Features

Write-ups on all things Wakeboarding!

Fresh Water Shower!

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So, you decided to get all the bell and whistles with the new boat, EXCEPT, the Hot/cold fresh water shower! Good for you cause I'm gonna show you how to build one for around $30 bucks, NOT the $300+ that the dealer wants to charge you!

Below you will find a write up and pictures of how I built the Fresh water shower for my MasterCraft. It is not the greatest thing in the world, (no poking fun) but this thing works better than any I have used yet! Got lots to talk about so let's get to it!!!

What are we talkin here?

My MC dealer offers a Hot/Cold fresh water shower for a huge amount of money. I would have loved to have this system, but there was a few problems in the way. First I didn't want to spend the money for a cheesy POS of a shower, I prefer the "Tim-the-toolman-taylor" approach, "MORE POWER". The original just would not have cut it.

Second, I board in Salt-Water, and if you know anything about these showers, they get their water from under the boat. So, anyone interested in a Hot Salt-water shower? (see the problem)

So I set out to accomplish the task, and report my findings to you.

The Who's, Why's and How's of the thing!?!?

So I knew that I needed a self contained system, one that could be controlled by a switch on the dash, was easily accessible from the boat, and the rider that was just getting in. Lastly, It needed to be able to be taken out of the boat for service work on the engine.

What do I need?

I thought about this for about two seconds, and in that time I came up with the following:

Container to hold the water
Pump
Hose
Wire
fill hole

screws (little ones)
and last but not least, DUCT TAPE (I love this stuff)

8 items that (especially if you board in salt) that will change your attitude on the water!

What I ultimately came up with was the following;
22 gallon Rubbermaid Storage container with lid
A Rule 500GPH bilge pump w/side mount
10 feet of 3/4" clear flexible tubing
16ga copper wire in Black and Red
1 1/2" PVC threaded End w/Cap
Spade terminal connections, and Ring connectors for the battery
Duct Tape (Duh)

So I got all of the stuff, where to put it?

This was easy. I have a V-drive so the area on either side of the motor would soon become the new home for the water storage.

This decision will be different for every boat, but seeing as this will be filled with fresh water, I didn't care if it sloshed around a bit, and got the rear compartment a little wet now and then.

With where you were going to place the tank out of the way, I started to build, here is how I did the nitty gritty!

I first placed the bilge in the Rubbermaid container, it is a regular bilge, so it can literally sit on the bottom of the container, of course, it needed to be secured, so I just screwed thru the outside of the container to the side mounts of the bilge pump. (this is where the side mounting bilges come in, and aide in this attachment) I placed covered the screws on the outside with Duct Tape, to seal them.

next I attached the hose temporarily to the pump, to see where it would be best to create an exit hole in the lid of the container. The opposite side from where the pump sat turned out to be best.

I cut a square hole in the lid, just slightly smaller than the hose. (if you feel like cutting a circle, go right a head, but I started with a square and it worked fine.

Next I drilled a small hole in the upper section of the container, to pass the electrical wire from the pump out of the container. (This hole was just big enough to pass the wires, but I went ahead and threw a dab of caulk on it, to reduce any leaking water and reduce the electricity hazard)

With the wires passed and the hole for the hose ready, I had to figure a way to fill this contraption but still make it some-what neat in regards to functionality. This is where the 1.5" PVC threaded end and cap come in. I cut a hole in the lid of the container for the PVC end,

and passed it thru. On the underside, I just wrapped a few pieces of Duct Tape to seal it a bit, and reduce any top splash that might occur.

With all the holes accounted for, and the wires passed, I fed the hose thru, dropped the lid down on the container, and pressed it into place.

I thought, WOW, this is starting to take shape, BUT, we are not done yet.

If you have ever filled a Rubbermaid container with water before, you know that the sides bulge, and the lid either pops off, or just comes loose. Now think of it, bouncing around it that Comp boat of yours, and you have bunch of water that is going to join what is already in your bilge.

To reduce this, I screwed the lid to the container. this stopped the lid from popping off, and gave the container a little extra strength, to hold the water as an entire unit, instead of just as an open top tank.

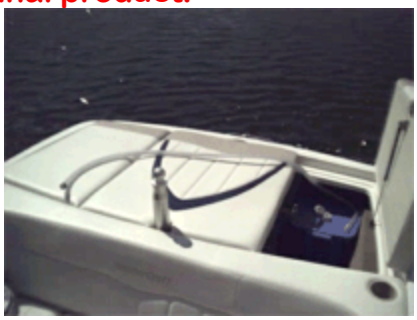
I placed the new contraption in the boat, and began to run the wires from the tank to the dash. I ran the wires thru the OEM hooks and passage ways along with the original wiring in the boat already.

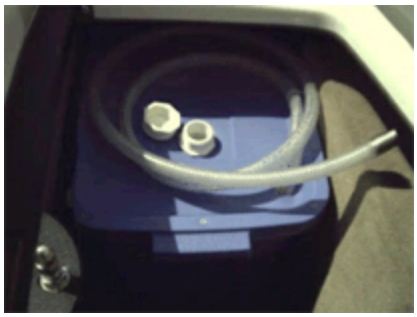
(I was really LUCKY in this area) I have two extra accessory switches in my boat, and I was able to tap into this switch. A quick change of the fuse, and a connection to the ground terminal, and I was hot!) You may be as lucky, if not, and you don't know that much about electrical stuff, please consult your dealer.)

With the wiring and container in place, I added the Spade terminal ends to the pump wires, and the wires I had run and connected them together. (I added these spade connectors to fulfill the purpose of being able to remove the tank and service the motor when needed, as well as other reasons such as cleaning)

Lastly I filled the container with fresh water from the hose on the dock, had a friend hold the hose, and hit the switch. Life is Good!!!.

Here is the final product:



Difficult / Hard Parts

Ahhhh, well there really weren't any!

Personal Notes about the Shower!

Funny thing, I originally built the shower with a 1000GPH pump, and though it would have worked out great with a 200 gallon container, it was just to much for the little 22gal container that I am using, so I dropped it down to a 500, and it worked much better. (drained the container in about a 2.5 minutes!)

This type of setup does require a little maintenance to make sure that the connectors do not get corroded. To keep the interior clean, I remove the unit from the boat, remove the top and wash out the inside of the container with soap and water.

Before you get started!

Think about your boat, study the interior, and get a feel of what you are looking at and what is usable within the boat.

I spent about 1 hour and $30.00 in total. So far the unit has worked great, and I expect it to for years.

Good luck, and if you have any questions email me.
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