

Fin Installation and Removal

Installation

The slot that the fin goes into is designed with an undercut at both ends that matches with the corresponding end of the fin. This undercut holds the fin in place and prevents the fin from moving vertically in the slot once installed.

It is recommended that you use silicone caulk to secure the fin in place during operation. Without the caulk, the fin could fall out while rowing or during transportation. Before applying caulk, you should mask the area around the slot to catch any excess. Then put a line of caulk down the middle of the slot, as shown below.



The fin slot is watertight even without the caulk, so there is no reason to use too much. The amount of caulk applied in the picture is about the maximum amount of caulk that you should apply. You want to avoid forcing caulk into the undercuts at the ends of the slot. Getting caulk in the bow undercut is especially undesirable because this will make removing the fin very difficult.

Use the picture at the top of the next page to help you orient the fin correctly when installing it. Once you have the caulk applied, you can begin installing the fin. Start by inserting the bow end of the fin at an angle into the undercut in the bow end of the slot. Once the point of the fin is entirely in the undercut, press the remainder of the fin down into the slot. While pressing down try to avoid letting any caulk seep to the bow end of the slot.



With the fin completely pressed down, you can now push the fin towards the stern end of the slot. Push the fin towards the stern end of the slot until the notch at the stern end of the fin and the undercut at the stern end of the slot are firmly pressed together. The fin is now securely in place with the bow and stern undercuts of the slot interlocked with the fin. Once the caulk is dried, the combination of the slot design and the caulk will prevent the fin from moving or falling out.



The final result should look like this.

Removal

Removing the fin is the opposite of installing it. However, the dried caulk can cause removal to be difficult. This means that you may need to use some force to remove the fin, and this often results in the fin breaking. Because of this risk, you should try to avoid removing the fin unless it is already broken.

Removal is performed by forcing the fin towards the bow end of the slot. This can be done by hand, with a mallet, or with a hammer depending on how tightly held the fin is in the slot. If a mallet or hammer is required, then look at the picture below for reference.



To force the fin towards the bow, you must hit it from the stern. The stern end of the fin is a small target and is fairly sharp, so use a block of wood to deliver the blows to the fin. The fin may be sharp enough to cut through the wood, so place it with the grain perpendicular to the fin. It is also recommended that you place a piece of cardboard underneath the block of wood to prevent damage to the hull.

Once you have successfully forced the fin to the bow end of the slot, you can simply lift the stern end of the fin out of the slot and pull the fin out of the slot at an angle.

If there isn't enough of the fin remaining to force the fin towards the bow end of the slot or if the fin cannot be removed for any other reason, then specialized techniques may be needed to remove the fin from the slot. Contact Peinert if this is the case.