



# Asymmetric Sprits

The popularity of asymmetric spinnakers leaves many boat owners in a quandary on how to add a bow sprit, whether as a fixed assembly or as a deployable sprit.

GMT Composites addresses this with a range of solutions. Which system you select depends on the rig size and layout of your boat, your personal taste, the type of sailing you do and the conditions you face, both at sea and in port.

While there are inexpensive “kits” on the market, GMT believes any sprit installation should be individually engineered and

carefully built. The stresses in these sprit systems are high, and failure should not be tolerated. In addition, a sprit is a highly visible piece of equipment, so it merits the finer finish that all GMT composite sprits share.

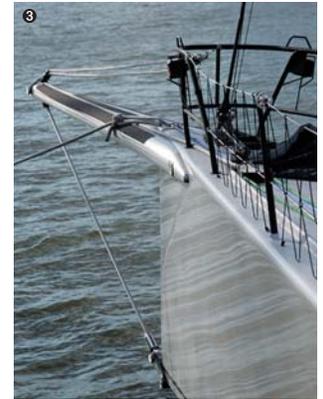
Each bow sprit should be different but, with GMT, all share the advantages of carbon composites plus our knowledge and skill in making them better. We work with each owner on a custom-basis, engineer their sprit, build it and work with their boatyard or boat builder to perfect the installation.

## Fixed sprits



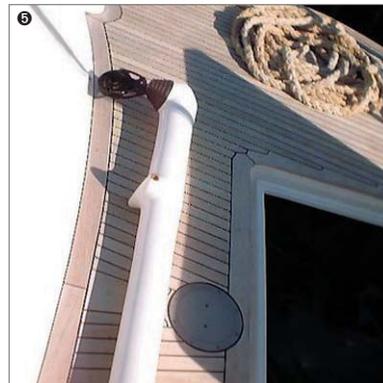
**1 2** This 95' Nelson & Marek designed megayacht does performance chartering and racing in the Caribbean. Carrying an asymmetric spinnaker improved racing performance and permitted her limited professional crew to set the larger downwind sail even when charter guests could not be relied upon for sail handling.

**3** Carbon composite structures need not be tubular. We can engineer and build streamlined fixed bow sprits which complement in shape and color a yacht's overall aesthetics.



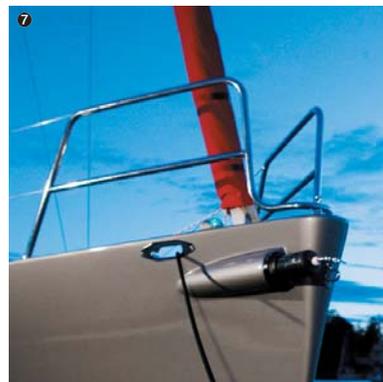
## Demountable sprit

**4 5 6** We built this simple and effective demountable sprit for a Swan 47. A mid-pole brace attaches to the bow anchor roller; the inboard end can be screwed down using a flush socket in the foredeck.



## Tube-launched sprit

**7** When space below permits, an internal system is clean and attractive. And this keeps the sprit out of the way when it's not in use.

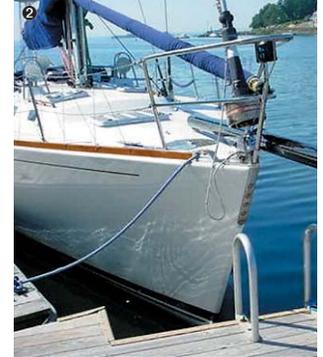




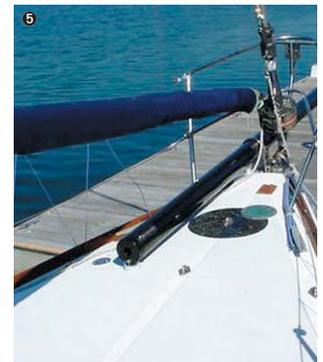
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## On-deck deployment

❶❷ These two J/44's needed an on-deck sprit that remains clear not only of their headstay and furling system but also does not block the forehatch.



❸ The pole's forward end slides through a Delrin sleeve inside a stainless ring secured to the stemhead fitting. ❹ Both owners also wanted to be able to continue to use their symmetric chutes and mast-ended poles. ❺ When the pole is deployed, the after end secures with a simple quick-release pin, a manual and nearly foolproof system.



## GMT Composites

A GMT Composites sprit is a custom product, designed, engineered and built expressly for you. The main components are produced using pre-preg carbon fiber, which delivers the greatest strength-to-weight ratio. Our carbon fiber sprits are beautifully finished, smooth, unblemished, and can be clear coated (showing the distinctive black/silver carbon twill) or painted. A faux bois finish is available for those who want the look of wood. This finish is exceptionally durable and long-lasting, significantly reducing maintenance costs. Brackets are custom-made to fit your boat. There are no limitations on boat size for which a GMT sprit can be engineered and produced.

GMT has an outstanding record of customer satisfaction building carbon fiber components for all kinds of sailboats and sailing conditions. Since 1984 GMT Composites has been at the forefront of carbon fiber composite development for both marine and non-marine applications. Please see our website ([www.gtcomposites.com](http://www.gtcomposites.com)) for information on our history, our range of carbon fiber composite products and markets, and news about applications.

## About your boat

It's helpful in any preliminary discussion to know a few things about your boat and your sailing interests. For example:

- ❖ The type of boat – brand and model, or if custom give a brief description.
- ❖ Her length, displacement, and approximate hoist of spinnaker. Whether you plan to race, cruise, or wish the flexibility to do both.
- ❖ Length of desired sprit ahead of headstay, if you or your sailmaker already have a length in mind.
- ❖ Whether you want a fixed bow sprit, or a retractable, demountable or on-deck deployable sprit.
- ❖ Photos where your sprit will be mounted; an overhead shot of the foredeck, headstay area, bow rail and rear support area are helpful. For on-deck mounting, a photo of your foredeck, showing the layout from port shroud zone forward to the stemhead.

## About your sprit

After a preliminary discussion, we can estimate one or more solutions. If these sound appropriate to you, we will then get additional information on your boat's construction and provide you with concepts and estimates at no charge or obligation. If this meets your approval, we then do the full engineering and detailing of the sprit system. The cost for this is credited to your sprit order.

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