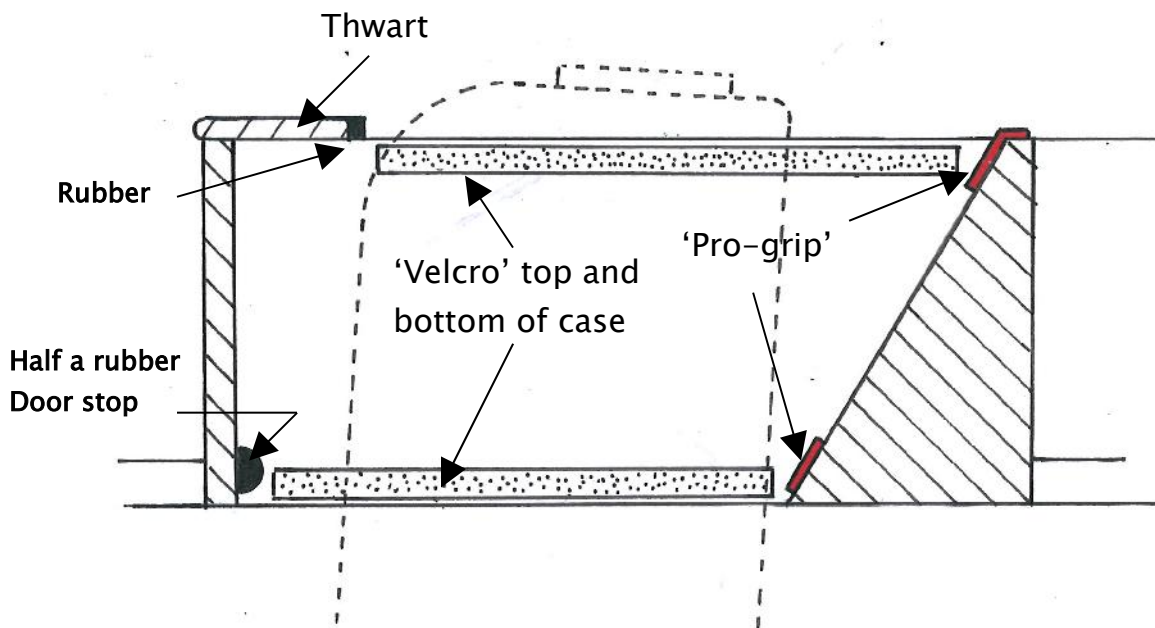


Dagger-board and Dagger-board case protection.

March 2009

It has been a problem for Streaker sailors for many years, being able to keep the dagger-board in anything like a decent racing condition. The construction of the dagger-board case being manufactured of either wood or GRP/FRP combined with a dagger-board of similar hard materials. Chances are that the dagger-board leading and trailing edges become damaged no matter how careful you are. Scratches start to appear on the sides of the foil as well.

One of the good things of being involved in other classes is that you meet people who have experienced similar problems. Whilst my son Tom sailed in the 420 class we had a situation where the new foils did not fit securely inside the centre-board case. Tom's crews farther had experienced such a problem in the Cadet class, with the Cadet dagger-board. He resolved the issue using 'Velcro'.



Section through Dagger-board Case.

Some of you may have seen the dagger-board case in both the wood boat built by my Farther and in Tom's Rooster boat, we have lined the top and bottom edges of the plate case with 'Velcro'. The 'Velcro' is available from diy stores, B&Q and the like off the roll in sticky back form for easy application. In our board cases we have used the soft 'Velcro' (loops) but in the 420 used the hard 'Velcro' (hooks) due to the very hard finish to the board. The soft 'Velcro' though can be trimmed/shaved using a Stanley knife blade in one of those holders you can get to scrap paint off windows. This enables you to fit your dagger-board to your boat. Be **WARNED** though that if you already have a

Rooster boat and fancy the 'Velcro' in the board slot, you will not be able to use the current Rooster dagger-board. Tom has a wooden manufactured dagger-board which is 21 mm finished thickness. Same goes for some wood constructed boats, you have to allow for the thickness of the 'Velcro' which, may mean you have to purchase a thinner dagger-board to the one you have. If you get the fit correct you don't need to use any other dagger-board retaining device so covering the addition of 'Velcro' to your boat as a dagger-board retaining device.

The leading edge we protect in the board case by sticking 'pro-grip' at the top and bottom of the case. Pro-grip is the material which is used on the sides of trapeze boats for the crew to stand on. It is available in sheets which again can be sticky back but I prefer to stick into the case using 'Evo-stik', any of the good marine stores have pro-grip, P&B, Speeds etc. It does not last for ever so needs replacing from time to time.

The trailing edge is protected at the bottom back edge using a piece of rubber (a door stop cut in half) stuck again with 'Evo-stik' in a position so that the trailing edge of the board will never touch the board case or boat. It may even give you a bit of a chance if you inadvertently run aground.

The trailing edge can be protected against the thwart at the top of the board case again by gluing pieces of rubber in place.

When ever you are gluing or sticking 'Velcro', rubber or 'Pro-grip' in place make sure to clean the surfaces with a cleaning fluid like 'Acetone' just to make sure things stay put.

Alan Gillard

'Always tacking on the lifts'

