

Tarp Rollup Trick

As an option to building a frame and/or shrink wrap, this little tarp trick protects 75% of our 35 foot boat from rain and real benefit is that the tarp can be rolled up providing full access to the deck, or redeployed in about ten minutes by one person.

Requires: Boat stored on land on stands, mast out, and stanchions and lifelines rolled up, as the tarp needs to drape over the toerail to allow enough pitch to shed rain or snow.

Cost was \$70 for a 10mil, 18ft x 25ft, white, heavy duty product. First, I removed the stanchions by removing the single ¼" x 20 bolt in each base and rolled the lifelines around the stanchions and tied the bundles to the bow pulpit and stern pushpit. Reinserted the bolts back into the SS stanchions to keep them safe for later.

Centered the tarp on the deck. The front edge laid flat across the deck up against the pulpit's aft legs and covered the whole cabintop and half the cockpit. Using lines from every other grommet, or every three feet, the trick was to tie a line from the center grommet of the front edge to a bow fitting and a line from the center grommet of the rear edge of the tarp, to the pedestal. I used colored parachute cord for the center lines to help identify them and ensure the tarp always sets in the same position. The lines along the port side were cut long enough to cross the centerline under the boat and got a bowline tied in the end. The lines on the opposite side were cut long enough to loop through the bowline of it's mate, and used a Trucker's Hitch and slip knot to make it taught and secured. This made untying quick and retying just as quick. The trick is to ensure the center lines on deck are taught before untying the seven or eight pairs of lines under the boat. Then climb up on deck, fold one whole side of the tarp onto the boat's centerline. Then fold the other side on top of that, release the centerline from the pedestal, and roll the whole tarp from the cockpit to the bow, roll it tight and lift onto the pulpit, where it's out of the way. I threw an extra line around the tarp and pulpit upper rail and the rolled tarp could ride out the highest winds, no problem.

To redeploy, reversed the procedure, untied and unrolled the tarp down the deck and get the center line to the pedestal very taught before unfolding the tarp sides. Also, took time to throw the tarp lines over with the tarp. Climbed down the ladder and under the boat, tied the windward lines together first, then worked our way down the boat.





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