

A Safe And Even Sane WEEKENDER Steering Update



Since building the first Weekender we've come to be convinced that the little hatch at the bottom of the Lazarette makes adjusting the steering a bit of a challenge. So we simply cut a hatch for access down through the aft decking. We cut a 6"x 16" rectangular hole centered and with its rear edge 4 1/2" forward of the Transom at the center. We attached stringers around this opening (after kerfing them on the bottom to take the deck curve). Then we cut a 9"x21" piece of 1/4" ply with the grain running the shortway, -and constructed a hatch cover like the Foredeck and Cabin hatch covers.

This hatch opening not only makes rigging and adjusting the steering gear a snap, -if anything ever goes wrong with any part of the wheel steering gear, we can simply pop open the hatch and grab the tiller arm to steer.

You may also notice a beef-up of the steering wheel mount to the steering shaft in these shots. Our wheel never broke in years of sailing (and we greatly prefer a wheel set-up), but when an unsteady guest fell against the wheel, the mounting screws were pulled loose. To prevent this we took a scrap of 3/4" plywood drew a 4-1/2" circle on this, the drew two 1-1/2" circles on another part of the ply, and finally we drew a 3" circle around each 1-1/2" circle, centered.

With a holesaw we cut out the two 1-1/2" circles. Then we cut out the two 3" circles around these, -and the one 4-1/2" circle. The 4-1/2" disc was bolted to the back of the steering wheel. A 3" disc was recessed to miss the nuts on the back of the 4-1/2" disc, then this disc was screwed and glued to the back of the 4" disc, centered. The other 3" disc was screwed to the first 3" disc mounted. Then the whole assembly was slipped onto the steering shaft and drilled through the edge of the first 3" disc and through the center of the steering shaft, and finally glue and bolted to the steering shaft. The next guest who falls on top the wheel will break their hip instead of the wheel mount. The spring-mounted pulley for the Mainsheet is now mounted to a 3/8" eyebolt that extends down through a hole drilled down through the Taffrail, through a wood spacer between the Taffrail and the Deck, through the Deck and on through the rear Deck Panel Joiner, at the center.

Ongoing Updating

When we discovered how well epoxy resin sands (without loading the paper), we decided to try an experiment that ended up saving a lot of time and money. To finish the Hull Sides, instead of finish bondoing the sides, sanding, and then having to put on two coats of paint to cover the dulling effect of bondo under paint, we tried something different this time. We sanded off the lumps in the epoxy resin left by the squeegee in the lay-up. Then we rolled on a coat of resin to fill the indents in the glass weave pattern un-

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derneath. This second, resin-only coat was then easily sanded smooth and showed a glossy finish after only one coat of LPU paint. Love that Epoxy Resin!