

Dinged your 29er Centerboard? Here's the frugal Sailor's Repair

One of the occupational hazards of sailing, especially in unfamiliar places is the occasional grounding. Fortunately on a 29er many dings are repairable with little more than a hammer and filler.

This HowTo started with a frantic request for a used centerboard to solve the problem below. Needless to say, the board did not fit the slot too well.



Unless you aspire to World Champion, such problems are relatively easy to fix, providing that the joint between the aluminium extrusions is not damaged or leaking.

Here's how to do it. The photos are drawn from two different repairs.

- Cut out the rubbery end plug (below it you will find urethane foam) about 1" down



- Reshape the aluminum so that nothing projects where it shouldn't (use hammer and pliers)
- Wash and dry out the centerboard if it has been in salt water and remove any corrosion buildup on the inside of the board
- For minimum weight, fill most of the gap with expanding urethane foam to minimize weight up to about $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the top (you will need to overfill, then gouge out the excess)
- Make a packing tape dam around the end so that when the resin is poured in, it will stick out $\frac{1}{2}$ " (epoxy doesn't stick to mylar packing tape)



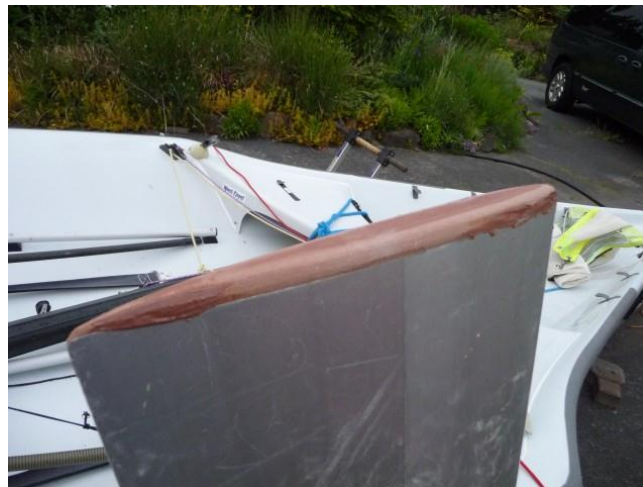
- With board vertical and tip pointing up, pour in epoxy resin that has padded with low density fairing filler (aka microballoons)



- Use a few pins to keep the packing tape in place whilst it dries



- When dry, reshape the protruding resin tip with a file and sandpaper and fill in any recesses



Hope this helps!
-Oliver Scutt