

# STRESS

# relief



The "Under Pressure" article in Issue 11 (Nov. 2012) of APT reported on trials being undertaken to stiffen the 'standard' Paper Tiger mast to make it more robust under severe conditions.

In recent months, Garry Williams has taken this a step further and developed a simple stiffener that he trialled at the 2014 National Championship. It was also fitted to the top two placegetters at the recent NSW State Championship. He is satisfied with the result and has already produced and sold a dozen.

The stiffener consists of a 2150mm length of 40mm diameter x 1.6 mm thick aluminium tube (6062 alloy, T5 temper) with four nylon supports and poly pipe spacers. The spacers are used around the stiffener to fill the gap between the tube and the mast. The supports are located at each end and at 700mm and 1400mm intervals from the base of the tube. These are secured to the tubing with a rivet (see diagram). It is essential that the four supports are exactly aligned or the finished unit will not slide into the mast. The finished item weighs just over 1kg.

Align the stiffener so that all the lower hound rivets will penetrate the first spacer down from the top (see right). Measure the exact distance from the bottom of the mast to the bottom of the stiffener and use this measurement to ensure the stiffener is not pushed too far into the mast. Remove ALL fastenings from the mast where the stiffener will go, then install the stiffener and secure the lower hound with long rivets that penetrate through the stiffener. This is the only location where the stiffener is fixed to the mast.

The stiffener can be home built or it can be supplied through the Paper Tiger **Online Store** either as a kit, consisting of the 4 nylon supports and spacers, or as a complete unit.

