

Technical Report No 12

Moreton Investigator Association

Technical Paper - Removing vessel from trailer to ground and changing centre boards.

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To remove boat from trailer is no problem if three people are available.

Method I

With the car and trailer in a straight line, allow the trailer to tilt and lower the boat by winch until the keel touches the ground or the rear of the trailer is about 2" clear of the ground, whichever occurs first. At this time the tilt of the trailer draw bar is limited by a chain or some similar system.

If the keel is already grounded disconnect the winch wire and with a body each side of the boat to keep it upright the car can be driven slowly out, taking the trailer until the boat is sitting on the keel and ready to lay over.

Method II

If there is insufficient room to leave the trailer connected to the car, the job is a little more difficult but still possible. A fourth body makes it a little easier. By tipping the trailer into the launching angle the boat is lowered in the same manner until the rear of the keel is on the ground and then with a body each side to support the boat the other two supply a downward weight to the trailer draw-bar and pull the trailer out at the same time. If the rollers are greased and working correctly it is advisable to release the winch to control the trailer's movements or you may find that as the trailer comes to the bow of the boat it will shoot out as the weight of the boat settles.

With the boat now standing on its keel padding can be placed on the ground and the boat laid on to the bilge.

If the centre-board is to be removed for service, the floor should be lifted clear and the bolt will be accessible at the forward end of the centre-board casing, low down. Some boats have fibre glass over the bolt head and nut and if so chisel this away to give access (the fibre glass floor at the bolt level is not the hull but only an inner floor to hold lead ballast in place). The nut is on the Port side and the bolt withdraws to the starboard side and should be replaced from the same side. The wire controlling the board will have to be cut and if removed a string can be pulled through with the old wire to simplify replacement.

When replacing the board ensure that the rubber sealing washers inside the case are in place and take care not to dislodge them with the board. The bolt can be sealed with silicone adhesive. Note: As there is a bushing in the centre board and rubber washers it is advisable not to grease the bolt but allow it to be water-lubricated.

Replacing the boat on the trailer is done with the trailer disconnected from the car. With the boat standing on its keel line the trailer up and commence winching, guiding the trailer to keep the keel centred on the rollers.