

SCOUT Projects: *Hatch Support Reinforcement*

m/v SCOUT (*Great Harbour N37*)

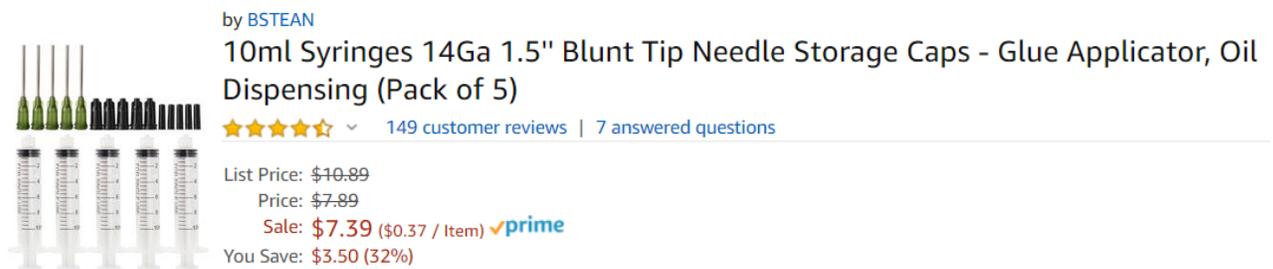
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Description

Reinforce sagging hatch supports to bring hatches back to level.

Parts Used

1. Glue syringe



2. Screws and washers
3. Epoxy resin and filler

Design

Our hatches on our N37 were all sagging, some as much as one quarter inch below the surrounding sole. At least one of the hatches was missing one of the four supports entirely. The supports were “sagging” down as the wood relaxed around any screws that were holding them in place.

I thought this would be a simple process – I could just unscrew the supports and reinstall them with better, renewed support. WRONG!

Upon investigating, it appears that the supports were screwed to the sub-floor from above, and then the teak and holly plywood was put down over the top of the screw heads! Really?!?!? So there was no way to get access to the original screws.

I thought through several options like cutting off the screws from in between the supports and the floor, tearing the supports off from the screw ends and then cutting them off, but all of that sounded like a LOT of work.

I noticed that the sagging supports created a gap/opening on the inboard side, and they were flexible within the existing screw threads and could be pushed back up flush (mostly) by hand.

I decided on a glue-and-screw approach.

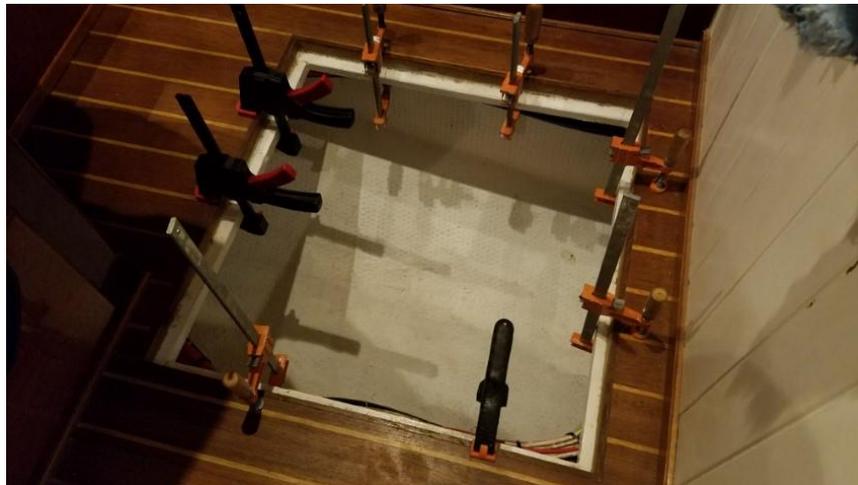
Completion

I used a chisel/wedge to open the existing gap along each support and injected slightly thickened epoxy as far into the crack as I could using a glue syringe.



TIP: Use the syringe *without* the needle cap screwed on to first suck up the epoxy. Then (sloppily) screw on the needle tip to inject.

After the epoxy was injected all along each of the support lengths, I clamped them all the way around until the epoxy set up. The clamps just forced the original screws back into the wood holes that were already there.



After the epoxy had set up, I came back around to all the supports and screwed in some large #12 screws (as far into the flooring above as I dared) with huge fender washers, adding additional support.



Do-Overs and Comments

The hatches are now perfectly flush with the floor and are rock-solid. A side benefit is that there is not a single groan, creak, or squeak when stepping on them anymore!

This was a relatively straightforward project and had BIG “feel-good” benefits.