

## Repairs to Jayne Murray's Artic Fox trailer by Ron Marabito

The first two photos show dry rot in the sidewall below the floor.



I believe we can successfully treat the rot and then re-build about 60% of the wood with epoxy putty. I will attempt to replace the balance of the wood with new treated lumber and some more of the epoxy putty. When that is done, I will fiberglass the rear side up to the floor and then finish the bottom off with the original plastic channel trip.

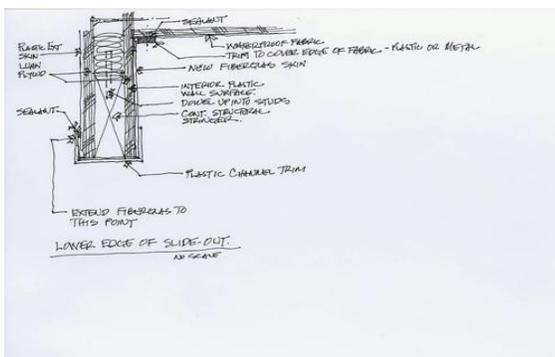


This image was taken at the forward edge of the wheel well. Very poor construction in my opinion.

I got underneath and removed the Luan Plywood from the back side of the wall for the slide, which is below the floor. This Luan is only 1/8" thick. I plan to replace the Luan, but I also have to extend it behind the slide mechanism. The only way to do that is to remove the angle that supports the floor and retract the slide mechanism.

I plan to either block up the slide and remove the mechanism or pull the slide in about 3/4 of the way and let it rest there, as it appears to simply slide and rest on the carpet. If I bring it in, I have much less room to work as I will have to do all the repairs in that position. I decided to support it in the full out position. In order to properly re-align the mechanism when I finish, I will spray paint the edges of the plates and

bolts.



Here's a sketch section of the lower wall to show you the construction. Note: that the bottom channel that I thought capped the bottom, is only a metal angle trim and does not extend up the back side of the wall. I hadn't seen it until yesterday.



On the outside, with some assistance from Jack Pearce, I impregnated some resin in open cavities and drilled holes to solidify the wood some more. A layer of resin was then applied to the exposed rotted wood and between the framing and the exterior plywood skin. That was then clamped as shown in the photos. Because the temperatures are pretty cool at night, I plan to leave the clamps on for another day, but will probably start building some of the wood up with the epoxy putty. It can be applied before the resin is completely cured. I have not worked with this product before, so I hope it works as good as they claim.



I applied the epoxy wood putty along the bottom rail of the slide out except where a few of the clamps are located. I have attached photos. This was all hand shaped. It tends to stick to the putty knife and the product I am using did not provide information on what to use to smooth the surfaces. I will probably have to do a little refining of the putty with a new application. Tonight, I will check their web site to see what I can learn to make it easier. It can be sanded after it is hardened and should perform just like wood.



We are making progress. I plan to cut the lower frame member for the wheel well tomorrow. It had been completely destroyed.

The first photo shows the rebuilt rear vertical member what I need to attach to.

The second image is where the front of that member needs to attach. There is little or no attachment above.



We had some early morning showers so the ground was wet and delayed by start. Jack assisted me in marking the 2x12 treated piece for the bottom frame at the wheel well. I took it to a friend with a band saw for cutting the radius. We then made some plates of 1/8" mild steel to tie the forward end of the 2x12 to the existing framing. This shown in the third photo.

The first photo shows where I installed (2) 1/4"x5" lag screws into the rear end of the remaining part of the 2x12 also shown in photo number two. This made the bottom of the skirt very stable.

I removed the clamps from the outside and filled a few gaps in the bottom frame. Not particularly pretty, but it will do the job.



Yesterday it was too cold to work outside but it warmed up today. I sanded the framing member at the bottom of the exterior wall of the slide-out, squaring it so the plywood will lay smooth and the trim will fit properly at the bottom of the wall. I then installed the plywood gluing and stapling the luan. I had to cut out around the metal splicing plates. Turned out to be a good fit.

Tomorrow, we will remove the windows in the front and rear as well as the slide-out so we can treat with CPES to stop the rot in those locations.

If everything progresses well I will start the fiberglass installation on the slide exterior wall below the frame.



The pictures above show the progress. Unfortunately, I found some more rot at the base of the front and rear walls of the slide. That will be treated while we are working on the windows.

Didn't quite do everything I wanted today, but we removed all the windows, checked for rot, and only had to treat 2 frames. We did get all of the windows back in. It was a total of 7. I treated part of the bottoms of the front and rear walls of the slide. Installed trim with stainless steel screws.

Tomorrow, I will fill a void in the floor of the slide and then begin the fiberglass treatment to the slide stem wall below the floor. I also plan to treat the separated flitches of the plywood at the bottom.



I finished putting on the fiberglass and coating with resin. The following photos show the clear fiberglass resin coating, the electrical yet to be connected and the slide mechanism back in position. We had to make a few adjustments to get the slide to come in O.K... Unfortunately, Jayne has a lot of weight permanently placed in the slide and the motor struggles to get it to rise over the rollers. Once up on the rollers, it moves pretty easy. I had to wrap the fiberglass cloth around the bottom and back on to the outside face of the slide. Had more problems there than anywhere during the job. It might not look the best but it will keep the water out.

In the last photo you can see where I had to strip patch cuts in the weather barrier on the bottom of the slide. These cuts were made looking for the extent of the damage. Later today I will reinstall the wall end trim and tomorrow I will install the bottom trim and put another coat of resin on the weather barrier patches. That should take care of the job.



We finished her up today with the possible exception of the stripped cuts in the weather barrier. They might need another coat of resin, but they look pretty good. We put the trim on the bottom of the exterior wall of the slide and connected the electrical. Overall, the job looks pretty good.