

is evenly covered, and there is enough Gelcoat to form a slightly raised surface over the entire area. This raised surface provides enough Gelcoat to allow sanding without the need for subsequent patching. Cover with scotch tape.

Step 6 Let Gelcoat dry until hardened (approximately 25-40 minutes). Even when the Gelcoat is hard, the top surface will be tacky. This is easily scraped away (or sanded away) down to the harder surface.

Step 7 Take your wet sandpaper and dipping fairly regularly in your bucket of water, sand down the patch. Start with grade 400 for big patches, and as you get closer to the finish, switch to 800 and finally to 1000. A small wooden block should be used as a backing for sanding to ensure that the finish is as smooth as possible. Do not use fingers, as this will create grooves which will show up in the final result. Check your patch constantly while sanding to make sure that it is even. If a dark greenish tinge begins to appear, stop sanding in the area of the tinge. You are wearing through the Gelcoat into the fibreglass matt below and you must apply more Gelcoat. The patch is complete when the area that was patched is even with the unpatched area.

Step 8 Polish the repaired area with your compound (recommended Dursol or Mirror Glaze), although most wax/cleaning compounds will do.

Gunwale Repairs: These are basically the same as hull repairs. Put tape below the patch, sticking half the width of the tape to the boat and bending back the half 90 degrees, so as to prevent dripping. Apply Gelcoat on patch. Take bent back portion of tape and apply over patch. Make sure that tape is pressed only enough to attain evenness with the rest of the gunwale. Check through the Scotch tape for air bubbles. If some appear, they must be eliminated or the patch must be re-done. Wait until it is dry. Chisel overlapping excess from the top of the gunwale and commence wetsanding as described above.

