SCOUT Projects: *Helm Seat and Chart Cabinet*

m/v SCOUT (Great Harbour N37) *Ray Henry*

Description

Create a comfortable helm seat and cabinet to store chartbooks and paper charts.

Parts Ordered

1. Wood
   - Cherry plywood, teak and mahogany trim for cabinet side/top, drawer fronts, etc.

2. Drawers without fronts
   - 4 basic custom-sized drawers and slides from http://www.drawerdepot.com at approximately $50 each

3. Helm seat (West Marine – tan colored version)

TEMPRESS
Ultimate Deluxe Elite Captain's Helm Seat, White/Blue

$279.99

Free Shipping to Store
Only 5 in stock!

− 1 + In stock online.

Add To Cart Add to My List

Find In Store

Model # 12958484 | Mfg # 57231 | UPC # 79035572318

4. Seat Slide

Garelick/Eez-In 75081:01 Full Size Low-Profile Seat **Slide**
Garelick/EEz-In
Sold by: Amazon.com Services, Inc

5. Chart Rack Pieces

Order details | Ordered on November 3, 2018 (1 item)

Whitecap 62534 Teak **Chart** Caddy
Whitecap Teak
Sold by: Amazon.com Services, Inc

6. Drawer Pulls

Whitecap Teak **Finger** Pull, 1-inch (2-pack)
Whitecap Teak
Sold by: Amazon.com Services, Inc

7. Locking Latches

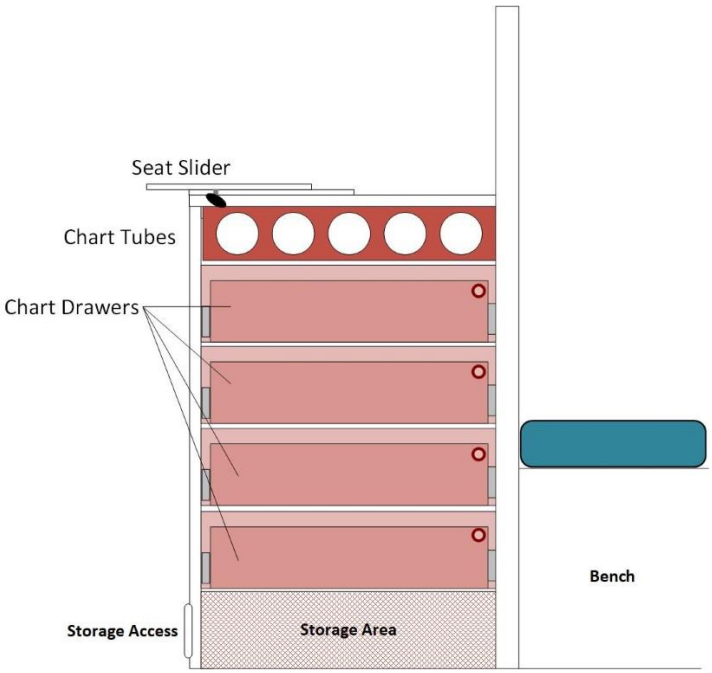
Order details | Ordered on December 16, 2018 (3 items)

Home Security Door **Lock**, Childproof Door Reinforcement **Lock** with 3" Stop 4 Screws Withstand 800 lbs for Inward Swinging Door, Upgrade Night **Lock** to De
EverPlus
Sold by: SPHealth

Assembly

Previously, a large, centrally-mounted helm seat was used on the boat, and the starboard side seating had been shortened. There was room for a new cabinet and plenty of room for a regular helm chair on the top as opposed to going back to the original factory "flip-up" seat at the end of the settee.

I started with drawing out generally what I thought would fit – a tradeoff between cabinet height (i.e., seat height), number of drawers, chart rack height, and drawer heights. I got it roughly accurate, I would just adjust things as I went along….. ;)



I tried to pick a low- to mid-end seat that wouldn't break the bank but would still allow some measure of comfort when underway for long periods of time. The seat would need to be forward at times for electronics and wheel access but be retractable to allow easy access to the side door.

I started with clamping a couple pieces of plywood in place at the end of the settee, at various heights and depths, to see how the seat would work and where all the clearances were.

Test Fitting

Then I started on all of the wood work, shaping, epoxying trim, bung holes, and polyurethane.

Plywood Pieces

I cut the ends off of the teak chart rack and turned it sideways as a top “shelf” in the cabinet. A ¼” plywood base/shelf served to hold it above the drawer area..

Chart Rack Assembly

There’s not much else to document during the process, just lots and lots of cutting, sanding, and polyurethane going on…….

I made individual drawer fronts with finger pulls for the online-purchased drawers. This was the initial drawer testing (I measured ***FIVE*** times before ordering).

Drawer Check

The drawer slides were the self-closing type with a slight detent at the closed position. I didn't think they would stay closed in a seaway, so I used some home door "flip-lock" latches to hold 2-each of the drawers from coming open. I opted for this instead of the complications associated with individual finger latches, given the way I had designed the rest of the cabinet. They don't look too bad….

Latches Closed

Latches Open

There was some space at the bottom under all the drawers, so I created a ‘cubby’ opening for storing life jackets, etc.

Completion

Here are some photos of the completed setup. The seat slides back for full access to the side door, and up to 7 inches forward on the slider. The drawers hold a full 17”x22” Chartkit book.

I am not necessarily enthralled with the white plastic parts of the seat, but it was much lower cost than a lot of the others, and is surprisingly comfortable. The tan piping and accents help with that a bit……

To finish up, I still need to add a step-up on the face of the cabinet and some teak drink/junk holders on the new area on the starboard side of the seat.