

Access Dinghies

T Dock Assembly

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T Dock & Pontoon Systems

General

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.

“T” Dock Assembly

The “T” Dock is ideal for use off a beach, very low bank, jetty or wall. The *Outer Walkway* is however rigidly attached to the *Main Float* so both have to remain horizontal. The shore end of the *Inner Walkway* can however be anchored up to .6m or 2ft above the water line.

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 Float* is being carried in the *Outer Walkway* which itself is being carried with its 80mm diameter tube sockets facing the water.

Follow this procedure to assemble the “T” Dock. It is possible to assemble the “T” in 5 minutes.

Launch the Main Float

1. Haul the *Main Float* out of the *Outer Walkway* and place it along the water’s edge with its 2 walkway sockets facing the shore.
2. Insert the 2 short 80mm alloy tubes into the *Main Float*.

Attach the first walkway section

3. Lift the *Outer Walkway* off the trailer and slide it onto 80mm tubes.



4. Fit one of the 2 larger hooks onto the *Main Float* and one of the 8 smaller hooks onto the shore end of the Walkway’s 80mm tube.



5. Attach the shockcord and stretch it from hook to hook, pulling tight and stretch to finish on one of the hooks.
6. Repeat the same with the hooks and shockcord on the other side.



7. Lay out the 2 guy ropes and pass the short rope tails (attached to the chains) through the plastic grommets in the outer end of the walkway sides and finish each with a figure of 8 knot.



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.