

THE DROP KEEL

IX. KEEL/KEEL WINCH

The MATILDA drop-keel works on a four-pulley system. The bearings on these pulleys must be greased as frequently as needed. Two to three checks a year should prevent them from freezing up. Grease the pulleys early Spring, mid Summer, and late Fall if needed. To get at the pulleys:

1. Unscrew top panel of keel housing on starboard side.
2. Grease with "wheel bearing grease" available at most automotive supply stores.

At the bottom of the aft section of the keel housing, there is a stainless lock-pin bolt that prevents the keel from going down further beyond this point. Do not remove this bolt. If you must, do so only when boat is out of the water. Caulk with heavy marine sealant when you rebolt this fitting!

When using the keel winch, the winch pawl lock works automatically when raising the keel (clockwise direction). When lowering the keel, the winch pawl lock must be released BEFORE going in the anticlockwise direction. Once a desired position is reached, the lock pin must be set back on the ratchet before taking your hand off the winch handle.

FAILURE TO LOCK WINCH PAWL LOCK OR MAINTAIN PROPER CONTROL OF WINCH CAN LEAD TO SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE BOAT AND POSSIBLE INJURY TO THE OPERATOR.

It is advisable to remove winch handle and store below deck especially when boat is left unattended at mooring.

The keel must be let to rest on trailer when trailering and should be raised as far up as possible when launching or recovering at ramp.