

Taping Seams

Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Attaching the deck to the hull can be difficult and frustrating work, especially if your hull or deck has become mis-shaped over time. (See **Fiberglassing** for hints on how to prevent this) You will probably benefit from a second pair of hands for this job.

Firstly, rough up the resin with sandpaper on the inside seam of the deck and hull. Place deck on top of hull and line up all edges nicely. You may need to do a few dry runs to make sure the edges match up nicely with little or no gaps between. Plane down any edges that don't match or run a piece of sandpaper glued to both sides of a thin piece of board between the two halves. This will create the proper bevel for the two halves to mate perfectly.

Since it is difficult to reach deep inside the ends of the boat at line up the seam tape, you can opt to glue shorter pieces of seam tape to either the deck or hull with dabs of hot glue. We don't recommend that you apply hot glue to the full length, as it will leave obvious marks when you apply resin. Just do the two or three feet in the ends. **(Photo #1)**

Tape the hull to the deck with one-inch fibre tape. This tape has fibres running lengthwise and is best for this since it is very strong, sticks to the boat nicely and leaves very little residue. Duct tape tends to leave a lot of glue on the boat. Once the whole boat is taped together, **(Photos #2)** mask the outside seam line with masking tape to prevent any resin from seeping out from the inside. **(Photo #3)**

Tip the boat on edge in your stands.

Taping Inside Seam

Often, the inside seam between the deck and hull is not seamless. If there is a ridge between the two, you should consider filling the gap with thickened epoxy to create a smooth surface. The fibreglass tape will sit better to a flat surface with no air bubbles. Once you have a good seam, cut a piece of 2-inch fibreglass tape the length of the inside seam. Place and adjust it inside the boat. Note that the tape will stretch some when it gets wet with epoxy, so you probably want the tape a little shorter than the actual boat. **(Photos #4)** Beginning in the middle of the boat on the inside of the cockpit, apply epoxy to the tape with a small brush and work your way

Photo #4



Photo #5



Photo #6



towards each end. You will be able to reach most of the seam, either through the cockpit or the hatches. **(Be sure to wear a protective mask when you place your head inside the boat)** To reach the furthest most points in the bow and stern, hot glue a piece of sponge to a stick **(Photos #5)** and push resin right up to the bow and stern. **(Photos #6)** Continue to work it up there to make sure you have fully coated the fiberglass tape. Make sure the tape is evenly distributed over both sides of the seam. Stay with the boat until the epoxy begins to cure. Apply a second coat of resin.

Once you have one seam set, you can flip the boat on its other edge and do the other inside seam in the same manner. With both cured, scrape down rough edges of fiberglass tape and apply two more coats of epoxy to inside seams

You can now remove the tape holding the deck to hull. Clean off any glue residue from the fibre tape with a detergent or mild solvent.

Photo #7



Taping Outside Seam

With the outside tape removed, there may be spots where resin has seeped out from the inside. Scrape and sand this away.

As with the inside seam, there also may be a small gap between deck and hull. We recommend that you fill this gap with epoxy thickened with sawdust and then sand it smooth after it cures. If there is a gap, air bubbles will form on the outside seam. Also, rough up the outside seam area with sandpaper for a good bond and round over any sharp edges.

Note: the two-inch roll of fibreglass tape has a seam edge that is hard to hide. This is caused by the weave pattern of the fibres. If you cut your own tape, (see Fiberglassing Tips) it is best to use this piece of left over six-ounce cloth from a full roll and cut your own two-inch tape. At best you might consider cutting off the seam edges from the roll tape. You can easily determine the seam edges with your hands.

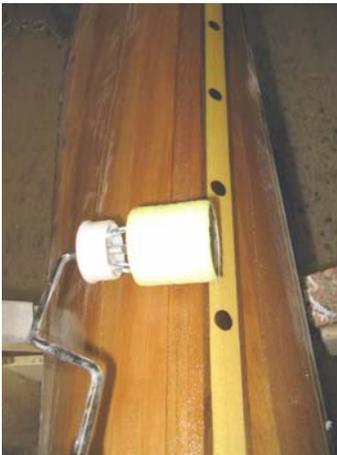
Photo #8



With the boat on its side on the stands, cut a length of fibreglass tape to the length of one outside seam. To hold it in place, you can use a small piece of masking tape, which will be removed later. **(Photo #7)** Apply a bit of epoxy to the middle of the length of tape with a brush **(Photo #8)** followed by dabbing the edge with the brush loaded with epoxy. By dabbing, you should not have strands of glass everywhere. If you do, don't panic, you can scrape them off later.

Once the length of tape is saturated, smooth with a small section of roller. **(Photo #9)**

Photo #9



As the epoxy begins to set, feather the edge of the resin over the hull and deck with a dry brush so as not to create a ridge. This will prevent future sanding. Apply two coats of resin, feathering further out each time. Once cured, flip the boat onto its other edge and repeat for other seam.

Photo #10



After both sides have cured, scrape and sand down rough edges (**Photo #10**) and apply two more coats with a small brush and smooth with a section of roller. Remember to tip off to prevent bubbles forming. (**Photo #11**)

Note: if you added any extra layers of cloth to the keel area of the hull (see Fiberglassing Tips), you can scrape and sand down these areas as well and apply more layers of resin as you tape the outside seams.

Photo #11

