

Mast Step

Contributed by Peter Kafer, Now or Never! P323 Hull 125

On our sail south this year, we experienced a serious problem. The corrosion at the bottom of the mast had progressed to the point that the metal could no longer withstand the forces exerted on the mast by the wind. So, the base of the mast slipped forward on the step by a generous inch. After having the stick pulled, I removed the original steel step. It was so badly corroded that it was unusable. So, I had a new step made of aluminum. I had to cut 3 1/2 inches from the base of the mast. I could probably have cut only 2 1/2 inches. The new step was built 3 1/2 inches taller than the original to compensate for the shortened mast. Unstepping the mast and re-stepping it was a piece of cake and the crane operator was very experienced. Our worries were for naught. I've attached pix of the corrosion at the base of the mast, the original step and the new step.







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