

TABERNACLE ON OPEN BOATS



On the cabin boats, the mainmast is stepped in a tabernacle, which is basically a pivot that allows the mast to hinge.

When it is lowered it rests in a mast crutch placed in the mizzen thwart/socket.

On the open Drascombes, the standard arrangement for the mainmast is for it to be keel stepped. We have revised the design of the Coaster tabernacle for use on the open boats & now offer that as an option on new boats or for easy retro-fitting to existing ones. The advantages are:

- Easier handling
- Less rigging/de-rigging - the shrouds stay attached to the chainplates.
- Easier shooting bridges whilst afloat



When we fit this, we use a thwart of a different shape to provide a platform for the tabernacle.



If it is to be retro-fitted to an existing Lugger or Longboat, it is better to fit a new thwart but not essential. A piece can be planted on to extend the back edge of the existing thwart. It is best to maintain the mast in its original plan location to avoid changing the mast rake. On a Dabber it will fit straight onto the existing thwart.

On the Longboat, it is necessary to fit a compression strut between thwart & mast step to transfer loads down to the keel. This isn't necessary on the Dabber or Lugger, although some people require it nonetheless. The procedure is to cut the mast at top of thwart level & use the stub as a compression strut. One screw down through the thwart into the strut is sufficient to locate it.

The aft heel of the mast needs to be lightly rounded to prevent binding. Aim to get the mast heel down to the tabernacle base plate but that isn't vital. Prepare the mast heel & mate it to the tabernacle before fixing the tabernacle to the boat.

The thwart is fixed to the boat with two machine screws & nuts each end. You will need to drop out the buoyancy pads to remove & refit these.

Here is the mast down in a Lugger, in our standard open-boat mast crutch. The end of the mast is immediately above the end of the boat (but bear in mind that pre 1998 Luggers have a shorter mainmast).

On a current Longboat, it will project 140mm beyond the transom.

There is enough give in the tabernacle to mast connection to allow the mast to be eased sideways & lowered onto the boat without using a mast crutch (with some padding under it!)

If you use an overall cover, this will need altering to allow the mast crutch to be used. We have patterns for overall covers with mast crutch in place if you need a new one.

If you still want to use an existing overall, mast down cover, it is a 5 minute job to pull the tabernacle pin, allowing the mast to be stowed traditionally. It is not necessary to undo the shroud lanyards.

Please enquiry for the prices.

