

# Baltimore Clipper War of 1812

Created by Mike Sumner for Virtual Sailor

## About the Real Boats

Length: around 90 Feet  
Beam: around 25 Feet  
Draft: around 10 Feet  
Displacement: aprox 120 Long Tons  
Sail Area: around 9000 sq. Feet

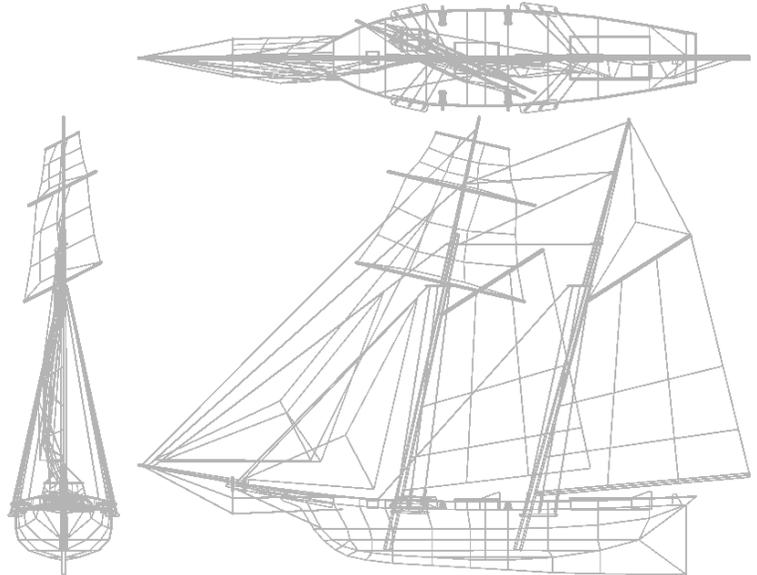
Baltimore Clipper is the colloquial name for fast sailing ships built on the south-eastern seaboard of the United States of America, especially at the port of Baltimore, Maryland. It is most commonly applied to two-masted schooners and brigantines.

Baltimore clippers were first built as small, fast sailing vessels for trade around the coastlines of the United States and the Caribbean Islands. Their hull-lines tended to be very sharp, with a "V"-shaped cross-section below the waterline and strongly raked stem and stern posts. The origins of the type are unknown but certainly hulls conforming to the concept were being built in Jamaica and Bermuda (the hull of the Bermuda sloop, designed for the open ocean, was broader than the Jamaican and deeper than the American) by the late 1600s and by the late 1700s were popular both in Britain and the United States.

They were especially suited to moving low-density, high value perishable cargoes such as slaves, and in that trade operated as far afield as the west coast of Africa. Similar vessels were built as privateers during the War of Independence and the War of 1812, and as pilot boats. The famous yacht America, derived from the lines of a New York pilot boat, was conceptually not far removed the Baltimore clipper. Many such vessels went to Australia during the Australian gold rush, or after being seized as slavers and sold.

One particularly famous Baltimore Clipper, and one of the last of the type in commercial service, was the schooner Vigilant that traded around the Danish Caribbean islands for over a century before sinking in a hurricane on September 12, 1928. She was believed to have been built in the 1790s.

Another famous Baltimore Clipper was The Chasseur, and was known as the "Pride of Baltimore" while participating in the War of 1812.



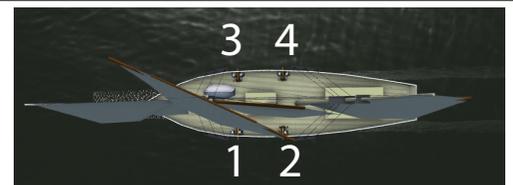
## About the Model

This package depicts a generic Baltimore Clipper as they would have appeared around the time of the War of 1812. The model is built to be low-polygon, so details were sacrificed in the name of framerate. She also has less guns than would have been typical. This was done so she could be included in a Modification of VS that some of the community is working on. She has four cannons, placed two on each side. The cannons are fixed in both elevation and azimuth, and the downwind side has a tendency to fire into the water only a few feet away from the hull in windy conditions.

The Sailplan looks accurate, but is limited in functionality by the way VS is coded. VS limits boats to three mainsails and three jibs, and does not simulate square rigged sails. As such the main sails are modeled as one unit for each mast, and the topsails are modeled as the third sail.

## Fighting your Clipper

This Baltimore Clipper is armed with four cannons. They are fixed in elevation and azimuth, and are arranged to facilitate broadside firing. All four are identical, and may be selected using "shift" + "backspace" keys. This key combination also cycles the currently selected weapon. Use "backspace" to fire the selected weapon. With a little practice broadsides using both cannons can be quickly completed, then you can cycle back to the first cannon on the firing side for another round.



## Adjusting the Crew

The crew is represented by a captain, helmsman and crew for each cannon in period uniforms. The Captain periodically scans the horizon with his spotting scope, the helmsman steers, but the gun crews are static. The crew adds a nice sense of scale to the visual model, but are not needed to enjoy the boat. They can easily be removed by deleting the pilot\*.cfg files. One note - the pilot files must be in order, so you can not delete the helmsman and have the gun crew remain. Remember to backup any files you delete! if you'd like to remove only part of the crew and need help send "CigDriver" a private message on the VS forums and I'll walk you through how to do it.

This boat may not be redistributed in any form without my written consent.

Mike Sumner  
www.animatedexistence.com/vs  
mike@animatedexistence.com