



The sun awning, supported fore and aft by boathooks

ram. When the boat is lifted out for a scrub each year the backstay has to be detached, and it is the devil's own job tensioning it to reconnect the ram – so we fashioned a little tool to assist us.

### Decking and shelter

*Wizard* originally had glassfibre-sheathed ply decks: we stripped off the sheathing and replaced most of the ply sub-deck during our rebuild. We decided to give her teak decks on top, quarter-sawn from a 5m-long Burmese teak log. The planking is 20mm thick x 50mm wide and epoxied onto the ply sub-deck so that neither screws nor potentially troublesome dowels are used.

Having spent an entire winter sawing, bending, clamping and gluing, the caulking job began in early spring – but temperatures were still not



The 'geriatric gap' boarding gate

ideal for applying the Sikaflex DC 290, despite a space heater and dehumidifier in the boatshed. As a result, adhesion to the sides of some of the seams was weak in some places. An ongoing campaign of re-caulking is now almost complete, but only carried out in warm, dry conditions.

We have no regrets at having opted for teak: it provides excellent grip, enhances the boat's lines and appearance and requires little maintenance beyond the aforementioned re-caulking and an annual



The 'pyramid' over the forehatch

application of oxalic acid.

One of the best additions during the rebuild was a boarding gate – known as 'the geriatric gap' – in the lifelines. *Wizard* has fairly low freeboard by modern standards, but this makes boarding very much easier. Our stanchions were fairly simple to modify, requiring only a pair of diagonal struts each side and the inclusion of quick-release hooks on the wires themselves.

Another welcome addition was a 'pyramid' over the forehatch: this was easy to

make, and addresses the dilemma of maintaining a dry and well-ventilated fo'c's'le.

Our sun awning was similarly easy to make. As we were not willing (nor able, owing to the rig) to construct a bimini

on a tubular frame, this is supported fore and aft by our two boathooks. It takes a while to rig, but does a remarkable job in hot weather. Roll-up side panels can be dropped to keep the evening sun off your chilled aperitif. In wet weather, a plastic 'tent' over the boom fits the bill.

When not supporting the awning, the shorter boathook operates the best bit of kit on the boat – the mooring clip. This is a detachable, spring-loaded hook with a large opening and a rope

