

Don't fret if you haven't got nice large clamps like those shown. An alternate method using padded nails will actually help prevent the small cap moulding sliding around. Prepare a dozen of the padded nails by driving them through a cardboard pad. The pad protects the wood from hammer hits and prevents the nail from entering the wood, while still providing decent clamping pressure.

You'll need to drill holes with your small bit through the cap moulding for the nails, so mark their position about every 6cm (2½") or so on the flat top of the cap moulding. Holding the cap moulding in place with its back edge flush with the back of the nameboard, you can index the exact side to side position by tapping lightly on a few of the nails so they just penetrate the nameboard a little—the points of the nails will easily find these marks after you've applied glue. Disassemble, apply a bead of glue to the top of the nameboard, attach the cap moulding, and drive your padded nails home.

When dry in an hour or so, you can easily tear the pad off the head of each nail, and extract the nail. A little drop of hot water on the remaining hole will help to swell it shut, and when you eventually paint, it will be hidden forever.

Fitting the nameboard

Clamp the spine flat on your bench to stop it sliding around, because now you must carefully trim the case top moulding to clear the angled

ends of the nameboard cap moulding.

Slide the nameboard down into its mortice in the spine, until the little ear of the cap moulding stops it going any further. Remember that the cap moulding overhangs the *front* edge of the nameboard!

If the dovetails of the nameboard are too tight, ease them a little with some sandpaper.

Verify with your square that you are keeping the nameboard absolutely perpendicular to the spine. Scribe with the tip of your sharp X-acto knife around the cap moulding to show where you must trim the moulding on the spine at a nice 45° to match.

Remove the nameboard, and carefully cut away the spine moulding using your X-acto knife or your sharp chisel. Don't cut out more wood than what you have to. Begin well inside your marks so you don't overshoot—you want perfect joints here. In a traditional decoration scheme, the mouldings are simply varnished wood, so what you do will be very visible.

Prepare the cheek to hold the nameboard in exactly the same manner, then check by inserting the nameboard and ensuring that the cutouts are deep enough so the moulding matches.

The lower bellyrail

Check the fit of the dovetailed lower bellyrail in its mortices in both the spine and cheek. If these dovetails are a little tight, ease them slightly with your plane or a little sandpaper. You want these parts to be able to fit firmly, but with some ease. Make sure the mortice is tall enough—if not, square the top corners of it with your chisel.

Positioning the wrestplank

Still with the spine flat on your bench, position the wrestplank in its mortice, and the cheek on top. Flip the unit on your bench, and insert the nameboard. Flip it again so it is upside down, and you can fit the lower bellyrail. If you can get this far and everything fits perfectly, it will help to make the assembly square. You might ask someone to exert pressure with their arms while you put the 60mm x ø 5mm (2½") screws in the wrestplank and tap lightly to mark both the support blocks on the cheek and spine. Take everything apart and pre-bore the support blocks to provide a start for the wrestplank screws.

Reinsert the screws in the wrestplank support blocks. Reposition the wrestplank and lower belly rail, and lightly tap the nameboard into position. Screw the wrestplank in place and check again that everything is square. Your dry run is complete, and it is now time to disassemble and glue.

Gluing the wrestplank support blocks

Begin with the spine wrestplank support block.