

The J.R.mast, a new possibility!

I'm a retired Industrial Engineer who has sailed big boats my whole adulthood and RC boats of various types for 10 years. Before I got my kit I did a lot of reading about building and different approaches. One thing I really liked was the idea of a mast without shrouds, but the one available, the Sky Shark 2P, is an inch (25 mm) too short and 1/64 inch (about 0.4 mm) over the 6 mm diameter aluminum sleeve that the kit mast slides into.

I called some kite shops and was directed to a manufacturer who the kite guy said made the best struts on the market. After negotiating for samples and testing them the result is the J.R.mast. It is the same length as the kit mast and exactly the same diameter as your little boom mount parts and the mast socket, so it slides into the boat without the aluminum sleeve. It is extremely strong, so making a slot in the top of the mast for a crane doesn't seem to affect the strength, nor does the hole for the jib top attachment. Note that I did CA both as a little insurance, but the manufacturer said the closely wound fibers should be fine.

I have included photos of my aluminum mast crane and the mast top setup. I have also included photos of my deflection tests and the comparative results on a spread sheet. I borrowed the 2P from a friend in order to do the comparative photo.

The manufacturer does not want to get into the retail business, so I contacted Midwest Model Yachting, (see the suppliers on our web page) and he is quite interested in handling the mast, and possibly supplying a readymade crane. He would, however like to know whether the J.R.mast has a ready market.

Cost, unknown at present as there has not been a production run, nor any possible demand figures. It might cost twice as much as the 2P, but that is really a wild guess.

Too stiff? I have heard the story of the mast bending in gusts but this may be because there isn't usually any way for a radio controlled boat to ease the main a bit in a gust as you would on a larger boat. Perhaps the solution lies in Lester Gilbert's article on his web site, just go to <http://www.onemetre.net/Build/Armwinch/armwinch.htm> .

I have used this setup on my Soling, the jib sheet running directly over the servo arm and I like the way it works, so I am going to set my MM up the same way. With this setup when there is a gust, you can ease the sails a bit, the jib continues to drive the boat without really going out very much, but the main is eased more and so it doesn't overpower the boat. If you need to pinch, when you bring in the sails past your normal stop, the main comes in and the jib doesn't because it is at the top of its swing.

If you are interested in the mast, please drop a quick email to [mmJRMast@comcast.net](mailto:mmJRMast@comcast.net) which I have setup to assist Midwest Model Yachting in helping to get an idea of interest in the J.R.mast.

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