

REPLACEMENT of J105 MAIN SHEET TRAVELER CAR BEARINGS

When your main sheet traveler car moves with great difficulty and/or you notice small plastic balls on the deck it is time to replace the end caps and bearings in the main sheet car. What has happen is a piece of an end cap has broken off on the underside of the car. This is a result of the end cap and the stop cap hitting together after a spectacular jib.

The whole job is not difficult and can be done in about an hour; however, getting the parts can take some time.

Parts can be gotten from most marine supply companies. Neither APS or West Marine had in the store but where glad to order them. Fawcett's had all three items in stock.

First, you need new end caps. The Harken part number is HMR 3. There are two end caps to a pack and you get for 4 replacement screws and tube of blue loctite.

There are two methods to replace the bearing. Chris Groobey recommended the easier method and one I wish I had used. This method is where you remove the rest of the bearing from the race on bottom of car. The car will then come easily off the track without removing the track. Take off both old end caps and replace one with a new end cap and put car back on track and then replace the bearings and then put on other new end cap while on the traveler track. Recommend using shaving cream to hold bearings in place till second end cap is on.

The second method is where the traveler track is taken off so the car can be taken off the end of the track. There are only six 7/16" bolt/washer/nuts holding the traveler track on. I needed an impact wrench to get two of the bolts off the stop caps. The stop caps perform at least two functions: Stops the car from coming off the traveler track and shock absorber which the end caps hit during a jib. Some J105s seem to have used a stronger glue than others. Carl Gitchell used a car jack and he recommends putting a board under jack

to spread out the load. I used couple screw drivers and whole exercise only took about 10 minutes.

If you use the second method, you will need an additional item. The Harken HMR2 loader (\$7) which is a blue plastic insert that functions as the traveler track and makes loading the bearing very easy. The Harken Technical Representative (262-691-3320) seemed to think that J105 has either a 4.5 inch or 5.5 inch bearing race on the bottom of car. The 4.5 inch should be loaded with exactly 48 bearings and the 5.5 inch with exactly 60 bearings. There is room for more bearings so be sure to count them.

Finally, you will need more bearings. Harken recommends replacing all the bearing with NEW(big surprise) bearings which are 5/16" bearing and cost around \$18.30 for a pack of 25. The bearings are under Harken part number HAR 1526 and called Torlon Replacement Balls, 5/16". Believe that you will need 60 bearings as I looked at couple other J105s and all had the same 5.5 inch bearing race.

Loading the bearing with the loader could not be easier and takes only couple minutes. There are instructions for using the loader in the bearing packet but is not needed. Once the bearing are loaded and the car is back on the track all you have to do is put the stop caps back on traveler track and reseal the track to deck. I used 3M 4000 Quick but probably an overkill.

I found taking off the traveler track very easy; however, if I had to do it again, I would try the first method (leaving car on track) as should be much quicker and easier.

If you need to replace bearings glad to help and have a loader if you decide to use second method, just give me a call. Guy Ballou, Dark Star