

We have had a little play with our boat and come up with a solution. It is a little fiddly – however it worked first time for us on our demo boat and should not take you very long at all!

1. Remove the old saddles and bolts/nuts. Looks like you have done most of this. If you find the whole nut/bolt is just rotating then I suggest using a hacksaw to cut it off then punch it through.
2. Drill out the holes with a 5.5mm bit so a bolt can slide through easily (but still a snug fit). Make sure the nuts drop into the hull as we no longer use these.
3. Thread some fishing line into the hole. You should feed approx 2-3m into the hull to help the hook pull it through.



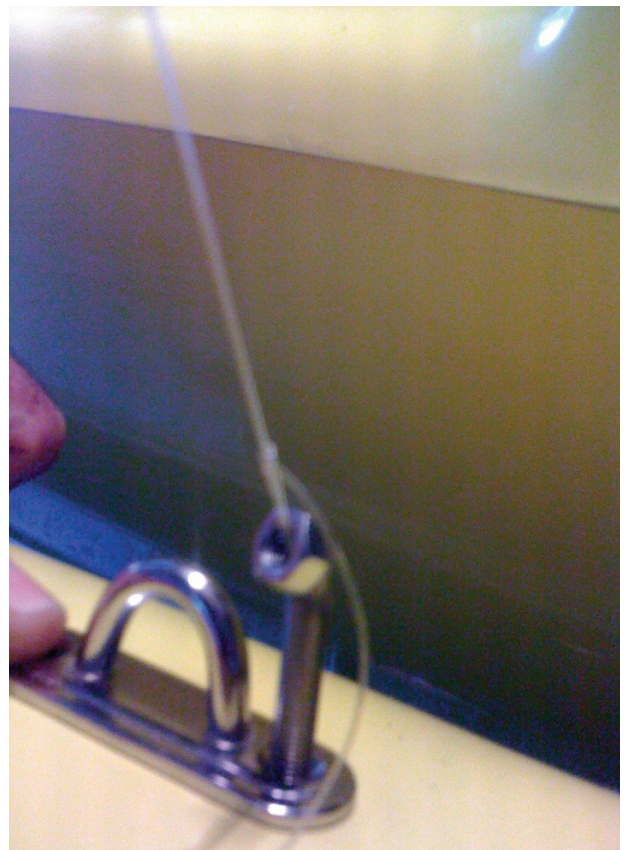
4. 'Fish' the line out from the hatch at the back using some 'hook' device. I used a metre rule with a piece of wire taped to the end



5. Put a washer on the bolt (we will supply) then tie the nylon onto the end of the bolt. Be sure to finish with a bowline as shown in photo so the bolt is aligned when being pulled through the hole.

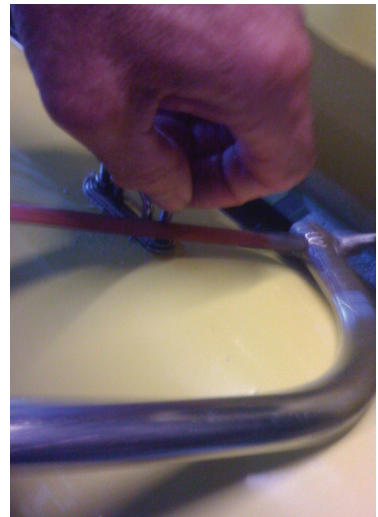
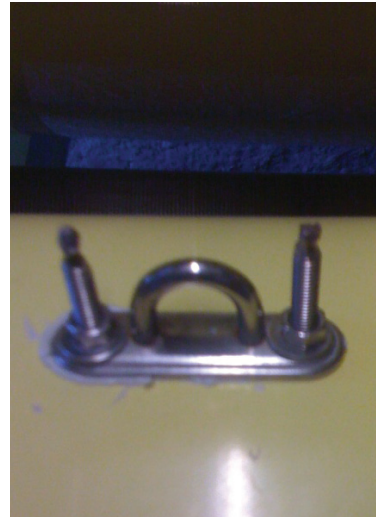


6. Pull the bolt through the hole and then thread the saddle, washer and finally nut on.





7. You should be able to get the nut over the ground part of the bolt then use some vice grips to hold the bolt as the nut is tightened. Once the nut is tightened you can hacksaw the end off.



8. It would be a good idea to leave say 5mm of the bolt exposed so in future the saddle can be replaced. If this was the case I would use a cap nut (which we could not source quickly) on top of the lock nut. I will leave this decision up to you. We just used another nut for our demo boat as this was lying around the garage that you can see in 'Final' image.



See the attached photos of our trial run (numbers correlate to the steps). I would recommend using sikaflex to seal the hull. This could be done at step 5 around the washer and also at 6 before the saddle is replaced.

Best regards,  
Chris