

Drawing boats using a model

Working from a model boat which has fairly authentic lines can be an excellent way to practice drawing boats. You can place the model on a pile of books, adding to the pile or removing books as you need to change the viewing height, as well as moving the model around for different viewing angles. Illuminating it with a desk lamp from a variety of positions is also effective.



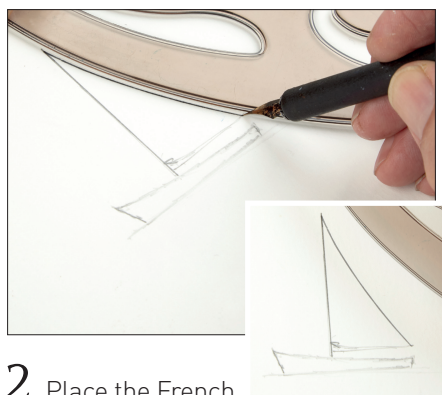
So long as the model has faithful curving lines, it will give you excellent practice as you can move it around to different angles as well as raise or lower it for a new vertical perspective.

Rigging and sails, using French curves

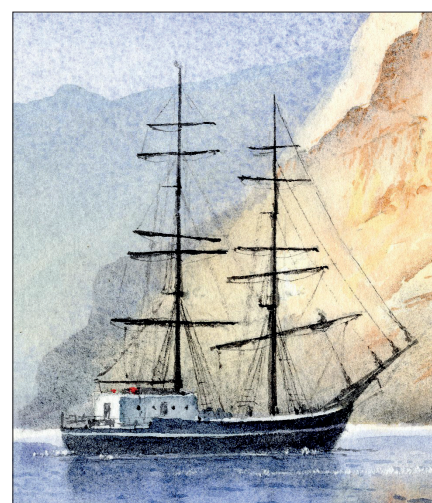
Don't forget the ropes and chains, as these can add handsome curves in a composition dominated by straight harbour walls and buildings, and can also be used as a lead-in to the focal point. French curves, which are plastic templates that describe various curves, are ideal for this.



1 With the bulk of the boat drawn, load a no. 6 brush with a dark mix – burnt umber and indigo in this example – and draw it across the dip pen nib.



2 Place the French curve in place on the surface, and draw down the side of it, then lift the curve away (see inset). This is effective when there are several lines of rigging blown into parallel curves by the wind.



This detail, from Los Gigantes (see page 82), shows parallel curved lines of rigging running up from the bowsprit. Note the sailor sitting working on the foremost yard.