



T34C Tech Articles & photos

By

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T34C Douglas Fir Headliner

See Appendix H for enlarged Headliner images

When Tartan Marine built the 34C, there were a number of techniques that were popular among American boat builders at the time. Frankly, I wish they hadn't been. For example, who will forget the dazzling beauty of teak-like Formica bulkheads on Pearsons? For that matter, who can stand the teak-like Formica (Called honey-teak Formica) table on the Tartan 34C? There is, however, as said the poet, no disputing taste. Clint Pearson told me a story that, not too long ago, a guy wanted a Bristol 45.5 with a teak-like Formica interior. Of course, Clint built it; but I am sure, that whenever he thinks of it he scratches his head.



There is one thing in the Tartan 34C that I resolved the day I closed on the deal that I would change. The Dexon headliner! (My book tells me this stuff came from somebody called REO Industries, and cost \$51.74 for the lot.)

So, when a cousin of my wife, said he had a stack of 100-year-old dried Douglas fir tongue and groove lumber that had been removed from an old farmhouse, I jumped at it.

Replacing the Dexon with real wood is actually a very easy and rewarding project. The most critical thing is to line up the first plank on center. This you'll need to measure for because your companionway hatch is not in the center of the coach roof.

First, take down all your Dexon. Once you have unscrewed all the teak splines that run athwartships, and the fore and aft side moldings, the panels will practically fall down. Then you will see three or four 3/8th plywood battens epoxied to the underside of the coachroof. Leave these alone. Besides, it'd take a jackhammer to remove them.

Next, this is a good time to run wire for an overhead dome light. Alpenglow makes a nice dual level, red lamp. Also, it's a good time to glue in some insulation. Since you are covering the insulation with wood, it doesn't need to be fancy. The combination of wood and foam will do nicely to keep cool air in the boat and cut down on the noise from outside. I used some 3/8ths blue stuff from Home Depot that I glued in with a gooey-glue in a tube.



Next, however, comes the part you've been waiting for. Put your first plank along the centerline of the roof. Screw it to the plywood battens. Be sure to line the screws up so they will be hidden by the athwartships splines you will be putting back. Keep doing this until you reach the edges. The last planks will have to be shaped to fit along the curvature of the roof. It doesn't have to be perfect as you're going to cover