

Material list

- Replacement fin
- Silicone (must not be latex based)
- Masking tape
- Utility knife
- 12" Level
- 4' Level

Preparing the fin slot

Using your utility knife, carefully clean out the old silicone from the slot. A clean fin slot is critical so take your time. Once clean, inspect the slot for damage (if your fin was traumatically removed). Once clean, you can test fit your new fin to make sure it fits the slot correctly before you continue to the next step.

Leveling the boat

After supporting your shell hull side up in sturdy slings, position a level across the rigger mount area. This is somewhat tricky as you will have to read the level upside down while being careful to hold it against the boat. Adjust the boat in the slings until it is level (from side to side only). See picture 1

Getting ready for the silicone

Once you have a level boat and a clean fin slot you are ready to put the fin in. Before you start with the silicone, we recommend you tape along the edge of the fin slot (picture 2) as well as along the fin (picture 4). When the fin is in the boat you should see only about a 1/8" of aluminum showing and an 1/8" of hull showing. This will allow you to make a nice clean fillet of silicone with very little effort.

Inserting the fin

Now is the moment you have been waiting for, time to use the silicone. Before you start, make sure the silicone is going to flow properly from the gun or tube by checking the tip for any old hard silicone that may interrupt the flow once you start. Apply silicone to the fin slot slowly allowing it to flow to the bottom of the slot. Your goal should be to completely fill the slot (picture 3). Immediately after (before the silicone gels), insert the fin carefully into the slot and press it firmly to the bottom of the slot. Using your finger carefully and evenly wipe the silicone leaving only a nice bead along the fin/hull insertion point. Carefully remove the tape from the hull, but leave the tape on the fin until it dries. Removing the tape from the fin may cause the fin to move ruining your nice fillet bead.

