

INSTALLING MID-SHIP CLEATS ON A LEISURE 27

On a Leisure 27 mid-ship cleats are not installed as a standard. However these can be very useful for an adequate alongside mooring and many boat owners install them (or have them installed) nowadays.

Therefore I decided that my Leisure 27 should also have mid-ship cleats installed.

Inside the leisure 27 most of the deck however is covered with an inner grp liner which below the gunwales also includes open lockers.

So to be able to install mid-ship cleats either holes must be cut in the liner or the liner/lockers must be removed to get access to the gunwale underside.

First investigations seemed to show that the inner liner might be in one piece throughout the boat so parts such as the liner/lockers below the gunwales cannot be demounted separately. Because this would require cutting holes in the liner I did not go on with it.

However when I recently had to remove the carpet covered liner on the starboard side which is behind the bunks to gain access to the water filling hose I could see that the liner/locker which is just above it looked quite removable.

So I had a closer look at it.

It appeared that the liner/locker is screwed at the top on to the liner below the window and at the sides to the partial bulkhead at the stern side and the main bulkhead at the bow side.

So I started to remove all screws I could find and to my relief the total liner/locker came off easily!

Another additional advantage was that this way I can inspect the bolting of the genoa track and the chainplate construction! That looked very tight and leak free.

First I determined the final location for the cleats and drilled pilot holes, using the cleat as a template. That way I could see on the inside where the reinforcement patches had to be glued on.

This part of the gunwales appeared not to be a balsa sandwich as most of the deck so problems with this were not to be expected.

So now I started to glue (scrap) teak reinforcing patches where the cleats would be bolted with glass fibre polyester putty. After hardening (takes about one hour) I drilled the holes for the cleat again all the way through the reinforcing patches.

I now covered the top of the bolts just under the bolt head with sikaflex to prevent water ingress in the holes and put the bolts through the cleats. After that the underside of the cleats were covered with a layer of sikaflex and everything was put in place. Now, before tightening the bolts the sikaflex had to harden to prevent it from squeezing out.

After a day or two the nuts with underplayed body style rings were tightened and I could start reinstalling the liner/locker again.

At the following picture pages the whole operation can be seen in detail:



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7



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mid-ship cleat installed

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Starboard side liner/locker installed again

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