Isiteek is a D-I-Y product aimed primarily at the marine market, preferably for making smaller panels.

You need the following tools:

- A work bench with a straight edge to work against
- Some weights
- Masking tape
- Sharp knife
- Metal ruler
- Drawing compass
- Stelmax glue for joining the planks
- Caulking gun if using margin boards.

Unpacking

When you unpack the Isiteek, make sure your working temperature is above 20 degrees Celsius. This will make the Isiteek much easier to work with. For best results re-roll the Isiteek the other way so the top surface is on the outside. Preferably leave the roll or cut lengths in a warm room for 24 hours before you use it. This will speed up the process of removing any “memory” in the material.

Cutting

First make your template in paper as per our instructions. We recommend you build your panel on top of your
template for the very best result, see picture 1.

Pic. 1

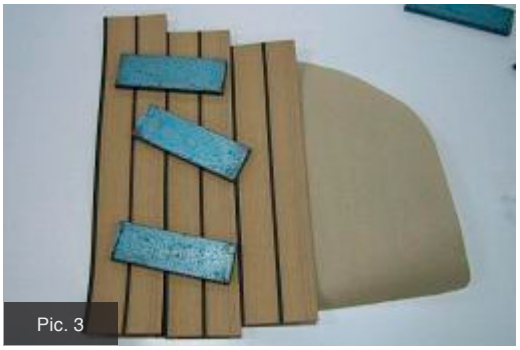
Cut the planks to lengths slightly bigger than your template. When building multiple panels where the caulking seams need to line up, make these panels in one piece where possible. Then cut to the rough size of each template afterwards. See tips section later.

Joining the planks

Place your first plank up against the straight edge and weight. Cut the tip off the stelmax nozzle at a slight angle around 8mm from the tip. Gently squeeze the tube to apply an even bead of Stelmax into the female side of the joint.

Pic. 2

Put a new plank against the first and apply constant pressure. Ensure that the planks are well joined. Use some masking tape to hold the planks together and some weights as well to flatten the panel, see picture 3.



Pic. 3

* Tip: As you add more planks, use a straight edge to check the planks are still straight and you haven’t induced a bend in the planks. Applying too much pressure in one area could cause this problem.

If you have used the right volume of glue, you will have a small amount coming up between the planks. Let the glue dry for approx 15 minutes, and use a small sharp knife to take away the excessive glue. Use some 40-60 grid sand paper to sand away the remaining glue residue. Always sand along the caulk lines, see picture 4.

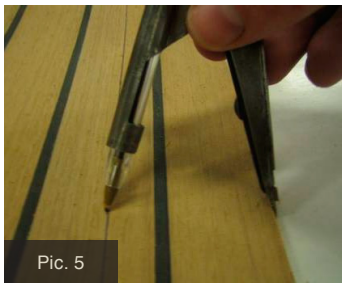
Pic. 4

* Tip: For difficult to get into areas such as the end of planks next too the margin board, take a small piece of sand paper and roll it up then use this to sand the surface. Remember to sand in line with the grain!

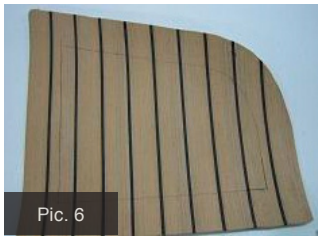
You may move your panel after approx 15-20 minutes, if the work is being done in a temperature above 20 degrees Celsius. If you have colder working temperatures, between 16-18 degrees, you need to wait at least one hour. If your panel is built without margin boards, place the template on top of your panel. Line the template up and mark the panel up all the way round. Use your knife to cut the panel out, cut just outside the line unless you are very skilled with a knife! Sand the panel back to the line with a sanding block. Turn the panel over and sand the back with 40 grit paper. You are now ready to fit.

To make a panel with margin board

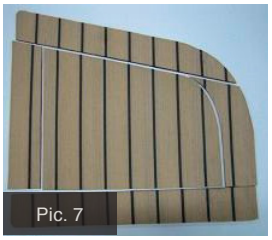
If you want margin boards, first trim your rough panel so that you can see the edges of the template. Align the panel on your template. Using your compass set to 60mm or an off cut of margin board, mark your panel all the way round 60mm back from the edges of the template. Cut your panel out just outside the line and sand back to give an even edge. Cut your margin boards slightly over length for each edge. Offer up to ensure they are going to fit nicely without any gaps or unevenness. See pictures below.



Pic. 5



Pic. 6



Pic. 7

Begin to glue the straight margin pieces, and make sure you always leave a free area between. Make sure that you mark up the corners properly, see picture 8.

Pic. 8

Start by laying the margin against the panel. Mark up the corners. Draw a line from center caulk line to the margin board corner, see pictures 9 and 10.


Pic. 9


Pic. 10

For margin boards where the normal margin won't bend round, use the 125mm plank. Put the panel on top of the king plank and mark the curve, trim the plank and sand to ensure a good fit. Then use the drawing compass or piece of margin board and mark out the full size for the panel. Alternatively place your template back on top and mark the outside edge. Cut after this line. For the best result we recommend that you now cut off 5 mm of the inner line of the margin, so you can easily fill up with caulk type adhesive, see pictures 11 and 12.

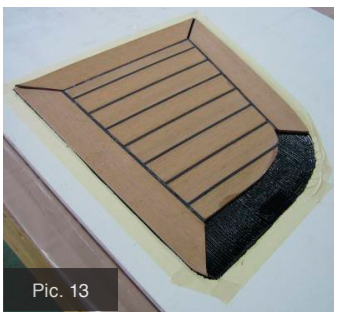

Pic. 11

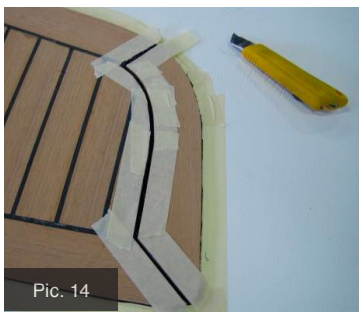

Pic. 12

Remove excess glue with the sharp knife. Sand the panel and your job is completed.

Caulking at installation

Install your panel according to the installation guide. Stick down your loose curved margin board at the same time leaving the 5mm seam between the board and panel, use 5mm spacers to maintain the gap. Leave the panels for several hours so that the adhesive starts to cure. Now mark up your mitres and any other joints in the margin boards for a 5mm seam and carefully trim using a straight edge and the knife. Mask these up carefully with masking tape making sure it is well stuck down, see picture 14. Now fill the seams up with the recommended caulking compound.


Pic. 13


Pic. 14

Once you have filled the seam with the caulking compound, see picture 15, smooth it level with the masking tape using an old chisel, knife, end of a steel ruler etc. Be careful not to spread the caulking on to the panel. Work quickly as the caulking skins over in 15 to 20 minutes. Leave it alone for several hours or overnight to cure then pull the tape off. Clean up any excess or unevenness in the caulking with sand paper once the caulking has fully cured, see picture 16.


Pic. 15


Pic. 16

Congratulations! You are now finished. You can now go boating, admire your handy work and start planning your next project!

Deck designing Tips from the experts:

Building a deck that is based on the centre line of the boat: i.e. a swim platform, cockpit sole, RIB deck.
Fold your template in half to find the centre line and mark this carefully on the template. Build your rough sized panel out from this mark. You may need to have either the black seam on the centre line or the centre of a plank. You will know which once the panel is built so bear this in mind and make sure your panel is big enough. You are looking to avoid having a sliver of either plank or caulking on the outside edges. If using margin boards, mark your template up with a section of margin board so that you can easily check your planks. A little extra time at this stage will ensure that you have a nice looking even panel.

Building a deck with no centre line: i.e. cockpit seats.
It is normal to try and work from the inside edge out. Try and have as near as possible a full plank on the inside edge. Either; start with your margin board and then a full plank or just a plank if no margin. Check that you aren't going to end up with a sliver on the back edge! If necessary adjust the width of the first plank to suit.

Building a deck which leads from one area to another: i.e. sports power boats, swim to cockpit area.
When you make your template, make sure you put reference lines between the swim and cockpit so you can realign the templates later. First build your swim platform from the centre line. Lay your swim template out and realign it with the cockpit template. Place your Isiteek swim panel on the swim template. Now mark the caulking lines on to the cockpit template. You are now ready to build the cockpit floor. Nearly all engine hatches are square with the centre line of the boat. If you've built your panels correctly, the black seams will be in line with this.

Take time to look through our photo galleries at www.flexiteek.com or various distributors' sites at boats like yours to see how we've laid out the decking. If in doubt, call your nearest Isiteek/Flexiteek distributor for advice. We're here to help!

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