

Spider Alaskan Trawler



Named Spider for all the contraptions and add-ons on an all-around Alaskan crabber and halibut trawler. Radio-controlled like the rest, the Spider has a spinning radar turret and running lights.



Same ash and balsa plywood hull and strip plank construction as the Three Sons. Black subdeck (above) holds six C and four AA batteries for the motor, radio control, running lights and radar turret power. What I like about this sturdy little \$99 model is that it be customized into a variety of tugs and trawlers. Seems like every model builder thinks so too because Dumas is always out of stock. Ironic that Dumas Products is located in Tucson – the middle of the desert.

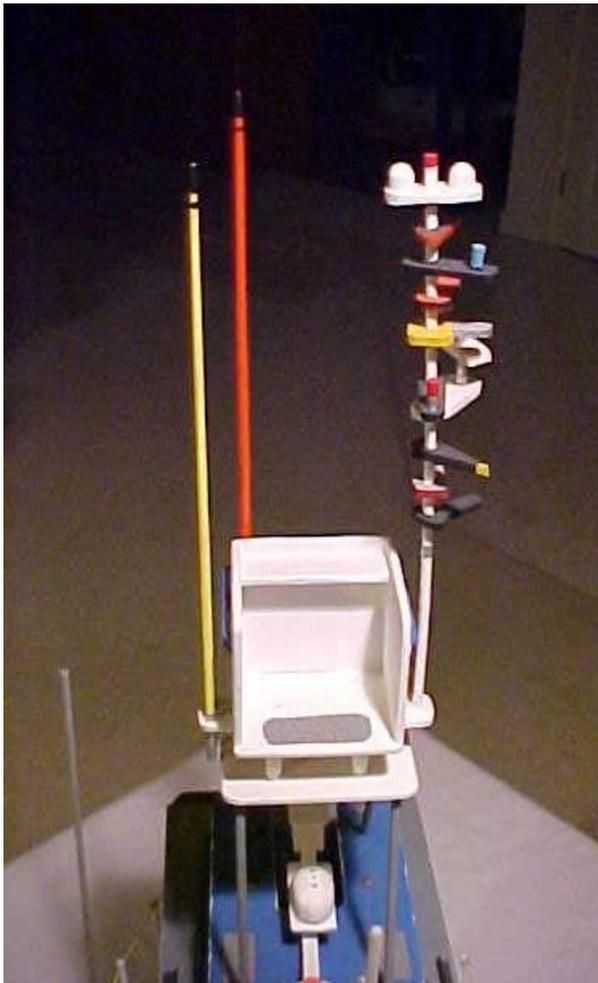


Solid balsa bow (below) allows me to tool it into a variety of shapes.





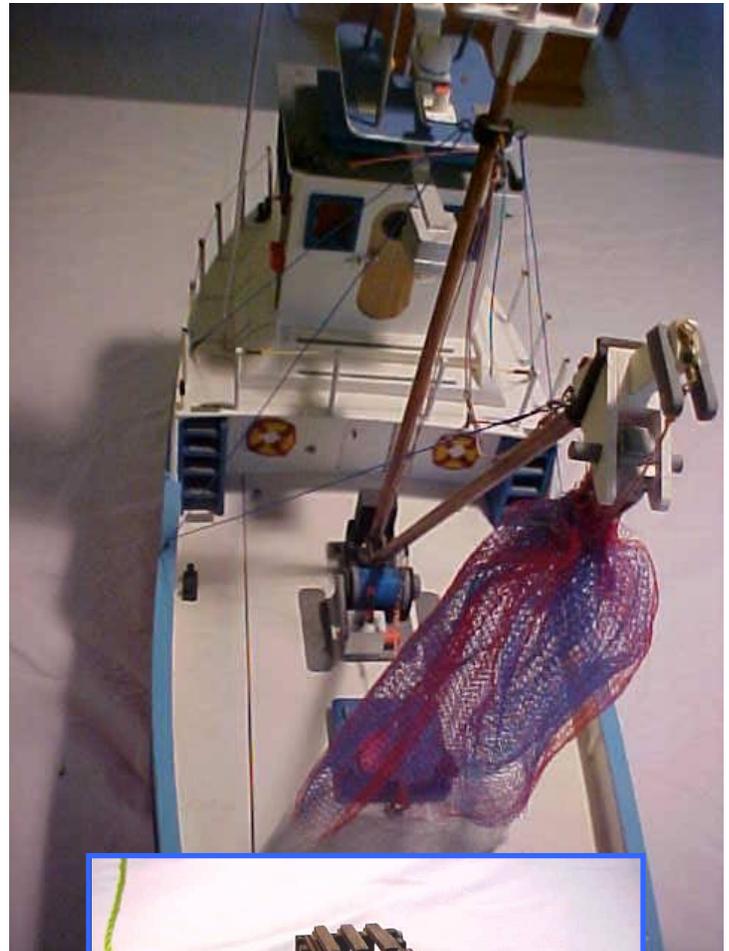
Took pix of trawlers at various harbors between here and SLO, little bits of this and that, to create my own tuna tower. Funny-looking thing (above) is a radar and fish locator -- \$45,000 real bucks! Mine (below) cost about ten cents...



Colorful radio and GPS poles and nonsense made from bamboo pot stickers and odd-shaped scrap. Don't know what they really do, but it shore is purty...



Little radar turret actually spins real-time. Tuna tower made from bamboo pot stickers and junk, mostly. Cable links made from tiny brass lure swivels.



No model trawler or tug would be authentic-looking without deck junk and clutter. Fishnets (right) once held store-bought avocados and onions. Crab traps (below right) made from ash ply scrap, mahogany stained and wire brushed for an antique look.

This is the end of an era – California passed laws forbidding trawlers to catch fish off the coast for the next 50 years. The trawlers I took pictures of last year will probably be scuttled off the coast in 2005.



Crab traps...!



Pirate skipper with sword – yargh...!

Green port and red starboard lights made from standard home Christmas lights.



No self-righting, respectable trawler would be caught fishing the Alaskan seas without a can.

The Spider comes with a powder blue one, safely tucked away on the poop deck behind the purse seine roller crane. Door opens and closes on micro-hinges, but no crescent moon -- I was just about going blind by this time with all the mini-detail.

Toilet doesn't flush, but does have a silver paperclip handle...