

Winter Cover Utilizing Mast as Ridge Pole

This is a simple way to cover your sailboat for the winter using your mast as a ridge pole. This system allows for standing head room in the cockpit and easy access over the transom. The cover support system is compact for storage in the summer and can be used again the following year.

Materials list:

- Rug strips 4" x 24" attached with roofing nails
- 1" x 3" furring strips
- Tie lines
- 2" x 4" or 2" x 6" lumber
- Plywood for X-brace gussets- fastened with 4" bolts

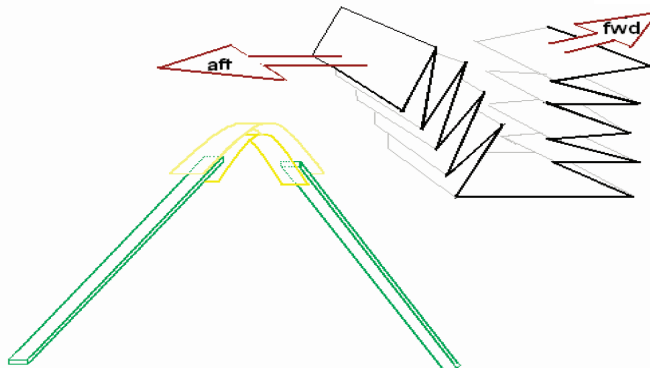
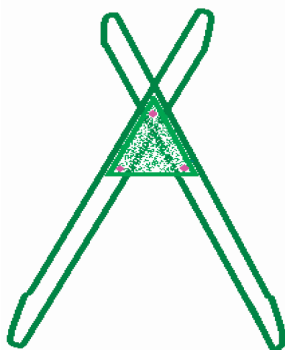
Unstep mast

- Butt end forward, lay from pulpit to stern rail and tie down
- Remove spreaders
- Tie all rigging together to the side of the mast
- Remove head gear
- Tie securely for trip over land

At winter storage location:

Fabricate X- frame

- Two by stock, plywood and bolts
- Sits aft at toe rails
- Leave tall enough to walk under
- Tie lines forward/aft to hold in place



Lay mast onto X-frame

- Loosen forward tie point at bow pulpit to allow lifting
- Lift mast onto aft X-frame, tie securely
- Tie spring lines on mast to prevent forward/aft movement
- Support mid section to prevent bending with vertical 2" x 4"
- Remove stanchions (preferred)
- If stanchions remain, it is best to use cross supports to prevent inward bending from snow load
- Fabricate 1" x 3" furring strips (strips of rug work great)
- Place every 3-4 feet and lay over the mast to rail or life lines
- Cover any sharp or protruding points on the mast and boat with furring strips

Covering the boat

- Access the boat via a ladder over the transom
- Unfold the cover and refold in an accordion fashion
- Pull over the middle of the boat side to side
- Spread/pull forward and aft
- Leave an air gap at the bow and stern to allow cross ventilation
- Tie cover from side to side (not to jack stands)
- Duct tape works well for extra tucks in cover at the bow