

## A Cantilever mast raising “Bow-Strut” for Pixie

By Alex & Angeline Crook – Shrimper Pixie (211) (April 2015)

A few years ago, in a single handed “bloody” attempt to lower the mast on our Shrimper, I decided it was time I needed some help. Looking for an easier way to accomplish this job, I decided to make use of two old aluminium scaffolding poles and attach them to a wooden base frame, positioned on top of the cabin roof. With the Mainsheet temporarily repositioned at bowsprit, these poles could then act as a strut to assist in raising and lowering the mast. This Mk 1 model, though functional, was cumbersome, took time to assemble and certainly not something that could be carried onboard.

I must confess our Mk11 model was inspired by Cornish Crabbers own mast raising/lowering system which makes use of the Shrimper’s own bowsprit, acting as a strut and pivoting off the Samson post.

The pictures of our Mk11 model are pretty much self-explanatory. The dimensions of the box section mild steel collar, which is slotted over the Samson post, are 80mm x 80mm x 3mm thick and about 200mm long. There is a step inside the collar to keep the bottom of the collar off the bowsprit when in use. The strut is jointed in the middle to allow for storage in the cockpit lockers.







