

Chainplates Leaking? Deck Core Wet?

Here is a solution.....

By Alan Kanegsberg



Have a new chain plate cover made that is about 4" X 8" and 1/8" thick. Make two plywood templates with the slots 3/32" to 1/8" clear around the chainplates. Note that I found that the chainplates are NOT exactly parallel nor the same distance apart. Be sure to mark the top side of each template. The holes should be 1/2 the distance from the chainplate to the edge of the new cover.

Mark the deck 1/4" inside the edges of the new plate. Drill the corners and cut the deck. I used a flexible cutting disk. Cut the fiberglass deck which is only about 3/16" thick. Do not go deep enough to touch the underside fiberglass layer of the deck.



Remove all of the balsa. Dig underneath the deck surface if you find additional wet balsa. Let it dry in the sun for a few days (cover it at night). Clean everything as best as you can.

Caulk the space between the chain plates and the lower fiberglass layer of the deck. You can use Sikaflex. Use lots of masking tape and brown craft paper to protect all adjacent surfaces. You will spill epoxy.



Buy a block of kid's modeling clay. Cut strips that are 1" high and 1/4" to 5/8" thick and carefully press them against the chain plates being careful that they go all the way to the lower surface and are at least as high as the top deck surface.

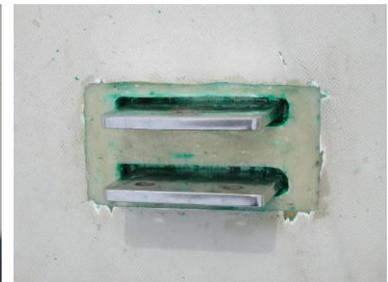
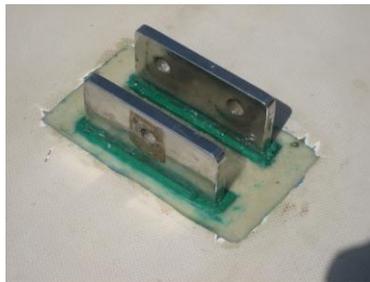
Put masking tape on the chain plates from the clay up. Using West System Epoxy Slow Cure, paint all of the exposed surfaces with plain epoxy. Then while that is still wet, mix a second batch to the consistency of mayonnaise using 404 filler. This will reduce air bubbles and also reduce the heat as it cures. Be sure that all of the top of the West is above the deck surface. Allow for some shrinkage.



Before you remove the craft paper, do a rough grind of the surface of the epoxy be sure there are no really low spots.

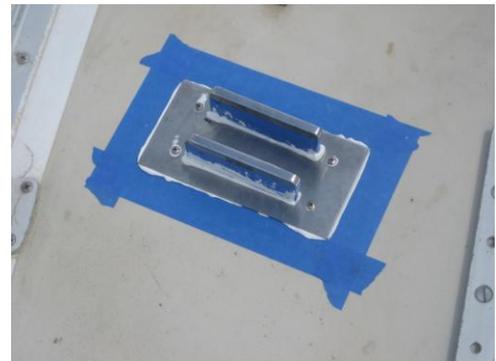
Then remove all of the craft paper and tape from the deck and after removing all of the protection, grind and sand all of the epoxy until it is even with or slightly below the deck surface. Try to avoid touching the original deck surface

Remove the tape from the chainplates and then clean out all of the clay. Be extra careful to get the chainplates absolutely clean. Acetone helps.



Put the new covers in place and tape the deck up to the edges. Then remove the cover and inject the caulking (Sikaflex or 3M 4200) into the spaces by the chainplates being as careful as possible to totally fill the spaces all the way down. Then cover most of the surface of the epoxy with a thin coat of the same caulking. Put the cover on and screw it down.

The next day run a knife around the outside of the cover and remove the tape. Clean up the chainplates with a knife.



This should be your final result. After a few years, remove the cover, clean out the caulking and recaulk the whole thing. It should be easy without the balsa.

