

Cracked Section Repairs

“Invisible Whipping” explained

“Invisible whipping” is a repair technique in which the crack in the timber is enlarged and grooves are cut into the section. This allows a whipping material to be bound tightly around the timber to provide strength and flexibility to the repair. The crack and the grooves are then filled with a mixture of powdered Blackwood and a specialist glue. When this has cured, the overfill is machined down to match the original combing and beading profiles of the section.

Although the technique is called “invisible whipping” it is never truly invisible, the faint outline of the crack may still be seen and the surface of the grooves can never be a perfect match to the original timber. However, it is the most successful and least obvious method of repairing such cracks.



Drone tops as they arrived, having previously been poorly repaired.



Ferrules removed. Old fill removed and cleaned back to original timber.



Crack filled with powdered Blackwood and specialist glue. Groove cut into raised bead area ready for whipping.



Timber “whipped” with artificial sinew to provide strength and flexibility.



Crack overfilled with powdered Blackwood and glue.



Bead area machined to match the original profile.



Repair completed with finish applied to the timber sections. Arrow on ferrule indicated the position of the original crack.