

## Modifying the Tamiya Yamaha Round the World

By Fernando Campello, 09/06/2004. [www.velarcjb.net](http://www.velarcjb.net) - Brazil

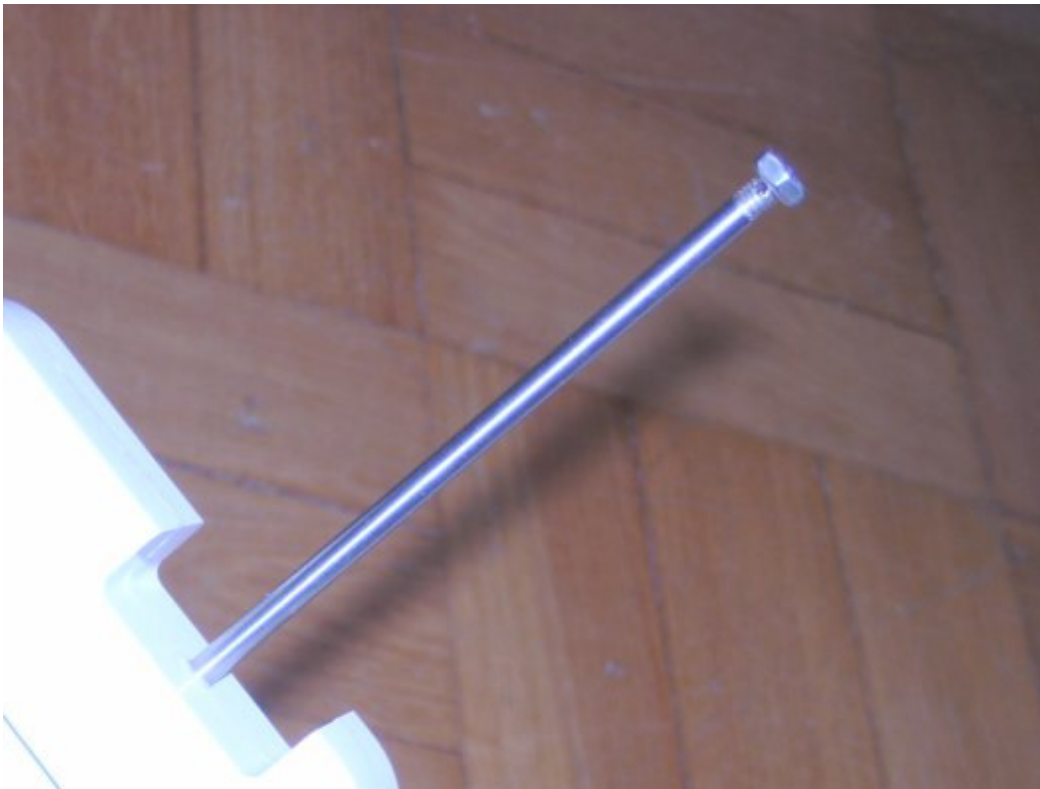
The Yamaha Round the World, produced by Tamiya is a very beautiful and detailed scale sailboat with a hull length of 98 cm. It is a perfect copy in 1:20 scale of the W60 Yamaha, the boat that won the 1993 Whitbread Round the World Race. However, it is necessary to do some changes before you put the boat in the water. The major one is related to the hatch opening, which is not waterproof (like most of the sailboats produced in kit). If you do not find a way to make your hatch watertight, there will be a real chance of your boat sink. A second interesting modification is related to the keel attachment. The original way to connect the keel to the hull (using a snap pin through a hole) is not tight and very difficult to work.

### Keel modification

Necessary hardware:

- 1 stainless steel nut (4mm internal diameter)

It is quite simple. You just have to do a thread (about 6mm in length) in the tip of the stainless steel rod that connects the keel to the hull. The rod is 4mm in diameter and you should be able to fasten a 4mm nut in the thread. I had to separate the rod from the keel in order to make the thread, but it was not a difficult task and didn't damage the keel (use a small screwdriver to open the two half and break the glue. Don't forget to loosen the upper screw of the keel).



### **Waterproofing the hatch opening**

Necessary hardware:

- 4 stainless steel machine screws (4mm diameter x 20mm length)
- 8 stainless steel nuts (4mm internal diameter)
- Rubber strip (about 50cm length)
- Glue

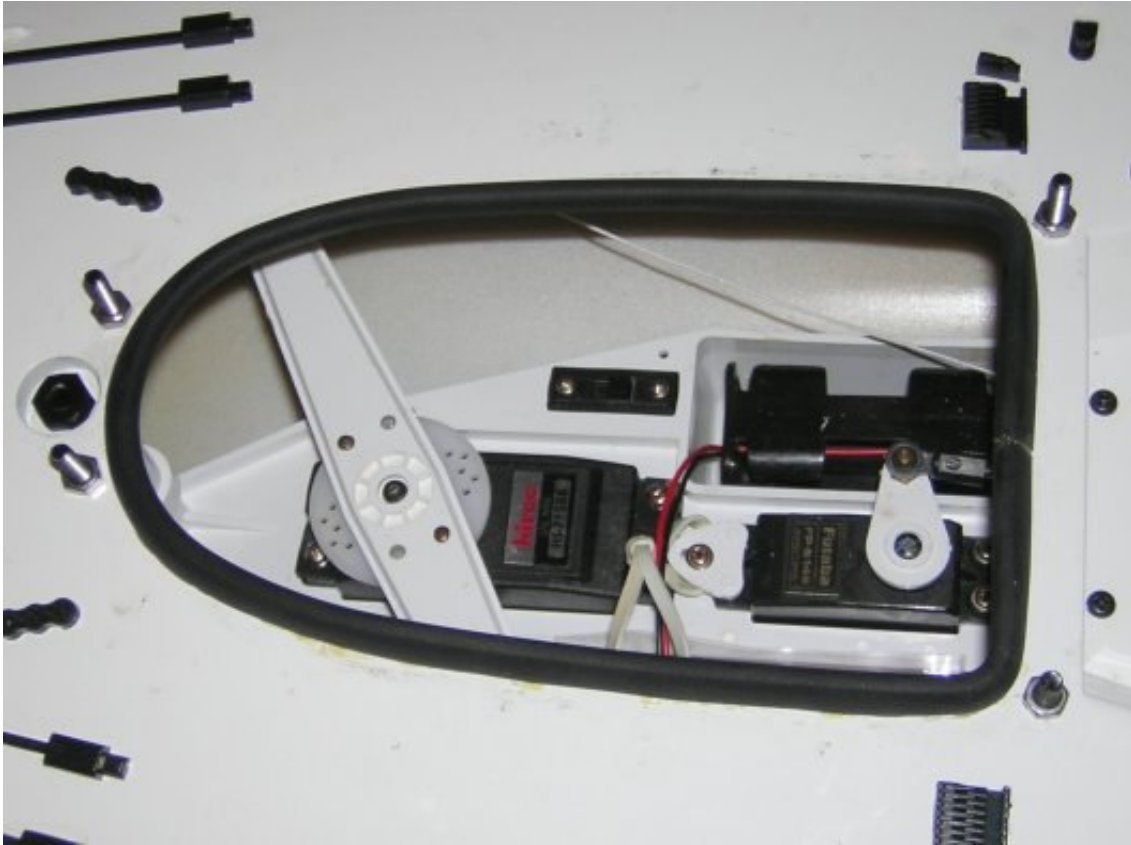
The first thing you have to do is to measure the length of the strip necessary to round the hatch opening and to cut the strip in the right length. The rubber strip is easy to find in Brazil. It is frequently used to seal doors and windows and most rubber specialized stores stock it. There are many different profiles and the one that best fits is shown in the figure below. If you cannot find the rubber you can use a similar material (like neoprene) with a similar profile.



Then, glue the rubber strip around the hatch opening as shown below. Be careful to make the two ends of the strip to meet in the middle of the aft side of the hatch.



Now you have to drill four holes on the deck and on the hatch cover in order to pass the screws. This is the most difficult task and you can't fail. The holes on the deck must match with the ones in the hatch cover. The holes should be 4 or 5mm in diameter. You can see the approximated positions in the figures. I think this is the best design for positioning the screws (you don't have many options, since the hatch cover is not very wide). Nevertheless, I advise you to measure carefully the position of each hole on the deck and on the cover. Be sure you are doing the right thing before drilling. After drilling, use four nuts to fasten the four screws to the deck.



Your boat will be finally ready to go to the water when you fasten the four remaining nuts over the hatch cover.

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