



INTRODUCTION

Even with the most careful of launching and handling most boats will at some time experience damage to the gel coat surface of the laminate. Damage of this type is rarely detrimental and scores, dents, blisters and star cracks can easily be repaired with the correct colour gel coat.

Smaller scratches and scuffing can usually be polished out using fine wet and dry paper followed by a propriety cutting compound and polish. Care should be taken not to sand all the way through the gel coat to the underlying laminate.

SAFETY NOTICE

When opening, mixing and handling gel coat, catalyst, acetone, etc., the following should be noted:



- Contact with skin must be avoided. The use of Barrier cream and protective gloves (such as examination gloves) is recommended. Harmful if swallowed. Causes burns.



- Use only in a well ventilated area and DO NOT smoke.
- Highly flammable. Keep container tightly closed and in a well ventilated, cool place.
- Eye protection should be worn at all times when handling catalyst. In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.



- Consult the Catalyst bottle for further product details and safety guidelines
- When cutting or dry sanding GRP a breathing mask must be worn and sensitive skin protected from dust which can act as an irritant and harmful if inhaled.

1. PREPARATION

The area to be repaired needs to be cleaned, degreased and thoroughly abraded. Remove any loose piece of gel coat and abrade the damaged area with coarse grit paper (P100 grit). Open up cracks with grit paper to a shallow, wide 'V' shape. For larger repairs and star cracks sand back the entire damaged area to the underlying laminate surface using a disc sander. Remove dust and grease with acetone. Inspect the area; if the crack carries on into the laminate surface or the damage is deep, further repair work of the laminate surface will be required. Consult your dealer for advice.

2. MIXING

Estimate the required amount of gel coat for the repair. Protective gloves and eye protection must be worn when handling gel coat and catalyst. Mix the gel and the catalyst thoroughly at a ratio of 98% gel and 2% catalyst (by volume) and avoid introducing too many air bubbles. A little goes a long way with 500ml kit covering approximately 32sq inches.

3. APPLICATION

Apply the gel coat to the damaged area and profile to shape as closely as possible. Adhesive tape can be stuck over the wet gel to help form the correct shape.

If a second application of gel coat is required it is best applied whilst the first coat has started to cure and has gone 'tacky'. Fully cured gel coat will require abrading.

4. FINISHING

The fully cured gel coat can be rubbed down with 'wet and dry' paper to finish and smooth the repair to shape. 'Wet and Dry' should [only] be used with plenty of water and the water changed when moving to a finer grade of paper. Work through the grades of 'wet and dry' as required and finish with a fine paper (P800-P1200). The repair should then be polished with cutting compound to bring back shine of the gel coat.