



RAINIER TENTS Tech Tips

KEDER MAINTENANCE



Keder tops are the most important innovation in tents and structures, saving labor and making the installation process more efficient. However, the very feature that glides a new top into the frame can, without regular attention and upkeep, also become the installer's worst enemy. The keder track in the aluminum extrusion, the fabric wrapper, and the flexible vinyl rod must all receive regular attention to insure long life and maintain the cost saving benefits.



The keder track and crown castings should be inspected before every installation, paying close attention to the opening at the end of tube. The entry port of the keder track should be smooth to the touch with no sharp edges. Burs can rip or cut the fabric as it slides into the track. Severe burs will need the use of a round file first and then polished smooth with a green Scotch Brite or similar scouring pad. Though less common, dings and burs can also show up along the length of the track and should also be polished out to insure the fabric's integrity as it slides along the length.

Age and repeated strain from folding take their toll on the keder, resulting in small stress tears and cuts at the folds, exposing the flexible vinyl rod. The first solution is to apply a liberal amount of HH-66 to the cut and between the wrapper and the flexible vinyl rod. Be sure the fabric immediately surrounding the cut is saturated. This will insure the fibers lie down and resist tearing further. Over time, the ends of the keder can become frayed from feeding and can be dressed the same way.



To repair cuts or tears at the keder that are under 2", lay the damaged fabric panel onto a smooth, even surface free of dirt, moisture, and debris. Using a box knife or scissors, trim away the loose keder wrapper fabric hanging off the flexible vinyl rod. Do Not Cut the flexible vinyl rod. The patch should be the width of the keder base fabric, cut 1" to 2" longer than the tear. Generously brush half of the rubber side of the patch with HH-66.

Next, brush the HH-66 into the panel area surrounding the tear until the keder wrapper is saturated on the side of the fabric panel facing up. Lay the glued portion of the patch down onto the saturated portion of the wrapper so the edge of the patch lines up with the edge of the existing wrapper and the vinyl. The tear should be centered beneath the patch.



Use a silicon roller to press and smooth the patch over the original wrapper. Roll continuously and evenly until dry, paying close attention to working the bond right up to the crease of the bead. FLIP the fabric panel over so the vinyl side of the patch is face up. Repeat the process of applying glue to both the vinyl side and the woven wrapper as before. Fold the wrapper around the

bead making it very, very tight to the existing bead. The patch should align or be just shy of the vinyl and wrapper border of the second side. Roll this second side as you did the first, paying close attention to the patch wrapper. Make sure there are no air pockets or gaps between the patch wrapper and the flexible vinyl rod, especially at the crease. A good patch tightly follows the fabric on both sides and shows no signs of puckering around the flexible vinyl rod.



Keder bullets protect the end of the keder, and make pulling the top through the frame somewhat easier. Keder Bullets can sometimes be ripped out and should be replaced immediately. Tops that have never had bullets can be tapped with the help of a drilling jig to retrofit bullets correctly. This will help make an older, difficult-to-pull panel a little less stubborn to install.

Proper maintenance of the keder track and the keder on your slide track tops will reduce labor at set up, and extend the life of your tops. Maximizer Tent Products has a variety of tools to help you maintain your tracks and tops. For more information contact the Rainier Tents.



1.800.621.2495

www.RainierTents.com
tentinfo@rainier.com