

Inner Tube Repair

The inner is repairable using a cold vulcanising patch. Generally, the inner tube will need to be removed to perform the repair (however, if the damaged area is close to the bow or stern it may not be necessary to fully remove the inner). See Helpsheet "*Inner Tube Removal and Fitting.*"

1.0 Tools / Materials required;

- Cold-vulcanising rubber or tyre glue (e.g. Pang Supersolution, Slime Rubber Cement, etc)
- Inner tube repair patch
- Coarse sandpaper (e.g. 40 grit)
- Roller

NB – Small punctures can be fixed using a standard bicycle inner tube repair kit.

2.0 Locating the puncture

- 2.1 Inflate the tube. This stretches the skin and enlarges the hole making it easier to find. Wash down carefully with soapy water. Look for bubbles appearing as that will indicate the location of the hole.

A possible cause of a puncture is pinching of the bag against the hull. It is usually caused if the air pressure is too low and the boat collides with a narrow object. In this case there will probably be two slits close together. After repair, ensure that the air pressure is regularly checked to avoid a repeat puncture (See Helpsheet "*Inflation & Air Pressure*").

- 2.2 Sharp objects (fish spikes, etc) can sometimes become embedded in the fabric. By rubbing a wet hand over the bag the object will be easier to feel, or, as the hand rubs over the hole it may stretch slightly and the rush of air through the hole will be audible or visible.
- 2.3 The source of air loss may be the valve. Check by filling the valve with water to see if any bubbles are formed. If air is leaking, depress the valve stem and release air in a few sharp bursts as this may clear any debris that is preventing the valve from seating correctly. If this does not work, the valve can be dismantled and may require replacement parts (see Helpsheet "*Valve Servicing / Valve Repair Kits*").

3.0 Repair of Inner Tubes

- 3.1 To repair, sand the surface of the deflated inner tube around the puncture until the fabric loses its' sheen. Ensure the sanded area is larger than the patch being used for the repair. The sanding is necessary to remove the rubber oxides on the surface.
- 3.2 Apply one even layer of glue and let dry. Immediately on drying, apply the patch. Press firmly (or roll) all over the patch to ensure full contact.
- 3.3 Inflate the tube and check that the repair was successful (see 2.1).

The inner tube can be reinstalled and used immediately.