

Fitting PVC Fender

Best results have been found using 3M 5200 Fast Cure as the adhesive, but other Urethane Rubber adhesives, like SIKAFLEX will also work.

- The fast cure works well for us as its semi cured in about 8 hours so any excess is easily cleaned off next morning.
- Nothing really bonds very well to flexible PVC which is what the fender strip is made of. PVC exudes an oil which can cause the bond to fail over time. To aid in bonding the adhesion surface can be wiped clean with acetone.
- Also sand the gloss off the gelcoat along the hull's bonding surface. An angle grinder with a 36 or 40 grit disk works well.
- If applying a new fender strip to an old boat the 35grit disk will remove old urethane rubber adhesive.
- We have recently changed up to the next harder/less flexible PVC grade. Being less flexible it stretches less and resists actions which try to peel it off the hull, like when the gunwale rides up over a pontoon which catches the PVC strip and eventually breaks the bond.
- However being less flexible means it needs to be heated to apply it correctly. We sit a prepared coiled up length of strip on a piece of cardboard sitting on an oil heater in a very large cardboard box acting as a low temperature oven, though any blow heater or oven will work.
- Before heating we dummy fit the ends of the PVC and drill 3/16" holes through the PVC and gunwale edge so we are ready to quickly attach both ends while the PVC is still warm. We apply a tab of masking tape to one end of the strip, marked as port or starboard so we put it back on as it was drilled. We use 6-10 AA blind rivets to attach the strip. AA means they are all aluminium. 10 says they are long.
- 303W & B fender strip is 7000mm long.
- 2.3W, S & B fender strip is 5670mm long.

Fitting procedure

1. Prepare the bonding surfaces on both strip and hull.
2. Ensure the fender strip is cut to the correct length for the particular model. Dummy fit both ends, 75mm either side of centreline is good, drill 3/16" holes through fender and hull, don't pull rivets.

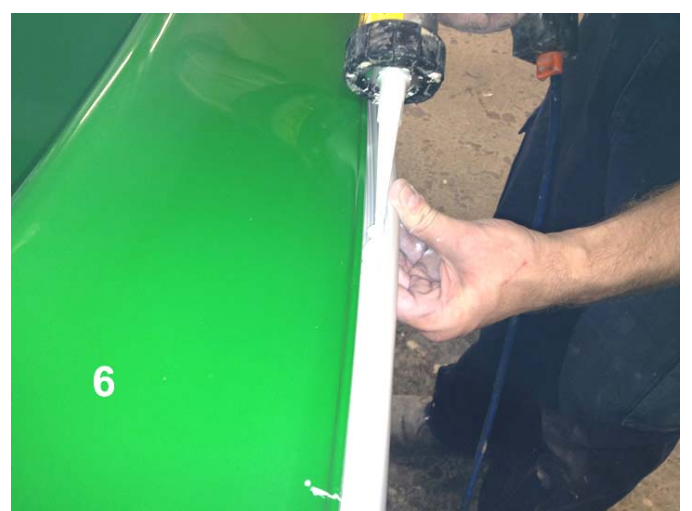


3. Remove, coil up and place in heating box for about 30 minutes till evenly pliable, which is around 60 degrees.
4. Fit both ends, ensure there are no twists, pull the rivets, if it's a refit maybe a washer is needed behind the rivets.

5. Fit around the quarters, stretch around the bow, press into place with the palm and wrist, add tags of masking tape here are there if it doesn't want to stay in place.



6. With the strip in place, roll it over to reveal the bonding surface, apply a bead of urethane rubber about the size of a standard pencil, to the centre of the strip, do about 1m, then stop and work the PVC into place with the palm and wrist, check how its spreading on both surfaces, if there is too much, it will ooze out each side, if its not in the centre it will ooze out either above or below. The optimum amount covers entire bonding surface, without oozing out which will need excessive cleaning.



7. Continue around the aft corner, apply masking tape to keep it in place, half way along the side apply tape, around the bow, continue on back to stern. Expect to use about 2/3rds of a cartridge for a 303W.



8. Clean off excess with acetone or turps and small rags. Better to cut and tear rags into small pieces and discard them, rather than a big rag which spreads the adhesive everywhere. After initial clean, particularly on the underside, press strip home again checking it is pushed onto the hull surface, that its correctly wrapped under the flange, then apply masking tape, wrapped underneath and taped onto the deck about every 150mm to keep it in place.

9. When cured, use a very dull blade to run along the strip edge to remove any excess. Be careful not to cut into the PVC. Use the very dull blade with a rag on it to protect the hull, the rag soaked in acetone to help remove any persistent adhesive.

10. When done, use a clean rag to apply acetone, followed quickly with a second clean rag to wipe off any smears.

