

Fitting the VETUS Vinyl Rubbing Strakes

Preparation

As both the under-profile and insert of the rubbing strakes have often been rolled up for a long period and the material hardens somewhat after extrusion, it is difficult to work with straight from the roll.

However, this can be resolved quite easily.

Saw the required length plus a bit extra from the under-profile and heat it to a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees C (140 to 160 degrees F) in order to straighten the profile.

Immerse the profile in hot water for about 20 minutes. Take it out and immediately straighten all bends to obtain a straight profile (wear gloves when doing this).

Or, you can use a hot-air paint stripper. Heat about a metre at a time and then straighten it. Work along the whole length in this way.

Even after cooling, the under-profile will remain flexible for some time, and thus easier to work with.

Fitting the Rubbing Strake

Now fit the under-profile to the ship.

Use bolts or screws for this, about 20 to 30 cm. between centres.

To prevent the strake sagging **between** the screws or bolts, take one of the following measures:

- Apply a sealant between the ship's hulls and the profile (e.g. silicon sealant).
- Fit a 2 mm ($\frac{1}{16}$ ") thick aluminium strip that fits in the groove of the under-profile.

For bends, heat the under-profile up again with the hot air paint stripper and bend the strake round the bend **without stretching**.

The minimum bend radius for large profiles is 30 mm ($1\frac{1}{4}$ "), and for smaller profiles 20 mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ ").

Continue in this way around the ship, and cut the strake to the right length only when completed.

Fitting the Insert

Again, heat the insert strip to about 60 to 70 degrees C (140 to 160 degrees F) by immersing in hot water as described for the under-profile. Or heat it bit-by-bit with a hot-air paint stripper as you fit it along the under profile. Stagger joints in under-profile and insert by at least 1 metre (3 ft).

It is easiest to work the insert when it is warm. Press the insert together and slide it into the under profile.

NEVER cut the ends of the insert to size immediately after fitting. During assembly, the insert will always stretch and will recover slowly after fitting.

So allow the ends to protrude at least 20 cm (8") and trim to size only after 3 or 4 days.

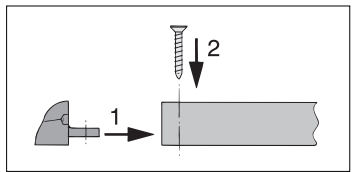
Glue the ends of the insert together with PVC glue to ensure that the joint will not open.

Glue the ends of the under-profile together for the same reason.

PVC Rubbing Strakes never leave black or coloured stripes behind on other ships or objects.

Fitting the End Plates

For **HARO**, **TRAP** and **POLY** type strakes:



Saw the strake at right-angles and slide in the end plate and screw it down with the last screw on the under-profile.