

# **Access Dinghies**

## **H Dock Assembly**

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# H Dock & Pontoon Systems

## General

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There are two pontoon systems, the “T” Dock and “H” Dock. The “T” has one main float with the walkway attaching at its centre. The “H” has 2 main floats with the walkway or ramp pivoting on the rear of the 2 alloy tubes which connect the 2 floats. Between these 2 tubes is a GRP Bridge Deck providing a level platform if the ramp is on an angle.

T-Dock



H-Dock



Ramps and walkways are also in two variations, the GRP modular walkway in 4 metre sections used in near horizontal situations off a beach (OTB) and a 4metre GRP or 6metre alloy ramp for use off walls, banks or jetties.

The OTB walkway can be used with either model and consists of 4metre sections supported by a pair of walkway floats at their join. 1, 2 or 3 walkway sections are realistic depending on the length of shallow water to be spanned.

The ramps are mainly used with the “H” Dock and can adopt a gentle gradient but can also be assembled on the “T” Dock in a horizontal aspect off a low bank, wall, beach or jetty. This is because the ramp/walkway on the “T” model is fixed while the ramp pivots on the “H” Dock.

While the “H” uses 2 main floats and will support more weight, it takes longer to assemble and is more applicable where ramp angles are experienced and in semi permanent installations. The “T” with 1 main float is lighter and easier to assemble and is particularly suited to mobile and portable use.

However both systems are very portable, take only minutes to set up and can be fitted with davits as a transferring aid for both sailors and keels.

## **“H” Dock Assembly**

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As per the “T” Dock, the “H” Dock can also be set up off a beach or very low bank, jetty or wall. But as its Outer Walkway pivots on a cross tube and it has a level Bridge Deck on which to work or park a wheelchair, it can also handle a sloping walkway of up to about 1:10.

The “H” is also more stable as it has 2 Main Floats and a beam of 3 metres, but it is more complicated and therefore takes a few more minutes to assemble.

Select an area with appropriate depth of water and, ideally with suitable anchor points for guy ropes. Presuming the pontoon is transported on a trailer, position it as close to the waterfront as practical. Ideally the *Main Floats* are being carried in the *Walkways*, and that both *Floats* and *Walkways* are carried with seaward ends facing towards the water. They can therefore be lifted straight off the trailer and into position with the minimum of movements.

Follow this procedure to assemble the “H” Dock. Two people should be able to assemble the “H” in under 10 minutes.

### **Launch the Main Float**

1. Haul both *Main Floats* out of the *Walkways* and place them pointing out into the bay at the waters edge and a couple of meters apart with the inspection ports on the inside and towards the shore.
2. Insert the 80mm alloy tubes into left side *Port Float*. The shorter tube without spacers is the outer tube and fits into the sockets above the flange.



### **Fit the Bridge Deck**

3. Slide the *Bridge Deck* onto the *Outer Tube*.
4. Insert the tubes into the *Starboard Float* and push the two together.



5. Fit 2 of the larger hooks to the Floats and attach the shockcord and stretch it from hook to hook, pulling tight and stretch to finish on one of the hooks.



6. Lay out the 2 guy ropes, cross them under the walkway and with a bowline attach the short rope tails (attached to the chains) to the inner tube.



### Attach the first walkway section

7. Lift the *Outer Walkway* off the trailer and fit it onto 80mm tubes, but lift the Bridge Deck first, then lower it down onto the Walkway flange.



### Assemble the walkway floats

8. Take the 2 *Walkway Floats* (the ones with the tube sockets) off the trailer and place them at the waters edge, about 2 metres apart, with the inspection ports on the inside and towards the shore.



9. Assemble them on the 80mm alloy walkway tube, insert the 2 remaining large hooks into the holes on the floats and with a shock cord stop, lash the two floats together.



10. Move the walkway floats into the water, push the assembled walkway/main float out and place the walkway end onto the tube between the walkway floats.

11. If necessary set up the guy ropes to hold the dock in place.

12. Take the third Walkway Float of the trailer and fit it under the walkway and slide it back between the walkway floats.



## Attach the second walkway section

13. Insert the 2 *Walkway Joining Tubes* into the 40mm sockets.

14. Lift the *Inner Walkway* off the trailer and slide it onto the tubes.



15. Fit the remaining hooks onto the walkway joining sockets and stretch the shockcords around them.



16. Push the assembled dock out and into position and if necessary drive a peg to anchor the walkway end.

17. Pull the pontoon square to the shoreline and tie off the guy rope to suitable anchor points at approximately 45 degrees. No need for a lot of tension, the system works best with the walkway under light compression pushing back towards the shore.

## Fit the C Crane

18. Finally, install the “C” Crane



**It is important to limit the load on the walkways. At no time should there be more than 3 people on the walkway. It is not a playground and children cannot be permitted to play onboard, particularly on the Walkway Floats which seem to attract them.**

**The third *Walkway Float* fitted beneath the *Outer Walkway* is advisable if your system is required to support heavy electric wheelchairs and volunteers/carers.**

## Dismantling

When dismantling the dock take care to store the parts considering the order they will be required when re-assembled, ie, store the Walkway Floats in the Inner Walkway and the Main Float in the Outer Walkway.