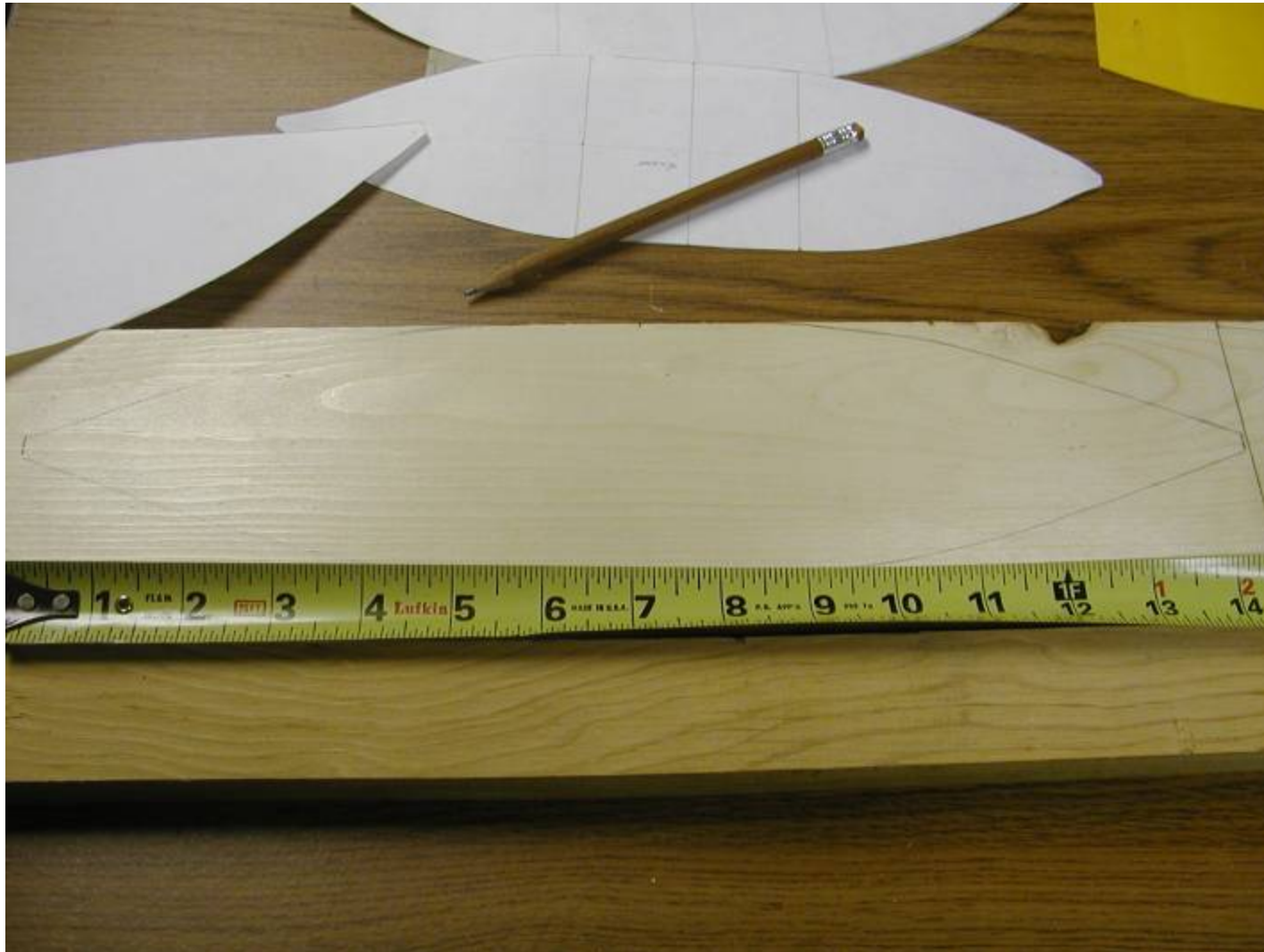


How To Build a Longship

Chapter 1

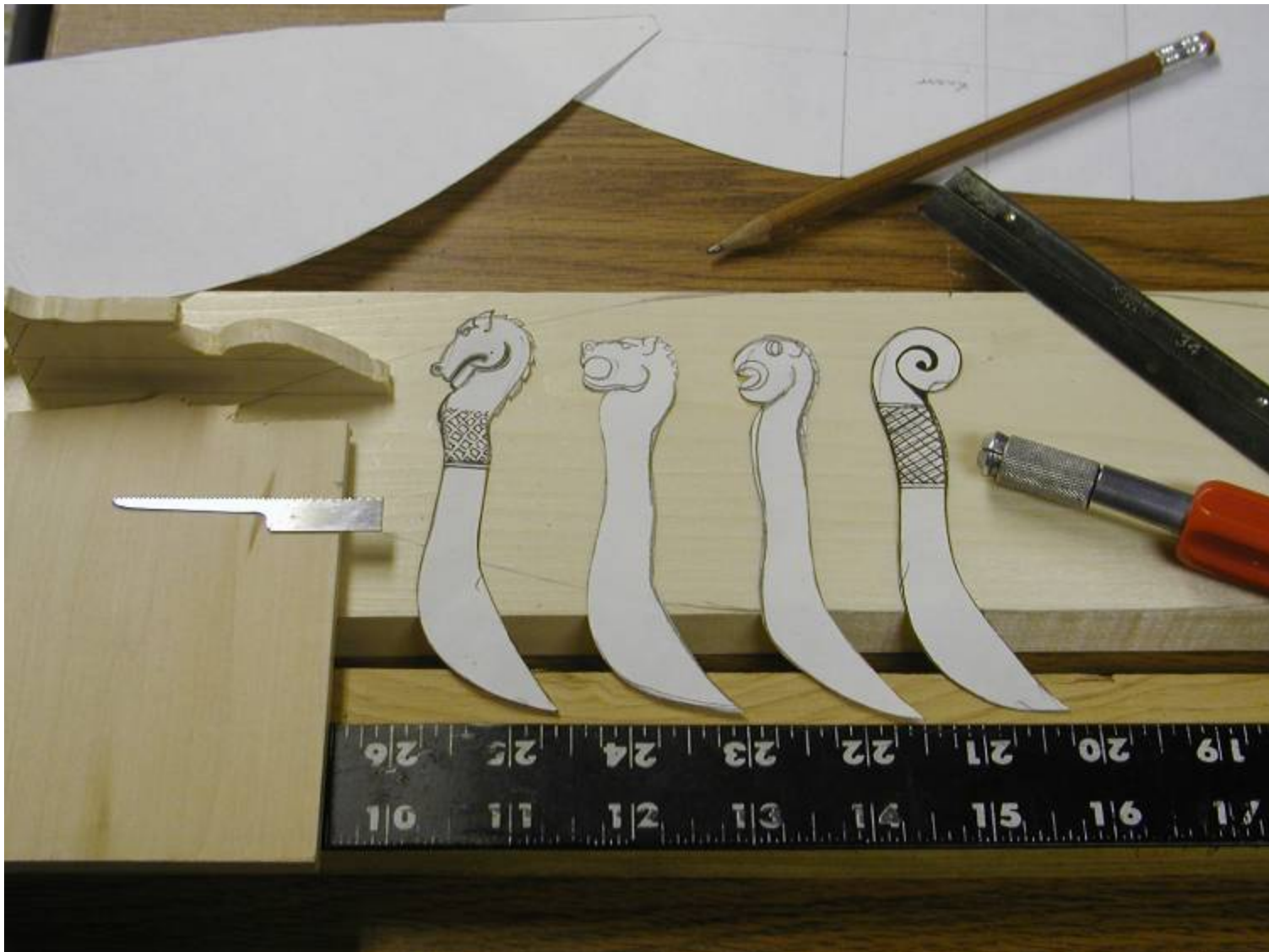
By Glen Cooley and Rod Cain

Make a paper template by folding it in quarters.
The length and scale are a 4" wide by a 12-15"
long.

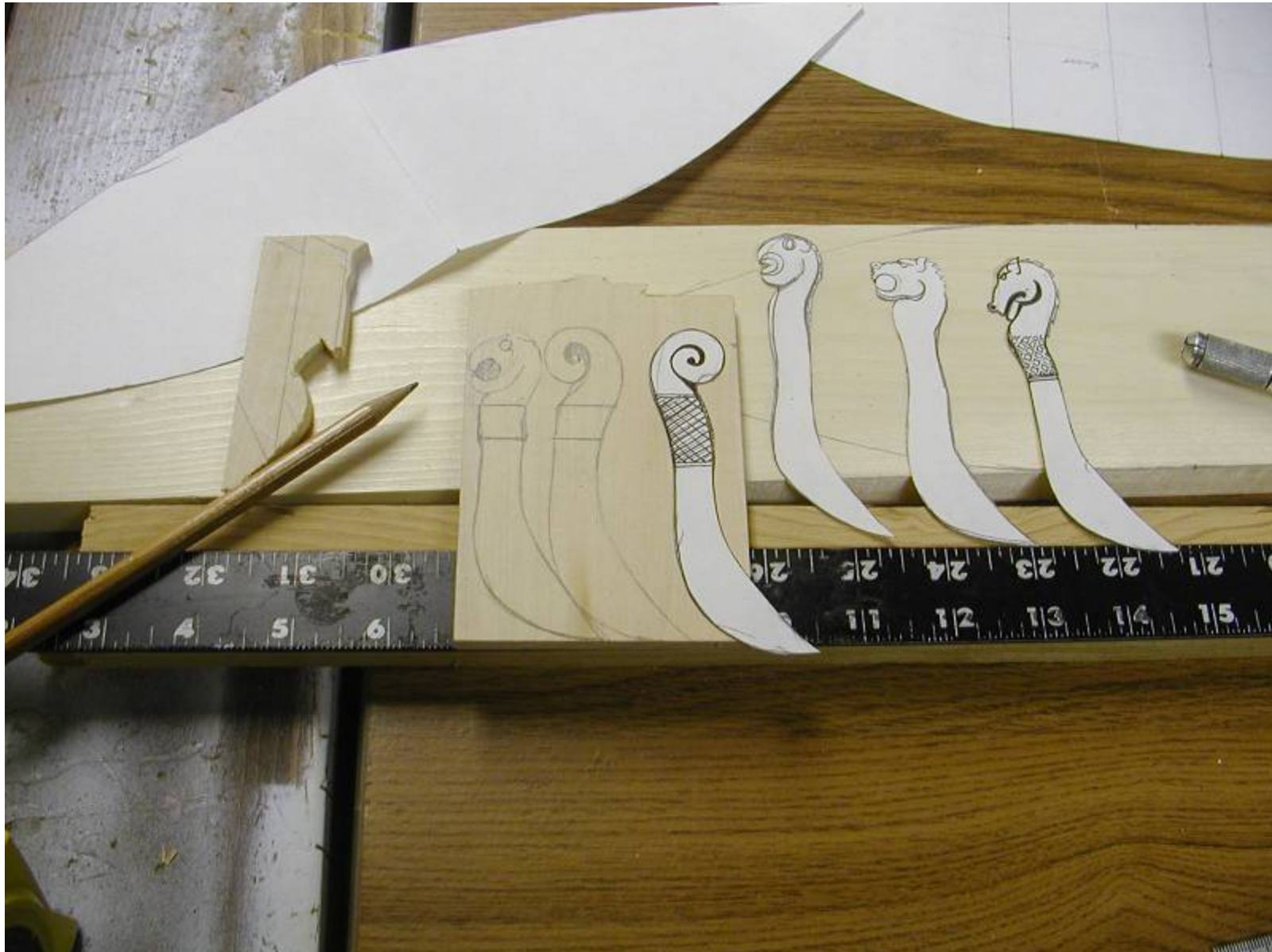


Start with a
clear (no
knots) piece
of 1"x4" pine.
Trace on
your hull.

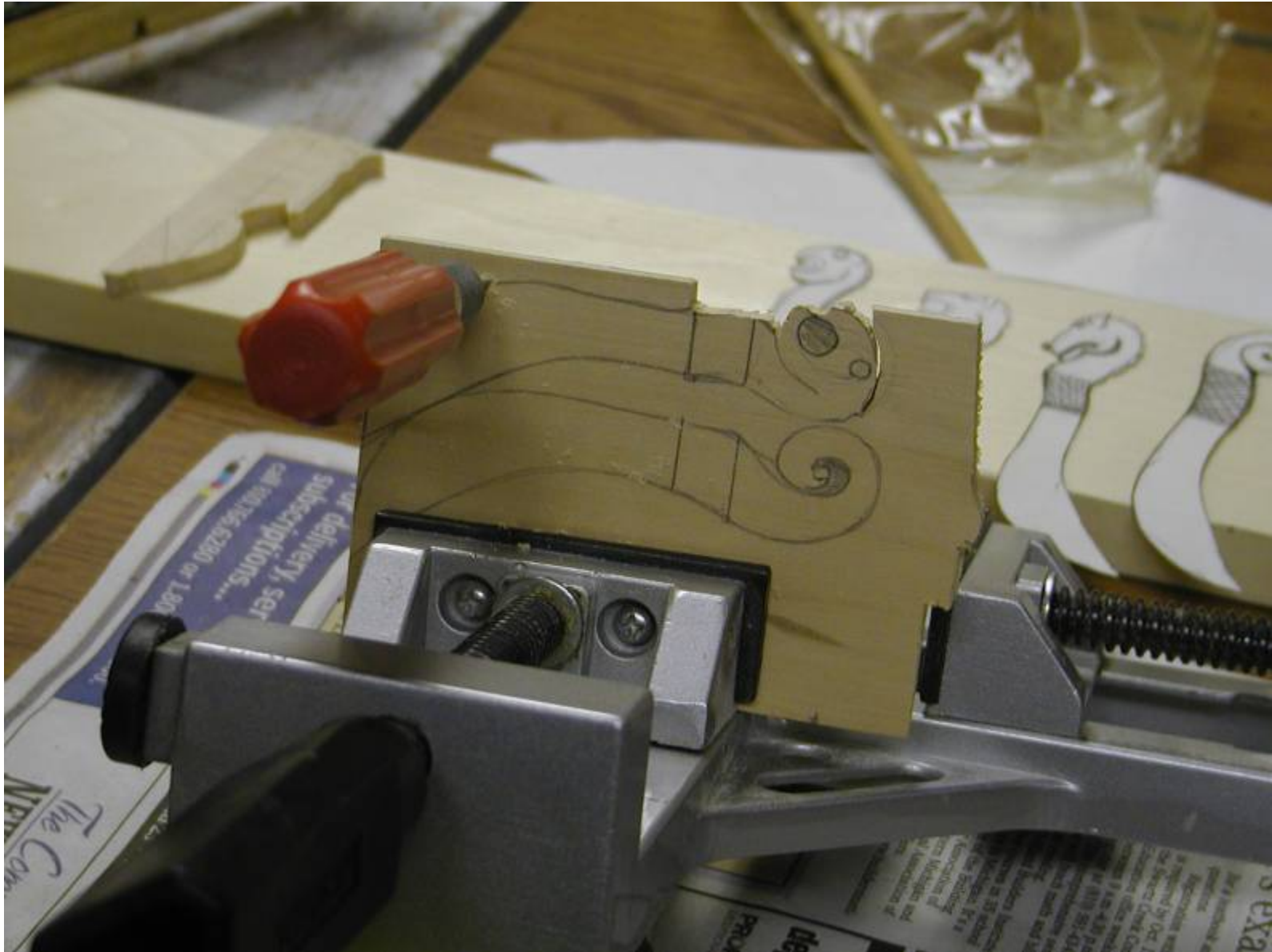
You will need a bow and a stern. Start with a paper concept. It is also completely historical to use a straight bow and stern post with no decorative carving.



Trace it onto a ¼" thick piece of bass wood.



A scroll saw works best for this, but a small hand saw will work.



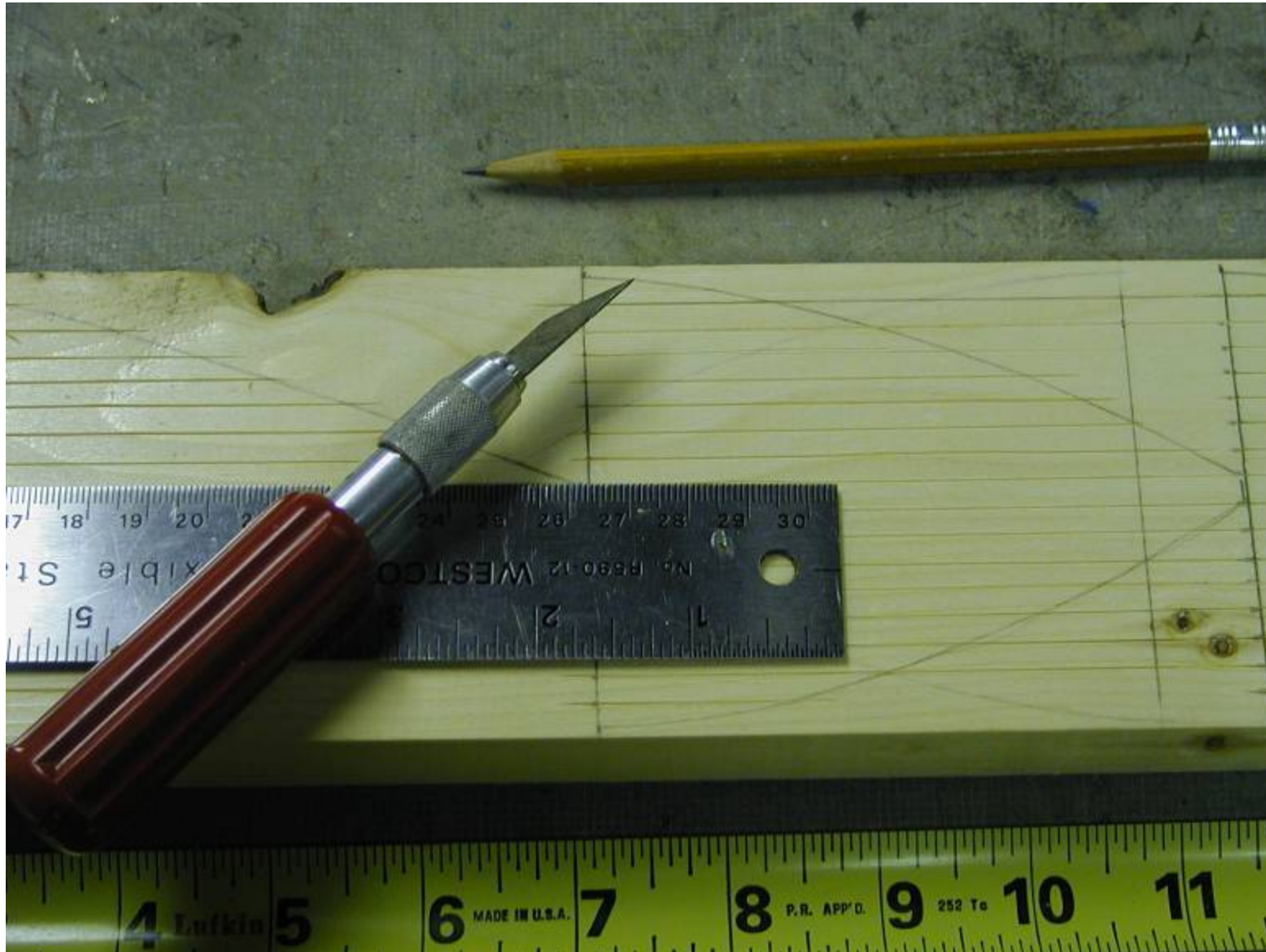
Rough cut and ready to carve.



To give the impression of planking score the decking with a knife about $\frac{1}{4}$ " between cuts. It is easier to do these before cutting the hull out.



For a knarr we make two half hulls, more on this later.



1/4" bass wood is used for the mast support.



Shape and sand it to look something like this.



Later it will be mounted here to support the mast.



Shape the head and tail.



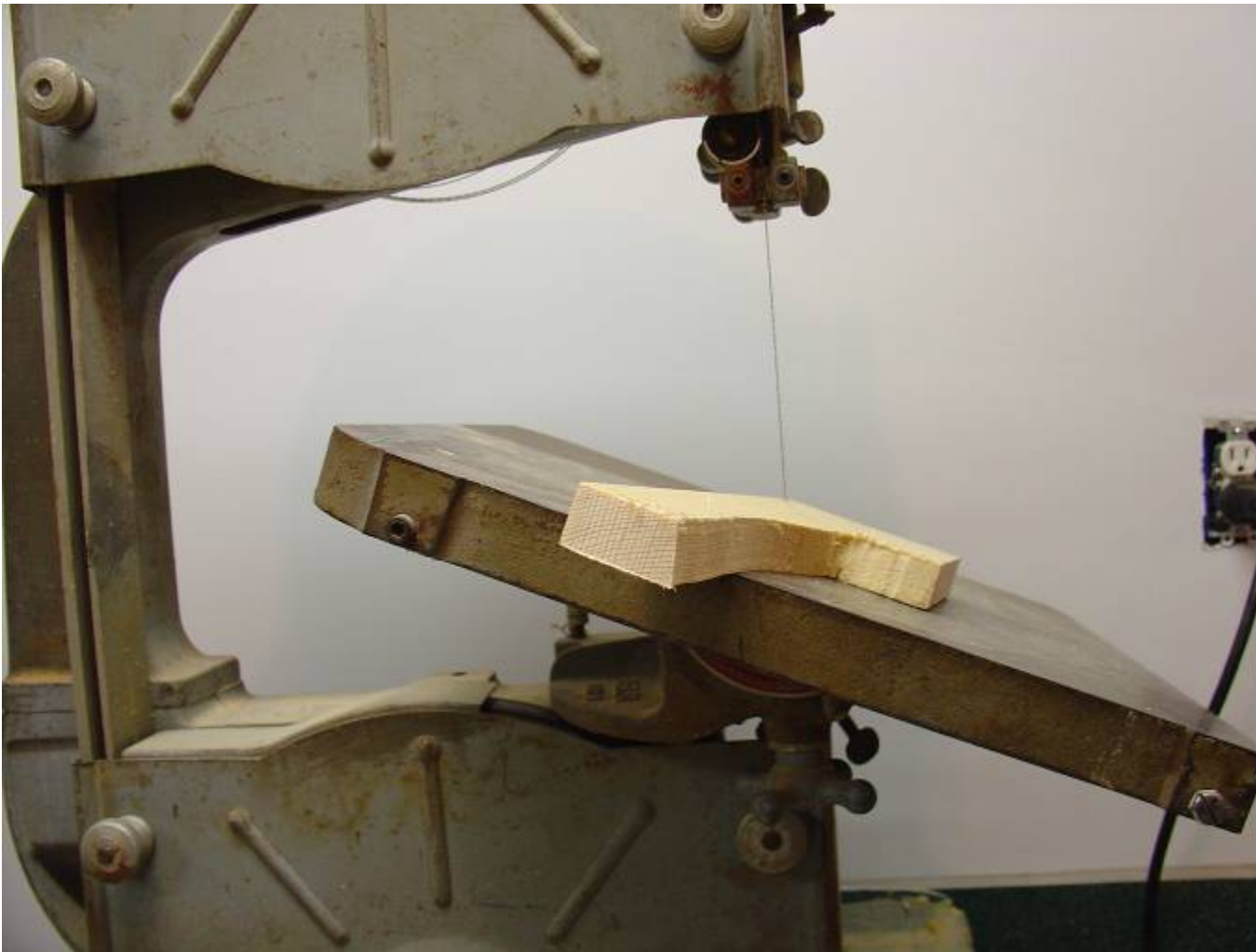
Here you can see a rudder has been fashioned with a toothpick handle and one of the mast supports. These details can be added or left off depending on the use of your model (i.e. fighting sea battles or more static display).



Now we cut the hull (having a wood shop helps), but it can be done with hand held tools.



We have used scroll and band saws for this (both work fine). The table needs to be tilted at a 22 degree angle to give the proper shape for planking.



Two longships and a knarr ready to sand.



There are multiple ways to accomplish this. The key is to maintain the shape on the soft pine. A table mounted disc sander at a 22 degree angle is recommended, but not required. After the planking these surfaces will be hidden. Making them smoother just makes it easier for assembly.



Now glue on the bow and stern. You are ready for planking.



The next chapter will cover the planking, decking, mast, sails and other details.... Stay tuned.