

1979

Old Town[®]

maintenance and care of fabric covered wood canoes

*applies
to all
canvas
covered
watercraft*



Old Town

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recanvassing

When the canvas covering can no longer be kept watertight by painting and patching, and the hull is still sound, it is economical to remove the old canvas and stretch a new covering over the hull. The work is not intricate and will make the canoe as good as new.

Remove the stem bands, rub rails and keel thus exposing all fastenings. After these tacks have been removed, the old canvas can be taken off. Repair any damage to the wood.

Use a pair of horses which do not extend beyond the gunwales. This allows the canvas to hang properly all around the rails. Fasten canvas to the hull using 11/16" tacks along the gunwales, two tacks through each rib. Use 5/16" tacks along stems. Square sterns with a wooden transom require 3/4" galvanized nails for securing canvas around stern. Where canvas laps at ends under the stem band and around square sterns, marine bedding compound should be used to prevent leaking. Canvas should extend about a foot longer than the hull to provide a good grip for stretching, and should be about 3" wider than the old covering. We have never found any advantage to be derived from gluing the canvas to the hull. In the process of covering the hull with fresh canvas, as much excess material as possible should be left until the fabric is stretched and securely nailed. Begin at the center and stretch, working from side to side toward ends as in the sketch until canvas is smooth all around. Stretch in the direction of arrows as shown.

In finishing the ends, the fabric along one side should be stretched over the stem and tacked at about 1/2" intervals, then the excess material trimmed. Next the fabric on the opposite side should be stretched over the row of tacks just completed and a second nailing be made in the spaces occurring along the first row of tacks. This will result in a continuous row of tacks along the stem closely spaced. The fabric is then trimmed to provide the overlap shown in the detail drawing.

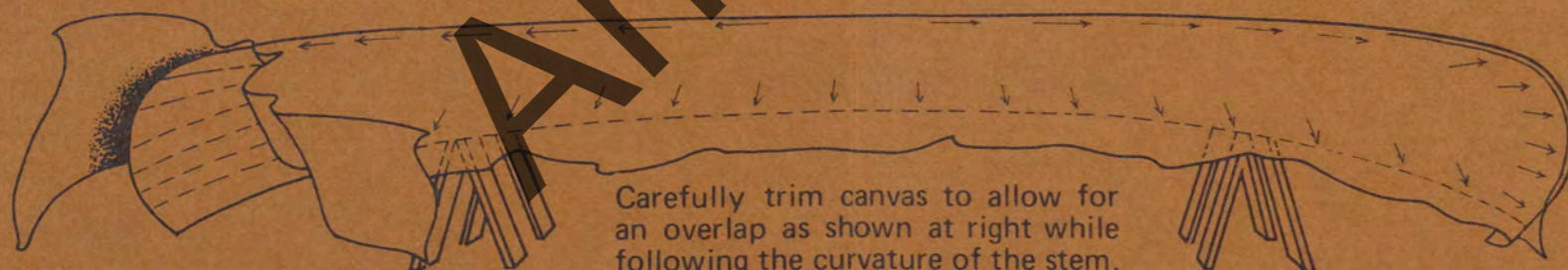


Inside stem.



Wooden outside stem.

FITTING NEW CANVAS AROUND ENDS.



Carefully trim canvas to allow for an overlap as shown at right while following the curvature of the stem.

When canvas is installed, fill with Old Town Canoe Filler, a special preparation made for this purpose. When filler is dry sand smooth and prime with a coat of Primer Undercoat tinted with the finish color desired. Finish with a coat of Old Town Canoe Enamel.

Some people prefer to use fiberglass in place of canvas. Ask your local supplier of fiberglass materials for instructions covering the use of these products.

Refer to repair parts sheet for materials required. The following items are usually sufficient to do one canoe:

- 151190 Canvas. Specify width and length.
- 311970 Tacks for fastening canvas.
- 311810 1 gallon Filler.
- 322260 1 Quart Primer Undercoat.
- 322200 1 Quart, Paint, Enamel, Specify color.
- 322270 1 Quart Varnish for inside and rails.
- 322155 Bedding Compound.

stopping leaks and making patches

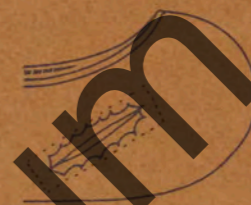
To locate leaks, put water inside and see where it comes out.

For small holes in the fabric, the use of Ambroid Cement is completely effective and nothing else need be done.

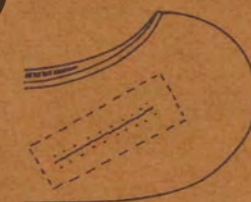
Small breaks in the planking which can occur between ribs can be easily repaired using Elmer's Glue to coat the under surface of splinters which may then be forced back into place with the fingers.

Fill deep scratches with a mixture of Ambroid Cement and sand dust kneaded into a paste if the fabric is not punctured. Allow to dry over night and sand smooth.

Dacron patches can be applied to Dacron covered canoes using "Plibond" manufactured by Goodyear which is available at most hardware stores.



A.
Patch in place



B.
Tear closed and tacked.



C.
Patch applied over hole (fabric gone).

If canvas has been cut, patch as follows:

As shown at (a), cut a patch large enough to extend about an inch beyond the edges of the slit. Insert the patch through the cut and work into position between the planking and the hull canvas. Coat the patch with Ambroid Cement and close the cut. Apply pressure with fingers to smooth cement until it is forced out through the slit opening. Wipe smooth. If the cut is large, use brass tacks to secure the edges neatly over the patch as shown at (b).

If part of the fabric is missing, make patch of heavy canvas. Fill with sand dust and Ambroid. Tack patch in place as shown at (c). When tacks are used, they should be driven onto a hammer or heavy piece of metal so as to turn back the point and provide a clinch. Use long tacks to penetrate through planking and ribs, shorter tacks through planking only in spaces between ribs. Clinch tightly to make a firm fit to the hull. Space tacks about 1/4 to 3/8" apart.

When cement is hard, touch up with Old Town Enamel to restore the appearance.



refinishing

Marine enamels color plastics or canvas covered canoes. Urethane varnish brightens plastic covered hulls.

Begin with a clean, dry canoe. If the surface is not badly checked or broken, a coat of Old Town Varnish will restore the gloss and condition the hull for another season.

Using No. 60 sandpaper, smooth and clean all exposed wood and canvas surfaces inside and out sanding with the grain. Wipe all sand dust away with a dry cloth. Use Old Town Varnish, coating the inside first then turn the canoe onto a pair of horses and finish the exterior surface.

If the finish is checked and in poor condition, sand with No. 40 paper until a smooth hard surface is attained. Varnish inside first, then with canoe's gunwales resting on horses apply one coat of Old Town enamel to the outside. To brighten the surface of wooden canoes with a clear plastic exterior use urethane varnish.

When surface is badly checked and sandpaper is not effective, a blowtorch or liquid paint remover, available from your local paint store, may be used to soften the old coating. Use a dull edged scraper such as a putty knife to remove the softened paint down to the base coat. Allow a few days for the surface to reharden and proceed as outlined above with finish coat.

DIAGRAM of "Old Town Canoe"

