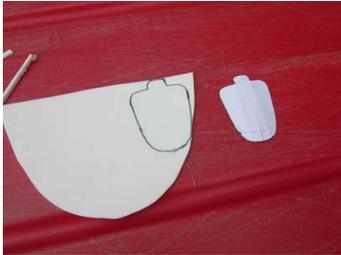




Drag Damage



Cut Patch



Too Hot to Hold



Heat with Gun



Finish with Spoon



Broken Seat Support



Plastic Welding Patch



Finished Repair

Repairing Damaged Kayak Hull Material

by Tom Holtey

The plastic welding links and videos below are applicable to all brands of kayaks made of high density liner polyethylene:

[Ocean Kayak welding information](#)

The plastic welding video below is the **ONLY** one on YouTube that Tom has identified as showing proper, or nearly proper, welding technique for cracks.

[Liquid Logic welding Video](#)

The links below will shed some light on the subject of a "hole" and "drag damage" repairs, but are not necessarily good technique:

[How to plastic weld a Polyethylene kayak](#)

This video is a very good example of drag damage repair, but the heating tool should be a hot air gun only.

[Repair of Agricultural Sprayer Tank](#)

This video is also good, but the patch material is wrong. Many small strips will lead to a poor repair. A single patch piece is best.

ALL other YouTube plastic kayak welding videos can be considered suspect, too difficult or are plain just wrong!

Additional Info:

Holes from dragging a kayak may 1st appear as a crack, but they are not, and will require a patch.

A [Plastic Welding Patch](#) from TopKayaker can be applied in a similar manner as shown in the "Agricultural Tank" and "How to Plastic Weld" videos. It is best to weld **ONE PIECE** rather than several small tiny strips.

Patches should be welded with [Plastic Welding Rod](#) all the way around the perimeter as a finishing touch to seal against any gaps.

A [Plastic Welding Patch](#) from TopKayaker will typically be enough material for the patch and to cut several strips as weld rod.

Do not expect colors to match! There will be an ugly scar anyway. You cannot make the kayak look "new".

We also sell [Plastic Welding Rod, 10 Pack](#), with enough weld sticks to do 50 inches or more (about 5 feet) of crack or about 100 hundred screw holes.

Filling drilled holes is very similar to welding a crack, but you do not have to scrape out a valley. Do however make sure that all foreign matter, sealant and such, is removed for the hull.

A scrapper or knife blade is useful for that.

Heat weld rod very hot to make slightly soft. Heat kayak at same time, but not a hot, just hot enough to be shinny. Insert into hole. Use a swirling motion, like stirring a cup of tea.

Fill hole and clip of rod with wire cutters. Tamp down with a cool metal spoon.

A hot air gun is the best possible tool use. It is versatile, easy to use and get as well as affordable.

A hot air gun with reduction nozzle and adjustable temperature, such as the Milwaukee in the Liquid Logic video, is best. (Just be sure the hot air gun and the reduction nozzle match!)

The Wagner Paint stripper Kit is a good hot air gun kit to get. The cost is affordable, about \$50, and it come with the scrapping tool in the Liquid Logic video.

© 1998 - 2011 Tom Holtey