

## FIXING THAT PROBLEM SCREW

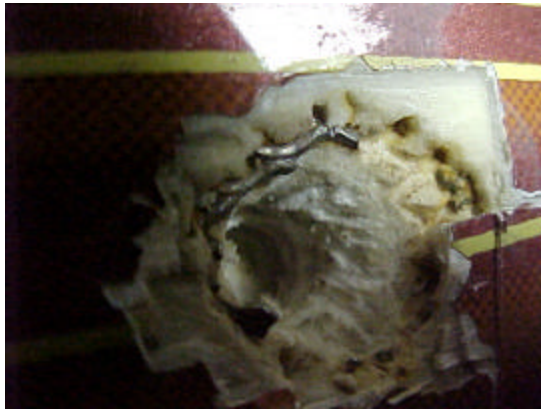
Ever have a screw pull out of a ski binding, and you've tried steel wool, glue, dowels, etc to fix the darn thing. Well here is how I fixed a pair of skis that I thought were goners. The front screw of the binding pulled out and had a friend try to fix the problem using epoxy. It lasted maybe a half season, for which I was very grateful for the fix. At the end of the season, once again the screw pulled out but this time, it left a crater in the ski. I took the ski down to a repair shop where they refused to repair the ski based on a liability issue, but mentioned that a very strong epoxy might be able to salvage the ski. So on that advice, I decided to try the fix. The following is what I did.



The tool shown above is what I used. Not sure the proper name, but it is like a ice pick with the end bent at a ninety degree angle to the shaft.



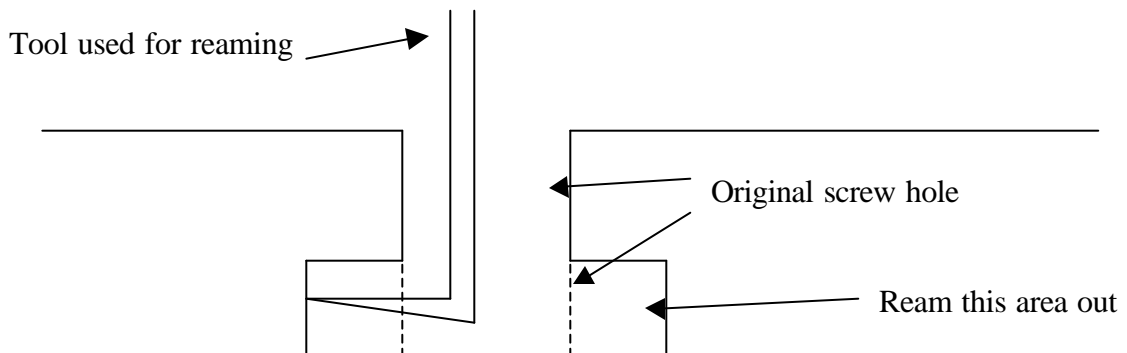
This is a close up of the damage (after some clean up) of the damaged ski. Note that this is a foam core ski, this fix may not be for all skis.



This is another close up of the damage. Had to remove some top laminate and some of the “chicken wire” on top, but don’t remove too much of the wire as that will be used later for the epoxy to adhere to.



The next step after cleaning is to take your tool and start at the bottom of the hole and start reaming out the ski to get to some shape as shown below.

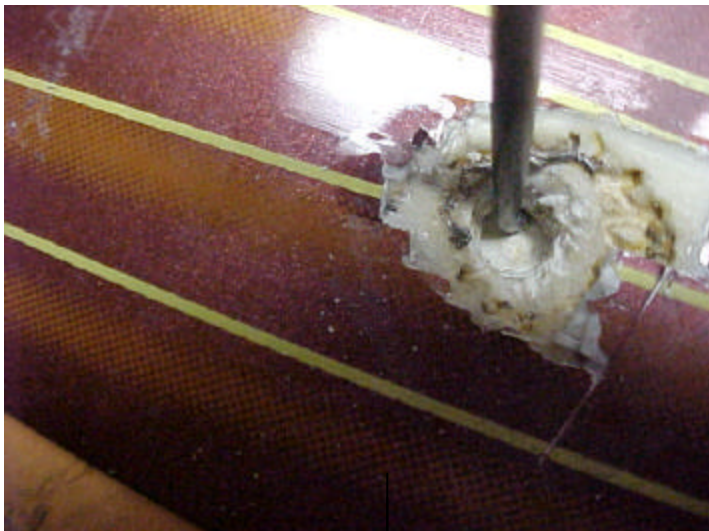


### Ski Base

Keep working the tool, scraping the circular channel out as shown in the drawing above and shown below. The foam core is a dense foam and scrapes with a little effort. Don't be afraid of scraping as no damage to the core will be done as we will be filling the entire hole with epoxy.

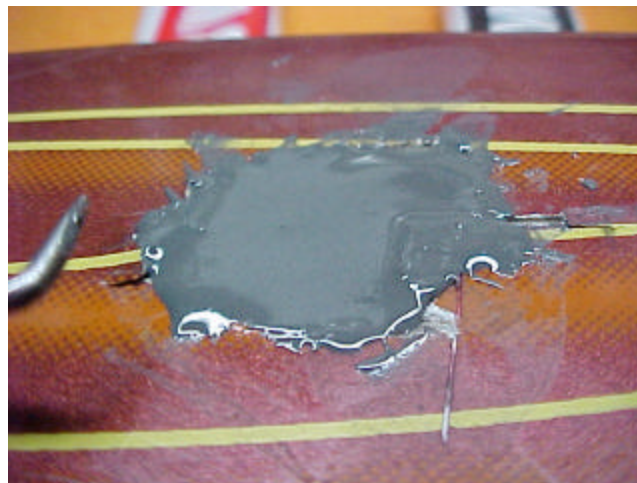


Soon you will be able to insert the bent tip all the way into the circular channel (see picture below). Once that is complete your almost there.



Now, go get yourself some JB Weld at your local hardware store. Mixing is required and having a hair dryer will help.

Mix the JB Weld (epoxy) according to the instructions. Once mixed you need to get the mixture into the hole, making sure that the circular channel is completely filled. You need to have the epoxy in a thin consistency so it will flow into all the nooks and crannies. Use a hair dryer to heat the epoxy up. Using a toothpick with epoxy on it, direct the heat from the hair dryer onto the epoxy and let the epoxy drop down into the hole as it heats up. Use the toothpick as well as your tool to push the mixture into the circular channel. Pound on the ski to get any air bubbles up and out of the hole. Using a rubber mallet works great as you need to pound firmly on the ski. Eventually you will have something looking like the picture below.



Once dry (give it at least 12 hours), sand it smooth and your ready to tap the screw back in. I used JB Weld on the screw when I put the binding back on for extra insurance. Not shown in any of the pictures, but I inserted (horizontally) some fencing wire into the bottom of the circular channel. Think of the wire acting as an anchor for the epoxy.

