

Adjustable T-37 Mast Step

T-37 Pearls

Local rules currently allow an adjustable mast step for the T-37.

It is amazing one needs only 4 mm movement at the step to get 70 mm (2-3/4") movement at the head of the mast.

I wanted to be able to make the adjustment with a single finger squeezed down between the forward hatch edge and the rudder servo.



I made the mast step box with folded thin brass sheet, then finalized the fore and aft ends with thickened epoxy and carefully ground it with two tips of a Dremel tool. After cutting down the keel web forward of the radio platform, I made an epoxy trough for the turnbuckle (from Harbor Models-their largest) and lubricated it with the silicone propeller shaft lubricant from the T24 tug. The "thumb wheel" is a 1/4" thick and 1/2" diameter nylon spacer, grooved and pinned with 1/16" SS rod and is contained in a deeper and wider trough.

I want the fulcrum to continue to be the deck, so my plan is to keep the same hole and seal it with a "pitch pocket" (a technique from the tall ship days) with an O-ring inside a wood circle glued to the deck.

Building this was facilitated by leaving the deck attachment to a later stage by using 1/8" "cleats" along the top of the hull sides instead of the pins. The deck can be removed and re-taped in place multiple times, with marks insuring the placement is always the same. The technique is seen in Dan Newland's video.

Attached are photos. It has not been tested on the water, yet, so we will see... Ron K