

Great ideas and tips from PBO readers

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A gimballed 'range'

Fr. Tom Pyke, Vicar of the Isle of Dogs, adapts a Primus for use on board

PROJECT
OF THE
MONTH

Like many sailors, I do not like gas installations in boats. When I bought my 1980s Jaguar 25 *Beowulf* a year ago, it had a two-burner and grill Plastimo stove which had seen better days, so it was always my plan to replace it. Ideally I would have liked to install a Taylor's paraffin stove, but the price – even second-hand – was beyond what I wanted to spend. However, in an antique shop in Cambridge I found a 1944 Primus No210 camping stove, in its original tin box and with all the parts.

I asked in an uninterested-but-agreeably-intrigued sort of way what I might get it for, all the while pressurising the stove to ensure that the seals were in good order. They were, and it was a bargain: I now had a stove that I knew I would like using in *Beowulf*, if I could secure it in place and create a gimballed frame for it.

Most of the designs I could find were in metal, and my construction skills are in wood, so I set out to create my own 'range' to take my

stove. It was to be contained in a box with freedom to swing fore and aft, held in an outer frame which would be free to swing from side to side, itself supported on the existing bulkheads. The box and the frame were made with dowelled corners, and the axles were cut from 10mm aluminium tube. Since I had made the stove box large enough to fill the space in the boat, I needed to make snug fiddles to hold the stove within it. (These are only screwed into place in case I need to fit a different stove in the future.)



The 1944 Primus camping stove



The finished article in use on board Fr. Tom Pyke's Jaguar 25, *Beowulf*

THIS SHOULD COVER IT

I place a large, tent-like cover over my boat for the winter: this has poles to support it so that the rain runs off it and doesn't pool, as the weight of the water might damage the cover. A spike on top of the pole goes through an eyelet in the cover to keep it in place, but the wind slackens the cover over time, no matter how taut it is when I leave it. This allows the cover to flap and dislodge the spike from its hole, potentially



damaging the cover.

I have tried wedging and tying the poles to stop them moving, but with no success. However, when I put the cover on last time I applied a short length of plastic tube and a Jubilee clip to the central pole.

Success! Even in winds of over 60mph the spike stayed in the eyelet for the central pole. The forward pole spike was dislodged, so it was also treated to the same treatment, while the aft pole had a worn grommet, so this was reinforced with a fibre washer under the plastic tube.

In case you are wondering about the plastic tube, it is to protect the canvas from the sharp edges of the Jubilee clip.

COST: £1.50 for the clips – the rest was in my spares kit.

Throughout PBO's golden anniversary year, the winning Practical Projects article will be rewarded with a pair of Spinlock's Lume-On bladder lights. These are tiny LED lights that attach underneath the bladder of any lifejacket: when activated, Lume-On lights use the bladder as a diffuser, turning the whole lifejacket into a glowing light, and are designed to work alongside existing lifejacket lights. Lume-On lights were named joint overall winner of the prestigious 2015 DAME design award competition: the DAME jury were impressed with the lights' cleverness of thought, simplicity of application and very accessible cost. Priced at £14.94 a pair.

