

# CAUTION WATER TOPPER RIGGING GUIDE



A favourite of sailing centres all over the country, the Topper is a great boat to learn to sail in. Its durable construction also makes it easy to maintain, and it's also easy to rig. However, in case this is your first time, check out our handy rigging guide for the standard Topper.



## Why a Topper?

Toppers are massively popular, particularly with sailing clubs, and there's a good chance if you learn to sail, particularly if you are under the age of 18, at some point you'll spend some time in a topper. With a well supported club scene, they're a great boat to get into (if a little cramped for bigger people). Don't get left behind - here's how to rig a topper.

## What You Need

Mast (top and bottom sections), Boom, Main sail, Rudder, Tiller and Extension, Daggerboard, Outhaul (long length of rope), Cunningham (medium length of rope), Clew tie down hook, Mainsheet, Kicking strap, Painter rope, Horse (a rope for the rear rigging arrangements), Bung.



Photo 1, All the Parts



Photo 2, The ropes we need

## Let's Get Started!

Before you start, make sure you have everything ready and don't have to go running back to the sail room! Assemble all your pieces, using the list above as a guide. Pay careful attention to the ropes in Picture 3, and the white plastic tophat piece on the right side of the picture, by the bung.

### 1. Bungs and Bailers!

Put a bung in the back of the boat and ensure the self-bailer (usually in the front of the cockpit on the right hand side, shown in Picture 5) is in the up position so water doesn't leak into the boat before you turn into a non-sailing bathtub. This is the most common place for water to enter the boat (other than a capsized).



## 1. Bungs and Bailers continued...



Photo 3, Insert the Bung



Photo 4, Check the self bailer

## 2. The Mast

Put the mast halves together (aligning the small pins in the lower half of the mast (Photo 6) with the slot in the upper half (Photo 5), they won't come apart when the sail is fitted over the mast, the sail and gravity will hold them together when it is pulled on.



Photo 5, Mast Notches

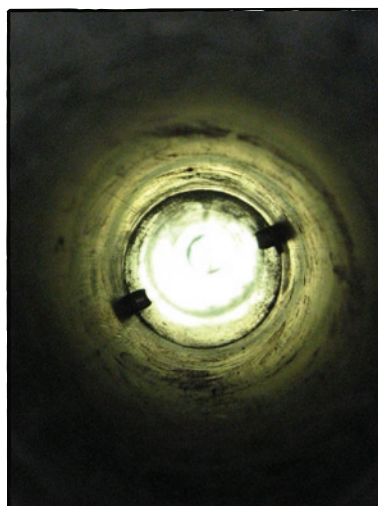


Photo 6, Mast Notches



Photo 7, Mast Cleats

## 3. The Sails

Topper sails don't have any battens; however, there should be a halyard (length of rope) running up the inside of the mast sleeve (the part you feed over the mast), then through the top of the mast end sock (Picture 9). Make sure this halyard stays in position as you run the sail over the length of the mast. The end of this halyard should go up through the hole in the top of the one side of the bar on the top of the mast, down through the other side, and attached to the ring in the top of the sail using a bowline, or a bowline to a shackle.



### 3. The sails continued...



Photo 8, Inserting the mast



Photo 9, Through the top



Photo 10, Through the top

Make sure the loop on the bottom edge of the sail is in line with the one cleat and kicking strap metal loop at the bottom of the mast (Photo 7). Cleat the bottom end of the halyard around the clam cleat it's in line with (Photo 12).



Photo 11, Attach the sail



Photo 12, Cleat the halyard

### 4. Raise The Mast

Raise the mast, ensure the bottom is clean, and drop it in the mast step (Picture 14). There is a short piece of rope with a small tophat on both ends - pulling on the short end of this rope will pull the deck lock into place, securing the mast (Picture 15). Pop the tophat into the hole in the deck plate to secure it.



## 4. Raise The Mast continued...



Photo 13, Guiding the mast



Photo 14, Securing the mast



Photo 15, Mast all done!

## 5. The Outhaul

Make sure you have the boom the right way up for this step; the metal fixing near the mast end should be on the underneath, since it's for the kicking strap to attach to. Pass one end of the outhaul rope through the highest hole on the TOP of the end of the boom (note that we rather not so helpfully had our boom upside down, Photo 16). In the picture you should just about be able to make out two holes - go through the outermost one first.



Photo 16, Starting the outhaul



Photo 17, Back through



Photo 18, Around the end

You need to put a stopper knot in one end of this rope, then feed the other end through the spring-loaded S-hook that will attach to the clew of the sail. In our picture, again, we have it upside down. Pass the rope back through the hole above the one that you've already come through (Photo 17), around the guide in the end of the boom (see Photo 16), you are now passing the rope back along the underside of the boom.



## 5. The Outhaul continued...

Pass the rope along, through the metal S-hook that acts as the clew tie down (once again, we have the hook upside down (Photo 19), underneath the boom, whereas when its' hooked into the sail it will be above the boom. The rope carries on through the jammer; tie a stopper or figure eight knot and secure (Photo 20).



Photo 19, Clew hook



Photo 20, Through the jammer

## 6. Add The Boom

Clip the boom onto its fitting on the mast, with the main sail halyard inside of the clip (we're showing it outside for the purpose of showing what not to do). Secure the clew of the sail onto the boom with the clew tie down (metal hook or piece of rope), and then clip the outhaul through the clew of the sail (Photo 22).



Photo 21, Adding the boom



Photo 22, Clew and outhaul



## 7. The Cunningham or Downhaul

Using a metal s-hook, shackle or bowline, attach the downhaul or Cunningham to the metal ring in the bottom of the sail by its leech (where it meets the mast, Photo 23), and use a cleat on the mast to secure the rope at the required tension (Photo 24).



Photo 23, The cunningham



Photo 24, Cleat it off

## 8. The Kicking Strap

Assemble the kicking block as shown, and clip the kicker jammer block onto the mast using the metal loop shown in Photos 25 and 26, and click the s-hook to the fitting on the underside of the boom, as shown in Photo 27.



Photo 25, Attach to the mast



Photo 26, Attach the jammer



Photo 27, Around the hook



## 8. The Kicking Strap continued...

Using a metal s-hook, shackle or bowline, attach the downhaul or Cunningham to the metal ring in the bottom of the sail by its leech (where it meets the mast, Photo 23), and use a cleat on the mast to secure the rope at the required tension (Photo 24).



Photo 28, Around the block



Photo 29, Through the jammer

## 9. The Horse

Attach the horse; tie a bowline in the one end (Photo 30), feed the working end through the eyeholes (Picture 31) and then back through the bowline (Photo 32) forming a triangle (Photo 33), then the working end goes through the jam cleat inside the cockpit (Picture 35). Tie a stopper knot as necessary.



Photo 30, Make a bowline



Photo 31, Through the eye



Photo 32, Make a triangle

The amount you tension this horse can control how tight you can sheet in the mainsail - pull the triangle and horse really tight, and you can sheet in really tight. Leave lots of slack on the triangle, and you won't be able to sheet in as tight, giving less power.





## 9. The Horse continued...



Photo 33, Form a triangle



Photo 34, Through the cleat



Photo 35, The main sheet end

## 10. The Main Sheet

Attach one mainsheet block to the underside of the end of the boom, and the other (the one with the becket) is attached to the horse between the two eye holes (Photo 36). Attach the mainsheet around the becket on the lower block.



Photo 36, First block



Photo 37, Second (swivel) block



Photo 38, Back through first block

Feed it up through the top block, which should be a swivel block attached to a hole on the underside of the boom end using a pin (Photo 37), then back down through the lower block (Photo 38), and drop it into the cockpit. Tie a stopper knot in the end as required to stop it all feeding back through.



## 11. The Rudder

Attach the rudder - click the rudder onto its pins on the back of the boat (Pictures 40 and 41), and feed the tiller and extension underneath the main length of the horse with the main-sheet block attached, and over the other part of the horse as shown. Pull and raise the tiller extension to raise the rudder block and lock it in the up position.



Photo 39, Attach the rudder



Photo 40, Clip it on



Photo 41, Under the horse

## 12. The Daggerboard

Using shock cord/bungee cord and a clip, attach the daggerboard to the mast (Picture 43) to stop it falling off in the event of you going for a swim.



Photo 42, Secure the daggerboard



## 13. All Done!

So now, grab a buoyancy aid, and go enjoy yourself!