

Bungie Hatches

Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Photo #4



Most builders and customers do not like the look of straps to hold down their hatch covers. We now use bungie cords to hold down the hatch covers on all our boats. **(Photo #1)** They are very effective on pulling the hatch cover down to get a good seal. This is done by gluing a set of wooden hooks to the underside of your hatch covers and then attaching a bungie cord to the inside of your hull. You are able attach the lid by holding it up slightly and attach the bungie to the hooks. To release there is enough tension to pull up the cover, reach inside and unhook.

Instructions

From scrap pieces of hardwood, trace a pattern of the curvature of your hatch covers. Do this done by tracing with a pencil on top of a small piece of wood to get the curvature where you wish to place the hooks. **(Photo #2)** Be sure to calculate for hatch lips. In other words, don't have the hooks to close to the ends or sides of your hatch covers.

Mark the center line on this piece and sand so that the piece sits cleanly on your hatch cover. Cut each to desired length.

(Photo #3)

Once you have the piece of wood sitting cleanly on your hatch cover, trace a small pattern for the hooks onto the end of the piece. **(Photo #4)**

Photo #5



Photo #6



Photo #7



With the pattern marked on each, begin by drilling a hole in each end large enough for $\frac{1}{4}$ in bungee cord.

(Photo #5)

Then cut out the rest with a small hand coping saw, a small band saw or power coping saw.

Sand the edges smooth. Make sure your bungee can slip under the hook. Finished piece will look something like **(Photo #6)**

Position your hooks onto your hatches and mark where they will be glued. Mask off the area around this with masking tape. Mix up some epoxy with wood flour to colour match. Place the hooks onto the underside of the hatches, press down to squeeze out the thickened epoxy. Wipe off the squeeze out and then pull off the masking tape.

The bungee cord will be attached to the inside of your hull. We use plastic pad eyes screwed to small blocks of a hardwood. These blocks should be glued on with thickened epoxy and are usually placed around the sheer line of our boats or a little further down. **(Photo #7)** The bungee is attached to the plastic pad eyes with bungee hooks. The bungee should be tight enough that you can just get your hand inside to release the bungee from the hooks on your hatch cover.