Catalina 350 Single Stanchion Replacement

Article By Ralph Schroeder C350 #342, "Wolfhelm"

The single stanchions are mounted onto the deck using 2 long machine screws/nuts and a large ¾' nut. (See fig. 1) They are also sealed with white caulking for water proofing.

Access to the nuts is from inside the cabin.

This example uses the middle stanchion on the port side of the boat. In this case the winter winds broke the welds holding the stanchion to its base. Before you get started, you need to remove the lifelines from the stanchion. Remove the spring clips from the turnbuckles of the lifelines at the bow. Unscrew the turnbuckle from the lifeline and then pull the lifeline back through the stanchions.

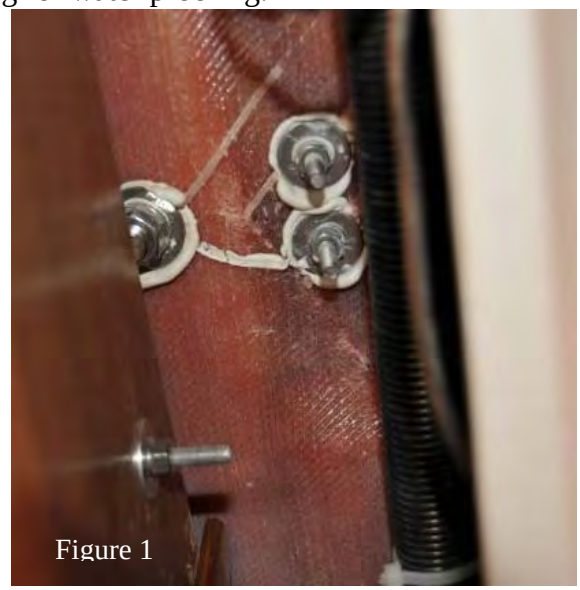


Figure 1

When you look below you can see the nuts holding the base to the deck.



Figure 2

A deep socket is required to get the nuts off of the longer Philips screws. I used an 11mm socket. The larger nut is a ¾" nut and I used a full sized open ended wrench. A socket would not fit since the wood panel is within an eighth of an inch from the bottom of the bolt. Note there are spring washers in front of the nuts. All of the nuts came off relatively easily.

Back on deck, I needed to get the base off of the fiberglass. (See Fig. 2)

I used a thin piece of wood to protect the gelcoat when I was prying. I used a screw driver to lift the base a little and then a knife to cut through the caulking. Working carefully I was able to cut through the caulking without too much work.

Once all of the caulking was cut I could pry the base out of the hole. (See Fig. 3)

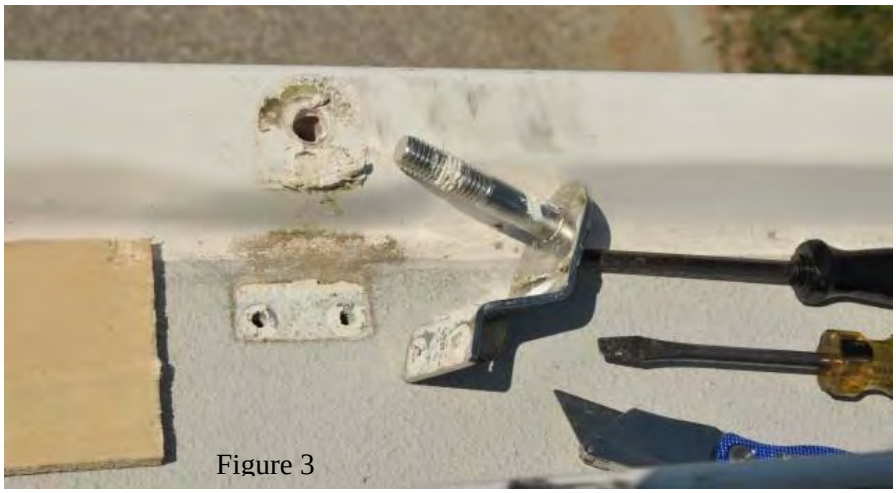


Figure 3

Now I cleaned up the dirt and old caulking. I scraped as much caulking from within the holes as possible.

Notice the Catalina correctly chamfered the edges of the holes. (See Fig. 4) This allows the caulking to press around the bolts and creates a good waterproof seal. I used 2 kinds of sealant to reseal the new stanchion.



Figure 4



Figure 5

I used a butyl tape for the large area and then some caulking to seal the holes. (See Fig. 5)

I used the 291 Sikaflex because it will seal but also allow me to remove later on again. This one is also UV resistant. The Butyl tape will stay tacky for years and also creates a flexible bond the will remain as the stanchion flexes through normal boating use.

Note: I forgot this step. You may want to tape the area around the base, so that when the caulking is pressed out, you can run your finger around the base, to create a nice bead and then pull the tape off for a nice finished look.

After inserting the new stanchion back into the holes, I put the spring washers and the nuts back on the bolts. I had an assistant on deck with a Philips screw driver to prevent the screws from turning while a screwed the nuts on from below.



Figure 6

After cleaning up, replace the lifelines and you are ready to sail. (See Fig. 6)