

Professional Repair Kit Instructions

1. Locate the tear or hole on the inflatable boat collar or tube. If unsure as to where the puncture is located, e.g. you have a 'slow puncture', then apply soapy water to the inflated tube and observe any bubbles forming at the puncture, mark the location, dry the area and deflate the tube.
2. Cut a fabric patch (or x 2 if tear is greater than 50mm) with rounded corners, allowing a minimum 5cm overlap around the hole/tear in the inflatable collar or tube, place the patch over the hole and mark around the patch on the tube with a pencil/removable marker. If the tear is greater than 50mm long, then also cut one matching shaped piece of polythene.
3. For Hypalon or polyurethane (PU) patches - Abrade the rear of the patch together with the marked repair area with P180 abrasive paper supplied to achieve a 'key' for the adhesive. Do not over-abrade as this could damage the fabric. There is no need to abrade PVC fabric.
4. Clean/prime the rear of the patch and the repair area, using a clean dry lint-free cloth, by wiping with the correct supplied solvent for the fabric of your inflatable tube i.e. Toluene solvent (for Hypalon) or MEK solvent or acetone (for PVC/PU fabrics). Wait until the solvent has evaporated. (N.B. with PVC fabrics, it is normal for the area to become 'tacky' when MEK/acetone solvent is applied).
5. Mask the area around the repair area on the inflated tube or inflatable collar with removable masking tape to prevent unsightly adhesive 'overspill' when applying the adhesive. Allow a 2-3mm gap around the pencil/removable marker line to allow for some stretch in the repair patch when applied.
6. Mix the adhesive as per the instructions that were supplied with the adhesive (read the following steps before mixing the 2-part adhesive as 2-part adhesives generally have short curing times).
7. If the tear in your inflatable is greater than 50mm then, using a brush applicator, apply an even, thin coat of adhesive to the rear of one of the patches and to the inner tube surface around the repair area, leave to dry for at least 20 minutes, apply a second and third coat, leaving each coat to dry for 2 minutes or until tacky. Your inflatable must be deflated for this process. Place the piece of polythene over the applied adhesive on the patch so that the patch can be rolled-up into a cigar-shape without the adhesive sticking to itself, unroll the patch inside the tube, position over the tear and then peel away the polythene to allow the two glued surfaces to meet (N.B. as Hypalon glue and PU or PVC boat glue are 'contact' adhesives then it is important to position the patch correctly as it will not be possible to re-position once in place). Smooth the patch firmly using a seam roller or rounded object (e.g. piece of shaped hardwood or screwdriver handle), working from the centre of the patch outwards to smooth out any air bubbles and ensure good contact.

8. Using a brush applicator, apply an even, thin coat of adhesive to both the rear of the external PVC, PU or Hypalon repair patch and the masked repair area on your inflatable boat collar or tube, leave to dry for at least 20 minutes, apply a second and third coat, leaving each coat to dry for 2 minutes or until tacky, apply the patch carefully to the repair area (position the patch correctly as it will not be possible to reposition once in place).

Smooth down the patch firmly using a seam roller or rounded object (e.g. piece of shaped hardwood or screwdriver handle), working from the centre of the patch outwards, in order to remove air bubbles and ensure good contact.

9. If the repair patch is not sticking in places or air bubbles remain then the area can be gently heated with a hot-air gun or hair drier and 're-worked'.

10. Remove the masking tape and clean-off any excess adhesive from the repair area on your inflatable with the correct solvent [Toluene solvent (for Hypalon) or MEK/acetone solvent (for PVC/PU fabrics)]. It is important to remove any excess adhesive as if this remains on the surface of your inflatable collar or tubes it will turn an unsightly brown!

11. Place a smooth sided heavy weight on the patch and allow to 'cure' for 24 hours before re-inflating the boat collar or tubes to check that the repair has been successful and before re-launching the boat.