

# Step a Sailboat Mast Podcast

Your Name: Peggy Draver

Podcast Name: Step a Sailboat Mast (general guidelines)

Audience: Boat owners who trailer their boats

Learning Objectives: Learn how to raise the mast on a sailboat.

Music: Rezonerd\_trance-menu.mp3

<https://soundcloud.com/rezoner/trance-menu-cc-free-to-use>

## Script- Intro

Ahoy sailor! Now that the weather is getting warmer you may be ready to take your sailboat out on the lake. Maybe you have a friend who has a sailboat and you would like to help them put their boat in the water. During this episode we'll learn how to safely prepare a sailboat before you set sail. This is Peggy Draver and today we'll be talking about how to step a mast on a sailboat.

Learning how to raise the mast on a sailboat, also called step a mast, is a challenging procedure. If you are new to sailing, this will be one of the major lessons to learn. Although, you can raise a mast by yourself, it's best to ask a friend to help accomplish this task. Safety is paramount and going at this task alone compromises your safety.

## Script- Body

Let's go over the general steps involved in stepping the mast. These are general guidelines to follow but I recommended you read your boat owners manual for specific instructions.

You'll begin the process in the parking lot so you don't tie up the launch ramp.

The first thing is to check to make sure that the boat is stable prior to stepping the mast. The mast should be cradled in a stand, trailer or trolley.

To start the process of raising the mast you will first release any sail ties holding the shrouds and forestay. See to it that the shrouds are still properly attached at the top of the mast as it is raised. The shrouds, front and backstays should be free of the boat until the mast is secure in the mast step. Make sure that they are not entangled with other equipment or parts of the sailboat, such as the winches, lines, sheets or the boom.

With the assistance of your partner, place the mast on top of the sailboat free of its cradle. Next, place the base of the mast close to the mast step on top of the cabin.

Join the mast now to the mast step. Ensure it is properly in place and that the mast and the step are in good repair. There will be a lot of pressure in this area when you are beginning to raise the mast.

The helper walks the mast forward until it's perpendicular to the boat. After ensuring the mast is secure in the mast step, the other person connects the shrouds, forestay and backstay. You will need to attach the mainsheet to the boom.

Attach the boom to the mast at the gooseneck, which is the pivoting connector that allows the boom to move from side to side and up and down.

You can now attach the main sail through the slit on the boom and secure all lines.

Finally, depending on the type of boat you have, connect the main sheet to the traveler and/or the cockpit sole.

With the mast and sail in place you're ready to launch the boat.

### **Script- Conclusion**

Remember to always check your owner's manual for your boats specific instructions to step a mast.

Sending out a big thank you to Almut Shanafield for her expert boating advice.

Remember to always wear your life jacket, proper shoes and wear sailing gloves.

Wishing you fair winds and many happy sailing days ahead.

Signing off: Peggy Draver

References:

1. <http://www.doityourself.com/stry/how-to-raise-the-mast-on-a-sailboat>
2. Erica Porter, eHow Contributor, [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_7356035\\_step-sailboat-mast.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_7356035_step-sailboat-mast.html)