



## EPOXY FOR MARINE USE



### **THE NEXT GENERATION**

Over 30 years of advances in construction and repair techniques using epoxy branded materials have revolutionised boatbuilding and set new standards for performance and reliability. WEST SYSTEM Epoxy products and PRO-SET Laminating epoxy lead the field for quality, performance, safety and reliability.

### **THE EVOLUTION OF BOAT CONSTRUCTION**

For centuries timber was used to construct wooden boats. Builders developed sophisticated building methods, but were always thwarted by the susceptibility of wood to rot and the high maintenance needs of wooden craft.

The development of fibre reinforced plastics (FRP or Glass Reinforced Plastics, GRP) offered apparent solutions with new materials and techniques. Huge numbers of polyester/fibreglass boats have been built over the last forty years on the assumption that these boats offered the ultimate goal of low maintenance and easy production materials. As with wood, polyester has fallen at the same hurdle – the effects of moisture penetration. In a polyester laminate this moisture ingress causes hydrolysis, blisters and delamination. The solution to these problems lies in epoxy composite construction.

### **WHY USE WEST SYSTEM EPOXY?**

Developed in the early 1960's by three brothers, Meade, Jan & Joel Gougeon, WEST SYSTEM Epoxy products have an impeccable record, second to none throughout the marine industry. From building a 6' dinghy to the 212' wooden sailing barque, from treating osmosis to restoring the wooden beams in buildings WEST SYSTEM epoxy provides the customer with versatility.

WEST SYSTEM products are not just limited to one use, they provide the end user with a chemistry set designed to be modified for the project in hand. A choice of hardeners allows the epoxy to be tailored to the local environment enabling the epoxy to be used in a variety of temperature conditions – from very cold to very warm. Fillers allow the viscosity of the epoxy to be increased, from a ketchup to a peanut butter consistency, to enable the epoxy to be used in bonding, filling and fairing applications.

### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

We offer full technical support to every user of our products. Throughout our distribution network local distributors provide support to solve problems and advise the best way in which to use our products. At Wessex, we offer a technical help line - any user simply telephones or emails the office for help and advice and have many technical staff with a wealth of boatbuilding and repair knowledge available to answer questions. In addition, we have a range of publications and technical leaflets detailing repairs to wooden, fibreglass and steel boats, together with the wooden boat builders bible, "The Gougeon Brothers on Boat Construction".

TECHNICAL HELPLINE: +44 (0)870 7701030, TECHNICAL E-MAIL: [techinfo@wessex-resins.com](mailto:techinfo@wessex-resins.com)

### **EASY TO USE PRODUCT**

We endeavour to ensure that our products are easy-to-use. Every effort is made to provide simple instructions and tools to make using our products one of the easiest to use. We provide dispensing pumps to ensure the correct ratio is maintained and step by step guides for using our products.

## **A HISTORY OF SUCCESS**

WEST SYSTEM products have been used throughout the world for decades. Through our experience we know our technical support is second to none. Literally thousands upon thousands of boats have been built and repaired using WEST SYSTEM epoxy. Epoxy composite construction techniques for boatbuilding were first developed in the 1960's. Since then many, many composite boats have been built for use as work and recreational craft.

## **WEST SYSTEM BRAND PRODUCTS**

Gougeon Brothers have been pioneers in epoxy formulation and epoxy composite boat construction for over thirty years. Since the introduction of WEST SYSTEM Brand Products in the 1970's, the company Gougeon Brothers Inc. has been known world wide for their consistently high quality epoxy products. Through the knowledge and skill developed from boatbuilding, racing and scientific research, Gougeon Brothers Inc. is at the forefront of epoxy technology. Leading boatbuilders rely on WEST SYSTEM epoxy for epoxy composite construction.

Please refer to the WEST SYSTEM User Manual and Product Catalogue for further information.