

Made Of Wood



I am a sea-faring carpenter and timbering is my
trade I sails from Swansea round Cape Horn on ships that are timber
made at the trunking and the shuttering up, you'll find me very
good, and I'll fix up any thing you want, as long as it's made of
wood. (chorus) Made of wood made of wood I'll fix up any
thing you want, as long as it's made of wood.

I am a seafaring carpenter and timbering is my trade,
I sails from Swansea round Cape Horn, on ships that are
timber-made
At the trunking and the shuttering-up you'll find me very good,
And I'll fix up any thing you want as long as it's made of wood.
*Made of wood, made of wood,
I'll fix up any thing you want as long as it's made of wood.*

When it's time to leave the town, we loads her up with coal,
I builds the shutters and the chutes that tumble it into the hold,
I makes the hatches watertight, to be sure that we don't flood,
For a ship'll be safe as anything, as long as it's made of wood
Made of wood, made of wood, (etc)

And when we gets to Valipo, the lighters they comes around,
I builds the wooden winches that will lower the cargo down,
They creaks away for days on end, with a rattle and a thud,
I appreciate these contrivances, as long as they're made of
wood
Made of wood, made of wood, (etc)

Before we winch the copper aboard, I must fit the trunking in,
It holds the copper ore secure, it's like a second skin,
For if the cargo should shift about, that wouldn't do any good,
So I keeps it secure and Swansea-style, in my shuttering
made of wood
Made of wood, made of wood, (etc)

And on the passage homeward I spends most of my time in
the hold,
Making sure the trunking's secure, no matter how we've rolled,
For that is where I likes to be, it's where I can do most good,
Between the shuttering and the hull, and they're both of them
made of wood
Made of wood, made of wood, (etc)

Well, once down by the Falkland Isles a mast was carried
away
I rigged a replacement jury up in less than half a day
We sailed into Port Stanley then, as quick as ever we could,
There's plenty of ways to fix a mast, as long as it's made of
wood
Made of wood, made of wood, (etc)

Well, I hear they're making ships of iron, to sail upon the sea,
I don't know what'd become of them, or what'd become of me,
But how do you nail up bits of iron that've come adrift in the
flood?
You'd only get me to go to sea on a ship that's been made of
wood
Made of wood, made of wood, (etc)

Repeat first verse



Copper ore is denser than coal and takes up less room in the hold. To prevent it shifting and destabilising the ships, Swansea ingenuity came up with the *trunk*, a wooden compartment in the hull to hold the ore centrally. This had to be dismantled for the outward voyage with coal, and built again for the return trip. The ship's carpenter is an important person.