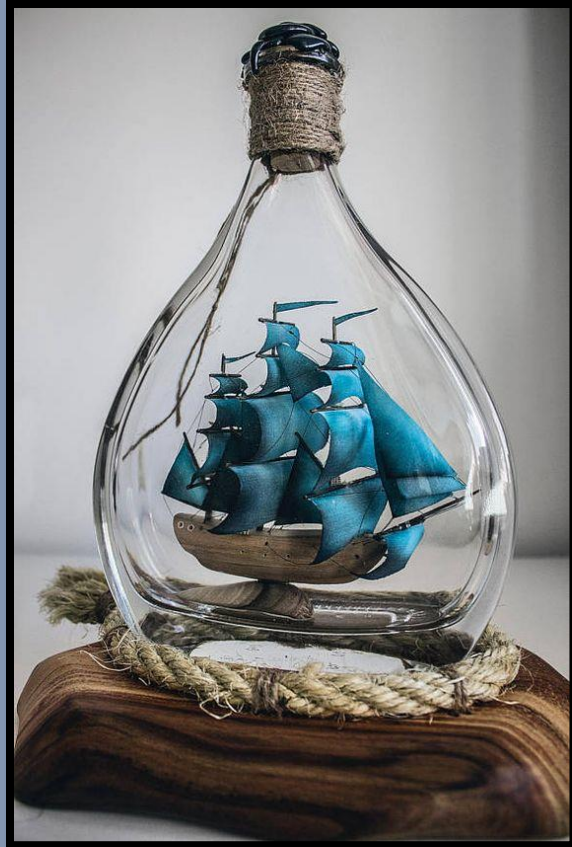


Exquisite Examples of Ships in Bottles









These fine specimens from some of the best craftsmen who are unknown to the author, but whoever they may be, deserve the highest commendation for their skill, attention to detail and superb workmanship.

The art of "Ships in a Bottle" first became a popular pastime for sailors around the 1860s when the Glass used for bottles became much clearer, and free of blemishes.

As the ship model is obviously much larger than the opening in the bottle, it is generally thought by people that the underside or base of the bottle is cut away. This is not the case. The secret is to make the ship's hull small enough to fit through the bottle's neck, hinging the collapsible masts and sail supports, which are connected to threads, which can be pulled into position by drawing on the controlling threads. A more sophisticated method is to build the ship entirely inside the bottle, using special long handled tools, however this requires a much higher level of skill and is usually done by professional modelmakers.

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