

FITTING GUIDE

Replacement of lenses in Vetus PM, PW, PX, and PZ Portholes.

This information is based on windows manufactured in 2010, we welcome your feedback on earlier models.

There is an inside and outside and top and bottom for most of these lenses because the screw holes are not symmetrical. Before you start, put a piece of sticky tape on the inside face, near the top, so that once you have taken the lens off and removed the catches, turned it round a few times and dropped it on the floor you can easily identify which way round it goes. Don't say I didn't warn you!

Remove the Lens from the frame by undoing the two M6 panhead screws that attach it to the hinges. Take care not to drop the lens through the hole, especially if there is no side deck to stop it from falling overboard. It does not float.

Now that you have got the lens safely on the saloon table you can take the catches off, again a simple task of unscrewing the single screw on each catch. There are no left and right hand catches so it doesn't matter if you mix them up. Now you can lay the old lens over the new to check that the screw holes align to within a millimetre or two. Before you fit the catches to the new lens, screw the screw as far as it will go into the catch and position the backnut 8mm from the end of the screw.

Remove the protective film from the inside of the new lens (leave the outside film on for now, it will protect the acrylic whilst you are tightening the screws). screw the catch onto the new lens as far as the backnut and then tighten the backnut against the acrylic with a thin 10mm across flats spanner or a pair of needle nose pliers (be careful not to scratch the new acrylic). Turn the lens over and you should see from the outside, the end of the screw about 2mm down the hole. If it is too close to the outside face you won't be able to fit the nylon stoppers. Repeat with the other catch(es). Remove the protective film from the other side and push fit all the little nylon stoppers which you can push out of the old lens using something not too sharp that will fit through the holes. Use a drop of superglue if the stoppers are at all loose.

Screw the lens back on to the hinges and adjust the catches to give a good seal, turn the catch anticlockwise a full turn to make the lens a tighter fit and clockwise to release the pressure.

Care and maintenance

The life expectancy of windows is very dependant on the type of use the craft has and the care taken. Acrylic should last for at least ten years if well cared for but with increasing levels of UV radiation (due to ozone depletion, I think) this is getting marginal. Windows should be washed down regularly with soapy water (not saltwater because of electrolytic corrosion). Pressure washers are not a good idea.

Use a good plastic polish on the lenses at least twice a year. We recommend and can supply Greystone and Sea77 plastic polishes (see our website or catalogue for details). **DO NOT USE ABRASIVES ON THE FRAMES – THEY WILL DAMAGE THE ANODISING.**

Ideally you should wax polish the frames (with the rest of the boat) once a year.