

Installing the transom

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First a note: During this procedure you will cut off some of the hull to bring it to final length. Also note the hull stern cut is NOT square as delivered from the factory and the hull sides may not be the same height. Some sanding may be necessary.

1. Place the DECK upside down on the work surface.
2. Using pencil, (ink or felt tips will bleed through) draw a centerline on the inside of the deck from bow to stern.
3. Trace around the transom on a piece of paper. Cut out the tracing with scissors and fold the tracing in half vertically. Mark a vertical centerline on the transom using the folded tracing.
4. Draw a centerline on the inside of the hull from the keel to the stern. The line should go through the center of the rudder post hole to the stern.
5. Holding the transom upside down, place the upper flange of the transom against the inside of the deck with the TRANSOM FLANGE facing the HATCH OPENING. This should be done while holding the transom at an angle of approximately 30 degrees aft tilt.
6. Sliding the transom fore and aft, locate the position where the transom has 1/16 INCH CLEARANCE between the outside corners of the transom and the inside of the deck flange. The 1/16 inch clearance each side will allow for the hull thickness during assembly. Check with a small square to ensure the bulkhead is perpendicular to the center line. Mark this location on the inside of the deck and extend the line to the deck flanges. Set the transom aside. Do NOT glue.
7. Transfer the marks you just made on the inside of the deck flanges to the outside of the deck flanges.
8. Temporarily place the deck on the hull while holding the deck as far aft as it will go. Transfer the marks you put on the deck flanges to the hull. A short ¼ inch line is sufficient.
9. Remove the deck and transfer the outside hull marks to the inside of the hull near the top edge (shear line). A short ¼ inch line will do. Measure from the bow to your inside hull marks on each side to ensure the measurement is the same and the transom will be square with the centerline. You now have fore-aft position of the transom for proper deck to hull fit. Do NOT glue.

10. Measure from the bow 39 3/8 inches and mark a STERN LIMIT location on the outside of the hull. This will be the very aft end of the boat. An easy way to do this is to hold the hull and deck together upside down with the bow against a wall and measure from the wall.

11. Remove the deck and test fit the transom to see if it will line up with the hull/deck pencil marks and the stern limit mark when fully pressed down inside the hull.

Note: The shear line of the HULL needs to be between 1/16 and 1/8 inch BELOW the top corners of the transom. This will allow clearance for the inside curve of the deck flange. If the hull edges are more than 1/8 inch below the transom or bulkhead corners, the deck flange will not have sufficient bonding surface. If the hull edges are higher than 1/16 below the transom or bulkhead corners, the deck will not fit down on the top of the transom or bulkheads and the deck will flex or “oil can”. Small adjustments may be made by tilting the lower end of the transom fore or aft. The shear line may need to be sanded down on one or both sides if the transom sits too low.

CAUTION: After marking the final transom location, re-measure the boat length WITH THE DECK IN PLACE to be sure the boat will be NO LONGER than 1 meter, (39 3/8 inches). You may be as much as 1/4 inch under. The important part of fitting the transom is to ensure it is fully pressed into the hull and the top of the transom will fit inside the DECK flanges. If the transom does not fit perfectly, you can fill small gaps with Bondo.

12. Now glue the transom into the hull aligning it with your hull marks, the centerline of the hull and bulkhead centerline and the stern limit. Hold in place with small clamps while the glue sets. After the glue sets, trim the aft end of the hull slightly longer than the transom. This will provide a lip for body filler after the deck is installed. The excess length will be sanded off during final finish.