

S III - REBUILD

No. 11 - UPHOLSTERY (Last in Series)

If you are going to replace the berth cushions and or/make cockpit seat cushions there are a few tips which you may find useful.

- ✓ You need a heavy duty sewing machine, use the longest stitch with terylene thread. I decline to say anything further about the actual sewing for fear of offending the ladies!

You can buy foam in sheets or cut to shape. If it has to be cut use an electric carving knife or a saw edge bread knife.

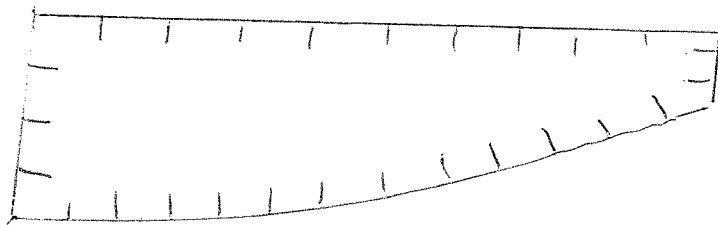
Make a paper pattern of the berth and mark the foam, then cut on the outside of the line so that the foam ends up about 1/4" all round bigger than the pattern. Now use the foam as a pattern and draw round it on the inside of the material with chalk or a marker pen. Don't forget you need opposite handed sides for top and bottom.

Cut strips of material 1/2" wider than the thickness of foam so that you have a long enough strip to go right round the cushion. You can have joins of course, but try to keep these clear of the corners and the zip area.

Choose where you want the zip, usually in the middle of one edge about 3/4 of the cushion length and then sew the zip (closed and zip tag down) onto the inside of your edging strip, making sure you sew several times across the ends of the zip. Then slide open the zip, a little at first, and cut the material down the middle of the zip along the full length. Then zip it up leaving just a couple of inches open so that when you have finished sewing you can get a finger in order to unzip.

Remember that the cover must be sewn inside out so you need to turn it the right way through the zip aperture.

Now comes the most important part. Before you start sewing, place the top and bottom panels with the face (outside) sides together on a flat surface and then mark the edge strip on the unsewn edge to correspond with the marks on the panel. (see diagram)



Sew the edge strip onto one of the panels and then mark the unsewn edge to correspond with the marks on the panel. As you sew the strip onto the other panel you can keep looking at the marks and stretch your material so that they correspond - then the job will be well done!

This marking is essential because the upholstery material is quite stretchy and will stretch differently in warp or weft, particularly if it is a vinyl vinyl

material.

It just remains now to turn the cover the right side out and insert the foam, pressing it down into the cover and pulling the edges into the corners. You now have a nice new berth cushion. If you are daring enough you can sew piping into all the seams, but I have done both and I prefer the cushions without piping, but that is a personal choice.

This is the last of my articles for the present but it is my intention to do a series on how to sail the boat and how to win races. This will, no doubt, be controversial!

~~the~~ NOT WRITTEN YET (No. 12.).