

Non-Pivoting - A-Frame Mast Raising

Mast Raising Revisited

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I, too, have an A-frame set-up that I use if I don't have help or if it's windy etc. My setup uses two 10 foot pieces of conduit (edit: use 10-½ ft chain link fence top rails for greater stiffness), with rubber caps on the ends to protect the deck near the stanchions. I have eyebolts through the conduit near both ends. The bottom ones I attach to the stanchion bases (maybe not really necessary) and the top ends are shackled together. I have a line from the shackle to the bow cleats and stand the A frame upright for the whole procedure.

Then, I use a cheap block and tackle to crane the mast up (or down). One end of the block and tackle goes to the shackle on the A frame. The other end goes to a loop of line round the mast that I pull up to near the spreaders with a halyard. Another halyard goes to the bow as a safety.

Because the mast gets very close to the, stable, A

(Edit: Use one long eye bolt through both poles to create the pivot point.)

Yes, I like that the A frame doesn't move. That gets rid of a whole set of complications, plus I do think it adds a fair bit of stability as the mast gets higher.

I rig it with the tail of the block and tackle to the mast for a couple of reasons. It is a little more efficient, but it is primarily because the tail can be used to pull the mast from side to side a bit if you need to deal with wind.

The arrangement is stable enough that I had no concerns with tying off the tail on a bow cleat while I went back to free a tangled back stay.
Comments and improvements.

1. Eyebolts and shackles to the stanchion is overkill, I'm sure, but I had them lying around.
2. It would be good to tape over the rough ends of the eyebolts to help avoid scratches if a pole gets accidentally banged on the boat.
3. Before the lifting tackle starts to pull on the mast, it is possible for the A-frame to get blown towards the bow. I've never had it fall, 'cos I just hold it with the tackle, but I keep meaning to experiment with a bungee, or line to somewhere nearer the stern. You would need to thread the bungee through the shrouds so that doesn't interfere with the shrouds as the mast comes up.

Yesterday I built a rig like Doug's.

I used:

1" x 8' Conduit - 2 ea. **(edit: use 10-½ ft chain link fence top rails for greater stiffness)**

1 1/8" Rubber feet - 4 ea.

5/16 x 3" Eye bolts

Snap Eyes - 2 ea.

Climbing Carabiner - 2 ea. **(Edit: use cheap aluminum carabiners to shackle to stanchion.)**

Misc. Line

The snap eyes clip to the stanchion bases and kept the pole from sliding out. Sp a 100' roll of 10-½ ft chain link fence top rails for greater stiffness. (edit: use cheap aluminum carabiners to shackle to stanchion.)



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