



# The Art of Rigging (Dover Maritime)

*George Biddlecombe*

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"Few, today, can realize how important was the art of rigging a ship and reeving her gear in the days just old when all aloft was wood and hemp; or how great the part it has played in the building of Empire." —

Introduction.

Although mastery of the art of rigging is no longer required on board today's ships, legions of serious model ship builders who wish to rig their ships correctly need to learn the art in miniature. This book is widely considered the best manual ever produced on rigging the sailing ship. It is based on the extensively revised and updated 1848 edition prepared by Captain George Biddlecombe, a Master in the Royal Navy and former merchant seaman. The book is divided into five parts:

The *First Part* contains an alphabetical explanation of terms and phrases used in rigging. The *Second Part* consists of directions for the performance of operations incidental to rigging and preparing it on shore, with a table of the comparative strength of chain and rope. The *Third Part* contains the progressive method of rigging ships. The *Fourth Part* contains a description of reeving the running rigging and bending the sails in addition to the rigging of brigs, yachts, and small vessels. The *Fifth Part* comprises tables of the quantities and dimensions of the standing and running rigging of ships, brigs, fore-and-aft schooners, and cutters, with the species, size, and number of blocks, hearts, dead-eyes, etc.

Serious modelists, naval historians, armchair skippers — any sailing buff — will want to own a copy of *The Art of Rigging*. Complete and wonderfully clear, it is now available in its first inexpensive paperback edition. It belongs in every maritime library.

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