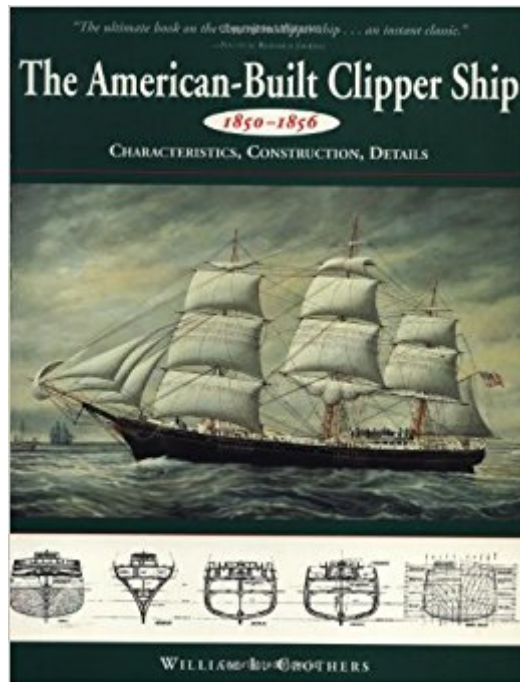


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# The American-Built Clipper Ship, 1850-1856: Characteristics, Construction, And Details



## Synopsis

Long of line, incredibly fleet, with tall, raking masts and clouds of sail, the great Yankee clipper ships stir dreams of romance and adventure. This book, the most important and detailed ever to appear on clipper ships, is the fruit of 35 years of research. Lavishly pictorial, it's a boon to maritime historians, model makers, and dreamers alike.

## Book Information

Paperback: 544 pages

Publisher: International Marine/Ragged Mountain Press; 1 edition (February 25, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0071358234

ISBN-13: 978-0071358231

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 1.2 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Although there are plenty of books promising a "nuts and bolts" treatment of a particular subject, this weighty tome is one of those rare titles that actually delivers. Rather than presenting a glamorous and romantic rehash of the clipper ship story, this book presents the planning, building, and fitting out of these ships in great but surprisingly readable detail. Every element of these ships and their function is described, along with how they were crafted, their place in the history of shipbuilding, and how they contributed to the structural strength of the ship. There are descriptions of each kind of wood used in American clipper construction and each kind of scarf used in hull construction, dozens of informative construction plans, and a large number of detailed tables covering everything from scantling dimensions, to mast and spar colors and hull characteristics. There's also quite a bit of detail on the completion of these ships, including plans of each ship's weather decks, descriptions of interior and exterior decoration, and a discussion of new forms of masting, sparring, and rigging which some ships experimented with. This is clearly a labor of love, and not really something you can read at the beach, or even totally absorb in one read-through. The closest I've

ever seen to the level of detail here is Bruce Beveridge's massive two volume "Titanic: The Ship Magnificent." William Crothers relies heavily on period sources, and is very careful to point out when they disagree with each other, or when he's simply making a best guess. There's a huge amount of Good Stuff in here, especially considering that none of these ships still survive.

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