

The Right Stuff

BY STEVE ZIMMERMAN

Here are five examples of The Right Stuff found in the engine room of a Kadey Krogen:

1. As far as seawater strainers are concerned, it is ideal that they are easy to access and vertically mounted, like this one here. The green bonding wire is the correct size (#8 AWG) and is properly attached with a ring terminal to the strainer body. To function properly, bonding systems must have a reliable electrical connection, with no more than 1 ohm resistance. The reinforced hose has double clamps, with the positions alternated to assure even clamping pressure.

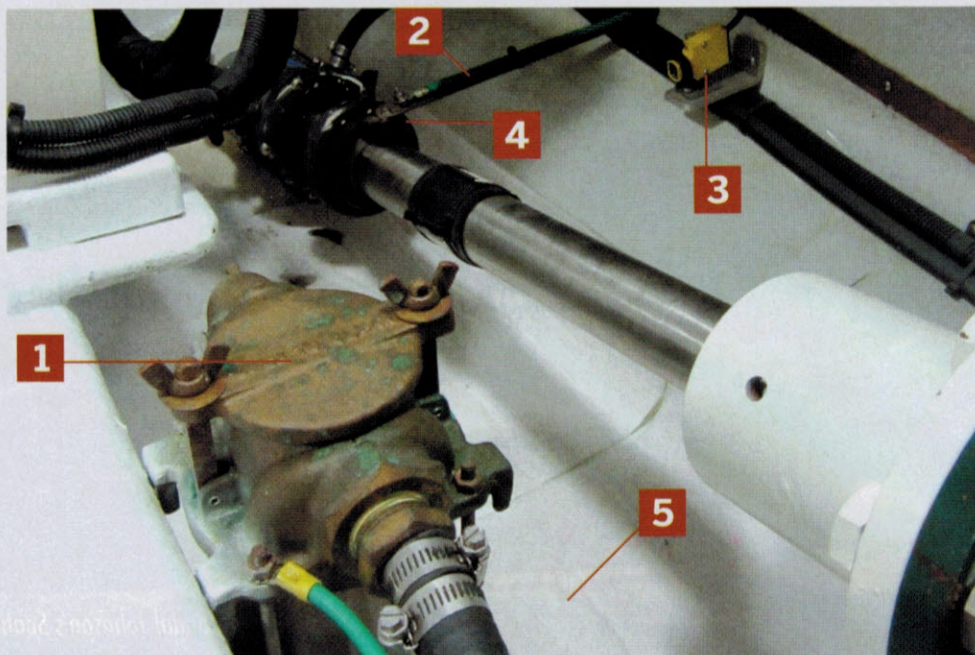
2. Another element of the bonding system can be seen in the shaft brush just forward of the packing gland. The propeller and shaft connect to the engine through the transmission, which does not provide a reliable electrical connection. The shaft brush rides on the shaft and the green wire connects it to the bonding system. The practice shown in this installation enables one large zinc to protect all underwater hardware.

3. Just forward of the shaft brush we see reflective material adhered to the shaft. The yellow sensor attached to the stringer picks up shaft rotation from the reflective tape. This arrangement allows the ABT Trac Stabilizers to sense shaft rpm in order to estimate speed through the water. The gain on the fins will adjust as the boat speed changes, and at speeds below

idle the fins will remain centered so that they do not interfere with maneuvering.

4. This shaft seal from Tides Marine relies upon a lip seal. A spare seal rides just forward of the gland, so that a leaking seal can be replaced without needing to separate the shaft from the coupling in order to slide a new one in place.

5. The clean white bilges will quickly reveal any leaks or weeps, giving a better chance to catch problems before they become serious. ■



Steve Zimmerman

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