

S III - REBUILD

Part 2 - WINDOWS

If your boat has the original windows and rubber beading it will almost certainly leak!

If you wish to retain the boat as original then you will have to replace the windows with some sort of beading (Claytonrite), but preferably using thicker windows - 5mm. Personally I prefer polycarbonate, but it is quite expensive, and the correct beading for the thickness of the windows.

When fitting the windows you must cut the beading 2" longer than you think after fitting into the hole for the side windows, and 1" longer for the small front ones. This is necessary so that there is not a gap.

The 'join' in the main bead should be at the top of the window and in the key bead, at the bottom. You will need a special tool to insert the bead. If you are unable to get one I can lend one to you. Also some soap solution helps the job along.

'Bolt on' windows are the other solution, and this is the method I prefer. After removing the old windows you can save a lot of difficult painting time later if you take a little time now to clean up the edges and a couple of inches round on the inside of the window holes. Give them a couple of coats of whatever you choose to paint the inside of the boat.

Make patterns 1" bigger all round the window holes. Either get the windows cut, 6mm thick, or buy the material and cut them using a jig saw which should be considerably cheaper. Leave the paper backing on the windows until the final fitting to stop the plastic reforming after the jig saw blade and to protect the surface. Draw a line $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge of the windows and drill every $2\frac{1}{2}$ "/3" with clearance holes for pan head s.s. bolts and nuts (no washers). I use 4mm x 15mm but the choice is yours.

Carefully place the windows and drill the G.R.P. top and bottom about half way along the window and loosely fasten, then one each end similarly. When all the window lies flat drill all the other holes and check that all the bolts are long enough because on some boats the G.R.P. varies in thickness considerably. If any are short you can countersink as necessary with a rose bit.

Now remove the backing paper and fit the windows using a good quality transparent silicone sealer. Choose a cool day, put a little silicone on each bolt before insertion. You need someone inside the boat to screw on the nuts, then tighten evenly but not too tight.

Remove all the surplus sealant and clean up with white spirit.

Make a drink for your little helper inside the boat, no prizes for guessing who that is, and you are one step nearer a watertight boat!

Denis Heald.