

Installing Flush Hatches without Toggles

Invisible Hatch Hold-Down Kit – by Fyne Boat Kits

This kit uses internal stainless steel hooks and shock cord to hold down your kayak hatches, with no hardware visible on deck. Perfect for strip-planked kayaks with flush hatches, when you don't want anything to spoil the seamless look of your elegant design.

This hold-down mechanism is entirely hidden from view. The only thing visible on deck will be the little grab-loop for opening the hatch.

The Invisible Hatch Hold-Down Kit includes the machined wooden parts, the shock cord (bungee cord) and the stainless steel hooks.

1. Begin by preparing four of the wooden blocks to go in the hull (set the other four aside for now). Drill an 8 mm (5/16") hole at either end of each block and round off the corners so that they won't snag gear once installed.

2. Before mixing epoxy, mark the area where the blocks will go and scuff up the surface for a good bond. These blocks will be under quite a bit of load.

The blocks should be centred fore and aft in the hatch and towards the bottom of the side panel so that the bungee will pull the hatch cover down.

Thicken some epoxy with wood flour or microfibres and slather it along the back of the blocks.



3. Here are the blocks ready to be installed, with holes for the shock cord and rounded corners.



4. In they go, one block on either side of the hatch. These are about one inch from the bottom of the side panel.



5. As long as the epoxy mixture is thick enough, the blocks will stay in place while the epoxy cures. If you don't think they'll stay put, secure them with masking tape.

Clean up any squeezed out epoxy before it cures.



6. Run a length of shock cord through the holes and tie simple overhand knots beneath the holes.

The tension can be adjusted by changing position of the knots. It will take some experimentation to get the right tension.



7. The other four blocks will go underneath the hatch covers – two per hatch – running longitudinally. We'll screw the eyehooks into these.



8. One stainless eyehook in the centre of each block works perfectly.

To hook the bungees, just hinge the hatch open with one hand and pull the bungees onto the hooks.



9. You'll need some sort of grab-loop; we put a loop of line through two epoxy reinforced holes in the hatch. As usual, drill oversized holes, fill with thickened epoxy and then drill the correct size.

