

## The safe and easy way to step your mast.

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### INTRODUCTION

To ensure proper operation, read these instructions carefully and completely before using the E-Z STEP. The E-Z STEP can be used with your catamaran on or off the trailer. If on the trailer, your trailer winch is used for power. If your trailer is not equipped with a winch, one can be purchased from your local dealer. For off-trailer use, a block and tackle is necessary.

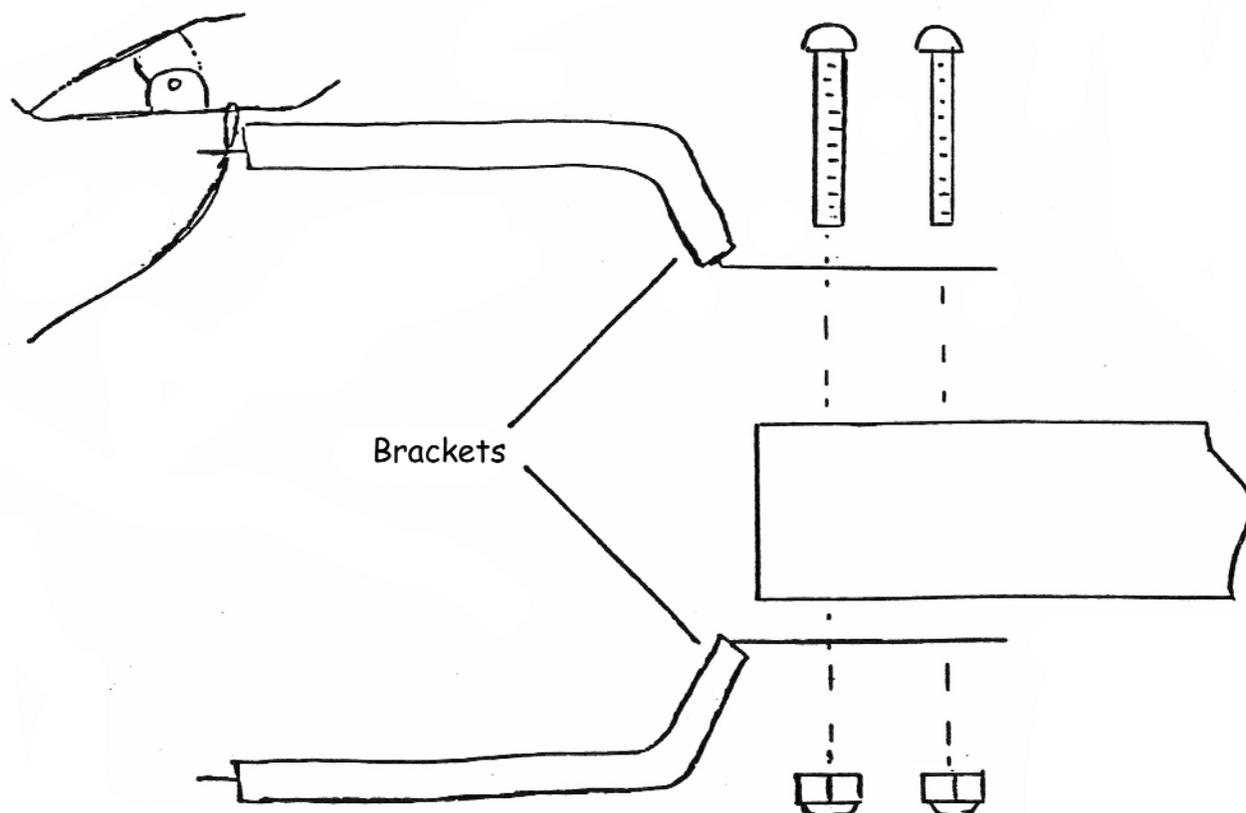
### INSTALLATION AND ADJUSTMENT

1. Position the boat and trailer on level ground. If there is some slope, position the bow of the boat uphill.
2. Place the mast in position and insert hinge pin. (Note: Early Hobie 14's do not have mast hinge pins. They are available from your Hobie dealer and must be installed before using the E-Z STEP.) NEVER ATTEMPT TO RAISE THE MAST WITHOUT A HINGE PIN IN PLACE. Mast should be centered on the vessel.
3. Place the E-Z STEP on top of the mast as shown in Figure 1, with lifting ring up and lifting strap with snap on the bottom side. Fasten the webbing at bottom of the E-Z STEP pole around the mast near the base using the buckle.
4. Pass the end of the stabilizing straps under the hulls and connect the D-ring together with the same snap as shown in Figure 2. Raise the E-Z STEP gin pole to an upright position and remove the slack from the stabilizing straps, using the adjusting slides (see Figure 2).
5. Connect the lifting strap snap to the forestay. On some catamarans, the forestay is equipped with a thimble at its end. On other, such as the Hobie 18, it will be necessary to add a clevis as shown in Figure 3. Even with a thimble you may prefer to add a clevis permanently to the thimble. On some catamarans with double trapeze wires, one of the trapeze wires can be used in place of the forestay for lifting the mast. This allows easy connecting of the forestay.
6. Adjust the position of the base of the gin pole so that it is perpendicular to the mast when the slack is removed in the forestay. Recheck the adjustment of the side straps. When properly adjusted, the gin pole should be vertical front to back and side to side with no slack in the side stabilizing webbing straps. They should not be overly tight, however.

7. Connect the mast-stabilizing strap on each side of the thimble in the end of the trapeze wire (not the dog bone) using the snap as shown in Figure 2. Remove slack in the trapeze wires using the adjusting slides. Do not over tighten.
8. For on-trailer use, the boat must be secured to the trailer. CHECK THE WINCH, LINE AND HOOK CAREFULLY AND REPLACE ANY DETERIORATED AND/OR UNSAFE COMPONENTS. Connect the winch hook into the lift strap ring and take up slack in the winch line. The system should appear as depicted in Figure 4. Make sure that all lines are clear and raise the mast a foot or two with the winch. NEVER ALLOW ANYONE TO STAND UNDER THE MAST WHILE IT IS BEING RASIED OR LOWERED! Lock the winch and check to see that the mast will not swing more than two or three feet to each side before the straps and trapeze wires prevent further motion. Continue raising the mast with the winch, checking periodically to make sure the trapeze wires and the stabilizing straps do not become overly tight. If they do, lower the mast and loosen the side straps slightly. Once properly adjusted, the E-Z STEP can be attached and removed without need for adjustment.
9. For off-trailer use, a simple block and tackle between the lift strap ring at the top of the gin pole and the bridle will provide sufficient lifting power. To lower the mast, simply reverse the procedure outlined above. Once properly adjusted, the E-Z STEP can be connected and removed by means of the snaps provided and the hold-down web.

## Assembly

Before use, assemble the mast attachment brackets to the gin pole using the hardware supplied as shown below. Align the two brackets and attach with bolts and nuts or pop rivets.



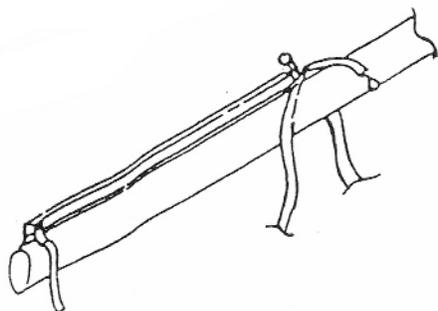
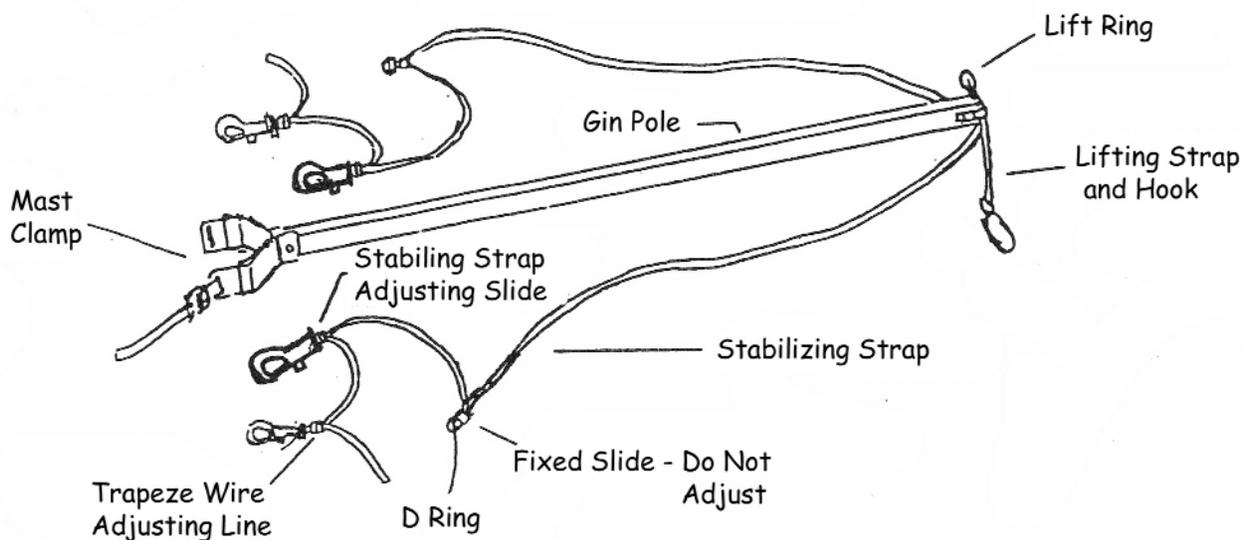


FIGURE 1

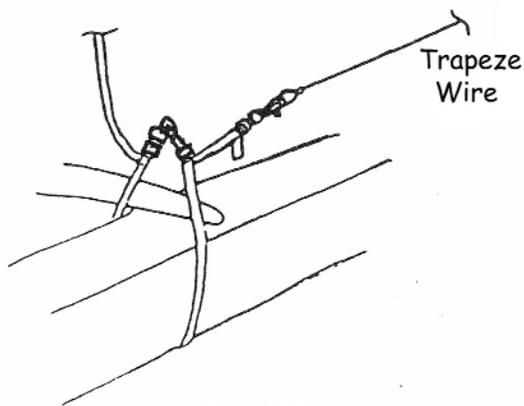


FIGURE 2

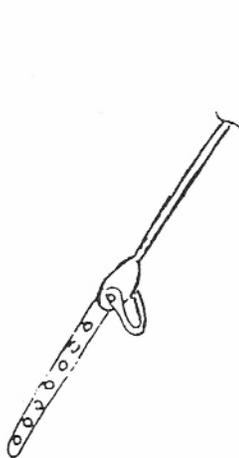
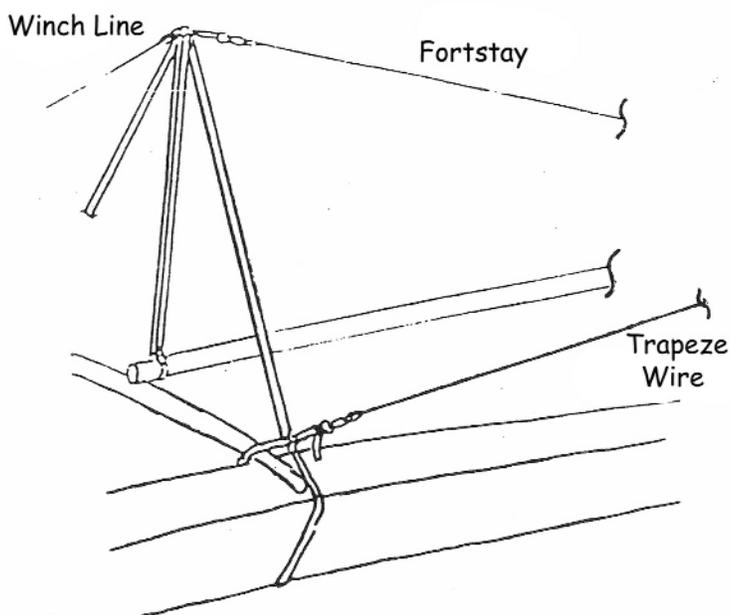


FIGURE 3



## HOBIE 17 E-Z STEP INSTRUCTIONS

The junction between the forestay and the bridle on the Hobie 17' SE is much higher than on the 14', 16' or 18' Hobie. In order to use the E-Z STEP it is necessary to provide an extension that is 80 inches long between the lower forestay clevis and the snap at the top of the E-Z STEP. This extension will need to stay attached to the forestay during sailing since it is not easy to reach this clevis with the mast raised. The extension can be held in place with a small line or bungee cord attached to one of the hulls (in parallel with the bridle wire) or tied to the dolphin striker.

Also, on the Hobie 17' the mast is rotated 90° from the straightforward position during raising and lowering. One of the padded brackets that attach the gin pole to the mast must be flattened to accommodate this rotation. Instructions for doing this are enclosed with the E-Z STEP

### PRINDLE bracket

On some catamarans the mast is rotated 90° from the straight-ahead position during raising and lowering (Prindle 18 and possibly others). One of the E-Z STEP mast brackets must be straightened at the lower bend to fit the side of the mast for these catamarans (see illustration below). Be sure and install the flattened bracket on the proper side of the E-Z STEP as shown below.

