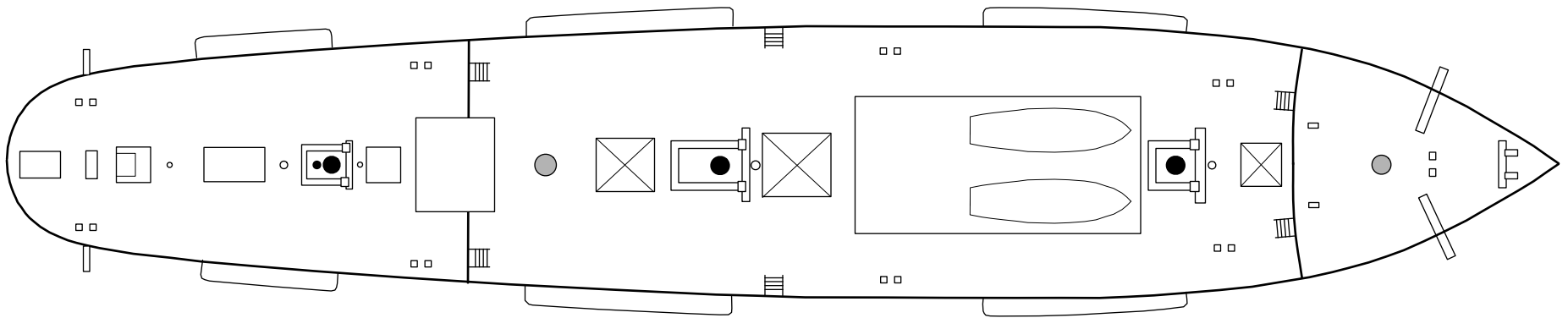
Boucher - Addison



White

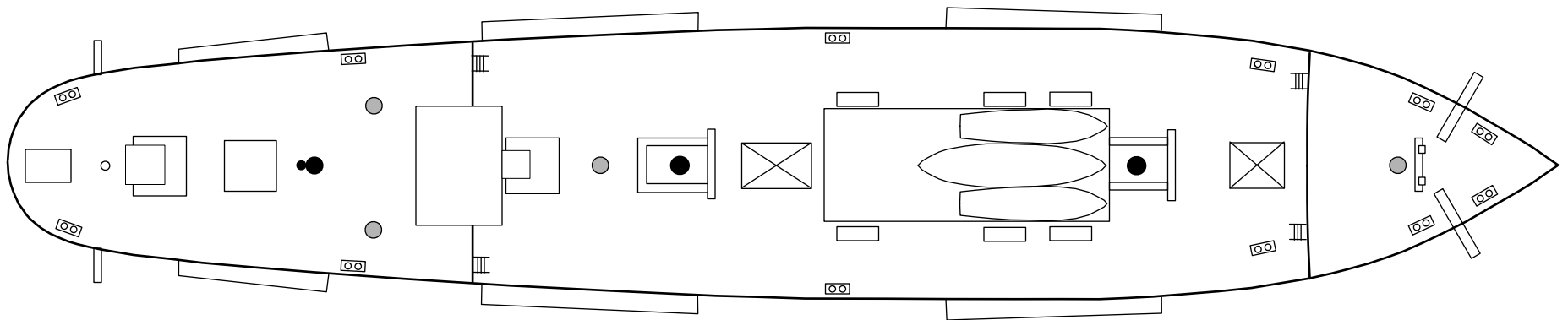


Fisher

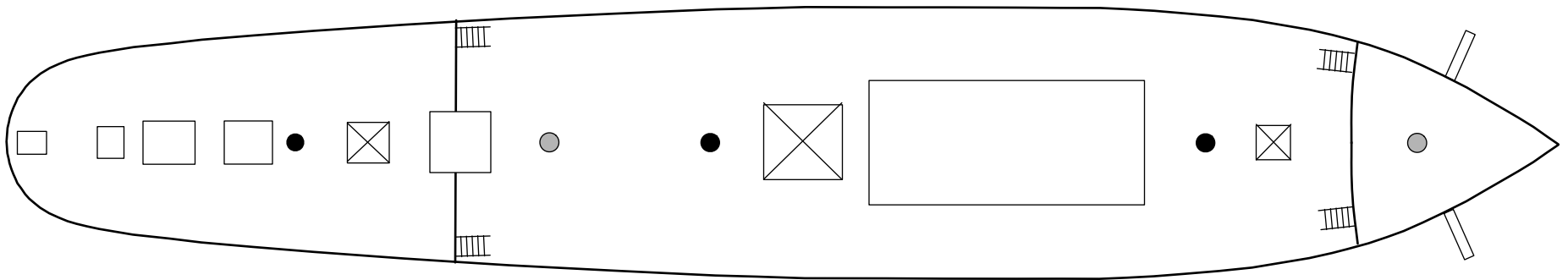


Bluejacket 1986

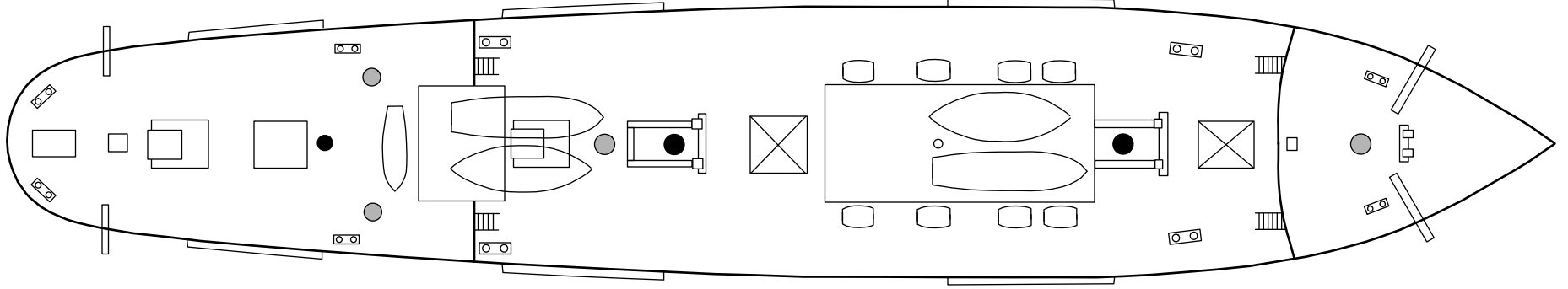




Mamoli



Crothers



Sterling Models