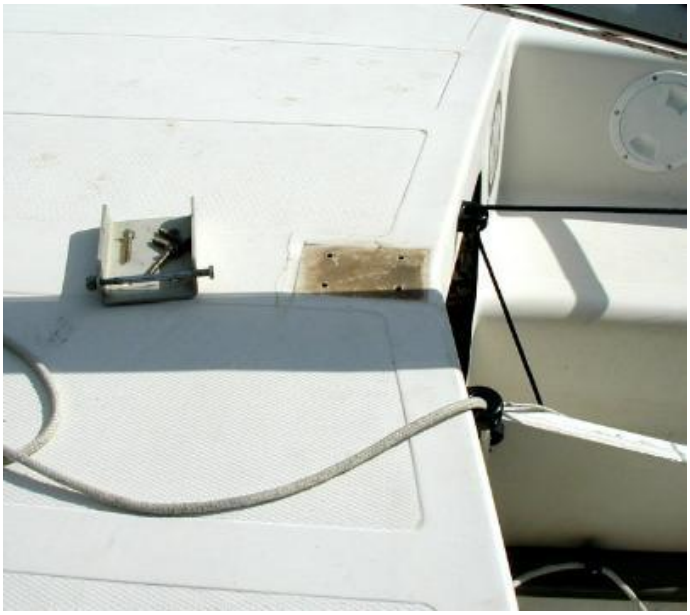
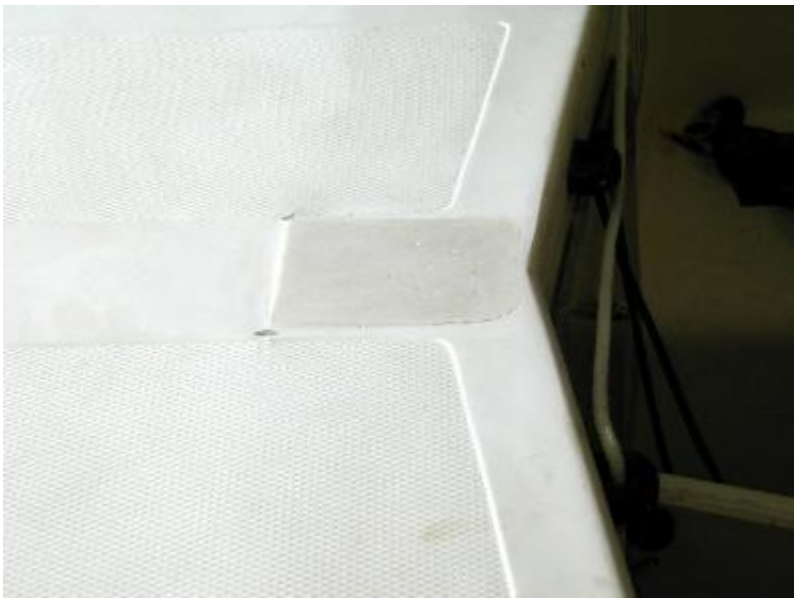
Compression Post Installation
By Rey Garza

A very common problem for the older Chrysler built Mutineers is the mast step area. Over time the wood under the step will start to compress as it rots. Mine was starting, but I didn't think that it was bad enough to warrant stripping out the old wood and replacing it.



I decided to remove the old step plate, fill the holes with a product called Git-Rot which is basically a two part epoxy that soaks into the old wood and hardens. Then I prepared an epoxy and filler mixture (see note at end) and covered the area where the plate sits.

The mixture was the consistency of peanut butter. Once it dried, I sanded it down flat so that the plate would sit fairly level. Then I put the plate back in place, re-drilled the holes and secured it back in place. It is now solid.



Once the mast step was in place I went to work on the compression post. The purpose of the post is to help support the deck under the mast. When I installed my poor man's version of the magic box, I found that I was putting more downward pressure on this area, so I decided to install a compression post.

I used a cardboard tube that I got from a roll of paper for the plotter at our office. First I coated the

tube in epoxy, then I covered it with two layers of fiberglass. When the glass dried, I cut the tube to the length that I needed to fit the area between the bottom of the boat and the mast step.

The picture above is one of the hull bottom area just inside the cuddy. I laid in a couple of layers of fiberglass, then two small squares of fiberglass for added strength.

The picture in the below is of a block of wood that I installed under the deck for more support.

The bottom picture shows the pole in place and a wooden ring that I got from a Catalina 22 compression post. The pole fits snuggly and the ring holds it in place. If I need to remove the pole so that I can get into the cuddy area, all I have to do is remove the two screws that hold the ring in place. In this picture you can see the hyfield lever. I had to move it back a little so that it would lock.

Note: read the West System How to use document in the reapairs section to understand how the West System can help you with many reapair and upgrade projects.