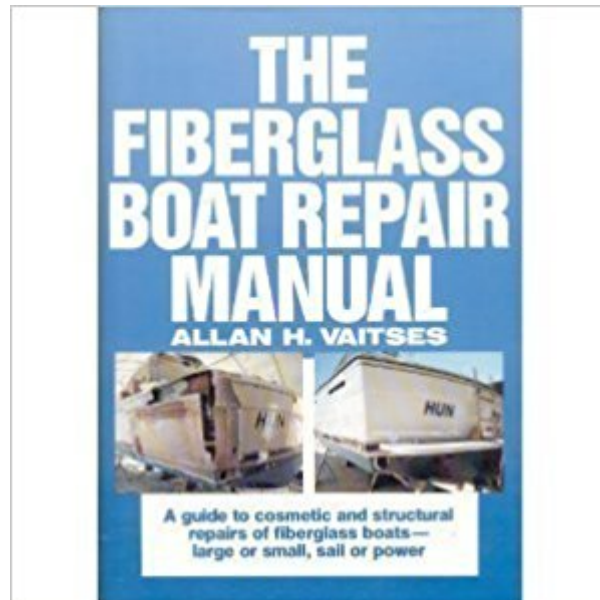


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# The Fiberglass Boat Repair Manual



## Synopsis

"This book will save you money and grief before you can say woven roving."--Sailing "A comprehensive and accurate work that should benefit almost any owner of a fiberglass boat."--SAIL "This book will prove a valuable addition to the library of any boat builder or owner who is seriously interested in doing his own repairs, as well as intercepting minor problems before they become major projects."--Boatbuilder Are there hairline cracks in your boat's deck or topsides gelcoat? Have her color and luster faded over the years? Does she have deck leaks? Has she been holed? Is her hull oilcanning in a sea? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, this book is for you. This is the definitive guide for fiberglass boat repair and beautification, covering not just cosmetic dings and scratches, but also major repairs of structural damage to hull and decks. It will show you how to: replace deteriorated gelcoat, or repair the flaws in an existing gelcoat and recoat it with polyurethane or marine alkyd enamel paint; strengthen a weak and overly flexible hull or deck; tab in loose hull liners and joinerwork; make templates from the good side of a hull to reshape large shattered or missing areas on the other side; repair or replace water-saturated deck cores; repair keels, rudders, and centerboards; rebed and refasten underwater and on-deck hardware; rebed, refasten, and strengthen hull-to-deck joints; fix broken hatches, and make new ones when necessary; treat the symptoms and causes of overstressed hulls. That beautiful craft swinging at anchor or nestled dockside, her topsides reflecting water and sky like a polished mirror, could be yours. Here's how. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 171 pages

Publisher: Intl Marine Pub (January 1, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0877422281

ISBN-13: 978-0877422280

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 5.2 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,862,332 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Boat Building](#)

## Customer Reviews

The definitive book on cosmetic repairs, as well as major structural repairs to hulls and decks,

delamination, refinishing, blistering, etc.”The aroma of resin wafting out of this manual is refreshing. This book will save you money and grief before you can say woven roving.” --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

A resident of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, Allan Vaitses retired from full-time boatbuilding in the early 1980s after a 45-year career, including 30 years building custom and semicustom fiberglass boats. In his second career as a marine surveyor (a profession he still pursues), Vaitses has witnessed just about every flaw and form of damage or deterioration a fiberglass boat can suffer. In his third career as a writer, Vaitses has imparted his knowledge of boatbuilding, troubleshooting, and repair through such books as Lofting, Covering Wooden Boats With Fiberglass, Boatbuilding One-Off in Fiberglass, and What Shape Is She In? A Guide to the Surveying of Boats. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Of the many boatbuilding and repair manuals I have seen, I would consider this to be the best reference for fiberglass boat repair. The pictures on the dust-jacket alone indicate that a serious treatise is contained within. It would appear that no matter how bad it looks, there is no problem beyond the scope of the competent fiberglass repairman. (Caution - some of the color photos of repairs-in-progress between pages 118 and 119 are not for the faint-hearted!)Mr. Vaitses has been at this for a long time and with experience in the world of wooden boats (all boats have wood in them somewhere) as well as having been a player in the fiberglass revolution, is able to offer a well-rounded perspective. His honest, no-nonsense approach to problem-solving is refreshing. Besides the obvious background info and how-to descriptions, this book can be an invaluable asset when examining a used boat. Mr. Vaitses is currently working as a marine surveyor (a person who inspects and evaluates the condition of boats for prospective buyers). All used boats need some kind of work and the challenge then becomes evaluating the nature and scope of needed repairs, e.g. distinguishing structural and safety issues from cosmetics and determining whether one can affect the repairs oneself vs. how much it will cost to have someone else do it. Studying this book allows one to communicate more effectively with the surveyor and to describe problems more accurately to repair facilities in order to estimate projected costs. We recently completed the evaluation and purchase of a 1974 36-foot fiberglass cruiser. I can honestly say that the knowledge and confidence I gained from this book made the entire process a good bit less nerve-racking than it might have been!

I'm fairly disappointed with The Fiberglass Boat Manual. I'm pretty literate, and don't REQUIRE illustrations... but imagine trying to do a car repair using a Hayes or Chilton's repair manual WITHOUT illustrations - that's what my experience is like reading through this book. I am a complete novice at fiberglassing, but to be perfectly honest, you are FAR more likely to learn more from merely googling "fiberglassing" and finding your instructional needs that way. I will admit, the introduction and the joinery sections (how to join two pieces of fiberglass) were helpful, along with some of the repair methods - but I was not impressed with much else.

For those looking at an older boat, this book offers great insight to how the older boat may have been constructed. That insight is just nowhere else to be found. I have read my copy from cover to cover. I go back and FREQUENTLY reread sections to better understand how to work on my boat. That's what makes this book a BIBLE of fiberglass boat knowledge. With rampant cost escalation for fuel, dock space, upkeep, and every single other aspect of boating, it is SERIOUSLY worth looking at a 1960's, '70s, or '80's boat instead of a new one. I am working on restoring an older boat - '80s Hunter. It would not be possible without this book. This book, along with those by Casey, Calder, Payne, Vigor, Wittman, and others are the core of my repair resource. As has been pointed out, there is not a host of material about Carbon Fiber or more advanced composites/epoxies. For that you could go to West System's books and pamphlets. For working on my collection of "good old boats".. I would NOT be without this book. I absolutely recommend it.

The Fibreglass Boat Repair Manual taught me the skills to do cosmetic and structural repairs to my 23 foot trailer sailer. It wasn't until I found cracking under one of the winches that I realised how much I had learnt. A job like this, on a strong point on the boat, would usually make me a bit nervous. Having read and absorbed the instruction in The Fibreglass Boat Repair Manual I took on the job with confidence. As i sanded and painted the patch the next day I was very happy that I had read this fantastic resource. I recommend it to anyone who has a patch or repair job to do on any fibreglass surface.

Just the information I needed!

Good book. A little outdated . Many new products have come out for boat repair since book was written. Little outdated.

I have not used the book yet, but I looked it over, and it seems to be full of good information,,,, Later this year, I plan to build a hard top for two of my boats, and finish them with some sort of fiberglass matting and epoxy resin.. I hope these books make it as easy as it should be to get this part of the project done..

The how to get through the process of repairing a fiberglass boat is normally to find someone else who has done it that will take the time to tell you what to do. The hope is that you find someone willing to listen to what you have going on with your situation and knows how to explain each step. Unless you know what you should do next there are so many chances you will get stuck. This book proves absolutely thorough on the subject. You can go into a group discussion on the topic after reading this book feeling confident that you know what's what about the use of these composite materials as applied to marine small craft.

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