

## Making New Centerboard Trunk Braces

If you have a pre-6000 series Lido 14 then you have something like these braces between the front of the seats and the CB trunk. If you're lucky you have one of the nifty aluminum tube kits from Doublewave or Gresham marine. When I bought my #4633 it had the setup like the one in this photo. The angle brackets were splitting at the bend and the screws were coming out of the wood. I made a custom varnished wood set for my Lido and will do the same for this boat, #5120.



1

## What you will need:

Select some hardwood like oak, ash, maple, or mahogany. You'll only need about 3 ft. and will end up with a 1" x 1" thick brace, so if you begin with a piece slightly oversized that would be perfect. In this boat I'm using some Kaya left over from another project.

Rip the piece lengthwise into two halves. Mark the direction of the grain so you can reverse the orientation when you glue it up. This will give it some added strength.



2

## Get out your clamp collection!

- If you chose a solid piece of hardwood and reverse the grain direction it should be strong enough for its purpose. Just some regular wood glue is very strong. The kaya wood I used is not as stout as oak or ash, so I sandwiched a piece of 4 oz fiberglass cloth in between and used West System epoxy. I think this is overkill, but since I have it laying around I'm using it.
- Again: If you use a good hardwood and glue it with reversed grain orientation it should be strong enough.



3

After the glue or epoxy has fully cured, you'll need to clean up the wood. I cut off the fiberglass, scraped off the excess epoxy, and then ran the piece through the table saw to get a 1" square. The piece of wood I used was 40" long and I just cut it down to the finished length (18 inches each) when I was done with the prep. You could easily do this with two shorter pieces if you only have 18" pieces of wood lying around.

You might want to round over the sharp edges and sand it smooth.



4

The next step is to make some stainless-steel dowels. Instead of using an angle bracket to attach the brace to the centerboard trunk, I attached it with these dowels. I made my dowels by cutting them from some old 5/16" stainless hex bolts I had. I made my dowels 1.5 inches long. One inch will be plugged into the end of my brace and a half inch will be plugged into the wood on the centerboard trunk.



5

## Now it gets a little tricky...

After you cut your two braces to length (In my case I had one long piece of wood I cut down. You may already have two pieces) you will need to drill a very straight hole. If you have a drill press you can drill a hole into a scrap of wood and then use that as a guide. They also sell a lot of inexpensive tools to accomplish the same thing. The key is to drill a straight hole 1" deep into one end of each piece of glued-up wood.



6

## One of these things is not like the other...

Now you have a decision to make. I'm sure you have already noticed that the Lido 14 is symmetry challenged. The starboard seat and the port seat are different lengths. This means that if you attach your braces to the front of the seats and see where they land on the CB trunk, they are not lined up with each other. Many people make a notch in the port side (red arrow) to accommodate the difference because they want the two braces to be perfectly aligned at the CB trunk. That is how this boat was set up. You can either notch one of your braces at the port seat so they line up at the CB trunk, or let them land where they land. I chose to let them land where they land because I think the notch makes a weak spot in the brace.

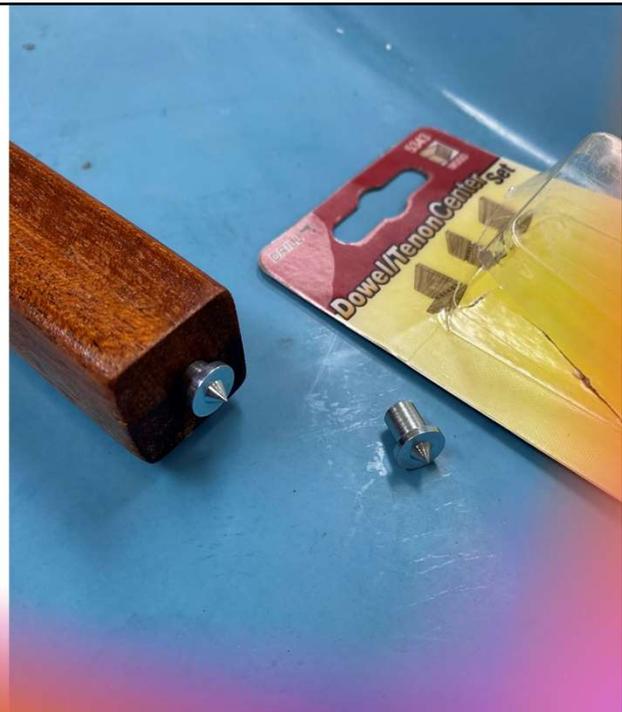


7

## Drilling the holes in the CB Trunk Cheeks

If you hold the new braces up against the seat forward surface you will see where they will land. However, it is difficult to determine exactly where the hole will go. You could just stick the stainless dowel you made into the hole and press hard enough to leave a mark or rub pencil lead on it to leave a mark. I used these dowel centering pins to press into the CB trunk. Then drill the hole a 1/2" deep. Use a pre-drilled block of wood or a "drill straight" jig (mentioned earlier) to keep it straight.

You'll also need to drill a couple holes at the other end to attach the braces to the seat fronts. I did this before varnishing.



8

I pre-coated the braces with several coats of varnish. Make sure to get some in the dowel hole. While the varnish was wet I set the stainless dowels into the holes. Its possible that when the varnish dries the hole would become tighter and the dowel might not fit. Before screwing into the seat tank front I plugged the old holes with thickened epoxy and drilled new ones to match the holes I drilled into my new braces. I also leveled the boat and then leveled the braces before drilling the new holes into the tank.



9

## Fini!

You can see in the photo that having the braces land where they want on the CB trunk, rather than notching the port side around the seat, really doesn't make a big difference. For this particular boat, when I attached the port brace to the seat I discovered that the wood backing inside the seat was a black, rotten, sponge. A new problem to solve. I'll write up how I put in a new wood backing in another "how to" document. This will also give me a chance to fix the big crack in the port seat that somebody smeared some beige goo onto at some point.

\*I fixed up the CB trunk cheeks while I was doing this. I documented that in another "how-to".



10