comprehensive and competitive boat insurance policies on the market. With more than 175 years in marine insurance, when you insure your yacht with us, you're dealing with the boat insurance specialists, leaving you free to enjoy your time on the water. www.gjwdirect.com

exotherms. If it does, the heat generated may mark the deck. If the resin does



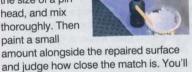
# RUBBING DOWN THE FILLER

For typical gelcoat chips wait around 30 minutes for the filler to cure before attempting to sand the surface down. When you do, the grades to use are 120, 320 and then 800. Use a block when sanding to make sure that the surface is even and that you don't introduce a hollow.

### COLOUR MATCHING

is to match the colour. This process requires patience and a step-by-step approach to get the best results. Yellow and black are the most common pigment colours used when

matching white gelcoat. Add a tiny dot of pigment - about the size of a pin head, and mix thoroughly. Then



and judge how close the match is. You'll likely need to go through this process a few times to get the colour right.

When you're there with the colour, add the catalyst, mix thoroughly and apply to the repair. You'll need to apply 3-5coats, leaving 15-20 minutes between each. Allow to cure for at least

using a light 800-grade paper. Then use rubbing compound to bring up to a final finish. Watch the video

the deck in case it exotherm, you'll

no longer be able to use it for the repair so add a little water to cool it down to

Taking liquid gelcoat the first stage

amount alongside the repaired surface

### APPLYING GELCOAT

24 hours before lightly rubbing down



How do you deal with gelcoat chips and achieve a perfect colour-matched surface? Bruce Jacobs finds out from Mark Buckett of Solent Repairs

From rope chafing on cockpit coamings to impact damage after a winch handle has been dropped, gelcoat chips are an inevitable result of any boat that has miles under its keel. And repairing them is not as hard as you might think.

With a simple but methodical approach, surfaces can be easily restored to not only improve their appearance but also help the structure of the laminate beneath.

Like any cosmetic repair, achieving the best result is more about the preparation and process than it is about specific skills.

# PREPARING THE REPAIR

First, it's important to create a surface that will provide a good bond for the filler. Using a small burr on an electric drill, work it around the damaged area.

Next, lightly sand the area, this will provide a good key for the filler.



# MIXING THE FILLER

Start with some white gelcoat filler and add some Cabosil, (a colloidal silica powder), to thicken up the mixture to



around the consistency of peanut butter. This will allow you to use the substance as a filler and will keep it in place during the cure. Then, carefully add the catalyst and mix thoroughly again. The amount of catalyst required will vary depending on the surrounding temperature so make sure you have checked with the manufacturer's instructions.

# APPLYING THE FILLER

Using a plastic spatula gently apply the filler over the damaged area. You will need to make a few light passes over the area to ensure that the filler is fully located and is flush with the surrounding surface. Don't put too much pressure on the spatula as this will drag the filler out of the surface hollow.

The filler will shrink slightly as it cures but when you apply the gelcoat later this should build the repair back up so it's flush again with the surrounding area. TIP Don't leave the cup of mixed resin on

online at youtu.be/glK7jmYDYt8

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