Paper A Making and Fitting Rolling Type Keel Seals

(originally published 1979)

NOTE:

1. See AOA Bulletin 1978/79 P12 for explanation of principle of operation.
2. Important the Neoprene should be correct hardness for optimum result.

General:

The seals are made by folding a strip of 1/8" (3mm) Neoprene rubber lengthwise and glueing it along the edges and at the ends to form a sealed tube. See Figs 1 — 4 on page 2.

Preparation:

1. Cut and mark out Neoprene sheet as in Fig 1.
2. Thoroughly degrease side to be glued using dry cleaning fluid (obtainable from chemists) and a clean cloth.
3. Remove glazed surfaces of Neoprene in shaded area by abrading with coarse emery.
4. Degrease again with clean cloth.
5. Spread contact adhesive and allow minimum 20 minutes to go off to a dry tack.
6. Fold and stick edges together starting in the middle and working out to ends so that unglued zone is left full of air.
7. Clamp edges and ends between length of wood and leave until thoroughly set — say several hours — even though it is a contact adhesive.
8. NB It is worth trying the procedure on a sample length before committing to the real thing!

Fitting:

9. With keel down check dimension L2 on each keel box — note: keel may not be in centre of keel box, this should not upset the operation of the seals.
10. Taking L2 into account, mark line along top face of seal to correspond to edge line of keel box i.e. X-in Fig 4.
11. Drill tail of seal to suit cope bars.
12. With keel raised, offer up each seal with cope bar and secure with screws, starting at centre.
13. Push ends of seals outwards about ¼", see Fig 3,
14. Caulk between ends of seals and fit end plates.
15. Trim off excess rubber around end plates and cope bars.