

Making a Barney Post for your South Coast 21

Having a Barney Post on your South Coast greatly simplifies sheeting and releasing the mainsheet. It also gives the skipper a foot brace for added mechanical advantage in bringing in the last few inches of line or making a dash to the rail. This project takes 2-3 hours, with \$30 of materials plus the cost of the swivel cam if you don't already have one.

Materials Needed

1. 1 swivel cam with fairlead
2. Mounting hardware for above
3. A nine-inch section of awning roller with end caps. This can be obtained from John Bartlett. If you give him a day or two notice, he will cut the end pins off, saving you the work of cutting them with a hack saw.
4. A 4 x 4 x 1/8 inch aluminum backing plate
5. Four 3/16" stainless pan head bolts with nuts
6. Four 3/16" short aluminum pop rivets
7. Caulking compound

Tools Needed

1. Power drill with 3/16" bit
2. Hack saw and file if you didn't get John to cut the end caps for you
3. Hammer
4. Screw driver
5. Vise grips
6. Pop rivet tool

If you buy the end caps with the post still attached (not recommended), use a hack saw to remove them and file the end cap surface flat. Mount the swivel cam to the top end cap with mounting bolts, being careful to correctly orient the swivel. Tap the end cap into one end of the 9" section of roller (John recommends using Loctite on the mated surfaces to prevent corrosion) and drill one 3/16" hole through the roller tube and into the end cap on each side. Fire a 3/16" pop rivet into each hole.

Next, drill four 3/16" holes in the bottom end cap. Decide where you want to mount the Barney post in the cockpit, usually about a foot aft of the cockpit drain. Center the end cap on the backing plate and drill a hole through the end cap and backing plate. This will give you the correct orientation for the drilling of the other holes. With the end cap in the desired location, drill a hole through the same hole that was used for the backing plate. Coat the end cap and backing plate with caulk and fasten the end cap with a 3/16" fastener through the cockpit floor and into the backing plate. If you are having a good day, the plate will come up flush under the cockpit floor allowing the other three holes to be drilled and the bolts placed. If not, you might have to get a friend to drill the hole while you hold the plate in place or brace the plate from below. Place the remaining bolts and snug down. The vise grips are to hold the nut while the bolts are snugged.

Place the tube with the previously attached swivel cam over the floor mounted end cap. Tap in place and secure with two 3/16" aluminum pop rivets through two holes drilled through the tube into the end cap and you are finished. Re-run the main sheet through a center of the boom block and through the fairlead on the Barney post. You can now enjoy easier mainsheet control.

Figure 1: Completed Barney Post.

