

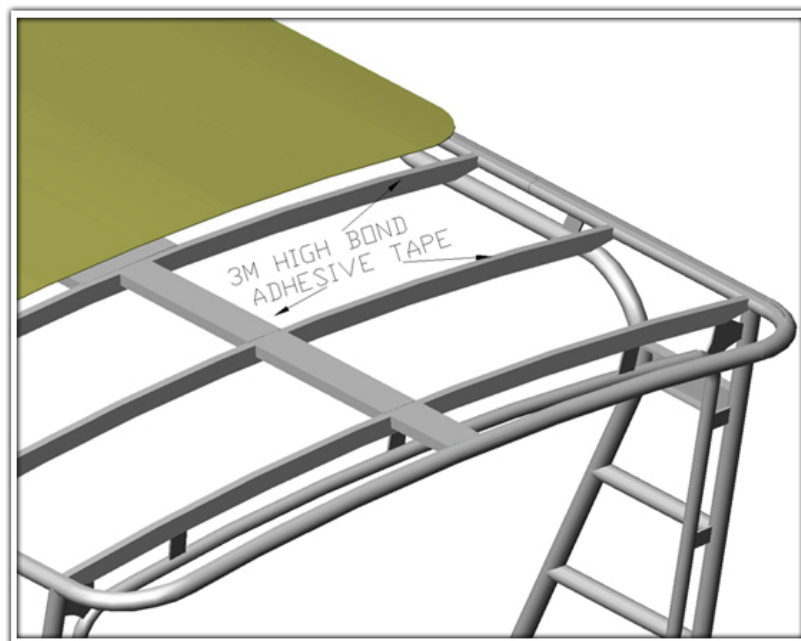
Hardtop – Mainship 34 Pilot

December 21, 2008

In December of 2008 we installed a large hardtop from Atlantic Towers on a Mainship 34 Pilot after Hurricane Hanna dismembered its existing canvas top and enclosure.



Atlantic Towers makes a very nice product. Lightweight, and yet very strong, their hardtops are 1/3 of the weight and 1/2 the cost of solid glass aftermarket hardtops. The perimeter is formed from their "ATL 6 extrusion" that can be custom shaped to match your cockpit.



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Side-to-side reinforcing beams (rectangular extrusions) are welded in to form a base for the roof material. Also welded into the structure is a wider box extrusion down the centerline for use as a wire chase and as a base for overhead cockpit electronics and antennas.

The roof panel is a thin sheet of fiberglass bonded to this structure using a 3M industrial adhesive in the center and closely spaced screws around the perimeter, sealed with RTV tape. Once bonded in place these fiberglass panels have withstood hurricane winds in excess of 100mph.

Atlantic Towers also provides an extruded aluminum canvas track just inside of the edge of the hardtop so that your new enclosure has the strongest mounting method possible.



Forward and side support on the Mainship was provided by Atlantic Towers and consisted of bright dip anodized schedule 40 aluminum pipe measuring nearly 2" O.D. Aft support incorporated the existing arch but otherwise would be this same sturdy tube. (see davits below)

We see many applications for these lightweight hardtops from Atlantic Towers. Their lightness makes the especially appropriate for sailboats where they can also provide an idea mounting structure for solar panels.

Because Atlantic Towers custom builds each hardtop we can be creative with the design. For example, how about an integral rain catching system? Or perhaps custom davits fitted to those 2" aft support legs? Perhaps mounting poles for a radome or wind generator? All of the heavy metal on the back of a sailboat can be combined into one lightweight structure.

Give us a call at 910-772-9277 to discuss options.