

CHAPTER 18 : SHOWER SHELVES

There is a "shelf" above and below the 323 shower seat. I say "shelf" since they are worthless when underway. At the boat show they hold nice pictures and flowers, but underway- forget it. All it takes is some teak (or whatever material) battens across the shelf and something to secure them to the sidewalls. The sidewalls are angled both front-to-back AND top-to-bottom. For the upper shelf I used teak wood cleats to through-bolt the battens in place. Before I got to the lower one I noticed the battens do flex a little. So, on the lower one I used a hinge to secure to the side walls to allow movement of the batten AND sidewalls if the boat flexes. I put one bolt through the batten first, then one screw into the sidewall, then added a second to each side of the hinge.

The absolute cheapest way to do the shelf retainers would be to just use a pole or rod of any type that you can scrounge up from scrap. If you can get a few pieces of old rod rigging would be nice, or a wooden pole or a stainless tube. Put a pin in the end of a wooden pole to secure the left end, or drill a pole-size hole in the left sidewall just through the fiberglass- enough for a socket to receive the pole/rod. (I recall there is a slight air pocket before you start drilling the wood on the nav wall.) On the vanity side you can drill all the way through. Put a stop nut (like from a lifeline stop nut) on a rod, or just a screw into a wood pole, or a set screw in SS, to keep it from moving to the right.

You'll notice in the picture that still has the seat in place that the lower switch (for the sump) is missing. In the process of all this work I moved it up to just below the fan. I got tired of people turning on that sump switch- thinking it was the light.

It is a lot easier to move the wires if you take out the mirrored cabinet, which may not be so easy- depending on how they installed your AC outlet/box. In marinas I use a night light in the AC outlet, but it does not do much good inside the med cabinet even if the door is open a little. I moved the AC outlet to the aft side of the fiberglass enclosure, which does double-duty by facilitating eventually putting a microwave in the upper portion of the wet locker. You have to pull the AC cable back to the breaker panel then poke it back through the bulkhead, but up by the bulkhead opening, below the toe rail.

You'll notice in the "after" picture that there is something between the two battens on the wall shelf. They are eye bolts to put a bungee to put around the trash can when it sits up on the shower seat. I will try a length of small rope that can just stay in place when not used.

With the medicine cabinet out you can see there is a lot of room for storage behind the walls. Hmmm makes me think about moving the med cabinet to above the shower seat and putting some other door arrangement so you can access all that wasted space??? That wall looks like wasted space, but for me, I see there is not room for it since I put two battens above the shelf. Alternatively, you could get a second med cabinet from Beneteau and put it there.

Lastly, having placed the shelf-retainer battens, I looked at the shelves in the vee and quarter cabins. Some horizontal rail arrangement would help retain the bigger items on the shelves in a seaway. But that's another chapter. One project always leads to another it seems.

The teak soap holder was from Boater's World. It has a nice compass rose on each side.
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