



T34C Tech Articles & photos

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T34C Dorade Boxes

See Appendix F for enlarged Dorade Box images

How to build your own Dorades



Fitted before Varnish & Deck Paint



After Varnishing



View from Aft

Making teak dorade boxes to cover the existing fiberglass box is easy. Get some 1/2" teak, some polysulphide, some sheet metal screws, a bag of bungs, a saber saw, a pencil, a ruler, a belt sander, some 120 grit fine paper, and some Interlux Schooner varnish & 333 brushing liquid. The usual stuff. I also have a fairly complete set of wood clamps. Take the old teak cap off. Save it. Cut your new teak boards to fit. Fit the sides first and be sure the edges are dead even at each end and across the top. Coat them with lots of polysulphide and screw them to the fiberglass. Then fit the forward end. Allow for the curvature across the bottom. You can draw this with a grammar school compass and pencil and sand it out to be perfect. Then screw it to the front of the fiberglass box. Fit the back the same way. So now you have a teak box. Fit the cap. Use the old cap to mark the 3" diameter hole for the cowl vent flange. Seal it and screw it in place. You should now have a rough fit dorade box. Oh, don't forget to make the drain hole. Clean off the polysulphide. I used black. Then wait till it dries. Then sand everything with a belt sander, including the bungs. If you've properly drilled for the bungs with a countersink bit, you'll have no trouble with having to glue them. The varnish will hold them in just fine when the box is varnished. It took me about 1 hour per box, not counting varnishing. The results as you can see are very nice. I'm going to install metal cowl vents. But, I've asked Mariner's Hardware in California if they can make oval shaped 3" vents. They currently make them in 4" vents. I find the round vents look clumsy and I would prefer bronze. So, this is a real dress up project that anyone can do. I think I spent about \$28.00 for the teak, \$12.00 for the black 3M-5200, and I make my own bungs. So, try it.

Appendix F - Dorade Box images



