

B14 Wings Modification

Photos courtesy of Rod – B14 745

The process shown here illustrates the standard fix of adding plumbing joints on the inner wing bar to stiffen up the entire structure. It does not cover inserting the inner sleeve into the front strut – probably only necessary if your wings have the older thinner walls.



Tools for the job – what no beer?



Drill out rivets on inner bar. Leave the outer bar attached (unless you are upgrading this as well). Remove all the other fittings on the front strut that are inboard of where the joints will go (toestraps, spinnaker blocks, etc.)



Drill out rivets at the bottom of the front and rear struts



File plastic bush flush with the strut tube – trying to get the bushes out does not work (been there, lost my hair trying to get them out).

Slide on joints over bush – you may need a little lubricant for this.



You need to shorten the existing inner bar by cutting off the shaped piece at each end.

Now assemble the inner wing bar and the two plumbing joints (don't rivet them yet) and slide the joints onto the front and back strut (you may need a little lubricant for this).



Slide the inner wing bar up the struts until it is roughly in the correct place.

Put the wings in the boat and measure carefully where the wing joints will go . . .



Assemble the innerbar . . . your wings may not be entirely symmetrical – but make sure that the inner wing bar is going to be in the same position with respect to the gunwhale on each side.



If you are having trouble positioning the inner bar – put the trampolines roughly in position and align the bars with that. Make sure you leave enough of a gap so that you can tension the trampoline properly

You should now have the wings in the boat with the inner wing bar held by the struts and the struts held in position by the trampoline. Now rivet the whole assembly together – **WHILE IT IS IN THE BOAT.**

You can now put back on any other fittings you took off. On my boat I just tie my toestraps around the joints – so no lacing eye required; and I don't use the extra turning blocks for the kite so no lacing eye for the blocks.

Sit down and have a beer confident in the fact that your wings are now a lot stronger . . . and then remember that you have to do the other side!