



Removing the Rub Rail

- I need to paint the hull on #5120. To do a clean paint job, it would be best to remove the rub rail. Considering they are nearly falling off some boats and require the addition of screws to hold them on, I was surprised how difficult it is to remove. Reverse barbs molded into the rail keep it tight on to the boat flange. On this boat, it appears that someone used Liquid Nails to hold it on in spots.

1



Time to build a simple tool.

I began pulling the rub rail off the boat and quickly discovered that I was going to break the rubber rail by doing so. After a few iterations, this is the tool that worked the best.

Find some scrap wood that is around 18" long and wider than the rub rail. This scrap piece left over from another project is 2 3/4" wide. Cut an angle at about 10:1 rake.

2



Add a slot.

Then add a slot up the center of your tool that is wide enough to accommodate the flange on the boat where the hull and deck meet.

On my first iteration of this tool, the board was not wide enough. This caused the board to jam up into the back of the rub rail rather than lift it off. I also had the center groove too wide, which caused the tool to wander too much.

3



Easy

It took longer to make the tool than it did to remove the rub rail. You can see in the photo where I began to encounter some blobs of Liquid Nails on the starboard side. Once I got this started, I had both rails off the boat in about 6 minutes. Before that, I spent about 20 minutes trying to remove it without the tool.

Now I can repair fiberglass and paint it without damaging the valuable rub rail.

4