

Bottom painting under trailer bunks

I've said a number of times that one can use the trailer jack to help raise the hull above the trailer in order to do bottom painting under the trailer bunks and then went on to describe how to do it. A number of other fellows have also promoted this idea, also.

I started by parking the boat and trailer on my poured cement driveway in front of my garage for this procedure, where I can use a dolly to lay on my back to scoot around under the trailer to access all parts of the underwater areas of the hull and keel.

I blocked the trailer wheels with short pieces of 2 x 4's in front and in the back so the trailer with the boat on would not move from where I parked it. I used the trailer jack to lower the trailer tongue as far down as the jack would allow, this raised the stern of the boat up to over 4 concrete blocks high. I built a pillar out of 8, 8 inch concrete blocks by stacking 2 each for each tier as I went up with a couple wooded 2x4's and 3/4 inch blocks to finish to the very height of the stern.



I then started to jack up the tongue of the trailer to raise the bow like I did to the stern but, it seemed to be too much work for the trailer jack so, I used a Ford truck bottle jack further back the trailer from the tongue. Using the auto jack to raise the tongue and using the trailer jack to stabilize the height everything went easy.



I then used 8 inch concrete blocks to crib up two pillars on each side of the bow just in front of where the trailer narrowed. I then spanned this distance between the pillars with varying lengths of 2x8 and 2x10's. On top of this set a 2x4 V shaped bracket I had made for this boat 21 years ago to hold the bow from rocking sideways when releasing the trailer winch cable and raising the bow above the front ends of the trailer bunks.



Using just the trailer jack height and supporting the hull, put the hull about 2 inch above the trailer bunks.

2 inches of height is all I could get by just using my trailer jack as a guide. 2 inches of height above the bunks is not enough room to paint with a small roller. Using the second bottle jack I could have jacked the trailer higher to get the extra room needed for the bottom paint, but.



By letting the air out of the trailer tires, this allowed the trailer to set about another 3 inches closer to the ground giving me about 5 inches of clearance between the bunks and the hull for painting. With keel cranked up I had this 5 inches for working on the leading edge of the swing keel and when I lowered the keel onto it's bunk the top 2/3 of the back edge was now exposed.



