



Patching Surfboard Fiberglass

So I am one of those who is a little careless with my board after a tiring workout. My grip gets a little shaky walking on the beach, maybe up some rocks, and back to the car. Inevitably, it seems, I end up dinging some portion of my board.

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INTRODUCTION

So a ding is basically any noticeable blemish in the board's fiberglass covering. It usually manifests itself as a cracked windshield like fracture. It could be long and skinny (like my rail dings, typically) or short and wide (if you hit a strategically placed jagged rock). You may also not think you have a ding at all, or anything worrying about, then you start noticing a slight yellow discoloration in a certain area-well, odds are you are letting in a little water in that area. Which affects how your board floats and even maneuvers.



PARTS:

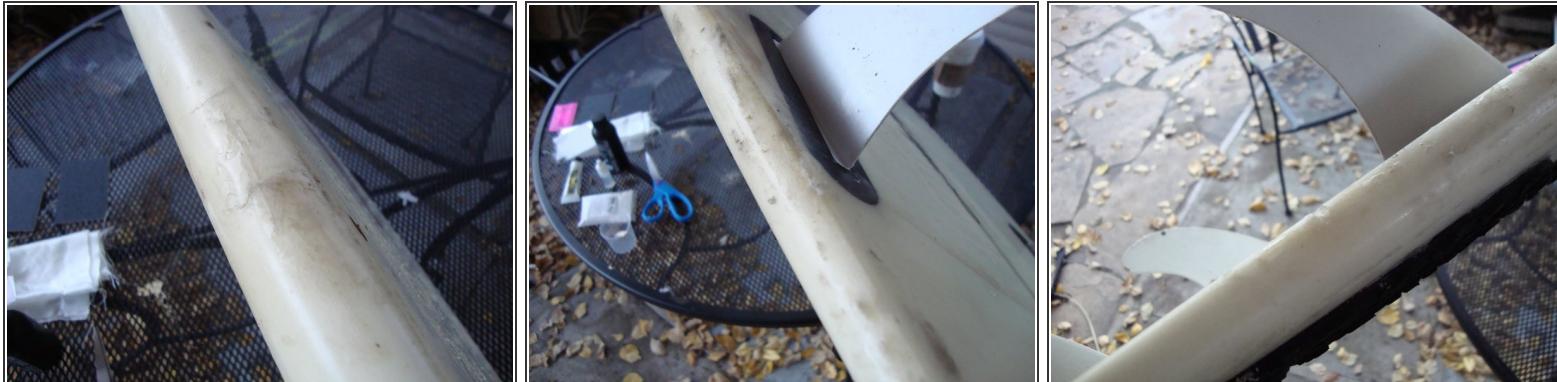
- Fiberglass Repair Kit (1)

Step 1 — Patching Surfboard Fiberglass



- So, to begin, we need a nice clean working area. My place is small so I used my patio set (not the best idea though, as my wife flipped when she found out I was using toxic chemicals where we occasionally eat, just beware.)
- Things you will need:
 - Surfboard with dings
 - Cleaning tools: wax com, rag and Gloves!!!
 - Resin, Q-Cell Filler, Hardener, Fiberglass Cloth
 - Mixing cup, stirring stick, Transparency
 - Sand paper: 1 rough grit and 1 fine grit
 - Starbucks (optional)

Step 2



- Next, you need to identify the dinged areas and figure out which method you prefer to use. I used cloth repair on the bigger ones (and the rail ones) and then the sun cure on the small ones (because I have heard it works well enough on small stuff).

Step 3



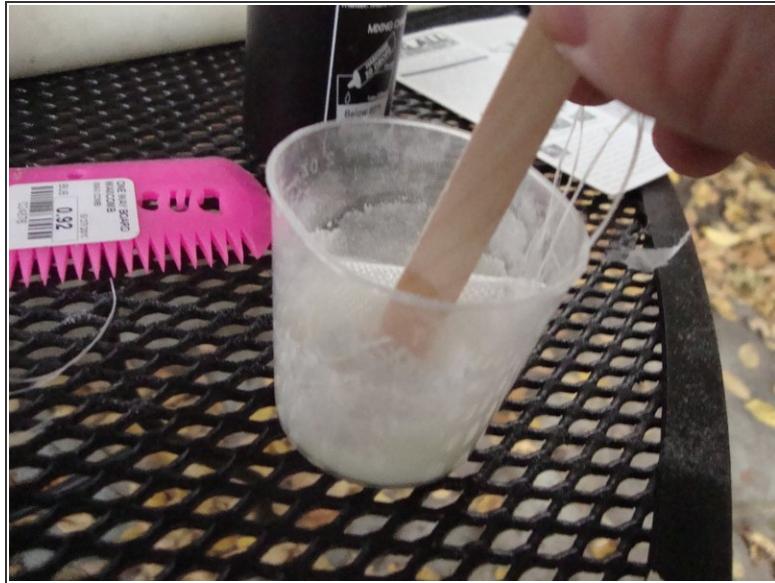
- Now we need to clean the dinged area of all the wax and fiberglass flakes.
- Grab your comb and scrape any wax from around the area to be repaired.
- Sand down, approximately 1/4", till you have a nice smooth surface.
- Cut a small groove (in the direction of the ding) to give the repair mixture somewhere to seep into.

Step 4



- Now we come to the mixing process.
- First figure how much resin you are going to need to adequately cover the cloth piece with a little to spare to pre-dab the dinged area.
- Add Filler, it helps to make the solution less watery and more workable
- Then add the hardener; you only need a little and it really depends on the temp. Your box should say what is appropriate for your particular weather.

Step 5



- Mixing Process (Continued)
 - Put the fiberglass cloth that you cut into the mixture.
 - Stir the cloth in slowly to cover the cloth with mixture without causing air bubbles.

Step 6



Application Process:

- Pre-dab the area with some of the solution, if there is a chunk of the fiberglass gone, use the solution generously to fill void.
- Spread the soaked fiberglass cloth over the dinged area and smooth it out with your fingers.
- Use the transparency to spread the cloth evenly, working out any noticeable bubbles.

Step 7



- Application Process (Continued)
 - Hold the transparency in place (be aware that it will not stay put).
 - Use tape (scotch, masking, painters) to secure the edges and make sure the transparency is held down tight

Step 8



- Curing and Finishup:
 - Let the mixture cure.
 - It should take, depending on your weather, about 1 hour or so to dry completely.
 - Don't remove the transparency until dry.
 - Once dry, remove the transparency and use a fine sand paper to even out any new bumps from the new fiberglass surface.
 - Then, voila! your board should be back to working order. Get out there and this time try to be more careful on the trip back to the car. ;)

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.