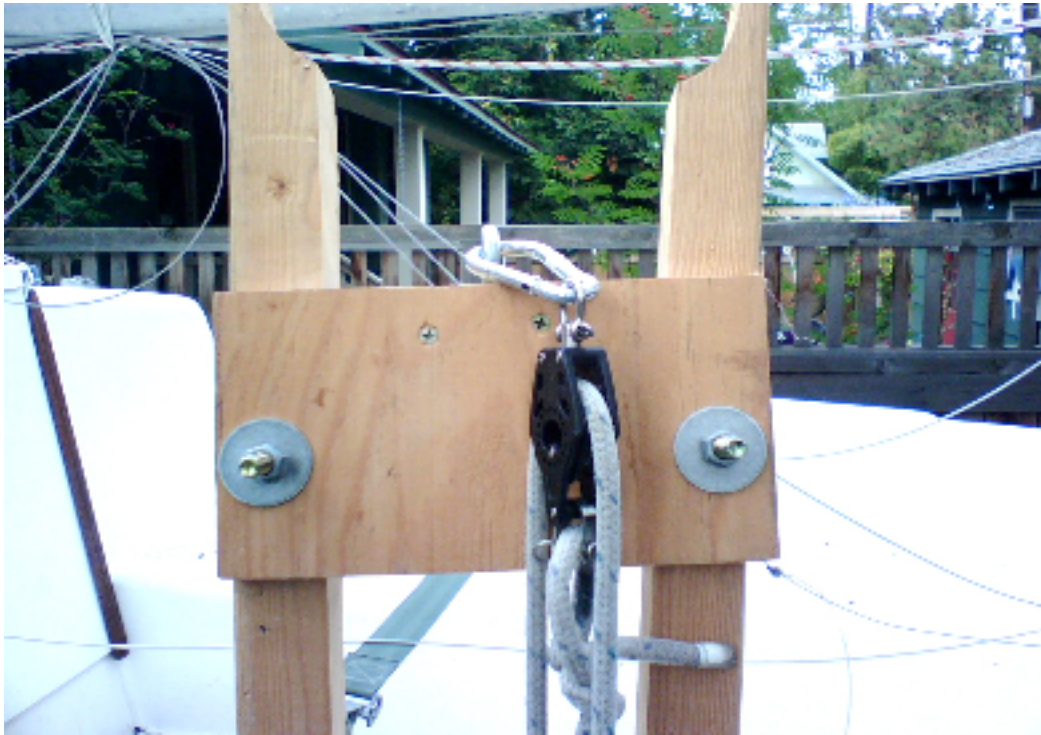


Homemade gin pole

I used two 6' long 2x2's. I just ripped a 2x4 lengthwise.



The hinge at the top is maybe 4-6" wide.



There is a piece of 2x4 inside, angled at the top so when the legs are spread the top pieces can pivot inward.



plywood sides glued to the 2x4, and the legs are bolted via pivot bolts to the plywood sides, allowing legs to open and close freely.



A screw eye is screwed into the spacer 2x4 at the top. A shackle is attached to the eye, and a swivel block with a becket is attached to the shackle. This eye is also used as attachment point for the line going to the jib halyard (see boat diagram on last page.)

You don't need to use a fancy-dancy Harken block like I did - I just like buying cool stuff.



This block-with-becket makes the top half of a block and tackle. Other end is a fiddle block with becket. This end gets clipped to forestay tang with attached shackle. See boat diagram on last page.



The feet are 1" dowels attached at an angle, so when the legs are spread so the feet are at the width of the handhold rails, they are perpendicular to the midline of the a-frame, like this:



There are foot receptacles - bases - for these dowels, looking like this:



Made of 1x4 or something similar. Rubber pad is glued on the bottom, and a pipe hanger screwed to the top for the dowel to fit in. Note the rounded side extension - that fits under the teak handhold on the boat. I also use short straps wrapped around them and around the handhold rails so the bases won't tend to lift up or drift, but that's not totally necessary.

This base fits snugly under one of the grips in the handhold, and the pipe strap is lined up perfectly with the location on the mast base where the mast hinge pin is, as in below picture.



Above is a sequence of the foot fitting into the base

As per diagram below -

set up gin pole in bases, attaching block and tackle line to forestay tang with the free end led back through jib sheet cleat. A line is clipped to the same eye on top of a-frame, and led back to jib halyard, whose other end is tied off securely on the mast.

While standing in the cockpit, it's very easy to pull on this block and tackle line and raise the mast. Because it's in the jib sheet cleat, you can even let go of it and the mast will stay at the angle you left it.

