[**Billy Leech**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/)

* Bilge Rat
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_bilgerat.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODA5NjR9)
* Member
* 8 posts

([IP: 216.15.62.119](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=216.15.62.119)) ·

[Posted March 7, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=380964) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=380964)

Hi,

Can anyone help me out with some info on ships and sailing times in 1721? For a writing project I'm working on, I'm trying to figure out the best choice of ships to give a main character, a pirate turned pirate hunter, and to make sure I get the details right. I had the idea that the ship he uses was a warship he'd captured and commandeered for his own uses a few years back (so it could be something from the late 1710s). Whatever model or nationality it needs to be, it needs to have a balance between firepower and speed, and provoke a sense of "Oh f\*\*\*, we've gotta go up against THAT?" I know sloops were more commonly used by pirates and navies alike, and pirate engagements with the navy were rare, but it's kind of an important character point that this character could successfully commandeer a more powerful warship. (If I absolutely can't get away with it, I'll give him a sloop, but the more powerful the ship, the better).

So for 1721, what would be the best ship to give this guy that incorporates what I'm going after, and what's a realistic number of tonnage, cannons it could hold, etc.?

This next one's especially important - how fast could this ship sail from Kingston, Jamaica to Bristol, England? (Also, how fast between Kingston and Santo Domingo?)

I know I'm asking for a lot, but if anyone could help me out with this, or direct me to someone who could, I'd very much appreciate it. Thanks!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=edit)

[**Captain McCool**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11102-captain-mccool/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11102-captain-mccool/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODA5Nzl9)
* Member
* 530 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Golden, Colorado
* Interests:Piracy, of course. Also, skiing, fencing, graphite/charcoal drawing, writing, ren-faires, etc.

([IP: 71.218.74.37](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.218.74.37)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=380979) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=380979)

Well, the *Queen Anne's Revenge* was a pretty formidable vessel, so clearly not all pirates necissarily captained sloops.

**Edited March 8, 2010 by Captain McCool**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=380979)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_380979_menu)

[**Red Cat Jenny**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3475-red-cat-jenny/)

* Truly one of a Kind
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3475-red-cat-jenny/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODA5ODh9)
* Member
* 7,468 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:New York but pining for the open sea
* Interests:Pirates, history, anthing nautical, salt water fish tanks, the Caribbean and South Pacific, a good barbecue and a cold Sam Adams, travel, airplanes, rockabilly, Grand Mariner on the rocks, fabulous sunsets accompanied by a warm breeze and good friends.  
  Diverse enough?  
  I's love to learn to sail and also surf. I grew up around the waters of LI. Cept for 2 yrs land lubbin in AZ. The pirate thing? When I was 6, I stole my brother's halloween tricorn pirate hat and proceeded to wear it for three months till it ripped and the string fell off. Needless to say the rest is history!

([IP: 24.47.43.130](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.47.43.130)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=380988) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=380988)

There is a British *ship of the line* "The HMS Edinburgh" built in 1721 one of the first dual gun deck 70 gun ships of the line according to what I have read. It's also a bit if a gaudy ship...so if youre looking for a little flash as well you might consider it.

As for sailing times, you have to consider season and speed etc..

**Edited March 8, 2010 by Red Cat Jenny**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=380988)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_380988_menu)

[**Red Cat Jenny**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3475-red-cat-jenny/)

* Truly one of a Kind
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/3475-red-cat-jenny/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODA5OTV9)
* Member
* 7,468 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:New York but pining for the open sea
* Interests:Pirates, history, anthing nautical, salt water fish tanks, the Caribbean and South Pacific, a good barbecue and a cold Sam Adams, travel, airplanes, rockabilly, Grand Mariner on the rocks, fabulous sunsets accompanied by a warm breeze and good friends.  
  Diverse enough?  
  I's love to learn to sail and also surf. I grew up around the waters of LI. Cept for 2 yrs land lubbin in AZ. The pirate thing? When I was 6, I stole my brother's halloween tricorn pirate hat and proceeded to wear it for three months till it ripped and the string fell off. Needless to say the rest is history!

([IP: 97.32.44.129](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=97.32.44.129)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=380995) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=380995)

Of course this wouldn't make a very good pirate ship as it couldnt escape into small coves or shallow waters with so deep a draft..a small fast sloop with a good fearless and knowledgesble crew and ample firepower would be a better choice..

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=380995)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_380995_menu)

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODA5OTh9)
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

([IP: 204.13.181.13](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=204.13.181.13)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=380998) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=380998)

On 3/7/2010 at 4:20 PM, Billy Leech said:

Hi,

Can anyone help me out with some info on ships and sailing times in 1721? For a writing project I'm working on, I'm trying to figure out the best choice of ships to give a main character, a pirate turned pirate hunter, and to make sure I get the details right. I had the idea that the ship he uses was a warship he'd captured and commandeered for his own uses a few years back (so it could be something from the late 1710s). Whatever model or nationality it needs to be, it needs to have a balance between firepower and speed, and provoke a sense of "Oh f\*\*\*, we've gotta go up against THAT?" I know sloops were more commonly used by pirates and navies alike, and pirate engagements with the navy were rare, but it's kind of an important character point that this character could successfully commandeer a more powerful warship. (If I absolutely can't get away with it, I'll give him a sloop, but the more powerful the ship, the better).

So for 1721, what would be the best ship to give this guy that incorporates what I'm going after, and what's a realistic number of tonnage, cannons it could hold, etc.?

This next one's especially important - how fast could this ship sail from Kingston, Jamaica to Bristol, England? (Also, how fast between Kingston and Santo Domingo?)

I know I'm asking for a lot, but if anyone could help me out with this, or direct me to someone who could, I'd very much appreciate it. Thanks!

Well, let's look at some historical pirate hunters' vessels.

Ben Hornigold captained the *Ranger* sloop, reportedly of 30 guns (a huge armament for a sloop). This was not a captured warship. Hornigold ran down several prizes, possibly including some pirates, while in this sloop (I'm not really sure if Hornigold was still commanding the *Ranger* when he went to work for Rogers).

Chaloner Ogle captained the *HMS Swallow*, a nasty 4th-rate ship of the line with 50 guns (22 18-pounders, 22 9-pounders, and 6 6-pounders), 711 tons burden. I certainly would not want to fight against such a vessel. She wasn't really that fast, though; without some msitaken ID and drunkenness by Roberts' and Skyrm's men, she might not have caught them. I have never heard of any such ship being captured by pirates; but with the aid of surprise, treachery, or mutiny, I imagine it could be done.

William Rhett took on Stede Bonnet with two tiny little sloops, the *Henry* and the *Sea Nymph*, each with only eight guns. Rhett's main advantage was that he outnumbered Bonnet three to one, with 70 men on one sloop and 60 on the other. These were civilian sloops, not warships, pressed into service for the occasion.

*HMS Scarborough* was one of the largest warships that ever tangled with a pirate without beating him (according to Johnson, anyway; Cordingly doubts the story). She was a 32-gun 5th-rate. Blackbeard fought her and got away; whether he could have successfully carried her by boarding is a debatable point.

Jonathan Barnet and Lt. Maynard also used sloops. That's kind of the thing with pirate hunters; if you don't use sloops, it's hard to chase pirates into the shallow waters where they hide. Maynard and Rhett in particular had constant troubles with running aground while hunting their prey; in large warships, they wouldn't have stood a chance of penetrating their targets' lairs.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sailing times: in 1695, the *East India Merchant*, a full-rigged slave ship, took 84 days to dail from Jamaica to London; she could have made Bristol maybe three to five days sooner.

In 1790, the *Rodney* another slave ship, sailed from Montego Bay, Jamaica to Liverpool in 66 days.

In 1723, the *Dove*, rig unknown, sailed from Jamaica to London in 70 days.

In 1704, the *Martha*, rig unknown, sailed from Jamaica to England in 110 days. This is so long that I might guess they stopped in the North American colonies on the way.

In 1709, the *Joseph Gally*, rig unknown (note that a "galley" in the usage of the time usually meant a flush-decked build, not necessarily an oar-powered vessel), sailed from Kingston to London in 121 days, again probably stopping in the colonies on the way.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Going from Kingston to Santo Domingo is tricky because the trade winds are dead foul. In 1504, Diego Mendez took 46 days to sail a ship from Jamaica to Santo Domingo. A sloop, able to point higher into the wind, could probably have done it much faster.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=380998)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_380998_menu)

[**Billy Leech**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/)

* Bilge Rat
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_bilgerat.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODEwMTZ9)
* Member
* 8 posts

([IP: 216.15.62.119](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=216.15.62.119)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381016) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381016)

Hrmmm...well, looks like he's going to be sailing in a sloop, unless he plays the "make the target come to him" game.

Just for one last shot, what about a British third class ship of the line? I've heard those had a pretty good balance between speed and firepower. Would those have been in use for a while by 1721?

I appreciate everyone's help on this. Thanks!

**Edited March 8, 2010 by Billy Leech**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381016)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381016_menu)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODEwMjJ9)
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

([IP: 98.243.85.161](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=98.243.85.161)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381022) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381022)

There's nothing earth-shatteringly new in it, but I thought the book *The Sea Rover's Practice* by Benerson Little had a pretty well organized listing of ships, weapons and tactics from period. (Once you get past the first few chapters, which I thought were a little bombastic.)

It won't necessarily give you the dates of ship types in a concise, ordered fashion - which may not be useful anyhow in that ships were kept in service for as long as they could keep them going. Nor will it tell you the time from place to place. Although, to be quite honest, times seem to have varied widely based on prevailing winds, currents, storms and such so that you probably couldn't precisely pin such a thing down anyhow. On point, in the book I am reading just now, *The Travels and Controversies of Friar Domingo Navarrete, 1618-1686*, the good friar explains that "No Voyage upon Sea, even a short one, can be foretold and it is a folly to try to set days to it." (Navarrete, p. 103). However, Little's book will give you a nice round-up of specific and well-documented background information that will serve you well if you want accurate details of sailing and sea warfare from the Golden Age of Piracy.

**Edited March 9, 2010 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381022)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381022_menu)

[**MarkG**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10527-markg/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10527-markg/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODEwMjZ9)
* Member
* 587 posts
* Location:Ohio

([IP: 76.181.80.68](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.181.80.68)) · · 

[Posted March 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381026) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381026)

On 3/8/2010 at 1:28 AM, Captain McCool said:

Well, the *Queen Anne's Revenge* was a pretty formidable vessel, so clearly not all pirates necissarily captained sloops.

It was too big so Blackbeard ran it aground and abandoned it along with a good part of his crew (at least that's one theory). Regardless, he was on a much smaller sloop when he was killed.

There were only a few pirate ships this big. The majority of pirates used smaller ships. I've seen a number of sources say that the sloop was the preferred type of ship. They were fast an maneuverable. Larger ships were often slower and needed larger crews which meant that they had to capture larger prizes.

Mark

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381026)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381026_menu)

[**Captain McCool**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11102-captain-mccool/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11102-captain-mccool/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODEwMzJ9)
* Member
* 530 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Golden, Colorado
* Interests:Piracy, of course. Also, skiing, fencing, graphite/charcoal drawing, writing, ren-faires, etc.

([IP: 71.218.74.37](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.218.74.37)) · · 

[Posted March 9, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381032) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381032)

Fair enough. But a nice, medium sized brig seems reasonable. Plus it could pack a little more wollup than a sloop. Or there's always a light frigate of some sort. Something light, but heavily armed.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381032)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381032_menu)

[**Billy Leech**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/)

* Bilge Rat
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* Member
* 8 posts

([IP: 216.15.62.119](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=216.15.62.119)) · · 

[Posted March 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381071) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381071)

Hmmm...a light frigate sound like a workable alternative to a sloop. How fast and maneuverable were they, and how fast could they travel the distances mentioned in the initial posts?

(Also, how light of a frigate are we talking about? Based on this link - <http://piratemaster.wetpaint.com/page/Types+of+Ships> - assuming it's accurate, which of these are we talking about? (I'd been considering a fourth rate, but a sixth rate sounds more reasonable for a pirate or pirate hunter to use). What kind of tonnage are we talking about for a 30 gun frigate?

What's the general consensus on the best choice between a light frigate and a sloop?

Once again, thanks for the help!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381071)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381071_menu)

[**Bos'n Cross**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11032-bosn-cross/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11032-bosn-cross/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODEwODh9)
* Member
* 536 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Portsmouth
* Interests:many things.......

([IP: 70.160.22.197](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=70.160.22.197)) · · 

[Posted March 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381088) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381088)

i still vote the sloop....a frigate would be square sailed, which would take alot more people to man....as well as the fact that fore-n-aft rigged vessels( like sloops and schooners) are easier to man, maneuver, and sail ........... if your hunting pyrates...then you at least need to be able to catch up with them....if they are much faster and more maneuverable, then they might get away more often than not.............as far as iv seen, one of the reasons pyrates didnt scrap with navy vessels very often, was simply because theyd run off......most pyrate ships that were captured seemed only to have been because of the crew being surprized in a drunken stupor (roberts's crew, jack rackham).......

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381088)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381088_menu)

[**Dorian Lasseter**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/137-dorian-lasseter/)

* Where's My Water
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_legend.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/137-dorian-lasseter/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODEwOTJ9)
* Member
* 3,266 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:The Sea!
* Interests:18th Century reenactment; Maritime, F&I...  
  Did ECW as well...  
  All BP firelocks and cannons!  
    
  Also enjoy Swordfighting and a good Donnybrook  
    
  Got a question for or about me? Ask!!!

([IP: 147.72.68.65](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=147.72.68.65)) · · 

[Posted March 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381092) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381092)

Some ships to consider...

A Sloop-of-War - this is actually a two and some times three masted ship... small enough to have good speed and maneuverability, but big enough to carry good armament.

A Brig-Sloop - Looks kind of like a schooner, again two masts with fore and aft rig, plus square sails. Very much like the above Sloop-of-War...

Google both types and see what you think.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381092)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381092_menu)

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODExMDZ9)
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

([IP: 204.13.181.13](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=204.13.181.13)) · · 

[Posted March 10, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381106) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381106)

You have to remember that the word "frigate" changed meaning completely during the 18th century. At the beginning of the 18th century, "frigate" was a simply a style of build, with raised foc'sle and afterdecks, as opposed to the more flush-decked "galley-built" type of ship. Civilian ships could be called frigates, like Culliford's *Mocha Frigate*.

By the Napoleonic era, "frigate" referred specifically to 4th-rate and 5th-rate naval ships, no matter their style of build, that were too small to stand in the line of battle, and thus were used as convoy escorts, commerce raiders, messengers, reconnaisance, and VIP transports. 6th-rates were called sloops-of-war, as Dorian mentioned, even though 6th-rates were usually ship-rigged, not sloop-rigged. Not only the terminology had changed, but also the usage of the ships: in 1721, 4th-rates of 50 guns, like the *Swallow*, still stood in the line of battle, but around the time of the Seven Years' War (1756-63), they were taken out of the line and assigned to the roles we would now call "frigate" duty.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381106)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381106_menu)

[**Billy Leech**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/)

* Bilge Rat
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_bilgerat.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODExMzJ9)
* Member
* 8 posts

([IP: 216.15.62.119](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=216.15.62.119)) · · 

[Posted March 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381132) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381132)

Well, I've looked into all the ships that have been mentioned, including the sloop of war and the brig sloop. I can certainly see the logic of using a sloop and its advantages over the light frigate.

Nevertheless, because of the needs of the character, in terms of his personality and the tactics he favors, I think I'm probably going to go with the light frigate, sporting 30-32 guns. I'll definitely be incorporating what I've learned on this thread into the plot of the story and the tactics used, so please don't consider any of your efforts wasted or your advice ignored. I'd explain more in terms of the plot and the character about why I made this choice over the sloop, but I want to keep plot details secure.

I'll also track down the book that was mentioned earlier, *The Sea Rover's Practice,* for more detail on ship dimensions and travel speed. When would be the best times of year for a frigate (or any other ship) to travel from Kingston to Santo Domingo, and then to Bristol?

Thanks again for all the help!

**Edited March 11, 2010 by Billy Leech**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381132)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381132_menu)

[**Captain McCool**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11102-captain-mccool/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11102-captain-mccool/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODExMzZ9)
* Member
* 530 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Golden, Colorado
* Interests:Piracy, of course. Also, skiing, fencing, graphite/charcoal drawing, writing, ren-faires, etc.

([IP: 71.218.74.37](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=71.218.74.37)) · · 

[Posted March 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381136) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381136)

The other thing is that, if you're going with a larger ship, I understand that many folks converted them to barques, since having only a lateen or gaff sail on the mizzen mast apparently made them easier to handle. Dunno why, as I have no actual sailing experience, but that's what I've read.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381136)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381136_menu)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODExNDN9)
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

([IP: 24.231.221.86](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.231.221.86)) · · 

[Posted March 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381143) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381143)

On 3/11/2010 at 0:52 AM, Billy Leech said:

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Thanks again for all the help!

Billy, that book will give you neither dimensions nor speed. It will give you ideas on pirate tactics, which vessels pirates favored and why they favored them.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381143)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381143_menu)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_legend.gif
* [Fox](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODExNTV9)
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.  
    
  Shooting pirates.

([IP: 217.44.172.103](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=217.44.172.103)) · · 

[Posted March 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381155) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381155)

On 3/8/2010 at 11:45 AM, Daniel said:

In 1704, the *Martha*, rig unknown, sailed from Jamaica to England in 110 days. This is so long that I might guess they stopped in the North American colonies on the way.

In 1709, the *Joseph Gally*, rig unknown (note that a "galley" in the usage of the time usually meant a flush-decked build, not necessarily an oar-powered vessel), sailed from Kingston to London in 121 days, again probably stopping in the colonies on the way.

Or they ran foul of easterlies blowing down the English Channel.

On another forum, FWIW, we started building a database of pirate ships from the GAoP which came close to blowing open the myth that pirates preferred sloops.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381155)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381155_menu)

[**Billy Leech**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/)

* Bilge Rat
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_bilgerat.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODExNzF9)
* Member
* 8 posts

([IP: 216.15.62.119](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=216.15.62.119)) · · 

[Posted March 11, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381171) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381171)

On 3/11/2010 at 8:19 AM, Mission said:

On 3/11/2010 at 0:52 AM, Billy Leech said:

I'll also track down the book that was mentioned earlier, *The Sea Rover's Practice,* for more detail on ship dimensions and travel speed. When would be the best times of year for a frigate (or any other ship) to travel from Kingston to Santo Domingo, and then to Bristol?

Thanks again for all the help!

Billy, that book will give you neither dimensions nor speed. It will give you ideas on pirate tactics, which vessels pirates favored and why they favored them.

That'll come in handy as well.

In terms of dimensions, tonnage, and speed, what would be appropriate for a light frigate with 30 guns? Any recommendations for a resource on this?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381171)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381171_menu)

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODExODF9)
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

([IP: 204.13.181.13](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=204.13.181.13)) · · 

[Posted March 12, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381181) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381181)

On 3/11/2010 at 7:06 PM, Foxe said:

On 3/8/2010 at 11:45 AM, Daniel said:

In 1704, the *Martha*, rig unknown, sailed from Jamaica to England in 110 days. This is so long that I might guess they stopped in the North American colonies on the way.

In 1709, the *Joseph Gally*, rig unknown (note that a "galley" in the usage of the time usually meant a flush-decked build, not necessarily an oar-powered vessel), sailed from Kingston to London in 121 days, again probably stopping in the colonies on the way.

Or they ran foul of easterlies blowing down the English Channel.

Eh? I thought westerlies were overwhelmingly dominant in the Channel. Wasn't that why the Spanish Armada had to sail around Scotland and Ireland instead of going back the way it came?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381181)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381181_menu)

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODExOTF9)
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

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[Posted March 12, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381191) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381191)

On 3/11/2010 at 7:06 PM, Foxe said:

On another forum, FWIW, we started building a database of pirate ships from the GAoP which came close to blowing open the myth that pirates preferred sloops.

Cordingly counted up the pirate attacks in Johnson and the Public Record Office, and concluded that the sloop was most used, but there seems to have been a misprint in his results. He says,

Quote

55 percent of the attacks were made by pirates in sloops, 45 percent were carried out in ships, 10 percent in brigs or brigantines, 5 percent in schooners, 3 percent in open boats, and 2 percent in snows.

Cordingly, David, *Under the Black Flag: The Romance and Reality of Life Among the Pirates*, New York: Random House, 1995, pp. 161-62.

Since these numbers add up to the puzzling figure of 120 percent, there is presumably a misprint in the percentage of sloops, the percentage of ships, or both. Was this ever corrected in a later edition of Cordingly?

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381191)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381191_menu)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODExOTN9)
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

([IP: 24.231.221.86](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.231.221.86)) · · 

[Posted March 12, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381193) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381193)

On 3/12/2010 at 2:20 PM, Daniel said:

Cordingly counted up the pirate attacks in Johnson and the Public Record Office, and concluded that the sloop was most used, but there seems to have been a misprint in his results. He says,

Quote

55 percent of the attacks were made by pirates in sloops, 45 percent were carried out in ships, 10 percent in brigs or brigantines, 5 percent in schooners, 3 percent in open boats, and 2 percent in snows.

Cordingly, David, *Under the Black Flag: The Romance and Reality of Life Among the Pirates*, New York: Random House, 1995, pp. 161-62.

Since these numbers add up to the puzzling figure of 120 percent, there is presumably a misprint in the percentage of sloops, the percentage of ships, or both. Was this ever corrected in a later edition of Cordingly?

I am not all that knowledgeable about sailing vessels, but doesn't the term "ship" cover a wide variety of vessels? Isn't any vessel with three masts considered a ship? If so, there might be an overlap (schooners, snows and sloops could have 3 masts, right?) which may account for the figures, although it makes the results somewhat less clear.

**Edited March 12, 2010 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381193)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381193_menu)

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODEyMDF9)
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

([IP: 204.13.181.13](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=204.13.181.13)) · · 

[Posted March 12, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381201) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381201)

On 3/12/2010 at 2:38 PM, Mission said:

I am not all that knowledgeable about sailing vessels, but doesn't the term "ship" cover a wide variety of vessels? Isn't any vessel with three masts considered a ship? If so, there might be an overlap (schooners, snows and sloops could have 3 masts, right?) which may account for the figures, although it makes the results somewhat less clear.

No, snows and schooners have only two masts. Sloops usually have one mast, and although I've heard of sloops with two masts, I've never heard of one with three. Overlap, if it existed at all, would be negligible.

Of course, the word "ship" is often used in a more general sense for any large sailing vessel with multiple decks, but in that sense 97% of the vessels would be ships, not 45%.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381201)
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* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
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No correction of the puzzling percentage problem has been made in my 2007 edition of UTBF, but Cordingly's analysis is flawed in any case if he's counted the number of attacks rather than the number of ships. In a hypothetical case, one sloop making ten attacks would appear more common than two ships making two attacks each.

Westerlies are more usual in the Channel at certain times of year, but not overwhelmingly so. It is currently blowing from the East as I type.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
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* Member
* 536 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Portsmouth
* Interests:many things.......

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On 3/12/2010 at 5:18 PM, Daniel said:

On 3/12/2010 at 2:38 PM, Mission said:

I am not all that knowledgeable about sailing vessels, but doesn't the term "ship" cover a wide variety of vessels? Isn't any vessel with three masts considered a ship? If so, there might be an overlap (schooners, snows and sloops could have 3 masts, right?) which may account for the figures, although it makes the results somewhat less clear.

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Of course, the word "ship" is often used in a more general sense for any large sailing vessel with multiple decks, but in that sense 97% of the vessels would be ships, not 45%.

as slight side note about schooners( i agree about snows though) schooners can have as many mast as you want as long as the forward mast (formast) is shorter than or the same height as the one behind it (mainmast), and they tend to be fore and aft rigged......just a little aside, for i work on a 3 masted schooner

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381203)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/#elControls_381203_menu)

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snow_%28ship%29>

They show a three masted snow on wiki. Maybe it's wrong, but that's what they show.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schooners>

Here they show a seven-masted schooner!

But, as I noted, I don't know ships and so I must rely on the research of others.

**Edited March 12, 2010 by Mission**

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODEyMTN9)
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

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Harland's *Seamanship in the Age of Sail* describes a snow as simply a variant of the brig, with a gaff mainsail set on a snow mast, which is a try-mast just abaft the mainmast. I don't see any snow mast on that model of the "18-gun snow" on Wikipedia.

I confess error regarding the schooner.

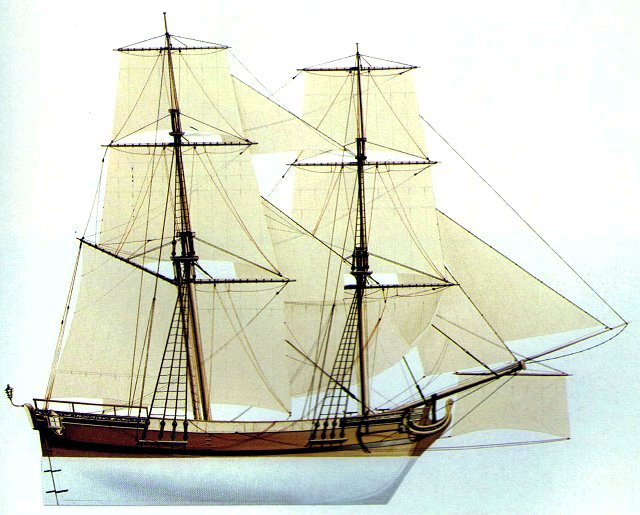
* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
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This be a snow, the trimast mentioned above is on the rear mast of the ship(mizzen mast) it doesnt go all the way up though.....not sure if you could really call a snow 3 masted because of that.......i dont think they were all too popular.....not even sure that we have any recreations of one today........

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
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* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_381244_menu)

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

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* Member
* 652 posts
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At the risk of fouling up again, I'd say that the try-mast on that snow is attached to the mainmast, because it's taller than the foremast. The mast holding up the try-mast would only be the mizzenmast if it were shorter than the mast in front.

All brigs and brigantines that I know of have a mainmast and a foremast, the mainmast being rearmost. Vessels rigged with a mainmast in front and a shorter mizzenmast to the rear are called ketches, per Falconer.

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* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_381246_menu)

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Here's an odd note: Falconer says that a schooner is "a small vessel with two masts, whose main and fore-sail are suspended from *gaffs*." Is it possible that schooners of more than two masts were a 19th-century innovation? If so, I feel less bad about screwing up.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381247)
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* Admin
* 5,083 posts
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I find it hard to believe that I, as willingly ignorant as I am about ships, started all this. It seems to me we've lost sight of the original question entirely though. Why not just write Cordingly and ask him?

<http://www.nmm.ac.uk/contact/>

Or let's just have Ed go over there and ask him face-to-face. Surely he lives right next door to the museum.

**Edited March 14, 2010 by Mission**

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i believe the original question was answered, now were just enjoying ourselves/ learnin...lol and daniel now i concede that you are right about the rear on the snow being the main lolol now im not thinking things all the way through , iv gotten way to used to having a mizzenmast around lolololol.....indeed maybe 3 or more masted schooners were a 19th century thing, hhumm i dont even recall anything above a 2 masted schooner during the war of 1812......ill have to look around...

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381256)
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You're right, Cross. We did sort of answer the primary question about what sort of ship a pirate would use. We didn't answer the secondary question of why the figures in Cordingly's book don't add up. Now we're splitting hairs over what exactly Cordingly meant by Ship which is a tertiary question. But answering this won't answer the original secondary question. It was just a suggestion I had for why the figures *might* not add up.

**Edited March 14, 2010 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
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[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_legend.gif
* [Fox](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODEyNjB9)
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.  
    
  Shooting pirates.

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[Posted March 14, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381260) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381260)

A good friend of mine used to say that the difference between an Englishman and an American is that an Englishman thinks a hundred miles is a long way, but an American thinks a hundred years is a long time...

I live about 250 miles from the NMM at Greenwich and about 80 from the NMM at Falmouth, but in any case I don't think Cordingly's worked for the NMM for several years (though I might be wrong). (And, ahem, without wishing to slight Cordingly professionally or personally, UTBF is 15 years old now and there's been a great deal of more detailed research done in that time.)

One of the problems that comes with researching ships of this period is that by the end of the eighteenth century ship types had been fairly well classified, but in the middle of the seventeenth the name given to a type of vessel could depend as much on the purpose it was put to, or even where it was built, as much as its rig and hull shape. In the GAoP, although they were well on their way to classifying vessels, it was still something of a transitional period between the two practices, so what they meant when they wrote schooner, sloop, shallop or skiff was not necessarily what we would mean.

FWIW, I believe schooners with more than 2 masts are indeed a nineteenth-centuryism.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
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[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

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* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

([IP: 66.139.98.36](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=66.139.98.36)) · · 

[Posted March 14, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381267) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381267)

Since Cordingly apparently isn't at the NMM anymore, I have just now attempted to contact him through his agent. I'll let you all know if I get an answer.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381267)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_381267_menu)

[**Daniel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/352-daniel/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODE0NDd9)
* Member
* 652 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:McLean, VA
* Interests:History, pirates, fiction, writing, writing historical fiction about pirates, jokes, games, law.

([IP: 204.13.181.13](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=204.13.181.13)) · · 

[Posted March 17, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381447) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381447)

Hi, fellows. Cordingly wrote me back and said that, although he cannot find his oriignal calculations, his notes say that the proportions were misidentified as percentages in the published draft. That is, it should have said that out of 120 reported pirate attacks where the vessel type was identified, 55 were sloops, 45 ships, 10 brigs or brigantines, 5 schooners, 3 open boats, and 2 snows. He says I am the first person ever to catch this out of several copyeditors, which I found inordinately pleasing.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381447)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_381447_menu)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODE0NTV9)
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

([IP: 97.87.23.2](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=97.87.23.2)) · · 

[Posted March 17, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381455) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381455)

It's nice that he got back to you so quickly.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381455)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_381455_menu)

[**Tartan Jack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_notorious_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODE5NzV9)
* Member
* 908 posts
* Location:South Carolina
* Interests:History, Scotland, Batman, Cars, and more<br />Married with 2 kids<br />

([IP: 74.181.91.31](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=74.181.91.31)) · · 

[Posted March 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=381975) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=381975)

Foxe,

What is the link to that list?

I'd like to see it.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=381975)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_381975_menu)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_legend.gif
* [Fox](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODIwMTF9)
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.  
    
  Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.149.61.112](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.149.61.112)) · · 

[Posted March 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=382011) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=382011)

It was on the forum at www.piratesinfo.com but I believe it got wiped in a forum clean-up.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=382011)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_382011_menu)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODIwMTl9)
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

([IP: 24.231.221.86](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=24.231.221.86)) · · 

[Posted March 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=382019) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=382019)

On 3/27/2010 at 4:15 PM, Foxe said:

It was on the forum at www.piratesinfo.com but I believe it got wiped in a forum clean-up.

I don't remember them bothering to wipe anything out at piratesinfo, but a glance at the [history forum](http://www.piratesinfo.com/Pirates_Community_and_Pirates_Forum.asp?ForumId=10) (where we would have probably put it) shows that they have really messed up that forum. The search function doesn't even work any more. What a disaster... :blink:

Hee hee...I found a topic on ship's surgeons in there that I didn't even respond to at the time because I wasn't interested. :unsure:It was all you, Daniel, jess & mary read talking...

**Edited March 27, 2010 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=382019)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_382019_menu)

[**Tartan Jack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_notorious_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODIwMjJ9)
* Member
* 908 posts
* Location:South Carolina
* Interests:History, Scotland, Batman, Cars, and more<br />Married with 2 kids<br />

([IP: 74.181.91.31](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=74.181.91.31)) · · 

[Posted March 27, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=382022) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=382022)

On 3/27/2010 at 4:15 PM, Foxe said:

It was on the forum at www.piratesinfo.com but I believe it got wiped in a forum clean-up.

Too bad. I'd have loved to have seen it. I'm more than a bit interested in ships and boats of that period.

If anyone saved a copy, I'd love one.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=382022)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_382022_menu)

[**Billy Leech**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/)

* Bilge Rat
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_bilgerat.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11215-billy-leech/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODIwMjZ9)
* Member
* 8 posts

([IP: 216.15.62.119](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=216.15.62.119)) · · 

[Posted March 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=382026) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=382026)

Actually, I do have one more follow-up question, specifically with regards to a frigate. For a single gun-deck frigate, would all the cannon be in the same space, or would there be multiple sections of the gun deck separated by walls, each with its own supply of powder and shot? (This is important to how a key plot-point develops)

Thanks!

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=382026)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_382026_menu)

[**Tartan Jack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_notorious_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODIwMjd9)
* Member
* 908 posts
* Location:South Carolina
* Interests:History, Scotland, Batman, Cars, and more<br />Married with 2 kids<br />

([IP: 74.181.91.31](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=74.181.91.31)) · · 

[Posted March 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=382027) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=382027)

Warships had as open a gundeck as possible. Ones that started as such had what was called a "flush" gun deck.

In theory, a merchantman could have a permanent bulkhead that was structurally integral. On the ones that pirates captured then "converted," one of the main changes was to make the "gun deck" as flush as possible by the removal of non-integral (structural) bulkheads. I do know that merchantmen made use of temporary bulkheads to better secure cargo and prevent shifting of bulk cargo while at sea.

As a frigate was designed as flush deck, it wouldn't have one.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=382027)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_382027_menu)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_legend.gif
* [Fox](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODIwMzB9)
* Moderator
* 2,567 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.  
    
  Shooting pirates.

([IP: 86.149.61.112](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=86.149.61.112)) · · 

[Posted March 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=382030) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=382030)

On 3/27/2010 at 7:22 PM, Mission said:

I don't remember them bothering to wipe anything out at piratesinfo, but a glance at the [history forum](http://www.piratesinfo.com/Pirates_Community_and_Pirates_Forum.asp?ForumId=10) (where we would have probably put it) shows that they have really messed up that forum. The search function doesn't even work any more. What a disaster... :blink:

Well, I don't know if it was wiped, but I certainly couldn't find it when I looked a while back, and I do know that there were some 'clean-ups' done of threads that had been inactive for more than six minutes...

Perhaps we should just start over in Twill.

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=382030)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_382030_menu)

[**Mission**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/)

* Goat Specialist
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_immortal_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1929-mission/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODIwMzR9)
* Admin
* 5,083 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Monroe, MI
* Interests:Scholarly piracy, designing and creating haunted house rooms and props, movies, abstract thinking, abstruse thinking, obstructive thinking, ideating, random thinking, movies, cartoons, movies, movies scores, cycling, world peace and small furry dogs, movies, writing, drawing, personal skills training, gremlins and, of course, lest I forget, movies.

([IP: 64.241.37.140](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=64.241.37.140)) · · 

[Posted March 28, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=382034) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=382034)

I suspect it is still in there, although I didn't see it. The format is so screwed up that you can hardly read some of the post titles, though. (That and I don't know the actual title of the thread - again, that's a topic that didn't interest me enough to read it very often.)

You could start it here, although no one picked up on the [Pirate Nationalities (Origins) thread](http://pyracy.com/index.php?showtopic=4289&st=0&p=89260) when I re-posted that here, which led me to suspect they were more interested in clothing and character details than historical occurrences (except by way of proof of clothing and character details). Although there has been a spate of historical discussions lately... maybe now is the time. You can but try...

You know the drill for creating lists - you have to prime the pump with a list of info in a well-named thread and let the cognocienti add to it. I think it *is* sort of fun for those who know what they're talking about. (Which, for this topic, isn't me. :blink:)

**Edited March 28, 2010 by Mission**

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=382034)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_382034_menu)

[**MarkG**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10527-markg/)

* Pyrate Captain
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_pyrate_captain.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10527-markg/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODIwNjF9)
* Member
* 587 posts
* Location:Ohio

([IP: 76.181.80.68](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=76.181.80.68)) · · 

[Posted March 29, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=382061) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=382061)

On 3/28/2010 at 0:04 AM, Billy Leech said:

Actually, I do have one more follow-up question, specifically with regards to a frigate. For a single gun-deck frigate, would all the cannon be in the same space, or would there be multiple sections of the gun deck separated by walls, each with its own supply of powder and shot? (This is important to how a key plot-point develops)

Thanks!

This is decades later but the original Constellation was a frigate with an opening on the main deck down to the gun deck. When they tried to convert the current Constellation from a Sloop of War into a Frigate, they put this in. Later they realized that they were two separate ships - one decommissioned and a new one built in the same shipyard rather than the original being refit. Even later they realized that the sloop gained a lot of its strength from the main deck planks stretching the entire length of the ship. Between the big hole they cut in the middle and other places where they replaced rotted pieces of wood, the ship lost structural integrity and started to hog (the ends drooped down). They ended up preserving it by building a new hull around the original one to give it strength. That's what you see today.

Mark

* [Quote](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2)
* [Edit](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=editComment&comment=382061)
* [Options](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&page=2#elControls_382061_menu)

[**Tartan Jack**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* http://pyracy.com/uploads/pip_notorious_pyrate.gif
* [](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/4587-tartan-jack/&wr=eyJhcHAiOiJmb3J1bXMiLCJtb2R1bGUiOiJmb3J1bXMtY29tbWVudCIsImlkXzEiOjE2NjMxLCJpZF8yIjozODIwOTF9)
* Member
* 908 posts
* Location:South Carolina
* Interests:History, Scotland, Batman, Cars, and more<br />Married with 2 kids<br />

([IP: 74.181.91.31](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/modcp/ip-tools/&ip=74.181.91.31)) · · 

[Posted March 29, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=findComment&comment=382091) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/16631-question-about-piratepirate-hunting-ships-circa-1721/&do=reportComment&comment=382091)

One more thing to add . . .

We oft think of a "sloop" as a Burmuda or Jamaican Sloop. As the term would soon (1750s) be used for much larger 2 and 3 masted boats, the term itself is probably in a transition from meaning a small single masted, fast closed deck boat to more "fast boat, but not a full ship" and used for one smaller than a "real" ship and smaller than a frigate.

That would include brigs, snows, and most 3-masted rigs.

To add a touch more . . .

I am starting to think that the main indicator of a sloop was in regards to primary vs. secondary sails. All larger boats and ships used fore-aft and square rigging in the Western world. Most "ships" were primarily square and would "add-in" fore-aft where they would fit. Smaller "cutter"-types were fore-aft w/o significant square rigging. "Sloops" were a rigging hybrid w/ primarily fore-aft (jib/gaff-rigged) but still with a large square main-sail and top sail, originally single-masted.

In the 17-teens the term looks to have been expanded to include single, double, and even triple masted larger ocean-going closed boats, that were fore-aft rigged (primarily?) AND square-rigged.

But, they were still too small to be full-fledged "ships." Sloops, unlike bulk-merchant boats, were built for speed and maneuverability, rather than cargo capacity.

-At this time, "ship" was a specific term for large 3-masted, square-rigged sea-vessels, NOT a general term for all large sea-going vessels.

**Edited March 29, 2010 by Tartan Jack**

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Well . . .

Rereading sections of books on ships of the period . . .

I noticed something . . .

Several boats are referenced such as:

"Ship rigged sloop"

"Brig rigged sloop"

"Snow rigged sloop"

So . . .

Obviously the term sloop has LESS to do w/ the rigging than the hull shape design. Therefore, my post above is incorrect.

It is a term used for a specific shape concept for the hull, much like fluytes were 3 masted, shallow draft, flat bottom, rounded bow, "fat" beam and high stern. A sloop hull was sharp and designed for speed. As such, it could have been a "class" of large boat that included multiple rigs.