Catalina 350 Technical Spotlight



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One Hand for You and One for the Boat

I was sad to hear that one of our owners has had a bad fall down the companionway steps. Several people responded to this with helpful hints and some modification suggestions:

R #1: One of the C320 owners showed me a trick that he had installed on his steps to help avoid the potential for falls on the companionway steps.

He had bought some 1 inch wide, clear, self adhesive non-skid tape from West Marine and installed in across the forward edge of each step. Placing it at the forward edge put it right where a wet shoe, or a poorly placed step might be most likely to slip off causing quite a fall.

I can recall slipping on the steps on my C27 - there were only 3 total steps and the fall turns out to be much more of a jolt than a real fall. On the C350, it's a much longer fall, and there's really less to grab hold of if you do fall.

The clear tape doesn't distract from the wood step and doesn't seem to show a whole lot of dirt (yet) - I suppose if it does, it can easily be replaced.

That C320 owner also used the clear non-skid in a couple of areas topsides to reduce the possibility of unintentional slips. One of those applications was on the toerail - where there is no factory non-skid - where his mate would always step when coming in and out of his dock. Slipping from the boat when in close proximity to the dock poses a lot more threat than as "simple" man overboard situation. *–Tim Brogan, April IV, C350 #68, Seattle*

R #2: Because of my dog, I picked up (West Marine) some non-skid step pads (teak color) and they work wonders, both for my dog to go up and down the steps and to give me firm traction as well. I just needed to cut the length down to fit the size of the steps. *–Greg Kyle, Irie Life, C350 #209*

R #3: Having met someone very badly injured by a fall down companion way ladders. We have a strict boat rule that every one must go backwards down the ladder (I was brought up never to turn my back on a lady or a ladder.) We replaced the planks with swing doors and make a point of keeping them closed for the same reason. - Michael Aston, Windhover, C350 #120

On our boats we have always said: "One Hand for You and One Hand for the Boat". *–Bonnie*

Mounting Items to Bulkhead

Hi guys, I've been reading your "bulkhead mounting woes" so I thought I would comment.

I used to do a lot of wood working/cabinet making. The best way to drive a brass screw, is to drill the appropriate size hole, and then drive a steel screw of the same size as the brass screw into the hole first. The steel screw will make the threads and expand the wood. Take the steel screw out, and then drive the brass one in its place. Works great and no more broken or stripped screw heads.

Good luck with your C350s, they are great boats. *–Doc, C310 #191, Hydrophilic, Carlyle, IL*

Thought this might help some of us out the next time we try and mount something to the bulkhead. *–Bonnie*