

## Securing the Mast Chocks

A number of owners have reported problems with getting the mast chocks to stay in position. Usually after a bumpy day on the water one or more are found lying on the floor.

One well advertised solution is Spartite, which results in a nice solution but doesn't encourage fine tuning the mast position. Installation requires some skill to do properly.

A more flexible solution is to use shim wedges like the ones used to square up windows and doors in construction. These wedges are made from moisture resistant wood and are available at any construction supply store and are inexpensive.

The wedges are tapped into position from below until the mast is in the desired position. Put one wedge on each side of the mast unless it is flush against the partners. A knife is used to score the wedges along the edge of the cabin top, after which they can be snapped off. A little trimming leaves a clean finish.

Next use some expanding foam to fill the remaining area and glue the wedges in place. A common brand is "Great Stuff" but there are others. This material is polyurethane glue and sticks very well. It also seals the partners against moisture. The foam will squeeze out of every crack as it expands and cures. The foams are available in various expansion characteristics. The foam products with lower expansion result in the densest end product. After the foam has cured, use a knife to trim it flush.

The foam has no structural capabilities but does provide the glue and the seal. It will eliminate problems with the chocks dropping out. The mast position can be easily changed in the future by prying out the wedges and repeating the process.