

Man's Creativity Is Just...*Amazing!*

We run, from time to time, various ingenious creations that people have made out of match sticks—statues, faces, recreations of this and that—all marvels. But *this* one takes your breath away just to think of it—a lifetime's dedication of excruciatingly meticulous effort and attention to detail, a magnificent obsession, all fueled by that wonderfully peculiar drive that true collectors know so well.

79-year-old Phil Warren from the UK spent 62 years to build this incredible fleet of 432 ships. All vessels are built entirely of matchsticks and boxes of wooden matches. The collection includes nearly 370 American and 60 British ships.

Although now he has now reached 79 years of age, he began creating his first boat in 1948, when he was only 17. This uses a razor blade, tweezers and sandpaper to carve the pieces and boxes, then sticks with balsa wood glue. In total, more than 650,000 used matchsticks to create an amazing collection of 1:300 scale models. Even 1,200 aircraft made even more realistic appearance to dress the decks of aircraft carriers. [*Thanks to James Sekavec, KS, for this*]

