

Non-Pivoting - A-Frame Mast Raising
Mast Raising Revisited

Capri22.net

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** (**use chain link top rail instead**), 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-frame when it is near vertical, the Aframe helps to stabilize the mast against side-to-side motion. It all feels quite under control.

It sounds more complicated than it really is, and the whole thing doesn't take long. I've used it solo with a tall rig, including roller furling, with no problems. The standard rig is noticeable lighter, in my opinion.

I can dig out photo's if the explanation isn't clear enough for anyone who is interested.

The last one shows the general idea. The conduit is galvanized steel, I believe. It's not very expensive.

I also show some detail of the feet, and the top of the A-frame. Let me know if you would like more clarification.





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.

[Use these chain link fence top rails from Home Depot instead... stronger and cheaper]

YARDGARD 10-1/2 ft. 17-Gauge Steel Top Rail for Chain-Link Fence

Model # 328913DPT

Internet # 100322532

Store SKU # 181697

\$9.97 /EA-Each

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

This YARDGARD 10-1/2 ft. 17-Gauge Steel Top Rail for Chain-Link Fence has a 1-3/8 in. diameter. It is designed to act as the horizontal support in a chain-link fence. It has a swaged end for easy connection to other pieces.

1 1/8" Rubber feet - 4 ea.

5/16 x 3" Eye bolts - **[Use one long eye bolt at top to create a pivot -creates a more stable connection and pivot point and eliminates one of the snap eyes]**

Snap Eyes - 2 ea.

Climbing Carabiner - **[Use cheap \$0.98 aluminum carabiners from HD to clip to stanchion - these may bend when lowering the A-frame, but better to bend them than bending the stanchion.]**

2 ea. Misc. Line

The snap eyes clip to the stanchion bases and kept the poles from wandering around while I rigged the rest of it. I also noticed that they keep the poles in place when the mast is up and the weight is off the poles.

I used one carabiner to connect the two pole tops and act as an anchor point for the top portion of the Capri Mainsheet tackle. I used the other carabiner to connect the bottom end of the tackle to a short piece of line doubled looped loosely around the mast below the spreaders. I hooked the jib halyard to this carabiner and cinched the loop near the spreaders. The other line went from the first carabiner to a bow cleat.

Works like a charm. The mast went smooth and steady.
Thanks for the ideas!