

A patch in time...

A small split in a sail's belly is just a gust away from a leech-to-luff rend, an enormous bill and a sabbatical from sailing. That's when these new adhesive Dacron patches from PSP come into their own. One pack contains two 24x37cm heavy-duty patches. When it's time to use them, peel off the back and apply to a 'clean and dry sail' – er, OK – either side of the damage. If adhesion is a problem, you can stitch through the patches for a more durable repair.

Price £9.99 **Contact** PSP Marine Tapes **Tel** 01489 581811
website www.pspmarinetapes.com



Forearmed

Hopefully, we've all got lifejackets for the occasions when it would be foolhardy to go without. Should one inflate accidentally, however, when taking a wave at the bow or when the manual inflator snags in the cockpit, you're immediately one lifejacket down. That's when forewarned is forearmed. These new arming kits from SeaSafe, 33 and 38g, manual and automatic, can turn a flaccid rubber scarf back into a lifesaver. Make sure you have as many arming kits as you do lifejackets.

Price 33g manual: £7.95, 33g automatic: £12.95 (£13.95 for 38g)
Contact SeaSafe **Tel** 01983 282388
Website www.seasafe.co.uk



Crash mat

There are many ways of dealing with a hole below the waterline. Which one you choose depends on the severity of the ingress, but if sinking is possible, you need a quick solution. Your best bet is a quick fix outside, as working from inside will probably involve the time-consuming tearing out of joinery to get at the hole. The LRSE collision mat is made of durable rip-stop on the inside and an orange waterproof fabric outside, reinforced with Spectra webbing. It has 12 attachment loops to make sure of a snug fit against the hull. At that price, though, a storm jib that can be used in a similar way might be a better buy.

Price £722 (\$999) **Contact** Life Raft and Survival Equipment, in the USA
Tel 001 800 451 2127 **Website** www.lrse.com



BIG VISION

Most of us will be quite happy with the ST70 range of Raymarine instruments but, considerate as ever, Raymarine has catered for those with longer boats (40ft and over) or shorter sight, with the ST70+ range of instruments. These 6.5in LCD screens can display information in any one of 17 different configurations, digital or analogue. There's also a clever red-on-black display to protect your night vision. The buttonless screens are controlled by a keypad mounted near the helmsman (keypad not shown).

Price Instrument: £1,125.25, Sail keypad: £379.50 **Contact** Raymarine **Tel** 02392 693611 **Website** www.raymarine.com



Please your plug

There is something fundamentally stomach-churning about picking detritus out of plugholes – hair in the shower drain, food from the galley sink and so on. Liberation from this drudgery, and the associated pipe blockage, could be at hand with Dossil. It's a silicone mat that bends to fit tricky spots and sticks by suction to make sure nothing escapes its rubbery clutches. When you've finished using the sink, pick it up, tap it over the galley bin and it's ready to go again.

Price £2.97 **Contact** Lakeland **Tel** 01539 488100
Website www.dossil.com



FIND ME NOW

If you make offshore passages regularly, you'd need a pretty good reason not to have a Personal Location Beacon (PLB) with you. They're small, light, and if you value your life at more than £260, good value. Safety specialist McMurdo has just released the FastFind 210 PLB. Step through the three-stage manual activation process and it sends alerts on 406MHz along with your position, as calculated by a 50-channel GPS receiver, and search-and-rescue services can home in on the 121.5MHz signal. It's got an SOS flashlight, too. There's a test button so you can find out if the 6v lithium battery is up to its five-year life claim. It doesn't officially qualify as an EPIRB, though – it doesn't float and its waterproof rating is IP58 (safe for five minutes in depths up to 30ft), so in a real-life emergency, you'll need to attach it to your lifejacket to keep it clear of the water.

Price £258.75 **Contact** See website for nearest stockist
Tel 023 9262 3900 **Website** www.mcmurdo.co.uk ▲

