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TOPPER TOP MAST BUNG REPLACEMENT

Topper upper masts are designed to be sealed floatation chambers that slow down a complete inversion in the event of a capsizing. They work ok when empty but really make things difficult when they are full of water! Apart from speeding up the inevitable full inversion, they increase the likelihood of a capsizing by weighing the rig down and they make the boat pitch badly in any waves at all. There are two seals/bungs, one inside the bottom of the upper mast and one underneath the masthead crane at the top of the upper mast.

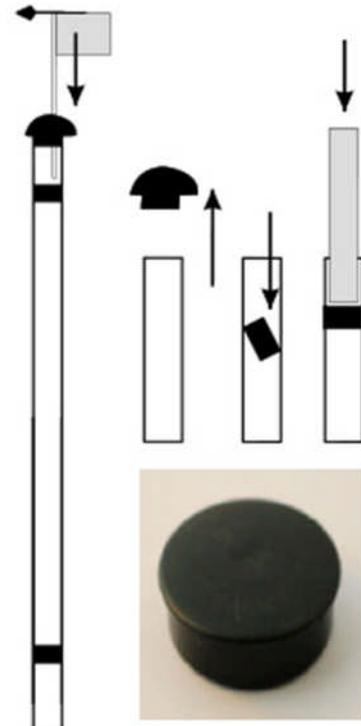
The Cause

The 'bungs' are a push fit and generally work fine but once disturbed they need re-seating. Pushing the burgee in too far will cause the bung to either puncture or to be twisted.

The Cure

See diagram left:

1. Remove the masthead crane by drilling out the rivet and carefully driving it out (a gentle tap on the front and then the back repeatedly is the best way).
2. Drive the old bung sideways and either hook it out or leave it twisted but driven further in.
3. Remove any corrosion or dirt from the inside of the mast tube.
4. Drive the replacement bung in, being sure to keep it square, with a wooden stake of the right diameter. There is a lip on the bung, which does the sealing – it will go in! Use a little lubricant if necessary to help - washing-up liquid is good. Some people use a sealant as well, but I have not found this necessary.
5. Do the same to the lower bung.
6. Replace the crane.



The bung -
the lip goes in last

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Topper tips

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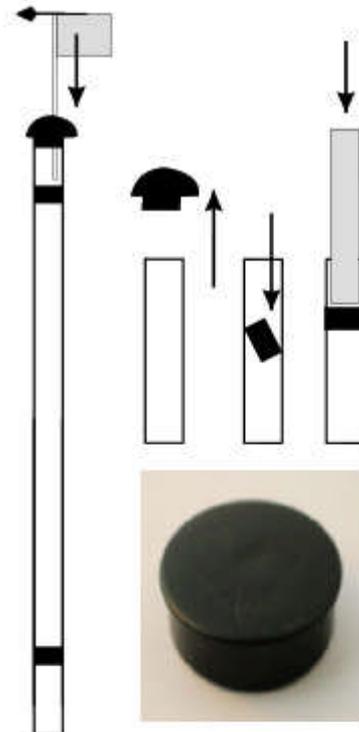
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TECHNICAL HELPLINE +44 (0)1243 379444



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