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Don't Trash Your Transducer!

Where I live and fish (or is that, where I am living to fish?) it is not uncommon for transducers hung off the blunt end of a boat to sustain some damage, and in most cases any damage at all is terminal.

In normal circumstances transducers are pretty safe, but if your thing is to launch and retrieve "on the hard", off the beach or rocks, some thought has to be given to either protecting the transducer or lifting it out of harm's way. Also if you are likely to be beaching your boat while camping overnight, invariably it comes to rest on the side with the transducer!

Habitually launching from the beach to access my chosen areas, I needed to be able to easily and quickly raise and lower the transducer, and it needed to be done on the



water from inside the boat, as well as on the trailer.

Clearly it must be sufficiently immersed in the water to be effective, but not so deep that it is in danger of being wiped off the hull.

There are proprietary sliding brackets available from the chandlers, but none seemed to be just what I thought was needed. Limited access to ally welders, along with the cost of development and likely incomplete satisfaction with the result,

nyloc nut neatly. One bolt was left long to locate the pipe vertically and prevent it sliding down, and for a retaining butterfly nut, because I wasn't really sure the clips would hold the pipe and transducer securely at speed. For the same reason I elected to stick three bases to the hull rather than the two I thought would probably be sufficient.

With the transducer bolted to another piece of cutting board (I ran some Sikaflex beads down the

encouraged me to exercise old fashioned Australian ingenuity. There isn't much we can't do with a bit of metal and some sticky stuff!

The sticky in this case is that boon to the seafarer, Sikaflex. With a morbid aversion to drilling through my hull for whatever reason, this seemed the only option. I also had to hand a short length of polished 25mm thick wall aluminium pipe, and with the original welded bracket on the hull, it was all too easy.

You will see from the photos the 3 nylon "cutting board" bases, with 25mm pipe clips attached via countersunk 3/16" stainless bolts – the recess in the clips takes a small

inside of this to tension and cushion it against the original hull bracket), holes were then drilled at appropriate spacing in the pipe to permit transducer location high out of the water, or in the water at various depths.

In fact, the bracket and transducer can also be removed from the hull completely and left temporarily inside the transom, or even mounted upside down to completely remove it from harm. A firm believer in Murphy's Law, I also attached a stainless security lanyard in case of accidents, or light fingers – this can be as heavy as you feel necessary. The finished product was a simple, easily constructed, cheap and efficient solution to protect my precious transducer.

In use, the only problem is to remember to shift it up or down – the butterfly nut is unnecessary most of the time. When the height is set to just a smidgen under the hull, the pipe is held firmly in the clips without the nut at any speed, but will easily break out if it bumps anything solid. If it is set too deeply in the water it breaks out of the clips at high speed, making the retaining nut mandatory. An added advantage is the ease of setting the transducer in the right depth of water and adjusting if necessary.

I no longer have sounder "drop outs", with a clear picture at all speeds.

The concerns I had at launch and particularly retrieval (see the photo for why), and parking on the sand are entirely alleviated.

- Mike Levy, Exmouth, WA

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