



Happy Thanksgiving



The Lighthouse

Applying caulk: Seven tips for boaters

Courtesy www.boatingmag.com

Sooner or later you may be applying caulk, sealant or adhesive to your nautical pride and joy. Here are seven tips that make applying caulk easier.

1. Reef the Seam

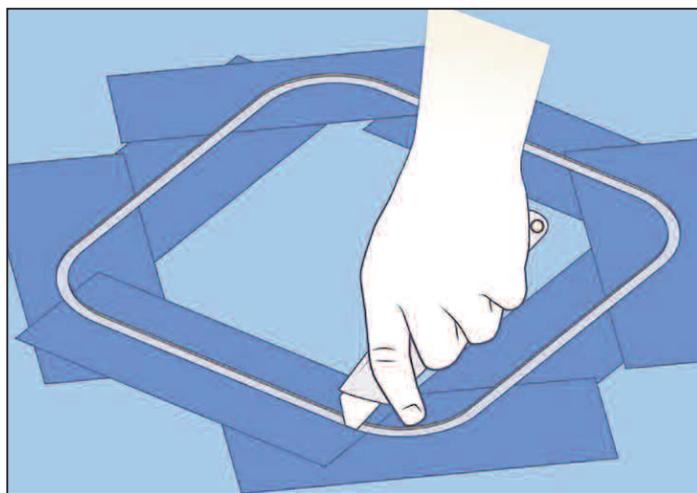
Remove the existing bead of caulking with a reefing tool or reefing hook, either bought or made. I have used an old-fashioned can opener or a shop-made tool created by heating the shaft of an old screwdriver and then bending it at a right angle in a vice. Fein MultiMaster and Dremel also offer seam-reefing accessories.

2. Remove Residue

To ensure a good bond and seal, use a solvent to remove any residual skin of the old sealant. Lacquer thinner or mineral spirits work for most polysulfide and silicone sealants. Adhesive sealants may require specialty products: Check product labels. Wear protective gear when working with solvents and be mindful of fire hazards.

3. Mask Borders

Apply masking tape 1/8 inch to either side of the seam to



be caulked. For rounded corners, “overmask” at a right angle, and then use a jar cap or other guide with a utility knife to carefully cut out the radius. Masking takes time,

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ONE MONTH LEFT

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Christmas ideas

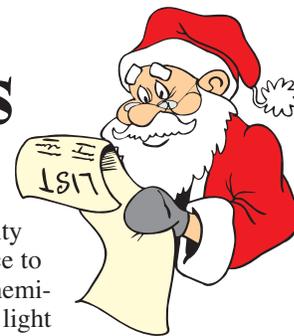
Courtesy www.boatingmag.com

Every boater worth his or her salt has a short (or maybe long) list of things he or she wants for the boat. Admit it, you do too. Maybe it's the latest and greatest tool for your DIY project, or maybe it's a tow toy or something else to play with on the water. Whatever the case, take this gift guide to your significant other or the extended family.

Engel 30-Ounce Cerakote Tumbler

This tumbler is treated with Cerakote, a

ceramic coating that adds durability and resistance to corrosion, chemicals and UV light to the stainless-steel cup. A rubberized base prevents slippage, but if your mug does take a tumble, the Ketch-It lid ensures a liquid-tight seal, even when holding the cup upside down.



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Caulking

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but using tape ensures easier cleanup.

4. Cut the Tip

Too many DIY boaters cut off the caulking nozzle tip wrong. It's important to examine the tip and cut it at the point that is just a wee bit narrower than the width you need. Also, cut the tip at about 45 degrees. The actual hole should be an oval, the narrow dimension of which is just narrower than the seam or bead.

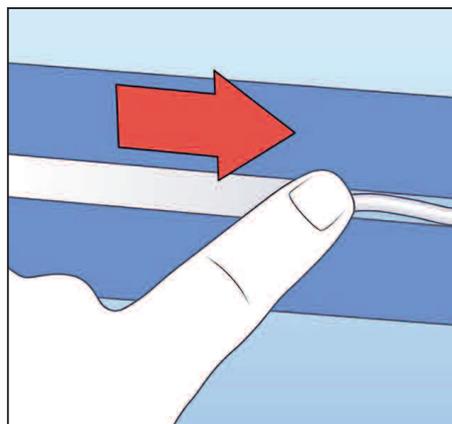
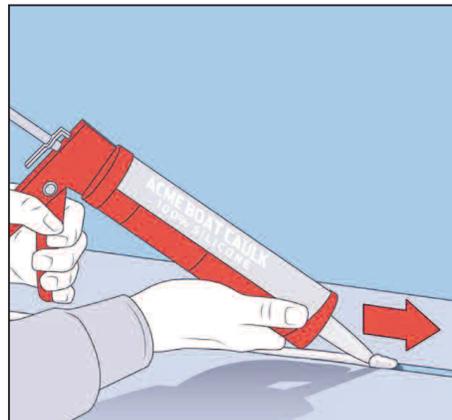
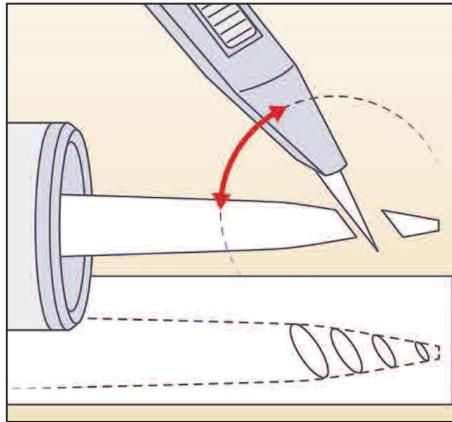
5. Push, Don't Pull

In most cases, a neater result can be achieved by pushing the caulking gun while applying the caulk. Press just hard enough so that the speed at which you are pushing doesn't exceed the rate of caulk being delivered from the tip. Ideally, there should be a slight "hill" or "ball" of caulk just in front of the tip as you move it along. Practice on scrap if you're relatively new to applying caulk.

6. Tooling Time

The time to tool — that is: fix, neat-en or modify — the bead of caulk you applied is the time it takes the caulk to begin to skin over and will vary by brand and type and environmental conditions. Swipe the bead with a gloved finger dipped in water to smooth the bead. Wipe fingers clean between swipes. Be sure to peel the masking tape before skin-over also.

Quick Tip: Caulking dries and cracks, and applying caulk anew should happen periodically around bilge and fuel tank hatches, ports, windows and the hull-to-deck joint.



The Lighthouse

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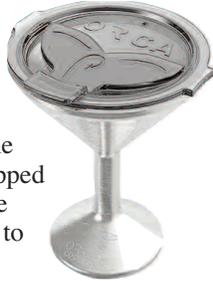
Christmas gifts

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It comes in various colors. westmarine.com

Orca Chasertini Glass

Somebody started a landslide trend in thermal glasses because, well, apparently, when our boat's at the dock or on the hook, we drink sooooo slowwwly. If you're a stand-up guy, the most annoying martini is the one that got warm in your glass while you sipped it responsibly. We'd chill the Chasertini in the freezer, then add any libation and count on it to remain cold until tomorrow. shoporca.com



Engel High-Performance 25 QT Cooler

Distinctive, this cooler is roto-molded for toughness and durability. It's filled with 2 inches of insulation in the lid and on the sides and bottom to retain ice for up to 10 days. The all-silicon gaskets create an airtight seal that is durable and will never lose its shape. It's sold exclusively at West Marine. westmarine.com

ACR GlobalFix V4

Beacons save lives and may be the best gift you can give. The ACR GlobalFix V4 is a floating EPIRB with GPS for ultimate precision and operates on the 406 and 121.5 MHz frequencies. Available as Category I (hydrostatic) and Category II (manual), it will operate for 48 hours. acrartex.com

Icom M93D Handheld VHF

This newest handheld VHF radio from Icom packs the features boaters need, including exclusives such as Float and Flash, Aqua Quake, and active noise canceling, which have proven themselves in use during dozens of Boating photo shoots. It also includes built-in digital selective calling. westmarine.com

Penn Air Solar Sun-Cleat

This aluminum alloy cleat features a solar-powered light to illuminate your dock. Rated IP-68 waterproof, the Penn Air Sun-Cleat is available in 8- and 12-inch lengths, and stayed lit for nearly two days after charging in 8 hours of sunlight during our test. Available in amber, red, green and soft white. www.pennairsolar.com



Sebile Lures

Here are three lures just begging to be tossed in front of stripers, hybrids and white bass: the Magic Swimmer is weighted to sink quickly, and its jointed body twerks up a strike; the Flat Shad is ideal for jerking off the bottom for hybrids and white bass; and twitch the suspending Stick Shad for berserk action just below the surface. sebile.com

Crosley CR1806 Messenger Portable Turntable

Who says you can't bring your precious vinyl collection on your boat? Just bring this portable turntable too, throw on an old record when you're at anchor, and enjoy that crisp analogue coming out of the internal speakers. When not in use, it folds into a bag with a shoulder strap. crosleyradio.com



Innova Kayak Inflatable Solar 410 C

Inflatable kayaks used to be glorified pool toys, but the latest offerings, such as this Innova, let you bring a boat on board in a bag. Yep, stow the 'yak out of the way when you're enjoying your big boat. When you're at anchor and want to go exploring in skinny water, inflate the Innova and you're good to go. innovakayak.com

Cuda Titanium-Bonded Snips

Shears are great tools for cutting bait and fishing line. Cuda Tools' titanium-bonded 8-inch snips are three times harder than untreated steel and will stay sharper for a longer period of time. There's also an internal spring system, integrated wire cutters, micro serrated edge for increased cutting performance, and nonslip grips. cudabrand.com



Lander Powell iPhone 7 Case

You just blew some cash on the latest iPhone, so why risk damaging it on board? Made for mountain climbers, this case offers military-grade drop protection if the phone slips out of your hand on deck. Lander Powell also offers an iPhone 7 Plus case for \$5 more. lander.com

Grundens Elastic Belt

No one likes droopy drawers, an affliction that seems to grow exponentially worse with age. So give the old boater on your gift list a Grundens elastic belt. The quick-connect snap buckle is adjustable and the belt stretches, so it will fit a wide range of waist sizes. The bright-orange Grundens logo is the cool new fashion brand for boaters and anglers. lfsmarineoutdoor.com

Canyon Quest Backpack Cooler

This backpack cooler is soft but rugged. Made from raft-grade tarpaulin, it even resists bottle-cap scars. Special IceSkin insulation keeps ice for days. The roll-top, waterproof seal, tie down, and lashing points make it perfect for boaters. There are two sizes. canyoncoolers.com



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Christmas gifts

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INavX App

This may be the most powerful, seamless navigation app we've tested. Download NOAA raster charts and navigate by contours, markers, and all the detail you'd expect on a chart plotter. Set a course and navigate to it. A navigation bar provides data, like speed over ground, course, ETA and more. Here's the deal maker: INavX even allows you to download and overlay weather radar, satellite SSTs, and other grib data at will. INavX.com

ScotteVest System 8.0

There are 43 specially formed pockets for everything — your MacBook Air, iPhone, sunglasses, wallet, passport, keys, snacks, water bottle, notebook, pens — along with dedicated storage features, and RFID protection for your wallet. The fleece zips into the shell, and the sleeves zip off. scottevest.com

Marmot PreCip Jackets

Available in men's and women's styles, Marmot weaves its latest technology — NanoPro — into the PreCip jacket line. These seam-taped jackets are lightweight, waterproof and breathable. Perfect for the boat and the boater, they're available in a range of sizes and a variety of colors. westmarine.com



MOB+ Wireless Engine Cutoff Switch

Install this wireless device alongside your kill lanyard and slip on the sensor wristband, and the boat will stop if you fall in the water. Solo anglers can move about the boat, adjust lines or reel in fish and never worry about being left behind if they fall overboard. buy.fellmarine.com



Garmin Virb Ultra 30

Tell this camera to start or stop recording and remember the best take. Its highly sensitive mic records sound and takes orders in or out of the dive case. Three-

axis image stabilization makes amateur video look professional, 1080p and 4K video are stunning, and you can live-stream with it via your smartphone or Wi-Fi connectivity. Myriad accessories were simultaneously released to accommodate any shooting style. garmin.com

OluKai Pehuea

These OluKai Pehuea look and fit great, and have a grippy sole and a mesh top. These slip-ons feature a dual density foot bed for utmost foot support and comfort. westmarine.com



DeWalt Flexvolt Carbide Hole Saw

DIY boaters will love DeWalt's carbide wood-cutting hole saws. Part of the new Flexvolt accessory line, the saws range from 13/8 to 61/4 inches in diameter. The thin kerf design minimizes chipping while the self-feed pilot bit provides fast drilling speed. The new line is engineered to deliver more holes per charge than standard DeWalt accessories. acmetools.com



Wiley X WX Boss

The matte-black frame and polarized Venice Gold Mirror lenses provide the durability, good looks, protection and crystal-clear vision boaters require for comfort — and safe navigation. Patented Facial Cavity climate control keeps out dust, wind and reflected light. wileyx.com

Body Glove 3T Barefoot Water Shoes

These waterproof shoes are designed to fit your feet like a glove. They have a rugged grippy sole, an integrated drainage system, and a three-toe design that allows your big toe and index toe to move independently like they would if you were shoeless. bodyglove.com

Real Deal Brazil Hat

Real Deal Brazil hats have been everywhere with us, from the UK to Arkansas bass waters and the Cape Canaveral coast to Havasu Lake, Arizona — everywhere. They're the best things that ever happened to recycled truck tarps, and the best sun and rain protection we've ever had. Smart, casual and clearly not off the shelf, they beat straw cowboy hats to pieces.



Order by your hat size or head circumference. Fit is guaranteed. realdealbrazil.com

Weego 44 Jump Starter

Equip the boater on your gift list with the Weego 44 Jump Starter for gas engines up to 6.4 liters or diesels up to 3.2 liters. It features a waterproof, compact lithium-polymer battery pack and Smart Clamps that easily attach to a boat's battery terminals. A USB port accommodates mobile devices, a 12-volt port powers accessories, a 19-volt port quickly charges laptops, and there's a 500-lumen LED flashlight. myweego.com



Striker BAMFF Flashlight

Can't find what you need on board? Shed some light on the situation with a Striker BAMFF flashlight. It comes in three models: the 4.0, 6.0 and 8.0.

All sport dual Cree LED heads, aircraft-grade aluminum bodies, and waterproof construction ideal for boating. strikerconcepts.com



Re-Fuel Digi-power Bottle

This little unit combines a portable water bottle with an IPX4 waterproof Bluetooth speaker so you can save storage space on board. It supports MP3, WMA and WAV file formats, and also works with a microSD card. Play your tunes while sipping your drink and keep cool in two ways. re-fuel.com



Real Deal Brazil Belem Backpack

Tough, water-resistant and versatile in a rugged, casual style, the Belem backpack, made from recycled Brazilian cargo tarps proven over thousands of highway miles, says you're not a fresh-off-the-shelf boater. External pockets can hold phones, tablets and charts. realdealbrazil.com

Papa's Pilar Rum

We tested this gift ourselves and can say it's worthy of evoking the name of Ernest Hemmingway's boat. With ingredients sourced from Florida, Central America and the Caribbean, we knew it would be a treat. Now available in special nautical gift packaging. Papa would be proud. papaspilar.com



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Be thankful for what you have;
you'll end up having more. If
you concentrate on what you
don't have, you will never, ever
have enough.

—Oprah Winfrey



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