



# Fitting Guide: 'D' Profiles



Wilks is proud to be one of the world's leading companies in the manufacture and supply of impact protection and decking systems.

Since 1973 we have supplied many leading boat builders with their profiles and our customer base spans the globe.

We manufacture a wide range of fendering profiles for both boat and pontoon applications as well as accessories for other marine users including Dek-King®, a superb alternative to teak decking.

At our premises we hold a vast stock of profiles in flexible PVC, rigid PVC, PVR, stainless steel, aluminium and rubber; but as manufacturers we can also supply to meet your individual trade requirements.

If you are unable to find what you need then please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your exact requirements. Our in-house tooling facilities ensure that we are able to offer our customers full support from the early stages of product development through to manufacture. We can also extrude custom-made profiles to your specific colour requirements with extremely reasonable order quantities.

#### *Disclaimer*

*All dimensions and information shown in this brochure are to our knowledge correct at the time of going to print. They are subject to our normal manufacturing tolerances and any modifications that we feel are necessary. Whilst we have endeavoured to ensure that the information given herein is true and reliable it is given only for the guidance of our customers. It is the user's responsibility to ascertain the suitability of products by their own tests.*

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# Fitting guide: 'D' Profiles

## Introduction

Please read these instructions fully before starting work. Should you require any clarification then please contact our Sales Team.

## Tools

We recommend having the following tools available when fitting our 'D' profiles:

Tape measure	Variable speed reversible drill
Putty Knife	Sealant applicator gun
Drill bits (plus appropriate screwdriver bits)	

## Materials

- 'D' Profile, Rigid PVC/Aluminium Fixing Strip & Cord Plugging
- Silicone sealant (marine grade)
- Adhesive (marine grade)
- Stainless steel screws/bolts
- Safety goggles

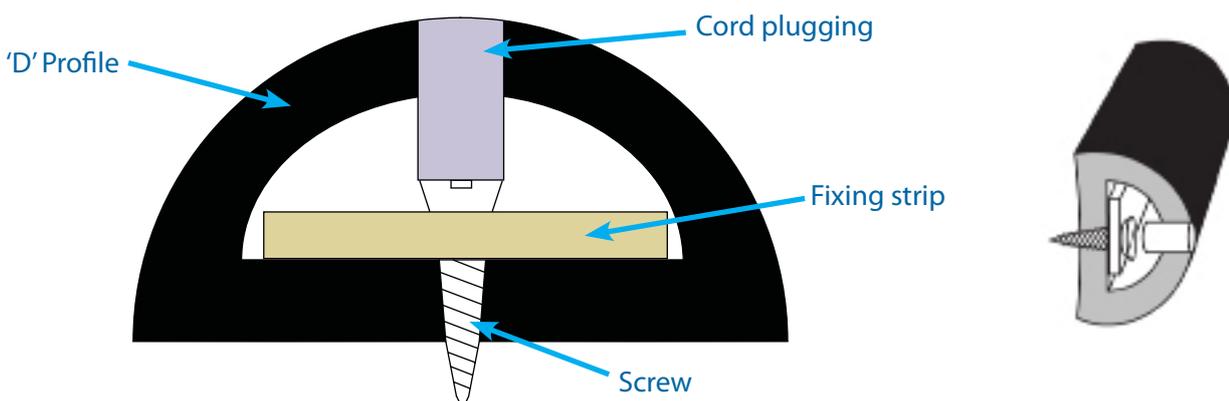
## Assistance

In order to achieve a good finish we recommend that 2 persons are used when fitting our profiles.

## Measuring

To calculate the amount of fendering required the simplest method is to double the boat's length, add the boat's beam (width) plus a further 1-2m to allow for the hull's radius. This will give a total meterage of fendering required.

We strongly recommend taking the time to plan the fitting of your boat in order to be aware of where any bends or mitres will be required before commencing any work.



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## Fixing method

All of our 'D' profiles are fitted in the same manner regardless of whether supplied as a coiled length as in the case with our small profiles or as a 3m length as with our larger profiles.

Pre-formed bends of 45° and 90° to assist with bows and transoms are available for some rubber profiles. Please contact our sales team for further information.

'D' profiles should always be fitted with a Rigid PVC or Aluminium Fixing Strip within the profile. This acts as both a washer for your fixings as well as providing added strength. Be sure to overlap the 'D' fendering and fixing strips so as to provide as much security as possible.

Fixings should be between 75-200mm apart (the larger the profile the closer together the fixings should be).

Be careful when drilling the fendering - if you drill too far into the boat you risk damaging the surface of the fendering with the chuck of the drill.

*Tip: by applying some sealant to the end of each screw before fitting you will ensure that each hole is well sealed.*

## Instructions

*WEAR SAFETY GOGGLES AT ALL TIMES WHEN FITTING FENDERING.*

If you are replacing an existing fendering system then it will typically be held in place by one of two methods – screws or pop rivets. These instructions will cover replacing the fendering in both instances.

- 1) Remove end caps to allow access to profile. Typically these are held in place by screws and perhaps some silicon sealant.
- 2) If there is an insert within the profile remove this too which will then allow you to ascertain the method of fixing (note: you may also need to remove any plugging to see fixings):

Screws – simply put the required screwdriver bit (either Philips or flathead) into your drill and remove them by reversing the drill.

Pop rivets – this is slightly trickier as the heads will need to be drilled out. To do so you will require a drill bit that is no bigger than the shaft of the rivet. This is to ensure that you only remove the head of the rivet. Once done the shaft can then be pushed through.

- 3) Fixings will usually be found every 75-200mm. Rigid PVC or Aluminium Fixing Strips may also be present which act as a strengthener within the profile. Depending on your working conditions and size of profile being removed it may be easier to remove the old fendering in sections.

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- 4) Remove end caps, insert, fixings and fendering. There will quite likely be silicone sealant behind the fendering which will pull away when the fendering is removed.
  - 5) Now use the putty knife to gently remove any excess or loose silicone sealant that was revealed when the fendering was removed whilst being careful not to damage the gelcoat of the hull.
  - 6) Put the silicone sealant in the applicator gun and go around the boat filling in the holes left by the old fendering's fixings. New holes will be required for the new fendering.
  - 7) Mark on a length of Fixing Strip the desired spacing of your fixings and then drill these out to accept the diameter of your chosen screws/bolts.
  - 8) Using this as a template mark and drill holes in the remaining Fixing Strips.
  - 9) Place a Fixing Strip along the top of the 'D' Fender and mark matching drilling points on the surface of the profile.
  - 10) Fit a drill bit of the same size/slightly smaller than your chosen Cord Plugging diameter and drill holes into the face of the profile as marked ensuring that you only drill into the top of the profile and NOT into the base. This will allow your chosen screw/bolt heads to pass cleanly into the profile for fixing to the hull.
- Note: Be careful when drilling the fendering - if you drill too far into the boat you risk damaging the surface of the fendering with the chuck of the drill.*
- 11) Place fixing strip inside of profile – ideally you will overlap these between the lengths of 'D' fender.
  - 12) Mark the middle of a length of fendering with tape so that you can evenly distribute the profile around the boat.
  - 13) Put the marked area of fendering up to the bow of the boat and then 'roll' the fendering body around the hull until you reach the end of the length. This gives you your first fixing point to start the installation of the fendering.

*Note: If you have a preformed bend then eliminates the need to centre your starting length.*

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14) Whilst holding the fixing strip central within the D Fender, pass the drill bit through your predrilled hole in the Fixing Strip and drill into the hull.

*Note: Be careful when drilling the fendering - if you drill too far in you risk damaging the surface of the fendering with the chuck of the drill.*

15) Secure with chosen fixing.      16) Repeat steps 10 through 15 on the remaining side of the boat.

17) Once D Fender has been fitted, trim enough Cord Plugging off the length so that it touches the screw/bolt head and secure with some suitable marine adhesive.

18) Secure and finish the fendering with an end cap.



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*Images supplied courtesy of Peter Caplin*

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