

The *Rosmond* Modification

Pierre Porcheron CS 36T *Katia*

I installed a LEWMAR Concept 1 windlass 3 years ago and the only thing I got in return was grief. Either the chain or the rope would jam as it left the gypsy - going up or down. I replaced the rope with a more expensive and stiffer one. This gave me an improvement but not 100% reliability. When I moved to the West Coast, I came across Bob Bayers on his CS 36T, *Rosmond*. Bob is a fiberglass guru who could make a bicycle out of the stuff if he had to.

His modification consists of cutting out the floor of the anchor locker, allowing the chain to drop 4 feet and giving you access to the chain. This is the secret. I will give you a comprehensive procedure for this modification if you need to improve the performance of your windlass.

First you decide where to cut the floor. I cut mine at a point where I can keep my spare anchor up front and the piece that you cut off is large enough to close off the back of the remaining floor (shelf). You may also elect to only partially close the aft end of the remaining shelf if you wish to store a longer piece of equipment.

Step 1

Drill a ½" hole at the corner of the section you are cutting. Keep the 1½" ridge left by the jigsaw on the 2 sides and the bulkhead. This will maintain the stiffness of the hull. Round out this ridge so that the epoxy and mat can go around easily. You will probably notice that the underside of the locker is wet. Another benefit of opening this area.

Step 2

Trim the piece that came off and use it to close the rear of the remaining floor section. Notch this piece and screw it to the edge of the floor.

Step 3

This step is of UTMOST IMPORTANCE. Go in from the inside of the boat and drill 2 small witness holes using a Dremel tool - one on each side approximately 3" from the bottom. These will be opened to ½" from the outside after the glassing is completed and will drain your locker. Finding the correct location for those drain holes after the job is completed is very difficult. Fill the bottom cavity which is below your 2 witness holes using either a piece of wood or spray foam in a can.

Step 4

Now the fun part is here, GLASSING. I used polyester resin and almost passed out at the bottom of the locker (4' deep and no air). You MUST use a proper charcoal mask and disposable gloves and, if I was to redo the job, I would use EPOXY instead of polyester resin. Sand and clean the entire area with acetone.

Go thru the access panel in the "V" berth and remove the tabs that hold the panel in the bulkhead and start covering the bottom section that is below the access panel first. This is the part that is difficult to reach from the top. You are in the hole past your center of gravity and it is difficult to back out of it. The minimum application is 2 layers of "mat" and a final layer of woven fabric on the bulkhead and the back of the shelf.

Recommendations

- Cut the fabric in 3 sections instead of trying to go with a full piece.
- Apply the epoxy or fiberglass with a brush not with a squeegee. When I finished my first layer, half

the mat was in a ball on the squeegee and the other half was on my head. Acetone shampoo is not recommended for people with thinning hair.

- Tape the access panel from the inside of the cabin. It is easier to cover a smooth surface with the soaked fabric.
- Lay your fabric on a piece of cardboard to apply a saturating coat of resin.
- Apply a coat of resin to the bulkhead where the piece of fabric is going to be deposited.
- Apply the fabric to the bulkhead and go over it with the brush and saturate it with resin. Keep your brush in a can of acetone between applications.
- When you have applied as many coats of fabric as you wish (minimum 3), you are ready for the final coat.

On the 1½" ridges, I drilled 2 holes per side and installed ¾" in dowels vertically. This gives me a place to hang my anchor washdown hose, shore power cord and a few docking lines.

Step 5

Apply a liberal coat of gelcoat. Keep your brush in acetone between coats. Two coats are required

Step 6

When all has hardened, open the 2 drain holes at the bottom from the outside with a ½" drill bit and drill 2 holes at the rear of your shelf. Seal the periphery of the holes with gelcoat, install stainless scoops over the external holes and you are done.

Material Required

- 1 litre of gelcoat
- 3 litre of resin
- 1 yard of woven fiberglass fabric (10 oz.)
- 2 yards of fiberglass mat (1.5 oz.)
- 1 litre of acetone
- 2 cheap brushes
- 2 S/S scoops

When the project is finished, you have a windlass that will work properly, and when the splice between chain and rope goes through you can reach under the windlass and pull on it if you experience a problem. You also have room for a spare anchor and 200 ft. of rode on your shelf and enough room for 400+ft. of anchor chain in the aft section. Your locker is always DRY.

It may sound simple but it is a big 2 days of work and approximately \$100 in the 'hole'. Good luck