

## Installing Keder Rail on 2007 Dutchmen Clamshell Driver Side

Most of the older Dutchmen T@B Clamshell trailers do not have a keder rail on the driver side.

Some of the older 2006 and earlier T@Bs don't have a Keder rail on either side. (T-2 and Clamshell)

I found a product that allows you to install a rail yourself without annealing aluminum.



It is Flex-A-Rail White 44" Long from Sailrite.com

<https://www.sailrite.com/Flex-A-Rail-White-45>

It also comes in 90" lengths, but shipping is harder and more expensive.

<https://www.sailrite.com/Flex-A-Rail-White-90>

However, having said that, if I were to do it over again, I would have gotten the 90" rails because the joint between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 44" rail was at the most extreme bend and quite difficult to get it straight at the joint.

It can be bent slightly just with pressure. It can have more extreme bends with heat.

I ordered 5 44" rails

6 packs of screws

<https://www.sailrite.com/Screw-Flat-Head-4-x-6-x-3-4>

Square Head screwdriver for screws

<https://www.sailrite.com/Screwdriver-Square-Head-0>

In addition, you need a very small drill bit and some butyl tape.

I started at the front handle. You pre-drill the strips, at about ¼" from each edge, then about every 5-6" along the rail.

Then you place a small dab of butyl tape over each hole.

Then place the rail where you want to start. Drill through the hole and butyl tape into the trailer, then using the special screwdriver and screw, screw into the hole you drilled.

Then bend the rail to the next spot (this one takes two people, one to hold the rail in place, and the other to drill into the trailer), and then drill the next hole in the trailer, and put in the screw.

You continue this process until you have the first rail in place. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> screw is inserted, one person can install the rest of each rail.

Then keep on until you have all rail pieces in place.

On a clamshell, you should use 4 rails to cover almost down to the end, then you have to measure and cut the final piece. I used a manual mitre box and mitre saw to cut. Then I put the final piece in.

To create a place to insert your keder rope, you can use a Dremel with a sanding barrel to open it up.

I haven't done that yet, but once I get a second visor, I will.

The following video from SailRite explains the bending by heating process and installation much better than I can. I did not find it necessary to heat with this application though.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCg1uYm-kQ8&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCg1uYm-kQ8&feature=emb_logo)

I also have enough rail leftover that I might put some on the bottom of my T@B so that I can attach my visor guy lines to the bottom of the trailer if staking out is not available. (No bottom rail on Dutchmen Clamshells)



