

When all the rotted wood was removed, I used a hair dryer and a fan to help the transom dry out for a couple of weeks.



I duplicated the contour of the dugout area using many strips of cardboard laid flat and glued together along the center of each strip. The strips were cut about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch narrower than the transom opening to make them easier to install and remove. I used a small piece of wood about 18 inches long with a sharpened nail in the end to "stab" the cardboard strips to slide them in the glue to ensure they reached the sides. The two halves (left and right) needed to be tied together in place so that they could be reassembled at the same width once removed. This was done to provide an accurate template of the shape of the dugout area. I used four overlapping longer strips of Masonite in place of cardboard strips placing two near the bottom and two at top to tie the two halves together. It worked, but I would use strips of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick plywood the next time for more stiffness. I put a screw through the two pieces of overlapped Masonite at the bottom and top to keep the right distance apart for reassembling once removed. Once the two halves were removed, I assembled them with the screws and then traced the pattern for cutting the wood strips.



Left and right halves temporarily tied together with a screw for reassembly once removed.