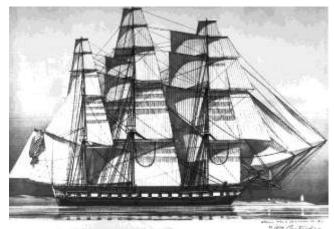


## USS Constitution – Sails & Sailing

**22 July 1798** USS *Constitution* sailed from Boston on her 1<sup>st</sup> voyage The ship's first suit of sails were made from flax (linen)

1817 USS Constitution sail plan by Charles Ware delineated 36 individual sails; if studding sails were added to the main topgallant and royal yards (mirroring the fore topgallant & royal studdingsails), the sail plan would then include between 46 - 48 sails – see list at the end of this report



After 1817 sail plan of USS Constitution – US Navy photo

Fall, 1881USS Constitution sailed under her own power for the last time in her<br/>active career



Only known photo of *Constitution* under sail, summer, 1881, Hampton Roads, VA – US Navy photo

**1931-34**USS Constitution traveled around the United States' 3 coasts on her<br/>"National Cruise"; although towed by the mine sweeper USS Grebe,<br/>Constitution was outfitted with a full suit of canvas sails and they were<br/>set during the cruise for pier-side demonstrations



Constitution with fore topsail set, San Francisco, February, 1933 – US Navy photo

**21 July 1997** USS *Constitution*, outfitted with 6 Oceanus<sup>™1</sup> synthetic canvas sails – 2 jibs, 3 topsails, & spanker – sailed under her own power for 1 hour off the coast of Marblehead, MA in honor of her 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary



USS Constitution, 12noon, 21 July 1997, sailing off Marblehead, MA – US Navy photo

2012

USS *Constitution* has 11 Oceanus<sup>™</sup> sails available to be "bent" onto her yards – 2 jibs, 3 topsails, 3 topgallant sails, 1 main topmast staysail, 1 mizzen topmast staysail, & 1 spanker

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Oceanus<sup>TM</sup>" is a polyester synthetic cloth developed by North Cloth/North Sails for square-rigged sailing vessels. For more information, see <u>www.northcloth.northsails.com/Product/OceanusCloth/tabid/579/Default.aspx</u> - accessed 16 April 2012.

## USS CONSTITUTION'S FULL SAIL COMPLEMENT

Name of Sails by Mast	Number of Sails	s on Each Mast	
BOW Shing lib		Fore Tenment Stavesil	
Flying Jib		Fore Topmast Staysail	4 total
Jib		Fore Topgallant Staysail	4 total
<u>FORE MAST</u>			
Fore Sail (Course)		Fore Sail Studding Sails (2)	
Fore Topsail		Fore Topsail Studding Sails (2)	
Fore Topgallant		Fore Topgallant Studding Sails (2)	
Fore Royal		Fore Royal Studding Sails (2)	
Fore Skysail	5 total		8 total
<u>MAIN MAST</u>			
Main Topmast Staysail			
Middle Staysail			
Main Topgallant Staysail			
Main Royal Staysail	4 total		
Main Sail (Course)		Main Sail Studding Sails - Possibly (2?)	
Main Topsail		Main Topsail Studding Sails (2)	
Main Topgallant		Main Topgallant Studding Sails (2)	
Main Royal		Main Royal Studding Sails (2)	6 or 8 total
Main Skysail	5 total		
<u>MIZZEN MAST</u>			
Mizzen Staysail			
Mizzen Topgallant Staysail			
Mizzen Royal Staysail	3 total		
Mizzen Topsail			
Mizzen Topgallant		Mizzen Topgallant Studding Sails (2)	
Mizzen Royal		Mizzen Royal Studding Sails (2)	
Mizzen Skysail	4 total		4 total
SNOW MAST			
Spanker (Driver)			
Ringtail			
Mizzen Gaff (Top) Sail	3 total		

TOTAL # OF SAILS ON ALL MASTS

46 or 48

(More than 1 acre of canvas)

Naval History and Heritage Command Detachment Boston Up-dated, April, 2012