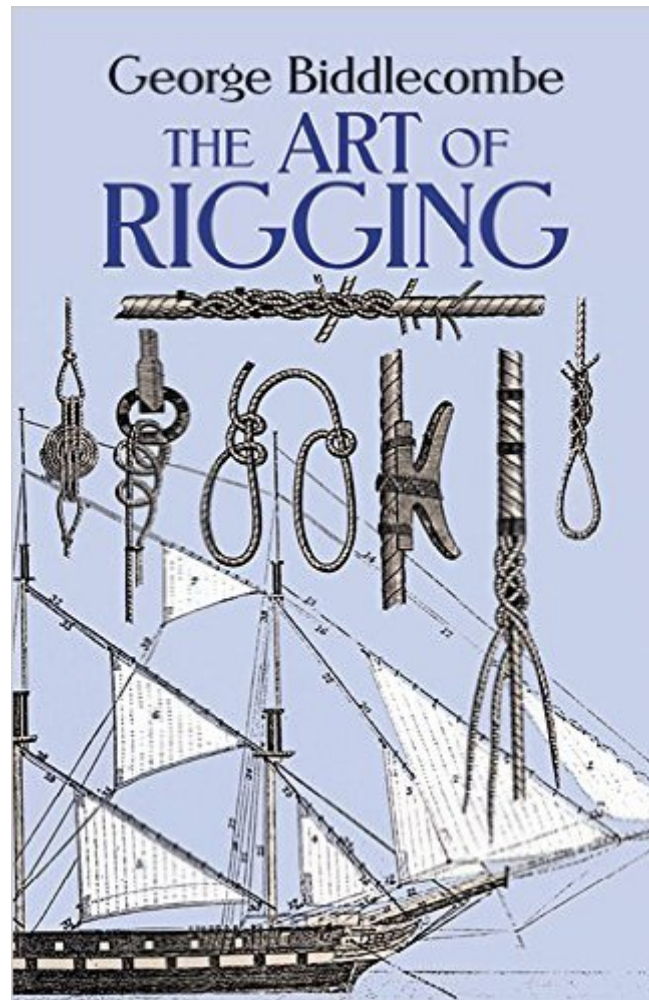


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The Art Of Rigging (Dover Maritime)



Synopsis

"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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

George Biddlecombe wrote his manual on ship rigging in 1848, and the current edition is a reprint of the 1925 edition published by The Marine Research Society, in Salem, Massachusetts. By then, the era of sailing ships, whether as a merchant man or men o' war were fading memories of long-retired sailors and ship captains. Those who wish to understand how those ships operated, whether pursuing their history or engaging in historically accurate model making will want to have a copy of Capt. Biddlecombe's book is a desk reference because it is a good and accurate dictionary and encyclopedia of how sailing ships were actually rigged and why they were rigged that way. We often hear the expression, "learning the ropes", meaning that the novice sailor was required to learn how each cable, rope, and line was to be used and handled; the same applies to those who wish to learn about these ships and the men who sailed them the world over, and of course, those wanting to re-create those sailing ships in miniature. "Learning the ropes" today means learning the names that sailors used to identify particular types of cordage and the purposes for which each type was used. This book does not replace manual is intended to guide ship modelers in replicating rigging on their ship models; there are quite a few of those around, and they emphasize the technique of making static models, as distinct from understanding what is actually being modeled. Understanding the purpose and functionality of the ropework that Capt. Biddlecombe describes goes a long way toward informing both neophyte and experienced model builders about how a ship's rigging should appear in scale miniature.

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