

COMPOSITE ENGINEERING

26 Taber Lane, Westport MA 02790

Phone 508-788-4466 - e-mail vdrbcs@gmail.com

Instructions for Mounting Footboard, Stretcher Fittings, & Tiller Thwart in K-1's

Level the boat both fore and aft and athwart ships. Use a small level to check the level of the footboard and tiller thwart while dry fitting these parts.

Fit the ball lock pins in the footboard end channels and slip in the stretcher fittings with equal amounts hanging out in the front and back. Find two thin rubber bands long enough to fit over both stretcher fittings and use them to hold the stretcher fittings into the channels. The stretcher fittings should be precut so they will hold the footboard level both ways when placed in the boat. The men's boats should have the lower edge of the slot for the tiller about 6 ½" above the bottom of the boat. Women's boats are usually set up the slot 6 to 6 ¼" above the bottom. Men's boats are usually set up with the aft end of the stretcher fittings 39 ¼" forward from the inside aft edge of the cockpit coaming. Women's boats may be setup an inch or two closer if desired.

Make sure that the surfaces to be bonded are clean and then abrade with 40 grit sandpaper to remove any gloss or irregular surfaces. Fit the footboard and stretcher fittings in the desired location and mark the outline where the bonds will be located to assist positioning the footboard. Mix up some thickened epoxy and coat the area of the stretcher fitting to be bonded with resin about a millimeter or 1/16" thick. Be careful to keep away from the footboard ends. If concerned about this cover the channels and where they rest on the stretcher fittings with paste wax. Carefully move the stretcher fitting and footboard assembly with elastic bands into the hull a little higher than their final position and lower into place. Check that the footboard is level, wipe up any resin that has squeezed out that you can reach with a paper towel and wait for the epoxy to cure. Check that the footboard slides easily and scrape or sand off any excess cured resin.

It is easiest to install the thwart that holds the tiller and crossbar with the footboard in place to support the tiller. Assemble the tiller to the thwart with a ¼" bolt and Nylock nut with nylon spacer washers above and below the tiller assembly. The ends of the thwart should be tapered and beveled so that when the aft edge of the thwart is 14 ½" forward of the aft edge of the stretcher fittings, level across the boat, and the tiller is level fore and aft when propped up to the middle of the slot in the footboard. Scuff the hull where the thwart will be bonded as above and mark the outline. Remove the footboard, coat the ends of the thwart with epoxy, move into place in the hull, install the footboard, and prop up the tiller to the center of the slot. After the epoxy has cured, adjust the nut holding the tiller so that the tiller moves easily, but not loose, and install the steering lines.