

SYNTHO-GLOSS®

EXHAUST REPAIR



"It sure saved the day for us!"
~ Rick Van Mell,
Vanishing Animal

Problem

I checked the freshwater cooling water reservoir, only to find it low, so I filled it up with water and antifreeze. I was concerned that it was low and wondered if there was a leak. I started the engine and crawled in to look at the aft end of the engine and the heat exchanger. Though rusty in spots, it appeared to be dry. I put my hand in to feel around for leaks and my hand was hit by a blast of hot air coming from a small area of about 1/16th inch pinholes on the inside of the main exhaust pipe.

Conditions

Our daughter and grandchildren were arriving from Argentina in 3 days and we planned to include the boat in our activities; a trip to the boatyard wasn't going to fit. Digging through my on-board repair supplies, I found a package of Syntho-Glass® instant repair resin coated cloth. It said it was water activated and sets "rock hard" in minutes. It also said, "Due to the high temperature resistance of Syntho-Glass, it is an excellent repair for exhaust systems, etc." It sounded like it would work, and I sure didn't like the alternatives.

Solution

The 2" x 5' (5.08cm x 1.5m) strip of impregnated fiberglass cloth came with a pair of gloves and the simple instructions to clean and sand the area to be repaired, put on gloves and soak the strip in water for 20 seconds, and quickly apply the glass to the area, smoothing and working it until it sets up and loses its initial tackiness. It said it would be fully hardened in approximately 30 minutes. It seemed almost too simple to apply, but it went on easily, though I was concerned that I couldn't pull it totally tight around the pipe because of the overflow nozzle opposite the holes. I left it to harden overnight and returned the next day to give it a try. As the engine heated up and water circulated into the exhaust system, a few bubbles popped up between the top two wraps of glass where there was only one layer. But, in about 15 minutes, and with a little massaging, the combination of water, heat and pressure sealed off even this little leak.

Result

The following week we all got aboard and spent four hours under power showing the grandchildren the San Francisco Bay shoreline. Where there were several layers of glass, the surface remained white, and where there was only one or two, the glass appears scorched, but doesn't leak. It sure saved the day for us! ~ Rick Van Mell

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