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This week's featured object is a scale model of HMS Pandora made by Ron Burt.

The model was built by Maritime Museum staff member Ron Burt in a special workshop with a viewing window for the public to watch the craftsman at work. The 40-inch vessel was made from the original shipwright plans for HMS Pandora, which was built at the Grove Street and Barnard's Thames Yards in Deptford. Ron used the 18th century plans drawn up by John Williams in 1778 to create an exact scale model of the sixth rate naval ship.

The deck is constructed from spruce and beech planks, just five inches long by a quarter of an inch wide, which are attached to a frame with tiny treenails. The 24 cannons are made from brass and constructed from 700 individual parts, while the intricate rigging pattern was copied from a book written in 1808 and took 800 hours to complete. The ship's figurehead is made from a recycled car registration plate.

To find out more about both ship's and model's fascinating story, read our recent [Collection's Blog](#) 'Sword in the Store – a real Pandora's Box story'.



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