
Can I saw my mast?

Posted by madedminor - 2010/05/17 13:07

Hi

I recently got a 4m 60cm mast which is just too big.
Would sawing 60cm off it compromise the strength? Could it be done safely?
Which end it best to saw from top or bottom?

Thanks
Ed

Re:Can I saw my mast?

Posted by RobinH - 2010/05/17 14:05

you could but it's not really the greatest of ideas.

a 460 mast will have a different flex characteristic to a 400 mast, with the 460 being alot stiffer.. so even if you did saw 60cm of the mast the sail would still not sit right on your new cut down mast

have a look on ebay some mast go for exceptional value!!

Re:Can I saw my mast?

Posted by bert - 2010/05/17 21:10

If you really HAVE to do it I would suggest the top as otherwise you may struggle to get your mast extension/cup in the bottom

Robin is right that it won't suit most modern sails... but if you're learning or its a basic sail you may not notice?

Re:Can I saw my mast?

Posted by Shawn - 2010/05/18 08:24

I agree with Bert. If you're just learning & aren't using an overly hi tech sail, and in light winds, you prob wouldn't notice. Also good advice to saw the top rather than the bottom, otherwise your mastfoot/ extension may not fit up it anymore. If on the otherhand U have a nice 460 carbon mast & decent sails - you will need to buy a more suitable one.

Re:Can I saw my mast?

Posted by kenmorton - 2010/05/18 21:10

In the past I have sawn down masts which were damaged on the bottom but only to remove the damaged section. This involved cutting about 100mm off so reducing a 460 mast to a 450 mast with no real problems but cutting 600mm off would be just too much.

You would be better off saving the 460 mast untill you have some bigger sails which need it and geting a proper 400 mast for your smaller sails or part ex the 460 for a 400.
