

PRACTICAL BOATOWNER[®]

May 2002

FEATURING
REPAPLAST
A TWO-PART
POLYURETHANE
FILLER

Andrew Simpson's Good Gear Guide

6 Similar to Repair Vision in its method of dispensing, is Repaplast from Innotec UK. This is a two-part polyurethane filler intended to repair plastic components (bumpers etc) on motor vehicles.

However, it caught my attention for another purpose – fitting the brackets that would take the locker door latch plates on Shindig. Having sailed without those doors last season, I knew I would be in for some stick if I didn't get the job done. Because it would be impossible to screw them in from behind, I was looking for an adhesive that would glue my GRP brackets to the GPR PVC foam sandwich of which the cabin structure was made. And, reluctant to be fielding first slip to bottles of single malt bursting out of the lockers in heavy weather, I was anxious that whatever I chose would stick – by which I mean really stick.

My first experiments were disappointing. I needed the adhesive to cure fairly quickly, and my trials with various epoxies proved them to be poor under the peel loads the brackets would suffer. Although wonderful in shear, epoxies are typically less than brilliant when loaded thus so I wasn't very surprised. However, when I heard about the Repaplast I thought it might do the

trick. After all, it was a polyurethane and therefore very compatible with polyester. Moreover, it hardened in about ten minutes and fully cured within the hour, so my patience wouldn't be stretched.

I glued together some test samples and left them to cure. When levered with a pair of pliers, the epoxied bracket came away almost without a murmur, whereas the Repaplast actually tore up the glass fibres lying beneath the surface of the substrate. You can't get stronger than that, can you?

The basic kit costs £41.15 and £18.80 for the two 50ml replacement cartridges. The mixing takes place in the nozzle, which you leave attached until the next time you use the gun. Only then do you remove it, revealing the uncured components at the end of their tubes.

This is quite an expensive professional grade material, but many boat owners might find it useful – not just for the purpose I found for it, but as a convenient and tenacious filler that will make good most substances. I can see it having a number of uses on GRP – particularly for small emergency repairs where speed of cure would be an advantage.

Further details from Innotec UK on (01722) 411744



INNOTEK