

Anchor Chain

Anchor Chain & Equipment

USS *Constitution* received “chain cable” in 1821, which was either used as the messenger to help carry the 21” hemp anchor cable to the cable tier on the orlop deck or used, at times, in place of the hemp cable. Likely by the time she became a sail training ship for the Naval Academy in the late 1850s, *Constitution* was outfitted with anchor chain and appropriate equipment was installed to handle the chain. The “stopper bill” in the bow (left), by the hawse pipes was likely installed for chain cable, as a means of slowing down the chain when it ran out



when setting the anchor. Two sets of chain pipes were cut into the gun and berth decks (center), through which the chain would pass to the chain lockers in the hold. And “compressors” were installed in the berth deck overhead (right) to jam the chain and prevent it from running out.



All photos, NHHC
Detachment
Boston, 2010.