

How to Make a Kayak Scope

Materials: pistol case; 1/8-inch Plexiglas; hardware (described below); dark side-curtain material; double sided 1" carpet tape

Cutting the Plexiglas

- First make a pattern by tracing the shape of the box on paper and cutting it out
- Then use the pattern to cut the Plexiglas to the right shape. Also mark screw holes on the Plexiglas when tracing the pattern.
- Plexiglas can be cut with a jigsaw. The blade should have 12-14 teeth per inch. It should be a wood cutting blade with the teeth in a straight line.
- You can also use a scribe tool to cut the Plexiglas twice and then snap it off (for straight edges). Use a "Plexi-scriber," Olfa is a good brand.
- For drilling holes, a special drill bit for Plexiglas should be used. Lay the Plexiglas on a piece of scrap wood before drilling the holes, or put tape on the bottom to support the edge. Holes should be 3/16-inch, slightly larger than the screw diameter.



Cutting the Pistol Case

- Use a utility knife or jigsaw (start by drilling a hole to insert blade).
- Remove the ridge left on the edge of the cut with a utility knife or sandpaper.
- Drop the cut and drilled Plexiglas into the pistol case. Using the Plexiglas as a guide, drill holes in two corners and the middle of the opposite side and screw the Plexiglas to the pistol case before drilling the rest of the holes.
- For hardware, use stainless screws, nuts and washers. Nuts should be Nylock. 28 nuts, 28 screws and 56 washers plus 3 more screws, nuts and washers cost around \$15. Using zinc can cut down on the price.
- Unscrew the Plexiglas from the pistol case and line the overlap area with plenty of silicone. Place the Plexiglas in the box and screw it back on.
- Add a hinge to keep lid open at a certain height. Make sure the hinge doesn't run into anything when it closes.
- Cut curtains to fit sides, and attach with double sided carpet tape.