

Stenciled Companionway Steps on SV Jacaranda By Linda Edeiken

The companionway stairs in Jacaranda are stenciled with a seashell design in the middle of the non-skid treads to add a little artistic sparkle. Use your imagination to substitute other graphic themes. You can click on "About the Boat" in our website's Main Menu to see other photos of the interior of our boat.



DIY Instructions

The ladder surfaces are varnished except for the treads which are epoxy.

Here's how I did the treads:

Epoxy (2 part) the treads and let cure. Sand lightly.

Draw a seashell in stencil form on a sticky back plasticized paper. I found some car stencil material which is thick and tough but I was going to try shelving paper if I couldn't find anything better.

Cut the stencil with an exacto knife but not all the way around each separate piece so that the pieces fall out ..leave a little thread of connection..... you want to apply the entire design (pieces and outline) so that the design is intact.

Peel off the backing, place the entire design where you want it, cut the thread connections, and then remove the outline, leaving the individual pieces on the epoxied surface. Important: be sure to remove all the adhesive where the outline was or it will act as a resist (fish-eye). Use acetone with a q-tip for this (paint thinner will leave an unwanted residue).

Tape off the larger rectangular area for the non-skid. Apply another coat of epoxy inside the rectangular area, and around the stencil (avoid going on top of the stencil as much as you can). Apply a coat of clean silica sand.

When this coat is cured, lightly brush off the excess sand and remove the stencil pieces.

Clean up the stenciled design, removing any errant sand (can use a dental pick).

Here's the tricky part again: completely remove the adhesive from the stencil pieces that would be left as a residue on the epoxied wood. The material I used was difficult. You need to finish everything - the entire area - with a final coat of epoxy and if there is any adhesive remaining, it will "fish-eye" and act as a resist, rather than taking the epoxy and protecting the surface.

Apply a final coat of epoxy over the entire step (including sand area).



