

PORTLAND PUDGY

5. Para-Anchor

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PARA-ANCHOR COMPONENTS

The Fiorentino para-anchor consists of

- Canopy and shroud lines attached to a stainless steel para-ring, and with buckle straps for storing the canopy in a self-contained bundle
- 100 foot rode (para-anchor line) with a snap hook at the end.

If you use a different sea anchor, it must be rugged and substantial, and equal in specifications to Fiorentino's Portland Pudgy para anchor.



Fiorentino para-anchor

The triangulated bridle, which is a standard component of the Portland Pudgy basic boat, is the attachment point for the sea anchor and adds to the stability that the sea anchor provides.

USING THE PARA-ANCHOR, GENERAL INFORMATION

The Fiorentino parachute sea anchor (or “para-anchor”), made exclusively for the Portland Pudgy, is a critical piece of safety equipment. When used properly the sea anchor will greatly reduce the risk of capsizing and tumbling, by helping to keep the bow of the boat pointed into the wind and waves. It will also greatly minimize drift.

For more information on using the Fiorentino para-anchor, see the Fiorentino website: <http://www.para-anchor.com>. We especially recommend the “Zack’s FAQs” section.

Here is some general advice regarding para-anchor use.

- Keep your para-anchor stowed in an interior hatch, as the rear hatch should not be opened in heavy seas. We suggest the forward hatch on the port side.
- Passengers should be tethered to the stainless steel lifting/safety harness eyes. If there are no lifting/safety harness eyes, secure to the grab lines, fore or aft seats, or oarlock sockets before deploying the para-anchor.
- If weather conditions are worsening, it is better to be safe than sorry. Use your para-anchor. Even if not entirely necessary, it will make riding on heavy seas more comfortable and safer.
- During deployment, your vessel will drift leeward. If possible, maintain tension on the rode while you pay out the line. Be careful not to let the rode tangle on parts of the canopy or on objects or persons in the boat.
- It is NOT advisable to have your rudder in position in heavy seas. If possible, remove it from its gudgeons and secure it under the rear seat. If you cannot remove it, put it in “kick-up” position, or secure it amidships by lashing the tiller in place.

This chapter explains how to use the Fiorentino para-anchor. Read these instructions and familiarize yourself with the deployment process before you attempt to use the para-anchor.

PRE-SETTING THE PARA-ANCHOR

You can pre-set the para-anchor for rapid deployment whether or not you use it in conjunction with the exposure canopy.

Pre-Setting the Para-Anchor without the Canopy

1. Grab the snap hook on the end of the para-anchor rode, which protrudes from the para-anchor bundle (probably snapped onto one of the para-anchor buckle straps). Unsnap the para-anchor's snap hook from the buckle strap and attach it to the Pudgy bridle's attachment eye.
2. Fasten the para-anchor bundle under the front seat, using quick release straps or bungees.



Para-anchor stowed under bow seat

Pre-Setting the Para-Anchor with the Exposure Canopy in Place

When you use the para-anchor in conjunction with the exposure canopy, it is best to plan ahead of time how you will set and deploy the para-anchor to optimize both the para-anchor and exposure canopy systems. There are two ways of pre-setting the para-anchor with the exposure canopy pre-set. Decide which method you are comfortable with. For instructions on deploying the para-anchor, see next page.

Method 1. Pre-setting the Para-Anchor for Deployment through the Middle Opening of the Exposure Canopy. This method has the advantage of speed, since you will not need to loosen and/or re-tighten the forward section of the canopy. Also, this method lets you keep the canopy secured in heavy weather. However, with this method, it may be difficult to pay out the rode as efficiently, since (although the para-anchor is attached to the bridle on the bow) you *may* have to deploy the anchor from the leeward side, which is not ideal.

Method 2. Pre-setting Para-Anchor for Deployment under Forward Canopy Tube. This method has the advantage of letting you deploy the para-anchor from the bow and facilitates paying out the rode from the bow, keeping the Pudgy's bow headed into the wind and waves. However, in severe conditions, lifting the front canopy section could let in dangerous wind and water. You will either have to pre-set the webbing on the forward section of the canopy loose, to let you deploy the canopy under it, and then tighten it, or you will have to loosen the webbing, deploy the canopy, and then re-tighten the webbing all in one operation. .

Method 1. Pre-setting the Para-Anchor for Deployment through Middle Opening of Exposure Canopy

1. Attach the bridle to the para-anchor clip as described in *Pre-Setting the Para-Anchor without the Canopy* (above).
2. With the middle section of the canopy unzipped about two feet, bring the bridle and a short section of para-anchor rode over the bow of the boat and into the Pudgy, through the middle section. **Leave the rode that comes into the middle section of the canopy slightly slack to allow for expansion of the canopy.**

IMPORTANT: The line should **not** be taut against the exposure canopy. It must not obstruct the exposure canopy's ability to expand when it inflates.

3. Strap the para-anchor under the forward seat, set for immediate deployment, being careful not to get the rode tangled or wrapped around the seat.
4. Tightly cover the dinghy and the exposure canopy with the boat cover.

Method 2. Pre-setting Para-Anchor for Deployment under Forward Canopy Tube

1. Loosen the webbing on the forward canopy tube to allow you to bring the bridle up into the boat, under the forward tube. You may leave the webbing loose or re-tighten it.
2. Attach the bridle to the para-anchor clip as described in *Pre-Setting the Para-Anchor without the Canopy* (above).
3. Strap the para-anchor under the forward seat, being careful not to get the rode tangled or wrapped around the seat.
4. Cover the dinghy and exposure canopy with the boat cover.

PARA-ANCHOR DEPLOYMENT

In heavy weather, it is extremely important to deploy the para-anchor immediately. It will greatly help stabilize the Pudgy. Para-anchor deployment varies slightly depending on whether or not it is used with an exposure canopy, and whether or not (and how) it is pre-set.

Note: When deploying the para-anchor it is best to keep tension on the rode as you pay it out, if this can be done safely. Without tension, the Pudgy will broach and be more subject to capsize. Stay connected to the Pudgy, no matter what happens.

CAUTION: Before dropping the sea anchor overboard, make sure it is firmly attached to the bridle, with the clips aligned straight.

CAUTION: Be careful not to let the rode tangle on parts of the canopy or on objects or persons in the boat.

Make sure that the sea anchor is attached to the bridle, and that the bridle is attached to the boat with the clips straight. (If the clips are twisted, they can unfasten.)

1. Unfasten the para-anchor from the forward seat (or other location).
2. Unbuckle the para-anchor by squeezing the sides of the two nylon buckles.
3. Drop the para-anchor into the water and pay out the rode.

IF THE EXPOSURE CANOPY IS NOT IN PLACE:

Drop the para-anchor over the bow.

IF THE PARA-ANCHOR IS PRE-SET USING METHOD ONE:

Drop the para-anchor over the side through the open middle section of the canopy, on the side of the boat where the Pudgy bridle and rode come into the boat. Be careful not to let the rode chafe against the exposure canopy.

IF THE PARA-ANCHOR IS PRE-SET USING METHOD TWO:

If necessary, loosen the forward section of the exposure canopy so that you can drop the para-anchor over the bow, under the forward tube. Keep the loosened webbing fastened through the belt-loop pad eyes so that the fore section of the canopy does not blow open too far, and so that it is easy to tighten after you have paid out the rode.

When the rode has paid out completely, the boat will head into the wind and waves.

STOWING THE PARA-ANCHOR

You can stow the para-anchor in an interior chamber, or, for faster access, under the forward seat.

When you are through using the para-anchor:

1. Pull in the rode—pulling toward the para-anchor to retrieve it. Then bring the para-anchor on board.
4. Detach the para-anchor's snap hook from the Pudgy's bridle.
5. Allow the para-anchor to dry if possible.
6. Lay out the para-anchor in its full circular shape, face up, with the shroud lines and rode on top.
7. Place the shroud lines in the middle of the para-anchor canopy, with the para-ring hardware almost protruding from the canopy.
8. Lay out the para-anchor rode back and forth across the canopy, paying it out in a "Z" or "Figure 8" shape. Keep the anchor snap hook to the side of the rode so that it will protrude slightly from the para-anchor bundle. Fold the para-anchor in half and clasp it shut with the two buckle straps. The anchor snap should protrude slightly from the bundle.
9. Fasten the anchor snap over one of the buckle straps to keep it easily accessible.
10. Stow the para-anchor in an interior access hatch, or for faster access, under the front seat).

Stowing the Para-Anchor for Fast Access

For faster access, you can fasten the para-anchor bundle under the forward seat with bungee cords or quick-release belts. You can keep it there whether or not you are using an exposure canopy.

Photo at right shows the para-anchor stowed under the seat in the bow.



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