



T34C Tech Articles & photos

By

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T34C Midships Teak Hatch

See Appendix I for enlarged Teak Hatch images

Building a Teak Hatch



Bronze vent plate



Vent closure



Grab rail and guards



Hinge and cowl detail

Midships hatches can be very expensive. So, I decided to make my own partly to save a few bucks; but, mostly, to get both the look and function I wanted.

After sketching out a couple of ideas, I cut an 18" x 18" hole in the top of Temujin's coach roof. Of course, I had removed the cardboard headliner first. Secondly, I fitted a frame of solid teak using the camber of the roof itself as a guide for the arch to be cut into the outside framing. Then you must put plywood underlayment on the underside of the coach roof to provide something to attach the headliner to when you replace it. You have to mark it to cut a section out of it where the roof used to be.

The outside frame is glued and screwed together, then set in polysulphide sealant and screwed in from underneath through the plywood underlayment and the coach roof. Then the inside lip needs to be fitted. It must be deep enough to allow it to cover the headliner and then allow for a finishing ring to be fitted over the headliner and screwed to the underlayment. It needs to extend above the outside frame high enough to butt into the hatch and press the hatch seal, made of rubber @ 1/2" square. Then the hatch is fabricated using solid teak.

First, you make the hatch frame to fit snugly on the outside frame and over the lip. Using a good epoxy and silicon bronze screws assemble the hatch to your own design. I made mine with a lexan top, set into the frame and then finished with teak all around. I then set it up to take a vent. However, vents leak. So I fabricated a deck plate fastened to the underneath so that in severe weather I can completely seal off the underside of the hatch. (I did this for my forward hatch and the underside of all my dorade boxes as well, as they will leak in a severe dousing. Each plate and teak finishing ring has a bug screen behind it.)

Lastly, as you can see, all the hardware is fastened to the frame so it is unnecessary to drill any holes in the deck for bolts or screws. Moreover the teak framing makes the coach roof very stiff and strong. Be sure to finish the underside with nicely varnished teak or mahogany to match the strips that are standard on the Tartan 34



Finished Project!

headliner. If anyone needs more details on how to do this, I'll be happy to provide them.

The main thing is to follow good practice as might be seen on a Loki or Concordia for framing and finishing. The result is very satisfying and complimentary to the vintage aesthetics of the boat. The hatch has been varnished with Interlux schooner and finished with a hand rail for ease of opening. All lock downs are bronze (4) and the chafe guards are bronze strips screwed to the surface of the hatch. They are easily removable for refinishing. The hinges are stainless steel with fast pins for ease of removal and the adjustable hatch supports (2) are stainless steel.

Sufficient teak can be purchased from:
Exotic Lumber
90 Russell Street, Annapolis, Md. 21401
Phone: 410-267-0887
E-mail: westhouse@aol.com

The owner is a very knowledgeable and helpful. He can mill the lumber to your specifications in house. Good luck!

Appendix I - Teak Hatch images

