SCOUT Projects: *Guest Stateroom Modifications*

m/v SCOUT (Great Harbour N37) *Ray Henry*

Description

Changes to guest stateroom, including cabinet removal, added work surface, shelf, and lighting.

Parts Ordered

1. Paint, cleaning supplies
2. Plywood, teak and mahogany trim, mahogany duct chase boards
3. Wall Lamp (see "Lamps" project)
4. Reading Light
5. 12V fan
6. 12V LED strip light, switch, and connector
7. 12" Television, 12V regulator, switch and connector
8. Insulated HVAC ducting, round vents, manifold, sheet metal boxing materials

There were too many details and optional elements to all of these items, that I didn't think it made sense to list out every single purchase link. I will discuss each of them in a bit of detail below.

Discussion

We wanted to copy the work-surface we had seen on the beautiful N37, Semper Fi. Initially, it appeared straightforward – remove the narrow cabinet at the inboard side of the stateroom, extend the shelf, and add the work top. This was not to be the case, some of our own choice, and some not……

(Dis) Assembly

We started by removing the top narrow cabinet at the doorway. In doing so, the air conditioning duct chase needed to be taken down. Upon removing the chase, there was no ductwork at all! All of the air was just blowing through the wood chase, between bulkheads, through fiberglass channels, etc. - all uncontrolled (except for a bit of caulk here and there) and uninsulated. A perfect breeding ground for mold and mildew.



So the project took a bit of a turn to first install proper ductwork for the lower air conditioning system ☹ --- before anything else could continue.

Assembly

Once everything was removed, we cleaned everything, filled holes, and painted the entire room. Also prepared the chase above the shower in the head and the master stateroom vent register area.

We ordered some insulated ducting, a 2-port manifold for the air conditioning unit, and a couple of round vents (guest room and head). We decided to try to re-use the galley and master vents as is.

One of the manifold ports (smaller than the other) was run directly to the galley vent straight above, and the other, larger duct, continued past the turn, feeding the other three registers.

The next step was to re-finish the vertical duct chase and put it back. The horizontal chase needed to be re-built due to mold and the fact that it needed to extend further now that the tall cabinet was gone.

Re-fitting Original Vertical Chase

We carefully measured the horizontal chase dimensions and obtained some mahogany to build it out of.

The rectangular register vents in the master stateroom and the galley did not allow for conventional "boot" boxes to join them to the ductwork as are used in home construction. There was just not the space. I had to buy some conventional register boots and get creative with the shears and rivet gun in order to make my own to fit the dimensions available. This was not a lot of fun.

Making Register Boots

Finally, it was time to start on the original project -- 3/4" plywood was cut and fitted to build out the work surface. The surface was built in two pieces to aid in future removal, if needed. The "splice" was made right at the edge of the lower base cabinet wall for support, where cleats were added on both

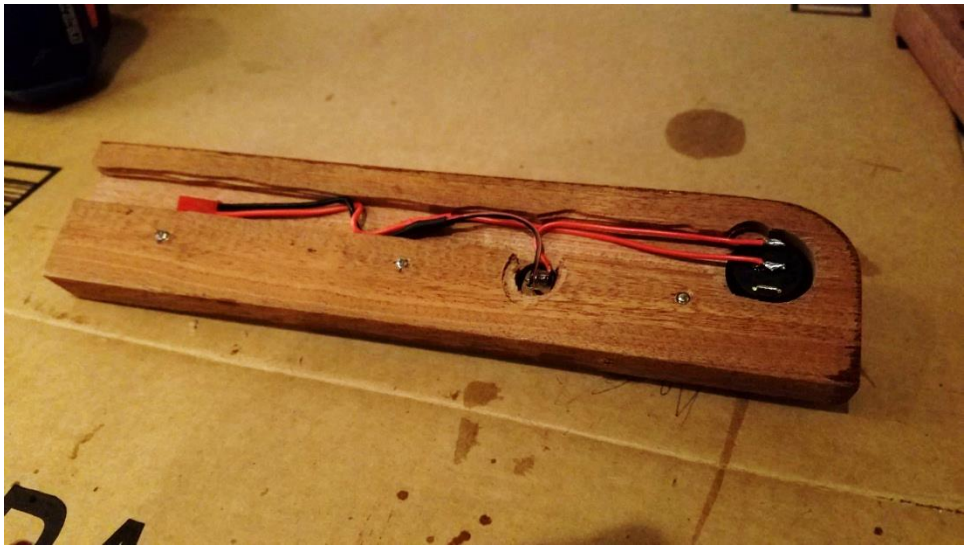
sides of the vertical. The height of the surface conveniently provided a small “cubby” underneath and on top of the drawer cabinet below.

Test Fitting Work Surface

Next task was to replace the overhead shelf. It, too, had to be made longer to span the entire bulkhead. I made it a bit deep than the original as well.

I wanted a bright work light underneath the shelf, so I planned for a 12V LED strip to be attached at the forward edge underneath.

On the right-side shelf support, I routed out the back and installed a switch and barrel connector to be used with the LED strip and hide the wires. I used a think, low-current quick-disconnect pigtail to make the hook up and mounting easier.



LED Light Switch and Power Connector Cavity

Here is the other side of the shelf support mounted to the side.

Shelf Support with Switch

Here is the LED strip plugged in from under the shelf.

12V LED Strip Light Under Shelf

Lots more cutting, sanding, trimming, sanding, polyurethane, sanding, and refinishing (did I mention sanding?). We used easily-replaceable thick vinyl (waterproof) tile on the work surface after sealing it first. I added one of the wall sconces from the Lamp Project on the wall at the end of the shelf.

The work surface turned out to be at the perfect height to under-mount a small TV that could be viewed when lounging on the seating area. I used a small 12" TV on a swing-arm mount. It had a 12V wall transformer input that I connected to the 12V battery system through a 12V regulator (protects from 10-30V).

Car DC 12V 4A Voltage Stabilizer Surge Protector Power Supply Regulator for Auto Truck Vehicle Boat Solar System etc.(DC10-36V Input, DC12V Output)
Sold by: LinkoTech
Return eligible through Jan 31, 2019
$23.99

With the main sitting/sleeping area at the other end of the seat, I added a fan and reading light under the existing cabinet.

Fan and Reading Light

Completion

Whew! That was a bunch of work! Even without the air conditioning rework, it was a lot. We think it was worth the time, however.

Wide Angle View