

Things that have worked for us onboard Jacaranda

No particular order

10-2018



Garmin Fishfinder 151

Installation a few years ago of an inexpensive fish finder serves two purposes. 1. It's a backup depth sounder (third onboard) and equally as helpful allows us to determine the bottom structure before anchoring. We would prefer to anchor in sand and avoid coral. Thanks Jack & Hermy for the suggestion.

We installed the transducer without drilling a hole in the bottom of the boat. First hooking the unit up and then putting the transducer in a bag (Ziploc) of water and touching various places on the hull. When we found a spot with a good return I sanded the paint off the inside of the hull, cleaned and then stuck the transducer down with silicone. It works fine in depths less than 75'.

Gripstic



These work great for sealing bags of chips, coffee and just about any kind of bag. Even works great on Ziplocs. Really airtight and much better than the clothespins we used to use. Thanks Chuck & Roz

<http://www.gripstic.com/>

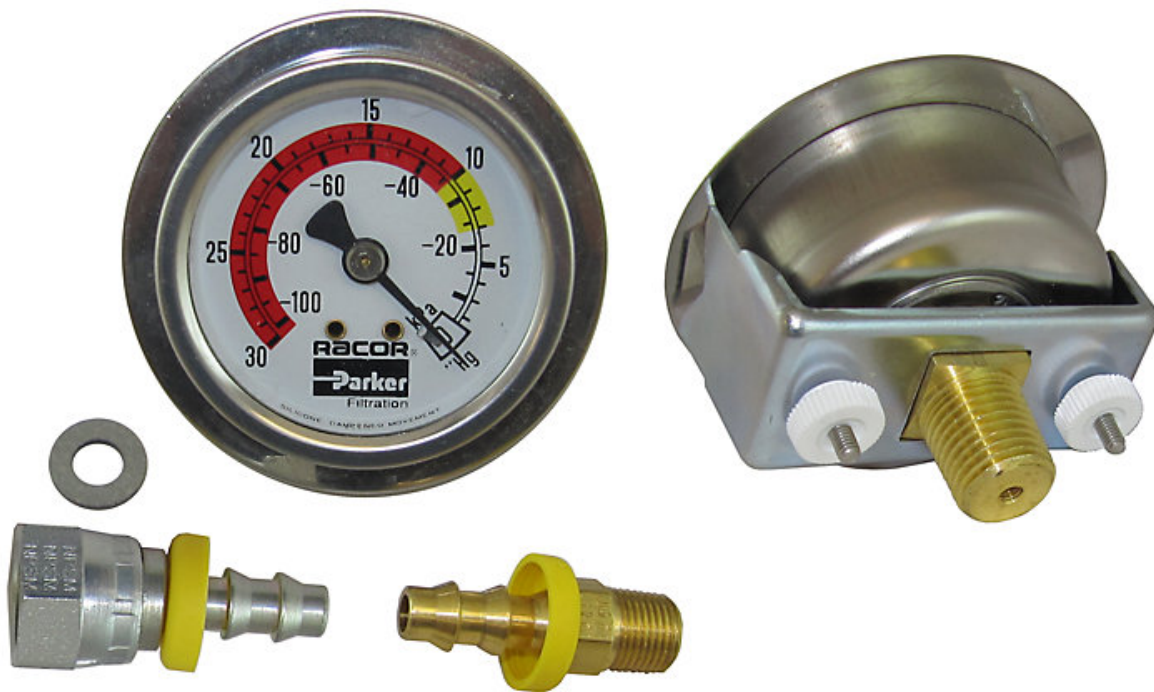
Fuel Transfer Jiggle Hose



Easy way to transfer fuel or water without getting a mouthful of the fluid. We use this device to transfer fuel from our jerry jugs into the tank. We first purchased it at a boat show but now see they are available online. We have been alongside a fuel dock only twice since departing SD - all our fuel is moved by jerry jugs.

<https://www.superjiggler.com/prestashop/our-store/5-super-jiggler-basic-6-foot-hose.html>

Vacuum gauge



A vacuum gauge is used to check the condition of your fuel filters. Uses no power and will extend the life of your filters. Don't change the filters when dirt appears in the glass bowl but wait until the vacuum increases. Increased vacuum gives a warning that the filter is starting to get plugged up. Surprised many boats do not have this device on their fuel delivery system yet it costs less than \$100 installed.

Breeze Booster



These units fit outside your hatch and increase the amount of air rammed below. They can be turned as needed. Slides into a small bag for storage.

<http://www.breezebooster.com/index.html>

Internal Breeze Diverter (see Other Good Stuff)

Sometimes your hatch is not quite located to allow airflow where you want it. This allows you to direct it. We made these using a piece of sunbrella which snaps to the underside of the hatch opening to force air forward on our bunk. We use one on our midship hatch to divert the airflow onto our sea berth while underway. Wish we thought of this decades ago!

Hatch Louvers (see Other Good Stuff for more photos)



Keep the rain out and allow breeze to flow into the boat. Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet of $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood I made these collapsible louvers based on my brother-in-law Buzz's design. They come apart and fold flat. Easy to put together allowing you to get maximum air flow when it's raining.

Towel saver (see Other Good Stuff)



Tired of losing towels clipped to the lifelines? A short piece of line sewn on each end of the towel and you will never lose a towel overboard again - even in a squall!

Stazo Smartlock



– Bullet proof way to lock your outboard engine to your dinghy transom. Impossible to remove with a hacksaw or bolt cutters. One obvious way to steal it would be to take a chainsaw to the actual transom of the dinghy. Don't laugh - that is what the thieves do in some countries (Costa Rica)! The lock is not cheap but what is the price of a new OB? \$\$\$\$

<http://www.sailorssolutions.com/index.asp?page=ProductDetails&Item=lock01>

Trash Compactor Bags

We buy these when we are in the U.S. and carry them back to the boat. They are extra heavy thick plastic bags that will withstand being on the transom in the sun for 3-4 weeks while we are cruising and have to carry our trash until we reach a place where we can dispose of it safely. Besides being extra durable they reduce the smell. We find the normal black garbage bags rip and or leak within just a few days. For garbage storage less than a week we reuse regular plastic grocery bags.

Nursery Shade Cloth for Shade



We buy this by the roll from Home Depot and use it as side curtains on our sailing and boat awnings. There are 2 types of density depending on how much shade you want. We use the 90% UV type. It's easy to sew, doesn't snap and flap like normal canvas, lets some air flow thru and does allow you to see thru it (with a little difficulty).

We also use this for boat awnings as well. Not as much protection as Sunbrella but does help cool the boat.

<http://www.homedepot.com/p/Easy-Gardener-6-ft-x-50-ft-Harvest-Wheat-Sun-Screen-Shade-Cloth-72350D/202251733>

Tenera Thread



Goretex thread marketed under the name Tenera is very expensive (\$120 a spool) but so worth the price because it is UV resistant (also petroleum resistant, etc.) Every bit of canvas should be made using Tenera. This thread will outlast the material. Use normal canvas thread and you will be restitching in 2-3 years. One summer in the brutally hot Sea of Cortez and you will have to restitch in 1 season. Comes in clear, white and black.

There are two sizes of thread available and we usually purchase the heavier thread. Sailmakers and Canvas people hate it because it's so slippery but it is worth the extra price and hassle. We have also restitched our sunbrella headsail cover with Tenera thread as well. Our Dodger was sewn with Tenera thread 12 years ago and still looks great.

<http://www.sailrite.com/Heavy-Tenara-Thread-Black-Lubricated-8oz-798-Yds>

Lavac Head



29+ years old and still working perfectly. No shit! Not many marine toilets can live up to that claim. 22 years of this time it has been used while living aboard. That's a lot of pumping!
<http://www.lavac.com/index.htm>

Vesper Marine AIS



The Watchmate 850 is fantastic and we have been singing its praises since we installed it. It has 4 major settings: Anchor, Harbor, Coastal, Offshore. Makes our watches much more stress-free. Each of these settings has multiple filter types that can be applied. It also has a great anchor alarm screen that we use all the time when anchored. With the transmit turned off it uses a tiny amount of power. It also feeds our chart plotter with gps/ais information. It is so well designed we don't even need the manual!

Internal Fans for below decks



Highly recommended that you buy a bunch, especially if you are headed to hot or tropical destinations. The 2 speed Camfro fans with the rubber blades have worked terrific for us for the past 10 years. They move a lot of air. We bought the optional closepin mount so they can be moved around the inside and even into the cockpit for those blast furnace hot Sea of Cortez summer nights! In some places they are on 24/7 for weeks at time; they do wonders to keep you comfortable. Also, the rubber blades are a safety feature if you bump into them – they will do no harm. http://www.westmarine.com/caframo--two-speed-compact-12v-dc-fan--P012_361_002_511

Balanzza Small Digital Hand scale



We found this in a dive shop in San Diego. It has paid for itself by allowing us to easily check about our compliance with baggage allowances whenever we travel by plane. Onboard we use it for our propane tanks to see if they are topped up when filling them, and even for weighing laundry which is charged by the kilo when we farm it out. For the record we have only had this for less than a year but so far has been accurate and easy to use. http://www.balanzza.com/products/?page_id=1182

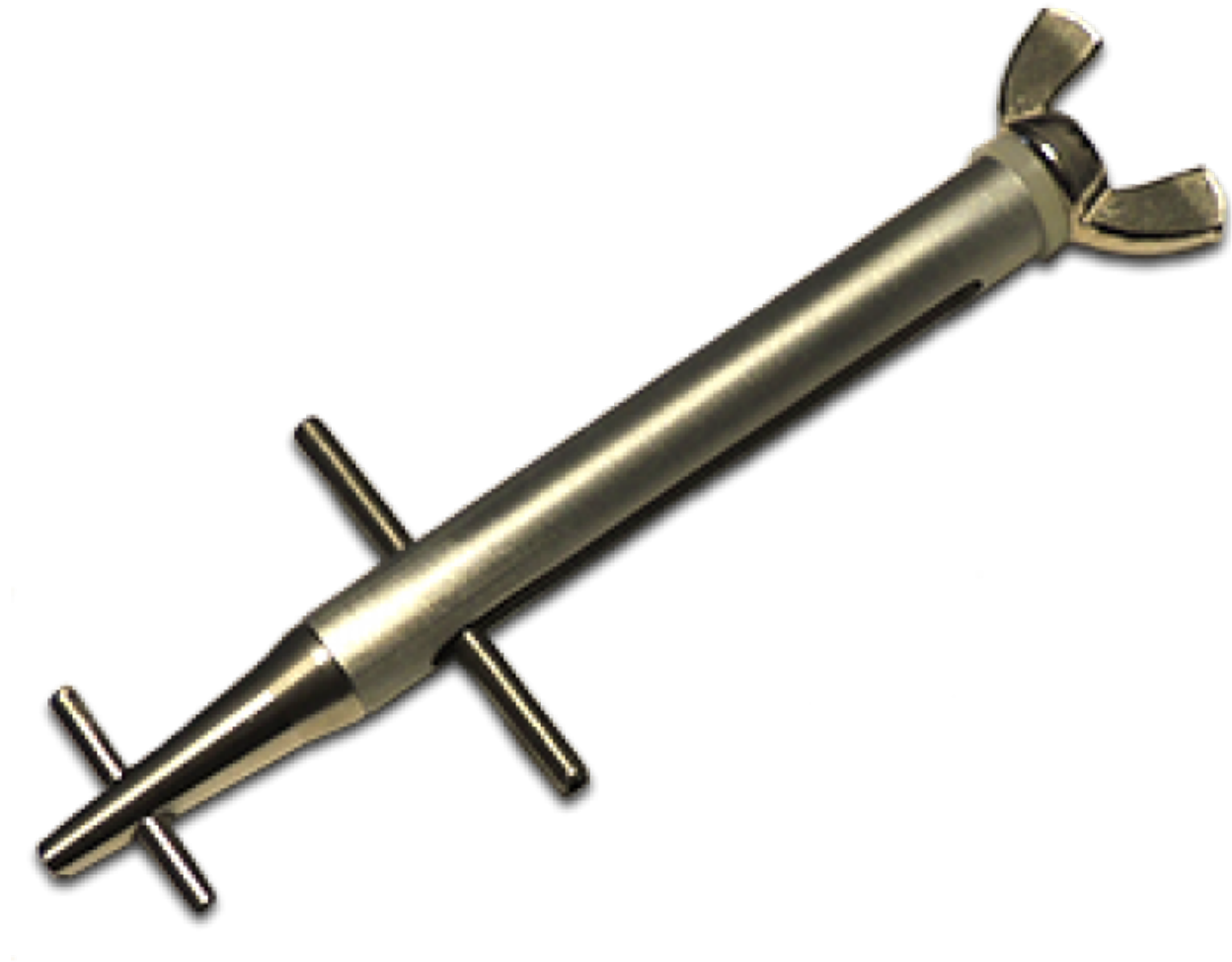
The Snubber Line by Evan Starzinger



“With snubbers the objective is to get maximum stretch with minimum chafe. I have copied an idea from New England Ropes and created a line with very chafe resistant dyneema (blue line) from the deck cleat to just beyond the bow roller, and then with stretchy dynamic rock climbing line from the bow roller to the soft shackle. Above is a picture of version #1.” Thanks to Evan for this new method.

In the past we have used all nylon snubber to ensure proper stretch between the anchor chain and the boat. That created its own chafe points and noise in a rough anchorage. But by using a piece of dynema rode (almost zero stretch) attached to the boat and running over the bow roller and then tied to the nylon 3 strand we have eliminated all the chafe and noise we have experienced in the past 25 years. It's been 6 seasons now using no chafe gear! Plus no squeaking or chain rattling! Further information & discussion can be found at <http://www.cruisersforum.com/forums/f118/snubber-version-3-a-110974.html>

ClampTite



Someone gave this to me decades ago and we have been carrying it around. But I recently needed it to do an emergency repair and found it worked just as advertised. Easy to use, stronger than a hose clamp and has thousands of uses.

<http://www.clamptitertools.net/index.php?route=product/category&path=60>

Ventilated Lee Cloths for HOT weather



One of my very few sewing jobs before we sold the sewing machine that weighed more than our anchor! Using some soft mesh material I bought at Minnie's swap meet in LA decades ago, I designed this lee cloth using a sunbrella trim. It allows airflow from the hatch or fan to pass thru. Being soft, it's comfortable to lie against and slightly stretchy. If memory serves me correctly I believe it was used on a catamaran for trampolines? We also use drop cloths while at sea to try and contain salt on our feet when we come below (although our durable carpets beneath are very easy to wash and dry quickly).

Coffee Maker

This coffee/tea strainer works great for making coffee. It fits most all cups, a few swishes and voila a wonderful cup of coffee. Plus it's so easy to clean by just tapping it in a trash container. Purchased via Amazon or REI. "MSR Mug Mate Coffee / Tea Strainer"



How we handle current other than 110V



Before leaving Mexico we gave some real thought on how we would handle voltage other than the North America 110-120 volts. Some boats are wired for both 110V and 240V but our setup is very basic and only covers 110v.

There are two battery chargers on the market that were designed by a partnership and now marketed under two companies ProNautic and Sterling. The selling point for us is that we can run this using our Honda 1000 generator and it will run in any country no matter what the voltage. We purchased it and are delighted with its performance after 5 years.

We installed it with a power cord running from our 110V panel. This cord is split just before it enters the charger and two plugs were installed a female 110V plug on the panel side of the wire and a male 110V plug attached to the charger side of the wires. When we are away from the marina we leave the two 110 plugs joined together. Thus creating a path between the 110V panel and the charger. We run the charger off our Honda generator. When we are in the marina that does not have 110V we run a cord from the power box on the dock direct to the female plug on the charger. The charger senses the voltage and begins charging. We run everything else off the ships inverter.

No need for an expensive heavy transformer.

Boyd Boat Knives



A number of years ago Linda's Cousin Craig sent us two Boyd Knives as a gift. One like pictured above and the second a Sheepshank folding knife (picture below). Both are terrific. They keep a ledge for a long time, easy to sharpen and NO rust at all. We can Highly recommend this company if you are looking for a quality boat knife

Sun Shower Bags MSR Domedary 10 Liter



These water bags were recommended to us by Linda's nephew who is a pro outdoor guide. He said they get years of use out of them and abuse them. We purchased ours at REI and also bought the shower attachment (shown above) which I don't think they make any longer. But it's easy to make a shower attachment using an old sun shower hose and nozzle and then purchasing a pvc 90 threaded to hose barb to attach to the cap.

We had been buying the Coleman & Stern sun showers and getting 6-7 months out of them then they start leaking. The Dromedary is now 4 years old and is in use everyday!

Coleman & Sterns Sunshowers – Don't waste your money as these showers are total crap

Dromedary bags 5 stars!!

Pelican Flashlights



After going thru a pair of flashlights every year for 8 years we decided to spend a bit more money and buy some decent lights that won't break. Our set is now going on 4+ years and we really like them. We have one in the cockpit and a couple down below. Very bright light and waterproof/water resistant. Plus they glow in the dark for easy to find on a dark rainy night!

Pelican 3310 Flashlights Rated #1 by practical sailor app \$40@ Pelican NEMO™ 2010N

Victron MPPT Solar Controller



About 6 months ago we installed Victron SmartSolar charge controller 100/30. It been brilliant and we wish we installed one years ago. We have mismatched solar panels(different voltages) and still have seen at times a 25-30% increase in amps coming in. The other great feature is that you can adjust and review using blue tooth on your ipad or smart phone.

Islandtime Groove External Wifi Antenna

http://islandtimepc.com/marine_wifi.html



We purchased a complete external wifi antenna system(including a router) from Bob at IslandTime 6 years ago. It comes with everything you need including cables, etc. We are amazed at how much we have used the Groove when cruising in Panama, Ecuador, Galapagos and French Polynesia. The best distance we have been able to download email was 12 miles!!!! The after service is the best in the marine business! Bob often answers our questions within hours of sending him an email. Many folks say they never use their wifi antenna because they get data via the phone. Not so for us in French Polynesia as we use the Island Time system a heck of a lot.

We will continue to update this document as we find items that work for us.

<http://www.jacarandajourney.com/#!other-good-stuff/ce48>