

Covering the hull in glasfibre and epoxy (4 hrs + 11 hrs)

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An exciting moment. Applying the layer of glasfibre and epoxy. The first job is to saturate the the toplayer of the wood with epoxy. This is done to avoid the epoxy bleeding into the wood when the glasfibre is saturated with epoxy. As an extra benefit this layer ensures a better adhesion of the glasfibre/epoxy layer. Approximately 100ml epoxy is enough for this layer and the surplus of epoxy is rubbed of after appr. 45 minutes with a cotton rag to avoid that a layer of epoxy is formed on top of the wood.

When the first layer, the saturation layer, epoxy has hardened enough (no longer tacky), the galsfibre is measured from the rol and draped diagonally accross the hull. This ensures the glassfibre forms better around the sharp edges and no extra cuts have to made to get rid of any folds in the glasfibre. The surplus glasfibre is cut away to avoid stepping on it when applying the epoxy and besides the pieces are large enough to cover the inside of the deck later on.

The epoxy (2nd layer) is applied over the glasfibre using a plastic squeegee, pressing hard is not needed (even unwanted as that may damage the glasfibre) because the glasfibre soaks up the epoxy by itself. A fascinating site to see the white glasfibre al of sudden turn transparant and show the underlying structure of the wood. When all the glasfibre has turned transparant and the epoxy is already getting tacky I remove some of the surplus epoxy using the squeegee (again not applying too much pressure). This will be less sanding later on. Enough epoxy is used when the structure of the glasfibre is just visible.

The third layer of the epoxy is applied using a brush when the second layer is just beyond feeling tacky. This layer should just be thick enough to just hide the structure of the glasfibre.

After a week of hardening the hull is removed from strongback and turned to start working on the inside. I sand the inside all by hand by constantly making circles. Because the inside is not covered by epoxy this is going remarkably easy. When the sanding is done, the epoxy process as described above is repeated for the inside of the hull. The entire inside takes appr. 11 hours.

All the used epoxy has been warmed to get a more thin fluid sirup.