

Mast Raising Suggested Instructions (Hunter Water Ballast Only)

First, you must ensure there are no overhead obstruction to include trees, buildings, power lines and so forth when raising and lowering masts from/to ramp. Position the boat so it will be facing into the wind. I do suggest doing this in extremely high winds by yourself unless if extremely necessary and if so, I urge extreme caution

Untie all lines and attach forestay (if unattached). Remove or lower bimini if up as it will interfere with the movement of the mast. Make sure all cables and lines are laying neatly down so they will not catch on anything. Keeping the furler in the middle of the mast, slide the mast back. While the mast is tipped downward aft of the boat, this is a good time for someone to attach the wind vane, antennas, etc., standing on the ground. With the 240, 260 and newer 25 with struts, a ladder may be needed to stand on. Then pull mast back to mast step for attachment.

Before pinning the mast to the mast step, attach struts onto the mast remembering which strut goes on either the starboard or port side if unattached. If difficulty pinning the mast to the mast step, have a second person standing in the cockpit with hands on the spreader bars pushing up and down wiggling the mast base to help ease the retaining pin in or out. Make sure you have the base of the mast controlled or it will pop up and hit you. For the 23.5, 19 and 26 without the struts, attach the two supplied bridle wires attaching the T toggles to each side of the mast via hole in mast and to the adjacent port and starboard stanchion welded eyes ensuring that the open toggle slips into the eye from the forward going aft position so it will not bind going up or down.

Take your mast raising pole inserting it into the supplied hole near the forward base of the mast. One end is curved so it will seat over the sail slide track inside the mast. On the other end you will find a cable with two eyes swaged into place (From time to time, inspect those swages). Attach the jib halyard to the swaged eye facing toward the top of the mast. Tighten or pull the jib halyard so the mast raising pole is 5-10 degrees upward toward the top of the mast but **MAKING SURE THE BASE OF THE POLE IS ONLY TOUCHING THE UPWARD INSIDE WALL OF THE MAST HOLE ONLY AS TOO MUCH WILL DAMAGE MAST AND POLE. SECURE THE JIB HALYARD WELL TO ENSURE IT WILL NOT SLIP OUT OR LOSE!!!!**

Attach the mainsheet to the pole and into the eye inside the anchor well with the main block with locking cam cleat attached to the pad eye. **WARNING!!! NEVER RELEASE THAT LINE FROM THE CAM CLEAT WHILE UNDER LOAD USING INSTEAD YOUR SHOE UNLESS YOU WANT TO LOOSE A FINGER. SECONDLY, NEVER LET THAT LINE GO DURING MAST RAISING OR LOWERING UNLESS YOU TIE IT OFF. THIRD, NEVER PUSH OR PULL ON THE MAST RAISING POLE OR IT WILL COLLAPSE ON YOU ALLOWING THE MAST TO FALL DAMAGING BOAT AND/OR INJURING SOMEONE!!!**

There are several ways at this point to raise the mast. By yourself, stand sideways using your knees, pull. Never bend over pulling that line or you can injure your back. Secondly, you can do this as stated but with someone back in the cockpit pushing the mast upward with a 20 pound push which will alleviate a lot of effort on the person pulling the mainsheet; thus, making it easier to pull up. Third you can run the mainsheet back say for example thru a turning block to a winch. If at anytime you have to let go the mainsheet, **TIE IT OFF SECURELY**. The biggest item is always keep that mainsheet taut in your hand or again tie it off. Always keep the furler centered during this operation and not to the side.

During the actual raising, I will emphasize again, never to push or pull on that mast raise pole. Always make sure you are looking at all times lines and cables are not caught. If you feel exerted pressure pulling, again, stop and turn around and look. Also, **KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT AT THE SHROUD TURNBUCKLES AND STUDS TO ENSURE THEY ARE NOT BINDING PATICURLAY REACHING 60 DEGREES UP AND IF SO, STOP AND CORRECT THAT.**

Once the mast is up and the forestay with or without the furler is to be pinned, you will have to pull slightly a little tight to do this. At this point, you will need to decide and if this is not possible or you feel uneasy, then the shroud turnbuckles will have been either loosened initially equally or will be loosened at this time (secure the mainsheet line tightly). I will emphasize concern for safety is your responsibility because no one can tell how tight your rig is tuned.

Once the forestay is pinned and secured, release the mainsheet again using your shoe to loosen that line, not your finger.

Disclaimer: These ideas are merely suggestions to be used at your discretion as to safety which you will be your responsibility for any loss or injury.