

Rigging a Paper Tiger Catamaran



Tips for the Beginner Sailor

Warnings/Cautions

- When rigging your Paper Tiger, be especially aware of overhead power lines. Touching an overhead power line with your mast can result in serious injury or death. Make sure you are not near them when rigging and make sure there are none over your path to the water.
- When first learning to sail your Paper Tiger Catamaran, it is best to do so in the company of other sailors and a rescue craft. It is highly recommended that you join a local sailing club, especially one with Paper Tigers or other small catamarans. Nothing will help you more than having others who also sail these boats available to assist and answer your questions.

This article was written by Peter Anderson, a four time International Championship winner. It was extracted from the 1997 Paper Tiger Catamaran Tuning Manual.

Learning to sail is fun, but remember the conditions of the sea are always changing, so be prepared. Conditions can change from no wind to extremely strong winds in a matter of minutes. It is best to learn to sail in light to moderate breezes (5 to 12 knots).

Rigging your Paper Tiger

Place the boat on the beach with the bows (front) facing into the wind. Rest the mast on top of the boat with the mast top to the rear of the boat. Attach all of the stays to boat and mast except for the front upper stays. The adjustable front lowers must be left loose to allow the mast to fit into the mast base. Standing in between your hulls, lift and stand the mast upright. Step the mast into place on the front beam and tighten the adjustable front lower stays to support the mast (apply enough tension to these stays to allow the front upper stays to be connected).

Battens must be firmly tied into the sail before hoisting up the mast. Make sure the sail is attached to the halyard lock mechanism at the top as it is very difficult to re-hook a sail once on the water. Slide the boom onto the bottom (foot) of the sail and connect the boom vang to the mast spanner and the mainsheet to the traveller car (always leave the traveller and mainsheet uncleated and free to move). Make certain that the centre boards and rudders are secured to the boat just in case you do capsize.

Before leaving the beach put on some warm gear (wet suit or old clothing under a water resistant slicker). It will usually be colder out on the water than on the beach and it is better to be a little warm than a bit cold. An approved buoyancy vest or life jacket must be worn in all conditions while sailing. If you intend to race, sign on, otherwise let a friend know how long you intend to stay out on the water.

For assistance with your Paper Tiger Catamaran, or suggestions for this or other Guides, please contact the
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