

An Improved Seizing and Serving Machine

by
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Seizing and serving in ship rigging is the wrapping of thin line around a doubling to form an eye or becket such as when stopping a block or when wrapping a thin line around a length of standing rigging line in order to reinforce it against chafing and unraveling. (Fig. 6).

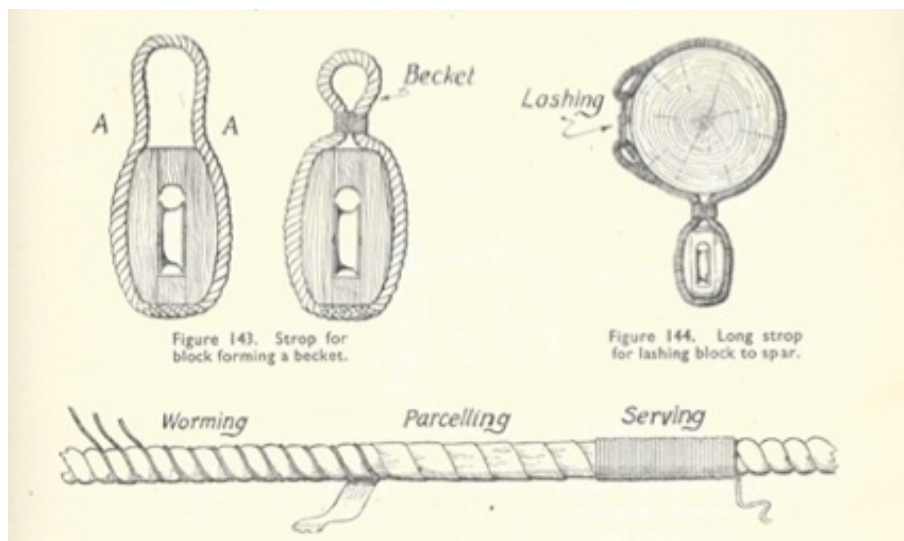


Fig. 6. Seizing and serving rigging line.
(Longridge, The Anatomy of Nelson's Ships)

This is usually done with a hand operated machine which rotates the line between two clamps which are geared to rotate in unison so that the line being wrapped is not twisted.

The need to make gun tackles for my carronade model led me to make use of a seizing machine to seize line around stopped blocks. Initially, I used a very elegantly made seizing machine made by the late Frank Walsh for Jean Eckert which I have subsequently inherited. On using it, however, I found that I did not have a way to wrap the excess line so that it would not end up wrapping awkwardly around the chuck which held the alligator clip on the right side (Fig.7)

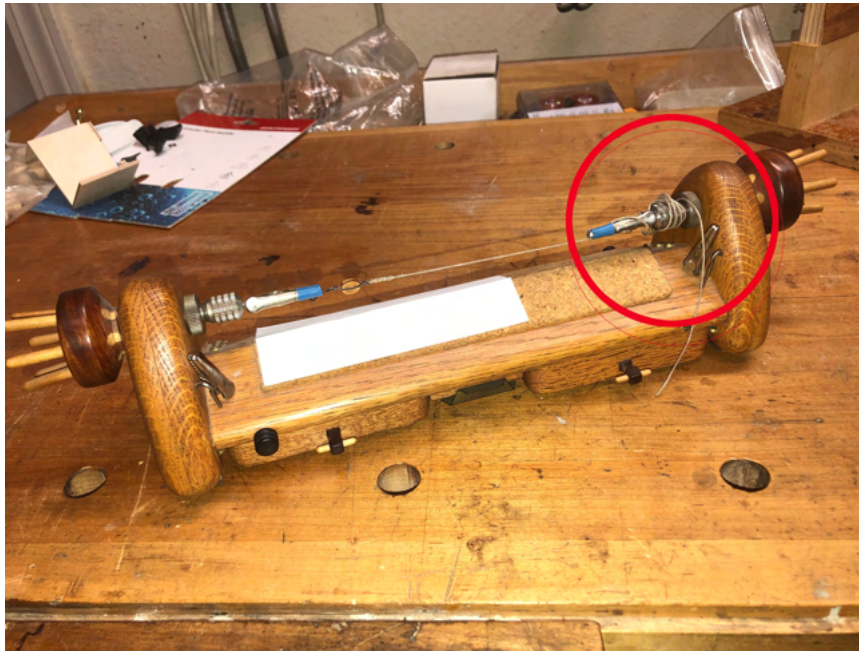


Fig. 7. Serving machine made by Frank Walsh showing how excess line was getting wrapped awkwardly around the right alligator clip holder.

So I took a look at a rope serving machine offered as a kit from Syren Models called the **Syren Serv-o-Matic** (Fig. 8).

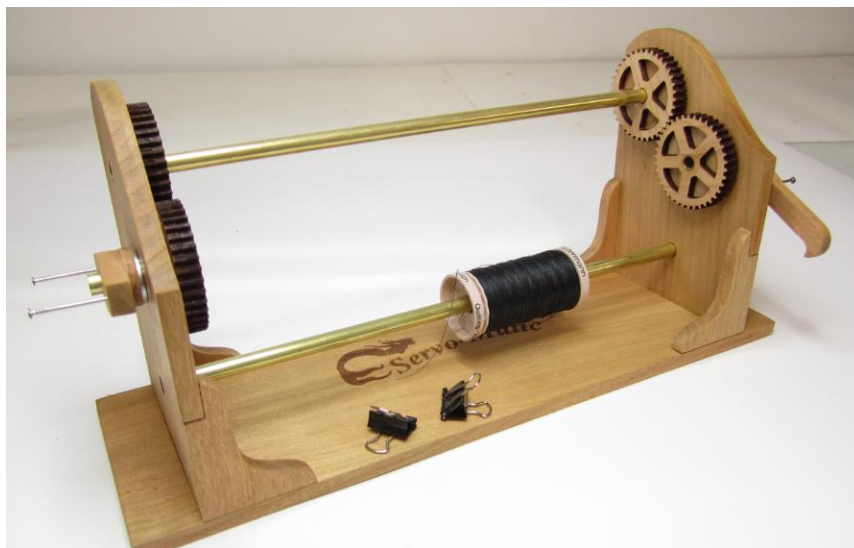


Fig. 8. **Syren Serv-o-Matic** rigging serving machine (Syren Models)

This device offered a way of wrapping excess line by feeding it through the hollow tubing of the axes of rotation and then wrapping the line around two nails affixed to each of the external handles on either side of the machine. However, I was worried that doing things that way would cause kinks to form in the line around each nail that would have to be

straightened out later on. I thought of a way to solve this problem by installing a couple of circular thread spools on these handles to take up the excess line instead in a way that did not form kinks. I found such spools from Amazon (where else?).

As it turned out, I had another serving machine obtained from another person's estate that could be modified to take these circular thread spools. (Fig.9).

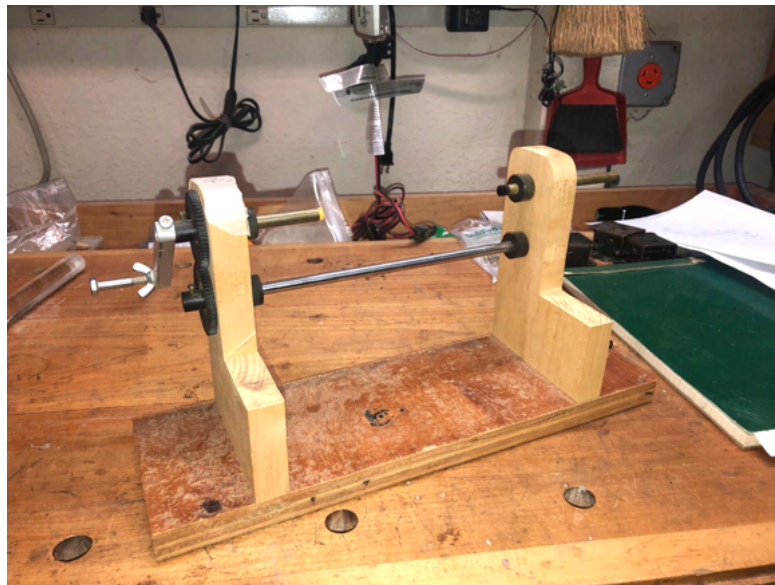


Fig. 9. Another seizing machine in my stash as it came to me.

And so, I added alligator clips, a couple of plastic thread spools to both sides of the machine and a $\frac{1}{4}$ "-20 threaded rod to provide for a spool of serving line conveniently placed in the way seen with the Syren Serv-o-Matic. (Fig. 10).

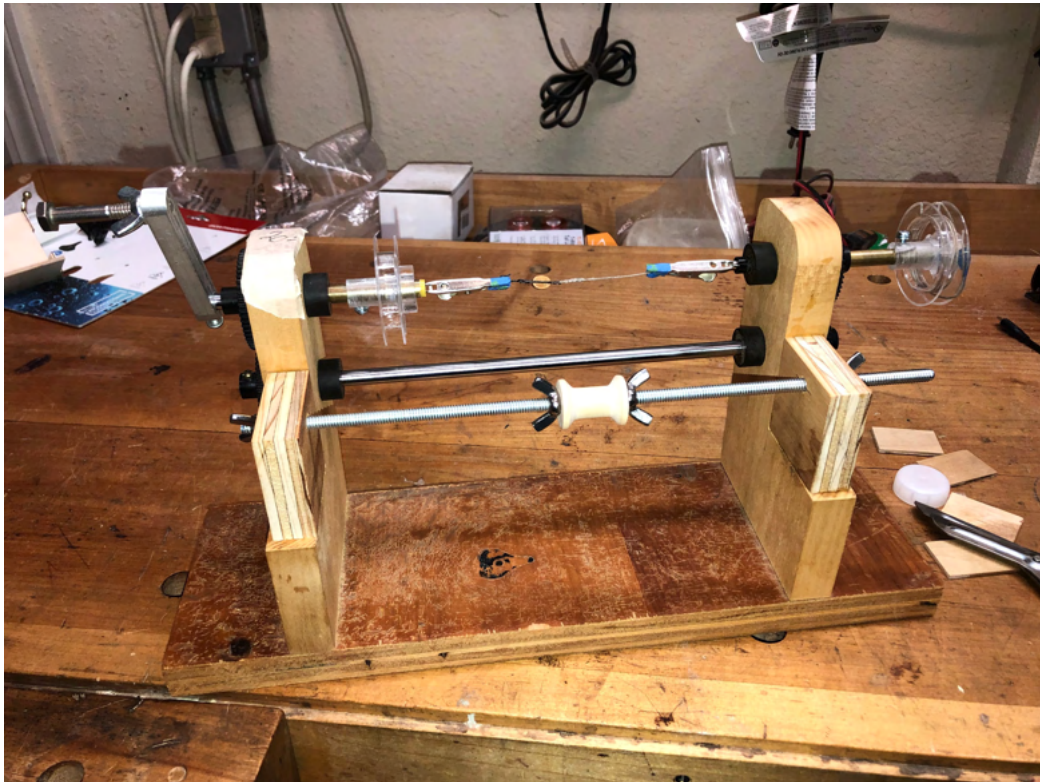


Fig. 10. Modified serving machine with plastic spools to take up excess line and a wooden spool mounted in the front on a $\frac{1}{4}$ "-20 threaded rod for line that is used for serving.

The serving line spool can have its position adjusted using wing nuts to constrain its movement on the threaded rod which is an improvement over the Syren Serv-o-Matic. For those in need of a serving machine, the Syren Serv-o-Matic looks like the best commercial unit out there and it can be modified to take on circular thread spools such as what I used on my modification. It can be purchased for \$57 from Syren Models.

<https://syrenshipmodelcompany.com/serving-machine.php>