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**Post Title:** SeaStar Bleeding Tip...

**Posted by:** *FlatOne* at 3:58 PM 4/2/2007

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I have always bleed my steering system using the bleeder valve at the ram on the engine. I would do both upper and lower stations while continuing to fill the port with non-aerated oil... but my steering always seemed to be a little spongy and felt like it had air in it....

Well, a local tech showed me a tip that I had never seen before and I was a bit skeptical until I did it and saw it work...

I will attempt to explain this the best I can..

Attach the fill plug fitting, hose and bottle(I use a empty and dry water bottle that has the same threads and cut the bottom off of) to the fill port on the helm. Fill with enough oil to fill the hose and a small amount of the bottle.. you shouldn't need much.

Turn the wheel all the way to starboard, when the wheel stops, give it about a quarter turn to port and then go back all the way back to starboard(the ram should not move). Do this twice. You will see air bubbles start to shoot up the clear tube and exit the bottle... Now go all the way to port and repeat this... Continue to do each side with 2 to 3 quarter turns until no more air bubbles come out the tube.

I'm not sure where these bubbles are coming from. But I could not get them out with the conventional bleeding using the bleed valves. This method builds up pressure in the lines and is forcing the air out of somewhere.

My steering is the smoothest and firmest it has been in 3 years.

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**Post Title:** Re: SeaStar Bleeding Tip... (FlatOne)

**Posted by:** *moreon* at 7:51 PM 4/2/2007

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I bought the kit from seastar that attaches directly to a bottle of their fluid. I felt ripped off it was \$18 for a little tube that screwed in to the helm outlet on one side and the other directly to the bottle. Each time I turned the motor it brought up so much air, I went back and forth until there was no more air bubbles, took about 10 minutes and about three or four ounces of fluid but has been tight ever since. Not to mention you can bleed the lines without any help.

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**Post Title:** Re: SeaStar Bleeding Tip... (moreon)

**Posted by:** *maschweikert* at 11:04 PM 4/2/2007

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thats a great tip. I will have to try that next time. dual station is always fun to do. liquid tiebar was the hardest I ever had to do.

you mentioned the plastic bottle, did you find something (cheaper) that threaded into the helm, or did

you use the seastar threaded fittings. I thought they put a certain thread on there, that only could be bought through seastar?

btw, I always used an old fluid bottle with the end cut off like you. I put a wire/rope through it, and could then hang it from the ttop. it still had the special threads on the end.

ok, I think you meant that you found a bottle that threaded the seastar cap/hose/black threaded piece onto. is that what you meant? I originally thought you found a cheaper alternative to the expensive black threaded piece. ok, I confused myself now. 😊

*Modified by maschweikert at 11:07 PM 4/2/2007*

**Post Title:** Re: SeaStar Bleeding Tip... (maschweikert)

**Posted by:** FlatOne at 10:29 PM 4/3/2007

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NO.. I used the seastar fitting. I would assume that it is a regular pipe thread if you felt like going and trying to find one that fit with a barb you could connect to a hose and a bottle...

I would just like to know where the air was actually trapped that I was able to force out with this meathod...

I'm serious, when I say that I would bleed the system repeatedly from both top and bottom stations... I don't see any reason why I wasn't circulating the air out of the system...

When I did the 2 to 3 quarter turns that built up the pressure... I forced the air out of somewhere. There must be some pockets in the seals or helm that don't bleed out with the normal bleed valve.

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