

Upgrading the Roller Furler attachment point
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I have a 70's era Chrysler Mutineer. I came to me with a roller furler that attached through the foredeck to a wire pulley system. In the below picture you can see that it was fairly rusted, but still seemed fairly strong. I did sail for a season with it.

However, one very large problem seemed to exist. The wire loop that ran from beneath the mast step (Picture B) through the pulley (Picture A) and then hooked into the furler was not fixed. Thus every time I attempted to furler the jib, it undoubtedly wrapped the pull string around the wire.



Illustration 2: wire system attached to cutwater



Illustration 1: attachment point just under the mast

The deck at the front of the boat is very thin, mine is not cored. I believe it's possible that mine might have also originally been a tube system that passed through the deck hole. Attaching the furler directly to the deck is out of the question. You can see where the furler passed through has taken a fair beating over the years.



I had four main goals in mind.

1. A firm attachment point for the forestay (since it holds up the mast)
2. An attachment point that allows me to actually tension the forestay
3. An attachment point that prevents the drum of the furler from spinning and thus fouling the lines
4. The system should not impede my use of a spinnaker, nor block my existing snout

First, I removed the wire strap and pulley system that was attached to the cutwater. In it's place I fiberglassed in two mahogany pieces of 3/4" wood.



A 1/2" hole was drilled through both pieces. Through which a 1/2" stainless steel rod was inserted. There is a nut and washer above and below the boards. The bottom nut prevents the rod from being pulled upwards through the deck.

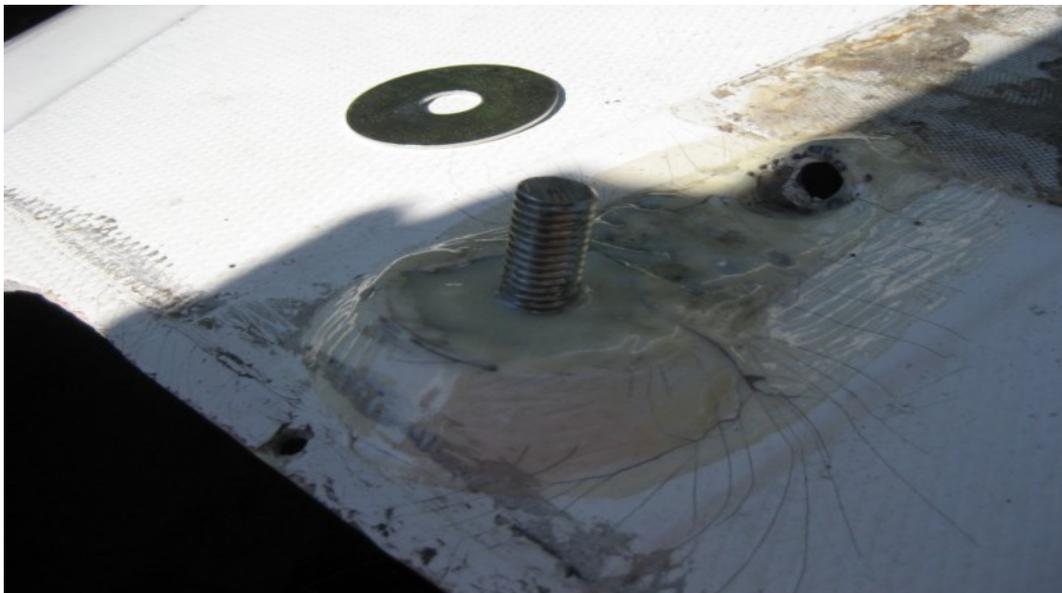


The top washer allows me to preload the deck by pushing from underneath with this washer that is pressed up towards the underside of the deck. I did this because I noticed that my spinnaker snout did

not sit flush all the way around unless I pulled up on the deck. Apparently, my deck has a cracked spar in towards the midsection and the whole deck now has a bit of a twist through its length.



The 1/2" rod passes through the original furler hole. Between the washer underneath and the surface of the deck was filled with thickened epoxy. Yes, my epoxy skills are not the best, I plan to sand the whole deck at some point and repaint it, so it's ugly, but only for awhile.



The washer above then goes on, which creates a sandwich affect on the deck. Even with the pull of the jib and forestay, there should be very little movement to the deck.

Above this washer then sits a 1/2" nut encased between two sets of washers. The furler then attaches to the nut/washer combo via a strap tang. I choose to use 10-32 thread stainless steel rod, rather than screws with nuts. I figured the nut provided more thread area to bind with on the rod than the little shoulder between the head of the screw and the threads. All the nuts are secured with Blue Loctite. It's probably overkill.



My mast currently has a tang with wire pulley for the forestay. It has remained the same.



However, my previous setup using a hyfield lever attached to the mast to tension the forestay. While this was a compact solution, I hate those levers. They're hard to tension and it scares me ever time I untension the forestay and the lever snaps back.

As conceived by others I switched my out to a triple block setup. Here's a picture of the lower block in this setup. It's a 38mm Harken triple. I attached it to the mast via a schaefer four rivet tang and a D shackle.



Once the mast is raised, I pull down on the triple block setup to tension the forestay. It rope is then tied off to a horn cleat attached to the mast. In hindsight I should have used a much smaller diameter block. The triple setup provides way more force tensioning the jib then is needed and the 38mm blocks seem to foul the jib a little when tacking. I plan to get smaller blocks and line.

Here's a picture with the spinnaker snout placed in. You can see the 1/2" rod when looking down, but it just barely eclipses the snout hole and should not interfere with the sock at all.

