



A No-Hole Transducer Installation

Holes through the bottoms of boats are always reasons for concern. Sometimes their numbers can be reduced by combining seawater plumbing systems. In fiberglass boats, the hole for the depth-sounder transducer can be eliminated by mounting the transducer in an internal, fluid-filled enclosure. This installation also prevents fouling of the transducer with marine growth.

Greg Delezynski from Powder Springs, GA, made his transducer enclosure out of 4-inch and 2-inch PVC pipe, with a cover of 1/4-inch acrylic. After removing all paint from the inside of the hull, he installed the large beveled pipe using silicone sealant as the adhesive. The pipe was filled with mineral oil, then the cap (with the transducer installed) was sealed into place also with silicone sealant. The total cost of the enclosure was less than \$12.

To assure the best possible adhesion of the sealant to the PVC or acrylic, sand the mating surfaces with coarse-grit paper. Make sure that the surfaces are dust and oil free before assembling parts. Let the assembly stand without movement for several days after fabrication.

If you have a unique idea that improves cruising comfort, efficiency, or safety, let your fellow sailors know by sending it to Bruce Bingham, *Cruising World*, 5940 9th Ave. South, Gulfport, FL 33707. We'll pay for the ideas we publish.