

Centerboard Gasket Replacement

Here is a list of tools and materials:

Phillips head screwdriver
Putty knife
Straight edge
Tape measure
Razor knife



Acetone – expensive at West Marine. Lowes or Home Depot has it for half the price - about \$7.00 per quart.



Centerboard gasket material available from Annapolis Performance Sailing (www.apsltd.com), item # SS75, 3 inch, you will need 5 feet.

Marine Tex or West System (optional, used to fill in holes if you decide not to reuse aluminum strips).



3M 4200 Fast Cure
Painter's masking tape
A couple of cleaning rags
Old, tire without rim
Old blankets/cushions

First you need access to the bottom of your boat. Begin by stepping the mast. Next slide your boat off its trailer onto the ground. Here's how:

1. Check to make sure your bailers are closed.

2. Place some old blankets or cushions on the ground near the stern.
3. With the help of a friend, push the boat aft. The stern will settle on the blankets/cushions raising the trailer tongue.
4. Have your helper hold the transom while you carefully pull the trailer from under the boat.
5. Place an old tire on the ground lined up with the chainplate that will be nearest the ground. The idea is to center the chainplate in the tire to prevent bending it.
6. Pull the boat over by grabbing one of the shrouds and pulling the boat over. Move the trailer over the top end of the mast and lash the mast to the trailer so that it will not accidentally pop back up.



The old gasket.

Next remove the aluminum strips that hold the old gasket on. Use the putty knife to remove all old sealant. Clean the whole area with acetone.

Decision time, you must decide whether to use the aluminum strips. If you do not want to reuse the strips, which many people do, you need to fill in all of the screw holes with Marine Tex or with thickened West System epoxy. Allow the filler to cure a couple of hours.



Cleaned up and ready to fill the holes.

In the picture above you can see the centerboard sitting in the slot. The two aluminum pieces are the centerboard brackets. This would be a good time to consider installing top mounted centerboard brackets. The problem with the original brackets is that you have to replace the centerboard gasket every time you want to remove the centerboard. Not so with the top mounted brackets. Look under the Upgrades section for instructions on making top mounted brackets.

Ok, time to measure the gasket. Notice the indented area for the gasket is longer than the actual slot. You want to cover the whole area. Measure the actual slot and precut the gasket. Measure twice and cut once. Use a straight edge and razor knife to cut the “slot” down the middle of the gasket. Use painters tape on the smooth side of the gasket material to close the slot. This will make it easier to handle when it comes time to apply the gasket.



4200 ready to go!

Apply 4200 to the indented area on the hull. Do not over apply but be sure to get complete coverage. Now carefully apply the rough side of the gasket material, the side without the tape, to the indented area. Push on the gasket from the center to the sides to remove any air bubbles. Clean up any excess 4200 with a rag. Allow to cure for 24 hours before placing in the water. Remove the blue tape once cured.

The last picture is the finished job. Nice looking bottom! Thanks to Rey Garza for the pictures and instructions.

To get your boat back on the trailer unlash from the trailer and carefully rotate of its side. Bring the trailer around the front of the boat. Have a helper hold the tongue up while you position the trailer under the boat. Connect the winch and winch her on!

