

Bowmar 10 x 10 Hatch rebuild:

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When I bought my boat, something told me the hatches needed some work. Maybe it was the duct tape, maybe it was the tarps, maybe the cracks, maybe the extra silicone on the outside.....but it was time to fix them.

I looked into buying new hatches, the least expensive I could find the hatches was \$350 for the small one, and around \$1100 for the large one. At this point I have rebuilt the small one and I am in the process of rebuilding the large one. The small one cost about \$110 to rebuild, so only about 30% savings; the real savings will occur when the large one gets rebuilt. The cost to rebuild should be about the same on the large one, as it was on the small one. Quick math says rebuilding will save about 80% over the cost of buying new ones.

The real benefits in rebuilding are that I am supporting local businesses and I have a clearer understanding of how the hatches operate and are assembled. I had the Lexan cut at Austin Industries in Melbourne Florida, <http://www.jwaustin.com>, and the Powder Coating at Precision Powder Coating also in Melbourne FL. <http://precisionpowdercoating.org>.

Before Pics:



Step 1:

Remove all screws holding hatch to the deck.



Step 2:

Scrape around existing caulk/silicone/butyl with edge of putty knife to break the seal between the hatch and the deck. I prefer the 6-in-one tool; it is great for this.

Step 3:

Go around entire frame with really thin, flexible putty knife. I like to start with the corner, then square the edge up with the frame. Tap in until you hear it hit the frame. Do this all the way around until it lifts up.





Step 4:

Carefully scrape deck removing all caulk/silicone/butyl with putty knife. Then I used a green brillo pad with simple green, and followed with bleach.



Step 5:

Then I taped the opening, and also installed a piece of plywood over it as I was unsure how long the process would take. We actually raced a few times with the plywood over the hatch.





Step 6:

Cut around lens between lexan/acrylic and the frame removing the caulk/silicone/butyl. Remove the lens with putty knife; it should pop out pretty easy if you have cut around breaking the seal. Scrape old caulk/silicone/butyl from hatch; this can be an arduous process and probably the most time consuming. Remember, prep should be about 70% of the job. I used scrapers, putty knives, and razor blades. Next I followed with simple green, which can help loosen the old sealant, then hosed off the frame. Repeat process until the frame is completely clean. Wipe with Acetone or alcohol. You can remove the screws holding the top of the hatch frame from the half that bolts to the deck and hinges if you desire. I did this and had the top half powder coated.

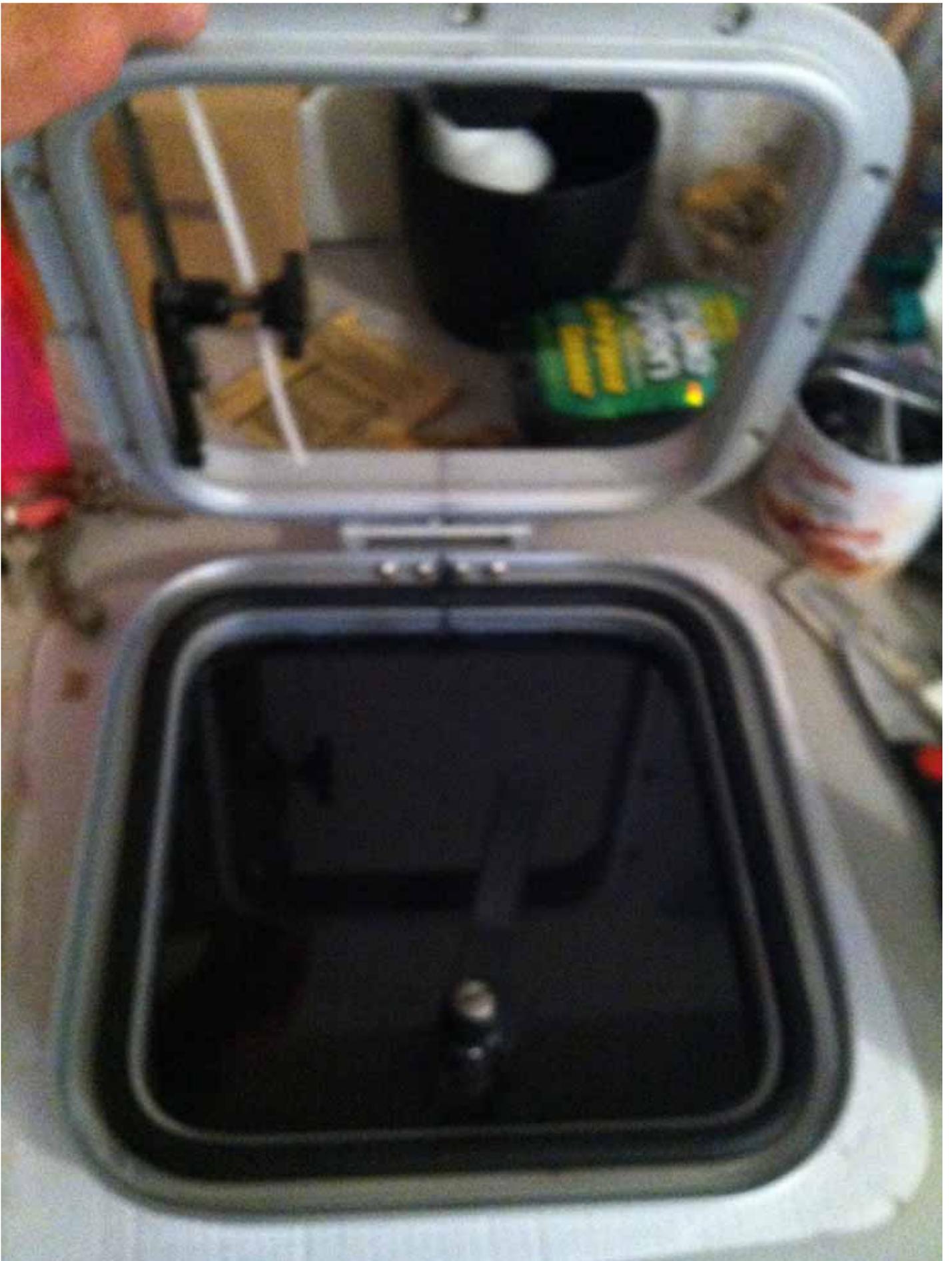


Step 7:

Glue in rubber gasket that seals hatch when closed, I bought this from Pompanette.

<http://www.pompanette.com/pomp.nsf/?Open>

They have the gasket material for Bomar hatches as well as handles, latches, silicone, etc. I used contact cement as per recommended.



Step 8:

Silicone lens into the frame. This is the toughest part to do and make look factory correct. Mine came out okay to most people's standards, but not great for my standards.



Step 9:

Line under side lip of frame with butyl tape. I bought this off one of the guys on the Catalina 30 Yahoo groups. I put two rows touching even though some guys say it is okay to leave a gap between the two rows as they will squeeze together and touch.

When installing hatch, slowly tighten the screws to apply even pressure to the butyl. After an hour in the sun snug up screws. After a day, check screws. One week later, check and snug screws again. Continue until you feel the hatch is completely snug, and butyl has compressed as it should. If any butyl oozes out beyond the hatch lip you can scrape it away with a putty knife being careful not to gouge the deck. No pics for this part, sorry.

Step 10:

Stand back and admire your work, preferably with a beer in hand.







