

Prodder assembly guide

The principle of the prodder is to remove the mast bending element of the kicker and use it purely to manage the leach.

Below is a guide to fitting the parts and why they are set up the way they are.

Stage 1 Fit the additional gooseneck

This needs to be fitted as low down the mast as possible as this take the compressional load out of the gooseneck further up and as you can see from Photo 1 and 2

Photo 1

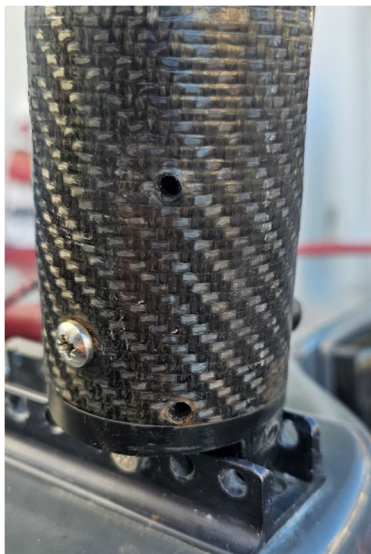
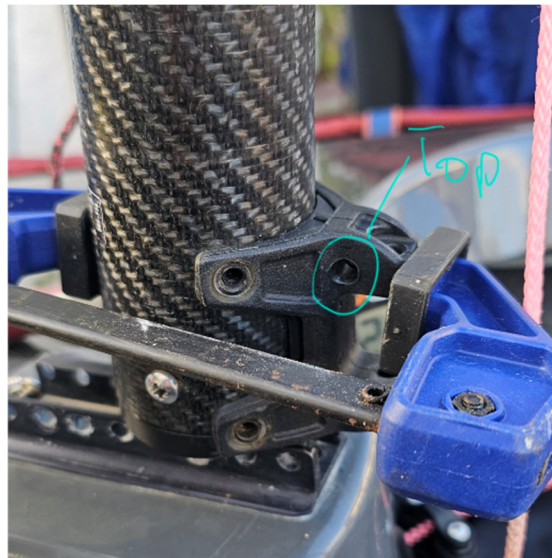


Photo 2



Place the gooseneck on the rear face of the mast inline with the boom gooseneck and mark where the holes need to go on the mast. Drill a 3mm hole in those 4 places as per Photo 1 and then using the self tappers drive them into the Mast. Remove the screws then add tefgel or duralac as a barrier for the screws and finally fasten the gooseneck with the hole at the top (photo 2).

Stage 2 fit the prodder

Fit the gooseneck toggle with the straight edge down (again this is to keep the load path as low as possible. Then fit the prodder to the gooseneck using the fast pin (for easy rigging 😊)

Photo 3



You then need to add a short dyneema strop to the end of the prodder and splice it too the boom straps. (please see tuning comments for length of strop)

Stage 3 fit your existing purchase

Take your existing purchase system as per Pic 4 and attach to the end of the prodder. You will need to re-tie the Dyneema loop that Simon Hipkin fits between the primary purchase and the hull kicker attachment so that when the mast is fully raked forwards the kicker system is just loose.

This is the starting point and I strongly recommend you sail with the set up and the readjust to your liking as you will feel quite a difference in how the kicker now works.

Photo 4



Tuning thoughts

As you can see from the set-up photos its key to understand that the further aft you attach the shorter cloth strap the more bending moment you have so it is essential to use the additional strap along with the current strap as this spreads the load across the boom.

With careful set-up you can manage the mast bend to suit your style of sailing along with the power you require from the leach. To change the impact of how much the kicker still bends the mast move the strop attachment point on the boom further aft. Play with this in the shoreside until you are happy as this changes the prebend in the mast dramatically from the normal tension used on the kicker.