

## MINOR GELCOAT REPAIR

Done properly, minor repairs are quick, simple and inexpensive. Knowing to make these repairs is as much a part of sailing as tacking or gybing, as much a part of selling as promoting or demonstrating. Please read this guide carefully and completely before attempting any repairs.

### SCRATCHES

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Often it is possible to eliminate scratches by simply wet sanding them out and polishing the sanded surface. Complete details may be found in the "patches to be made on hull" section below.

### PATCHES TO BE MADE ON HULL

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Tools required: chisel, small putty knife, wet sandpaper (sizes 400, 600, 1200), bucket of water, clean rags, gelcoat, catalyst, wax compound (such as Dursol or Mirror Glaze), some paper clips, dry sandpaper size 60 or 80, a couple of coffee sticks.

Step 1: Eliminate all loose gelcoat around patch with chisel. This may not be necessary - check carefully. Only take off loose material.

Step 2: Sand area of patch to provide rough surface.

Step 3: Clean area to be patched with a rag dipped in acetone.

Step 4: Mix small amount of gelcoat with catalyst. The ratio of the mixture should be two parts catalyst to one hundred parts gelcoat (2%).

Step 5: After stirring mix with coffee stick, apply with sharp coffee stick or the point of the putty knife, making an up and down motion until patch is evenly covered.

Step 6: Let gelcoat harden (about 25-30 minutes minimum, over night is best).

Step 7: Take your wet sandpaper and dipping fairly regularly in your bucket of water, sand down the patch. Start with size 400 for big patches and as you get closer to the finish, switch to 600 and finally to 1200. A small wooden block (i.e. a piece cut from the shaft of a hockey stick) is often used as backing for sanding as it helps to even the surface of the patch. Check your patch constantly while sanding. Make sure it is even. If an orange tinge begins to appear, stop sanding the area of the tinge as you are almost through the gelcoat. The patch is complete when the area patched is even with unpatched area.

Step 8: Polish the repaired area with your wax compound (recommended Dursol or Mirror Glaze), most waxes will do, and a clean rag.

### GUNWALE REPAIRS

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Same as hull repairs except that cello tape is required. Put tape below spot sticking half the width of the tape to the boat and bending back the other half 90 degrees so as to prevent dripping. Apply gelcoat on patch. Take the back portion of tape and apply over patch. Make sure tape is pressed only enough to attain evenness with the rest of the gunwale. Check through cello tape for air bubbles. If some appear, they must be eliminated or patch must be redone. Wait until dry. Chisel overlapping excess from the top of the gunwale and commence wet sanding as described above.