

## How to assemble a Topper



With the mast gate open, insert the mast/sail assembly at this angle. As the mast reaches a vertical position, it should drop down into the mast step with a “thud”.

Here’s the mast assembly correctly located and the mast gate shut. Note that the tang for the kicking strap is facing aft. Drop the plastic peg in lightly – if you push it in too far, it will be difficult to remove.

Now unwrap the sail. If it is very windy, consider leaving part of the sail wrapped around the mast (reefed) to reduce power.



Push the boom onto the mast just above the mast locating collar.

The sail downhaul should be tied tightly to the cleat.



Note the outhaul location (the white rope) should already be fitted as shown here.





Connect the outhaul to the clew of the sail. Also connect the boom ring to the clew of the sail. The outhaul should be fairly slack unless it is very windy ... in which case pull it tight.

Some boats do not have a boom ring – sometimes just a piece of rope that does the same job.

Connect the mainsheet to the sheet horse.



The mainsheet should already be fitted to the boom block ...



... take the mainsheet through the turning block on the hull and make sure that you tie a figure of eight knot in the end. If the Topper is fitted with a ratchet block (rather than just a simple block), make sure you put the mainsheet in the right way – so that the ratchet engages.





Here's how it should look when assembled.

The kicking strap is clipped to the tang on the boom. It is there to stop the boom riding up so ensure that it is tightened by pulling the rope tightly into the cleat on the mast.

If it is very windy, do this up very tight once you are on the water.



Take the rudder/tiller assembly and from aft, push it under the sheet horse. Pull the tiller extension clear ...

... and then locate the rudder pintle (top of rudder) onto the gudgeon (top of deck) and the rudder gudgeon (bottom of rudder) onto the pintle (bottom of deck). Push down until the locking clip engages ...



... like this.



Topper rudders sink (!) so be sure to tie the rudder onto the forward part of the sheet horse. Make sure the tie rope goes under the back part of the sheet horse.



You won't be able to put your dagger board into place until you are on the water ... when there is enough depth of water, slide in your dagger board (the elastic is to the front), pass round the boom and clip back onto the elastic. The elastic should hold the dagger board into the position you choose ... if it is too loose, pass it around the mast again until it does hold the dagger board in place.

You won't be able to fully lower your rudder until you have enough depth of water ... keep the rudder high until you have enough and then progressively lower the rudder by lifting the tiller and pushing back until the rudder blade is vertical.



This is the anti strangle strap. It's there to stop the mainsheet looping around your next so do ensure it is fitted like this.

And finally, don't forget to fit the bung (!) and take it out when you have finished sailing.

## Here's how to tidy away your Topper boom



Place the mainsheet block/sheet horse clip onto the boom mast end fitting.

Here's the boom just taken off your Topper.



Pulling from the boom front mainsheet block, tighten the mainsheet.



Make a nice neat package of the outhaul.





Wrap the end of the mainsheet around the end of the boom and the outhaul. Tuck in the end.

And that's it. This is how you should find it in the surf hut !

Brian Johnson, September 2007