

FITTING GUIDE

Replacement of acrylic in hatches.



To remove the old acrylic: Cut out as much as you can of the mastic between the acrylic and the frame with a Stanley knife taking care not to damage the frame. Push the acrylic from below. If the seal does not start to give repeat the cutting. If necessary insert a flat bladed paint scraper between the acrylic and the frame on the underside and lever gently. Work your way round the seal taking care not to damage the rubber seal or the frame or break the acrylic.

Once you have separated the acrylic from the frame, clean all the old mastic off the frame – there is no point sticking new mastic to old if you want a watertight seal. We recommend Detak and an acrylic scraper, both available from us, the acrylic scraper

will not damage the aluminium frame. Keep the scraper edge sharp by filing it regularly. After, you may choose to clean the whole frame with warm soapy water and a nylon brush or some car alloy wheel cleaner. Make sure all joint areas are clean and grease free before applying sealant. Wearing talc free disposable gloves will prevent grease being transferred from your hands.

Make sure that the film on the top face of the acrylic is a good mask for the mastic around the edges and does not overlap in which case it should be trimmed back with a scalpel. If the film is not smooth peel it back and use plastic insulating tape to mask up. Also mask round the edge of the frame, it will save time cleaning up later. Place EHB (extra high bond) double sided tape all round in the frame (or if it is a Lewmar, on the rubber seal) so that the acrylic will sit down on it. It is very sticky stuff and tricky to apply. Keep the backing tape on along the straight edges whilst you apply it so that it doesn't stretch. The backing tape can be difficult to remove, you sometimes have to pick at it. If the old acrylic was also held in by screws you will not need them. Before placing the acrylic in the frame you may wish to apply a bead of black Arbosil 1081 sealant into the corner of the frame against the vertical to help prevent air gaps when you pump in the mastic from the top after fitting the acrylic.

Remove the protective film from the underside of the acrylic, degrease the joining surfaces and (making sure, if your acrylic has them, that you have the handle holes in the right place) carefully position the acrylic with equal space all around and then press it down onto the tape. It may be necessary to use G cramps (with suitable pieces of wood to protect the acrylic and bridge the gap on the underside) or place heavy items (tool boxes/full jerry cans, etc) on the acrylic for 24-48 hours. Pump the Arbosil 1081 into the gap all round making sure that there are no air bubbles and smooth off with a wet spatula or similar. Remove all the excess now or wait until the mastic has cured (using masking tape before applying sealant makes cleaning off the mastic easier). Remove the protective film from the top of the acrylic and refit the handles with new Orings and the vent (depending on model).

Looking after your boat windows

The life expectancy of windows is very dependant on the type of use the craft has and the care taken. The best advice is to keep your boat in a warm, dry place out of direct sunlight. As this is not always possible, windows should be washed down regularly with warm soapy water (fresh not salt). Pressure washers are not a good idea. Make sure all drain holes are unblocked. If the window panes are acrylic, use a good plastic polish on them at least twice a year (Greygate Plastic Polish is recommended). Wax polish the frames at least once a year. Do not use abrasives on the frames (plastic polish, wire wool, sandpaper, etc.) – they will damage the anodising. Lightly smear vaseline on closing seals once a year to keep the rubber supple.