

Topside Painting:
Lessons Learned in Painting *Stargazer*

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The Problem

- Original Problem:
 - The varnish on the Stargazer's coaming (seat back boards) was in need of a refresh



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The Solution

- I removed the coaming boards and took them home
 - Spent ~2 hours each, sanding off the old varnish
 - Started varnishing
 - Goal: 7 coats on front, 5 on back
 - 1 coat per day
- Then I thought about the wheel ...

The Wheel

- Over the years, the wheel had gone to a “natural teak” look



The Wheel

- I brought the wheel home and fashioned a spin jig on one of my home shop machines



My Varnishing Factory

- I also brought my hatch boards, so I could varnish everything at the same time



The Opportunity

- My cockpit paint was wearing down, and the wood behind the depthfinder had become squishy (rotten)
 - No better time to repaint the cockpit than with the coaming off and wheel at home

Big Problem

- I didn't know how to properly paint a boat
- The solution: YouTube!



Pettit Paint - Rolling and Tipping EZ Poxo Boat Topside Paint is EZ!

135K views · 1 year ago

Pettit Paint

Rolling and tipping topside paint is a common method used in marine applications for applying paint to the upper hull and deck ...



How To Paint Your Fiberglass Boat's | PowerBoat TV DIY

378K views · 10 years ago

PowerBoat Television

Boat expert Mike Gridley shows you how to get the colour back in your gel coat with a painting project. He also shows how to ...

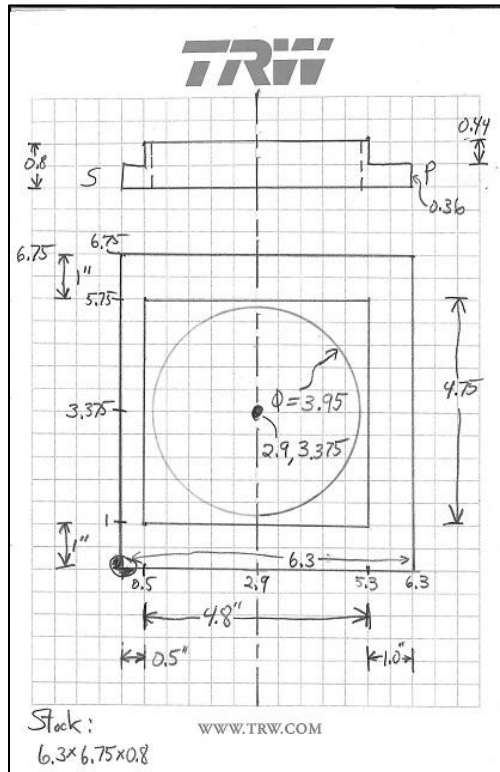
11 moments · 3:48 applying the paint in a horizontal motion

How To Paint a Boat

1. Clean and sand the surface to be painted
2. Vacuum up all the dust
3. Rub it all down with acetone to get it all
4. Apply masking tape
5. Roll on Primer (I used Petit EZ Poxy Primer)
 - Use a 4” roller, short nap
 - After each small area, even it out with a foam brush
6. Sand lightly between coats
7. Roll on two coats of topcoat (Petit EZ Poxy)

Another problem

- Remember that squishy depthfinder backing?
 - The depthfinder is round, but the hole in the fiberglass was square! Had to build a new backing.



After 50-60 hours of my labor:



... And I was exhausted. But the white paint needed non-skid,
and now the rest of the boat looked bad in comparison.
What to do?

The Epiphany: I Could Rally My Sailing Friends!



Carl

Ron

Philip

Frances

Sanding



Masking

Ron



Painting the White Coats



1 coat of Pettit EZPrime –
Very hard to stir



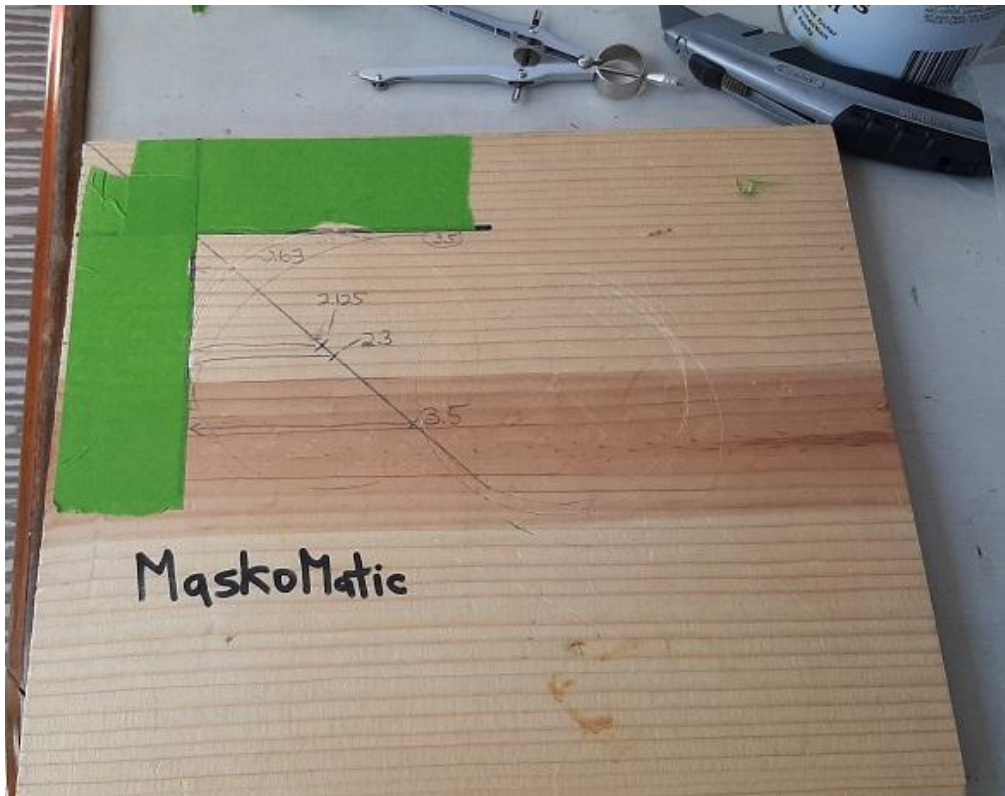
2 coats of EZPoxy –
One-part, just like regular paint

Result: The Great White Boat

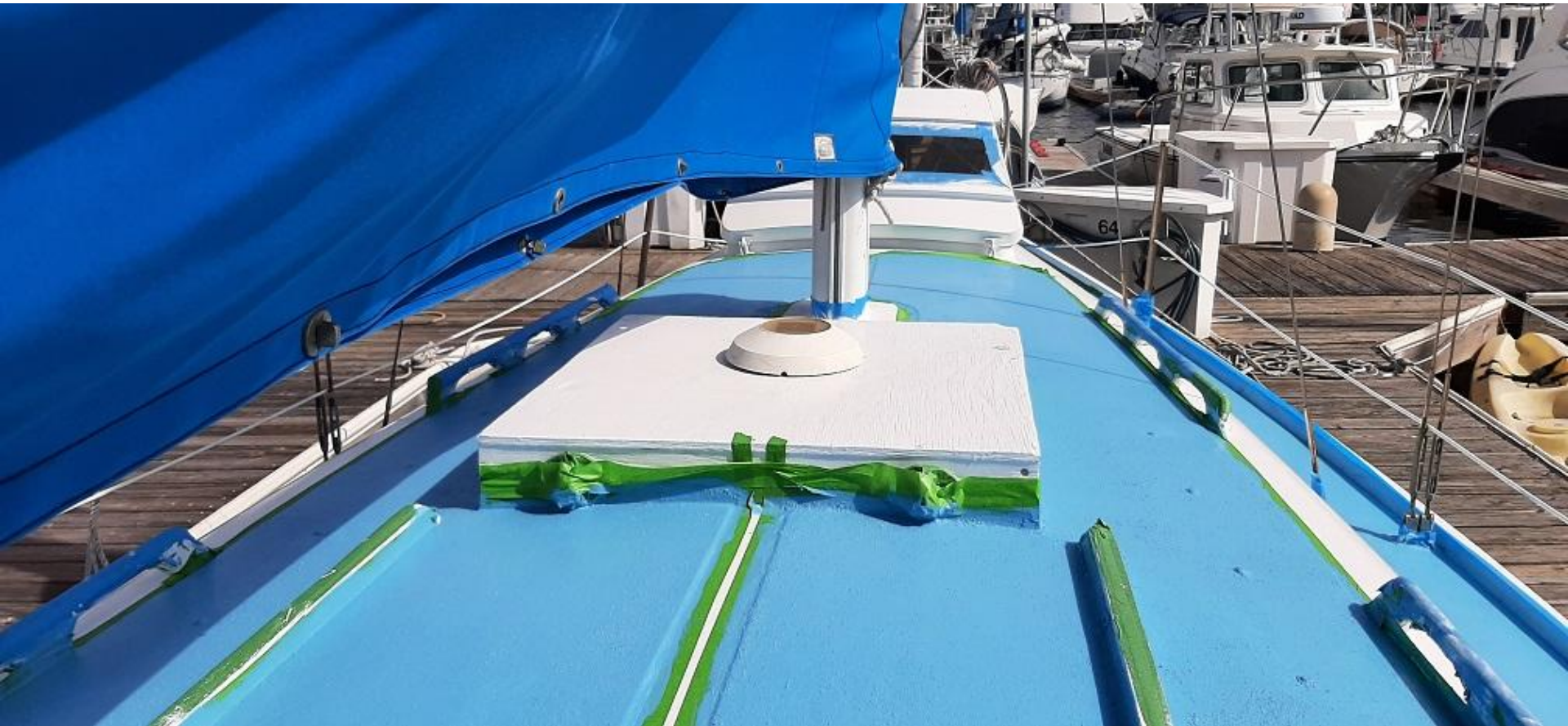


Next Step: Masking For Blue Non-Skid

- Slight Problem: Most of the Blue areas have rounded edges – How to mask them round?



And Two Coats of Blue Non-Skid



10 man-hours of Unmasking & Acetone Scrubbing for Stickiness



Sarah

The green tape left a very sticky residue on the stainless steel

The Final Result



The Cost

- 100 hours of my labor
- 50 hours of 13 friends' labor
- \$800 in paint and supplies

- The blue parts have 5 layers of paint
 - Should last 10+ years
- The wood has 5-7 layers of varnish
 - Will need minor refresh in 2 years

Materials

- Buy quality paint (primer; base color; non-skid)
- Other things you'll need:
 - 6-10 rolls of Blue painter's tape
 - Avoid the green Frog Tape – very sticky on cleanup
 - Multiple boxes of nitrile gloves
 - Dozens of 4" disposable rollers and trays; foam brushes
 - Electric sanders, sandpaper, extension cords
 - A paint stirring attachment for a drill; plus stir sticks
 - 1/2 gallon of acetone for prep & final cleanup

Lessons Learned

- Watch YouTube videos first
- Gather an army of friends from the start
 - Mine were eager to help
 - Organize them into teams of up to 4-5
 - Different teams will work different times/days (you will need to come up with a schedule)
 - Sanding/Cleaning
 - Masking
 - Primer Painting
 - Base-color Painting
 - Non-skid Masking
 - Non-skid Painting
 - Demasking & Cleanup

More Lessons Learned

- If varnishing is involved, complete it first and let it set
 - The blue tape will come off it nicely after painting
- Wear sacrificial clothing – you *will* get paint on it
- Mask more thoroughly than you think you need to (e.g., extend the masking farther from the paint area)
 - It will save you time in the end, and will make the painting easier and less stressful
- Acetone can fix minor mistakes within a few hours of painting
- You may have to get creative with the dock lines to paint near the cleats
- Make a plan to get off the boat when the paint is still wet
- Take pictures of the process, including of all your volunteers

Would I Go Through All That Again?

Probably. It saved me at least \$5000.

I started solo this time and overworked myself.
Next time, I would recruit my friends from the start.

