



# NECK GASKET REPAIRS **WITH** KOKATAT'S NECK GASKET REPLACEMENT TOOL KIT

*There are two sets of instructions: One for replacing the neck gasket **WITH** Kokatat's Neck Gasket Replacement Tool Kit, and one **WITHOUT**. Neck Gasket Replacement Tool Kits may be purchased through any Kokatat dealer.*

**WARNING:** This repair can be difficult

to perform. Please read and understand these detailed instructions completely before starting. It will be helpful to follow the instructions in a "dry run" without glue first. Make sure you have a well-ventilated, large flat surface to work on.

INCLUDED WITH GASKET REPAIR KIT (AVAILABLE FROM KOKATAT DEALERS)

- (1) Latex gasket
- (1) Tube AquaSeal® glue (0.5 oz)
- (1) Sandpaper
- (1) 303 Protectant™ sample

INCLUDED WITH NECK GASKET REPLACEMENT TOOL KIT

(AVAILABLE FROM KOKATAT DEALERS)

- (1) Melamine coated round repair board
- (2) 1/2 circle clamp rings
- (6) Spring clamps
- (1) Roll two-sided tape
- (1) Tube AquaSeal® glue (0.5 oz)
- (1) Neck gasket shape retainer form (yogurt container)
- (1) Instruction sheet

ADDITIONAL ITEMS YOU NEED

- Box knife, Xacto knife or heavy scissors
- Popsicle stick or plastic butter knife (to apply AquaSeal®)
- Denatured alcohol or acetone or nail polish remover
- Latex or light work gloves (to protect fingers and keep clean)
- Wood clamps (spring)
- Clothing iron
- Seam ripper (if removal of an existing sewn-in gasket is necessary)
- Lighter or matches

## GETTING STARTED

1. The simplest, safest and most effective method of dealing with deteriorated gaskets is to cut the old gasket off, leaving the base adhered to the fabric, then gluing the new gasket to the old gasket base. Kokatat strongly recommends this method, unless the gasket left on the garment is badly deteriorated (gummy) or there are already two or more layers of repairs. In this case, skip to step 3.

2. With drytop or drysuit right side out, turn outer collar down so entire gasket is exposed. Note whether the original gasket is attached on the inside or the outside of the suit. To cut the gasket off, you need to be able to see the edge of the fabric, so either leave the suit right side out or turn it inside out so that you can see the edge of the fabric. Then cut the old gasket off just at the fabric edge.

3. If you must remove the existing gasket, follow the procedure below. **WARNING: Pulling on a well adhered gasket can rip the fabric of the suit!** Rips in fabric will occur more easily in some directions, so even though it doesn't rip where you start to pull, it may rip under the same stress at some other point in the circle. Go slowly, watch carefully and if the fabric starts to rip, stop and send the suit to Kokatat for repair. If the gasket has been stitched on, use a seam ripper to break the threads on the gasket side before removing.

## GORE-TEX® FABRIC

Using a typical home iron set at medium, heat either the gasket or the fabric (either inside or outside) until hot to the touch, and carefully pull the gasket off. If the gasket doesn't come off fairly easily, apply

more heat. Hot air guns are not recommended, and a regular hair dryer is typically not hot enough. Be aware that gasket glue and latex gets hot and stays hot, so you may want to wear gloves.

## URETEK (COATED NYLON) FABRIC

**Warning: Excessive heat will melt the urethane coating causing the fabric to leak. Apply heat only to the latex gasket.** Do not allow the iron to touch the fabric anywhere. You can lay a thick piece of cloth (towel) on the fabric to protect it, but you still do not want to iron over the fabric. Using a typical home iron set at medium, heat the gasket until hot to the touch, and carefully pull the gasket off. If the gasket doesn't come off fairly easily, apply more heat. Hot air guns are not recommended, and a regular hair dryer is typically not hot enough. Be aware that gasket glue and latex gets hot and stays hot, so you may want to wear gloves.

Removal of gaskets usually creates some fraying of the fabric around the edge of the neck hole. This is primarily a cosmetic issue because the new glue will bind the threads, but you may trim the threads with scissors or *carefully* singe them with a match or lighter.

4. Put double-stick tape around circumference of the repair board on one side. Use short strips and pull the paper off as you go. Cut off, and/or fold over excess tape around outside edge of board.

5. *If the original gasket was on the interior of the suit, the replacement gasket could be glued on either the interior or the exterior. These instructions detail an exterior gasket application.* Insert repair board into the garment, and center in the neck hole. Press about 1" of the fabric flat against the tape around the perimeter of the repair board so that it is as flat as possible. It will take some manipulation and patience to get the fabric flat, so take your time. Some small wrinkles are okay.

6. Pull the outer collar around and under the repair board so that it's completely out of the way. With a razor blade cut and remove the double-stick tape on the board projecting past fabric edge. This prevents glue from drying on sticky tape. (Careful not to cut the fabric!)

## GLUING

1. Clean the gluing area on the old latex well with alcohol or acetone before sanding. Then sand the old latex. Prepare the new gasket similarly. (Sanding before cleaning can rub contaminants into the rubber.) If you are gluing onto fabric and not the old latex, simply wipe the fabric with the cleaning agent and let it dry thoroughly.

2. Insert the plastic container into the neck opening of the new gasket – this gives the gasket form and helps the base flange of the gasket stay flat. Set the gasket down over the opening and trace the outside perimeter of the gasket onto the fabric. Leave the form in the gasket, and set aside.

3. Apply a moderate bead of AquaSeal® onto the fabric and spread it from fabric edge to the traced line. Using the container as a handle, set the neck gasket on the wet glue. Manipulate it so that the edge of the neck gasket extends to the edge of the wet glue. Press with fingers to remove any air bubbles and to ensure the surfaces are in good contact.

4. Place the half-circle clamp boards around neck gasket and secure with spring clamps. If only half the gasket is glued, clamp one half-circle on the glued half. Apply glue to the second half and clamp the second half-circle board.

5. Let dry overnight, or see instructions on AquaSeal®.

6. The AquaSeal® will be stuck to both the half-circle clamp boards and the circle repair board. Start at one point and carefully peel the garment off.

7. Inspect

8. Enjoy.

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