

## **FITTING GUIDE**

### **Replacement of acrylic in traditional Lewmar and other hatches.**



**How it works:** The acrylic is stuck with either bituminous mastic or double-sided foam filled tape on the horizontal surface (part on the aluminium frame and part on the rubber closing seal). Mastic is then used to fill the gap around the edge.

**Removal:** 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. Turn the lid over and push the acrylic from below. If necessary, insert a flat bladed paint scraper between the acrylic and the closing seal and work it around to break the bond. Take great care not to damage the rubber closing seal.

Once you have separated the acrylic from the frame, completely remove all the old sealants from the lid. 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. 0000 grade wire wool or a Brillo pad can also help. Next clean the whole frame with warm soapy water and a nylon brush or better still some car alloy wheel cleaner. Make sure all joint areas are clean and grease free before fitting the new acrylic. Wearing talc free disposable gloves will prevent grease being transferred from your hands.

**Re assembly:** Make sure that the protective 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. If the film edge 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. Wipe the areas to be stuck with an alcohol based cleaner such as Arbo Cleaner No 16. Stick the EHB (extra high bond) double-sided tape all round in the frame against the lip on the inner edge of the closing 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 but you will have to pick it away from the tape when you get to the rounded corners. With the lid on a flat surface with the hinge edge towards you and overhanging the bench. Place two flat aluminium bars (or suitable alternatives) across the frame that you can rest the acrylic on and get it positioned. Remove the protective film from the underside of the acrylic, degrease the joining surfaces and (making sure that you have the handle holes in the right place) carefully position the acrylic with equal space all around on the two bars. Next comes the tricky part, reaching underneath to support the acrylic with one hand remove the bar nearest you and carefully lower the acrylic onto the tape maintaining the correct spacing around the edge. Rotate the lid so the opposite edge is facing and using the same technique remove the second bar. Then press firmly down on the acrylic so it sticks to the tape. Use G cramps (with suitable pieces of wood to protect the acrylic and to 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. Wait until the mastic has cured and remove the tape (you did remember to mask the frame didn't you, it makes cleaning off the mastic so much easier). Remove the protective film from the top of the acrylic and refit the handles with new Orings, strut with a new gasket and the vent (depending on model).

**Looking after your boat windows:** 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 – it will damage the anodising. Lightly smear vaseline on closing seals and wipe off excess once a year to keep the rubber supple.