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J/105 Foredeck Hatch Update – March 21, 2002

Most J/105s shipped since 1992 have been equipped with the Lewmar Ocean Series size 60 foredeck hatch. When the hatch location was changed beginning with hull #336, the foredeck hatch was no longer as well supported (against opening more than 180 degrees). As a result, several actively raced J105s have reported a hairline crack along the two weld lines of the outer frame of the foredeck hatch. In most cases the hatch continues to work fine with no leaking, but to improve the situation, TPI is offering a free upgrade/repair kit for hulls #336 and newer (USA built boats with new deck hatch layout). The Upgrade kit includes an ondeck bumper, and if required, a weld repair kit. J/105s prior to #336 may also order these kits, at the nominal cost listed below. TPI anticipates shipping the kits starting late April. Each kit will come with instructions for easy installation.

Ondeck Bumper

TPI has patterned an on-deck bumper (2.5" high x 2" deep x 3" top width x 7" base width) that provides excellent support when the foredeck hatch is in the "wide-open" position. The pattern was tested successfully in Key West and TPI has since contracted with a supplier to produce the bumper in sufficient quantities to accommodate J/105s in the field. The bumper will be molded to match the standard white deck trim color and may be glued and/or screwed to the deck. TPI cost for bumper is \$23 including US shipment.



Weld Repair Kit

TPI has developed a repair kit that addresses the hairline cracking seen in the welds of several foredeck hatch lids. The kit includes two anodized aluminum plates with a two-part 3M Plexus adhesive, that's been tested in TPI's lab. For most boats, this kit, combined with an on deck bumper, is all that is needed to provide excellent long term lid support under normal usage. TPI cost for weld repair kit is \$12 including US shipment.



Foredeck Lid Offer

TPI and Lewmar have put together a special replacement package for any J/105 owner wishing to replace their Lewmar 60 Ocean Series foredeck hatch lid. It is less than a 20 minute job to switch out lids, as the new lid is already pre-cut to accept the existing hinge hardware. Tools required are a Phillips head screwdriver and knife blade. For orders received by TPI prior to June 1, 2002, the special cost is \$125 including packaging and USA shipment. Lead time will depend on available stock. The initial batch of hatch lids is expected at TPI by the end of April.

To order any of the above items, please complete the TPI Order Form and fax to your nearest J dealer or to TPI at 401-247-4115. Please direct any additional inquiries to your J dealer or to TPI at Fax 401-247-4115 or email custserv@tpicomp.com