

**Original Comment:**

01/10/03

Ref: Standing a boat on its keel

I have read various comments on the MBY website about Bavarias not being able to stand their weight on their keels. Most (or all) of this comment seems to come from the anti - Bavaria brigade, but as my 6 month old Bavaria 36 is shortly to come out of the water for two or three weeks, and will be "blocked off" as normal by the marina staff, I wondered if I should take any precautions to prevent possible damage. I do not have a custom made cradle for the boat, and whilst some/most of the weight will be taken by the hull (wooden) support blocks, some will inevitably be on the keel. Is this all rubbish as I suspect? Do other members make any special provision and does this "problem" (if there really is one), apply to all mass produced boats, Beneteaus, Jeanneaus etc? Reassurance from other members to the effect that Bavs can be blocked off as normal would be appreciated.

Many Thanks

*Mike Nicholson (Prophecy)*

Martin Roberts also asks: What about drying out alongside over a tide, say in Cherbourg or St Peter's ? Does one need any special precautions for a Bavaria 38 other than the usual warps to keep her from toppling over away from the harbour wall ?

*Martin Roberts (Advalorum)*

**Replies:**

Mike

I, like you, have seen all the comments on various forums about the quality of Bavarias and treat them with the respect they deserve!

My Bav 32 was blocked off in the normal way (ie timber props and stood on the keel) at Port Solent last winter, along with quite a few other Bavarias. I've not had any problems at all, and see no reason not to do the same this year.

Hope this helps.

*Andy (Minna B32)*

Mike

No problem with our BAV43, she comes out every year and has been both, on a cradle and chocked with timber props.

*Carole (MICA B43)*

Martin

Interesting question, which we have asked ourselves and not been able to get an answer to, as our boat has a large wing keel. We imagine that we would have to have her settle exactly upright on a hard standing such as a scrubbing berth otherwise the weight might put strain on one wing or the other. Consequently we have not tried it, but would be interested to know if any other BAV owners have wing keels and if they have tried it with success.

*Carole (MICA B43)*

We have had her blocked up with weight in keel and wooden side props two winters running with no apparent bad effect. We look forward to drying out alongside a wall in due course but haven't plucked up courage yet!

*Paul Anthony (B34 Escapade)*

Martin,

I would strongly recommend that you get the yard to lower your boat onto its keel. The hull should then be supported just enough to stop it from moving. Do not under any circumstances try to support the weight of the boat through supports under the hull. This will at best distort the hull at the point of contact with the support and at worse punch a hole through the hull. I have seen this done to a Westerly 36 and a Sadler 32, when the legs on the cradle had been left high enough for the boat to lay to the cradle before the keel reached the ground.

We have had our B34 in the yard twice and found that she was OK in a 4 leg cradle with an additional support placed just aft of the saildrive leg. Without the aft support we could see distortion around the aft legs of the cradle due to the weight behind the keel. This system of support is the same as Opal Marine used when our boat was in their yard at Hayling Island.

*Alan Burns (B34 Saloma)*

Recently dried-out our B38, which has the deeper keel, on the Club drying-out pad. I felt there was too much weight on the aft end of the keel - as the tide dropped - and so I supported her with warps. My feeling is that they may be aft-heavy and unsuited to grounding on a solid base, as opposed to a sandy bottom.

*Liam Lalor (B38 Arctic Fox)*