



Duck Trap Woodworking
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Installing our Rudder Hardware

We designed this rudder hardware for use on our own boats, because frankly, we were less than pleased with what was generally available. Pintles have a nasty habit of coming unhinged—unhandy in the best of circumstances and dangerous in the worst. To remedy that hazard we dispensed with pintles entirely. Instead, our rudder gudgeons (that fit on the rudder) and the transom and sternpost gudgeons (that fasten to the boat) are connected with a 5/16" bronze rod that acts as a hinge pin. Better yet, with this arrangement, should your rudder strike bottom, it can slide up the rod without becoming unhinged, and drop right back down into place.

Is it foolproof? No, nothing is, but it's an arrangement that we have never seen fail. The trick is to make certain that the rudder slides freely up and down the rod. If it doesn't, a little attention with a fine toothed round file can be used to open up the holes in the rudder gudgeons.

The bend in the top of the rod is so that it doesn't drop through, and makes a good handle as well. The lower end of the rod has a rounded point. Installations vary, but generally, the rod wants to extend 5-6" below the lowest fitting.

Photo: Installation on a Duck Trap Wherry (before the rudder cheeks are installed). On this particular boat we used a rudder gudgeon and a transom gudgeon above and below. If we wanted the bottom set lower, we would have used a sternpost gudgeon.



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