

Mutineer 15 Cuddy Cover

by Jim Davis

- I have used some cheap acrylic material for my early version covers and found that the material is just too brittle for the environment even if you keep it out the sunlight. My current cover is 1/8" clear Lexan from Home Depot window repair department. I bought a sheet big enough for two covers. Wax paper used for a pattern allows you to see the cuddy opening while you mark your overlap.
- The trick on cutting and drilling is using the correct blade and bits, however Lexan and acrylics can be machined with most wood working tools. There are special bits for drilling plastics that have special cutting angles that don't "grab" so bad. A Dremel tool also works good to install holes and won't grab.
- I used 1/8" for the latest versions due to the cuddy wall not being flat, and the 1/8" will easily conform to the cuddy when persuaded with the thru bolt layout. I made sure on this later version to give the cover more bearing or overlap with the cuddy wall around the opening.
- Bending the 1/8" Lexan is easy with a paint stripping type heat gun, using slow back and forth motion to uniformly heat the bend line to fit the angle of the cuddy. Clamping some small strips of wood to each side of the bend area will keep the plastic flat during the bend and give you a sharp bend.
- I used 1/4 wide x 1/8" closed cell weather stripping to seal the cover, putting the butt joint of weather stripping at the bottom of the cover.
- The bolt holes need to be quite bit larger than your thru-bolts due the expansion rate of the Acrylic is about 25 times that of fiberglass hull. You don't need large bolt diameter, so something about 1/8" is plenty, and I used lock nuts with washer on the back. Be sure there is clearance on the backside of the cuddy at your bolt locations for washer and nut. I used just standard vinyl grommets for my CB control lines to pass thru.
- I used typical 8" access ports, which allows room to get most everything we need in and out of the cuddy. A tether line on the screw off lid keeps the lid from leaving the boat accidentally.



The finished cuddy cover in place.