



# Travel Mast

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*** If using this pole with a Band Hopper antenna do not attach it higher than 6 metres (top of 11th section up).

## The Basics

### Extending the mast

Hold the mast vertically and remove the top cover (not the screw end). Gently tilt the mast over with your hand over the end to stop the sections coming out. Allow the smallest section to come out and lock into the next section with a pulling/twisting motion. Repeat until the mast is fully extended.

### Collapsing the pole

Always start at the bottom with the widest section. Use a twisting/pushing motion and collapse one section at a time. NEVER start with the smallest section as this will disappear into the rest of the mast and damage is almost certain to result. Also note that the plastic screw -caps on the bottom of the mast can be damaged with rough treatment—take care!

### Cleanliness

The mast relies on clean joints to work properly. Always try to keep the mast clean. Wipe off mud/sand etc before collapsing the pole. Always dry your pole properly before storing. Store without rubber top cap in place.

## Tips

This type of mast is quite flexible. To get the best performance out of it, guy it carefully. For use with horizontal antennas a maximum practical height for the antenna is 7 metres. The full height of the pole can be used for vertical antennas. If the pole is bending a lot, you have too much tension on it! The poles will break if bent too far.

Smear a little petroleum jelly inside the rubber top cap to make it easier to remove.

Some people put a disc of foam rubber inside the base of the mast (screw end) to help avoid damage should the mast collapse.

If the mast is tending to collapse (telescope down), make sure that any guiding or antenna system is not exerting much downward force on the mast—loosen guys and antennas. Also ensure that you are pulling and twisting each section firmly to lock it.

If the mast is to be left up for an extended time, wrapping insulating tape around the joints will help to keep them in place.

Rubber gloves (used for washing up) can make locking and unlocking the sections easier as they give a good grip.

## Guys and Aerials

SOTABEAMS sells guying kits, accessories, Velcro straps and cords that are specially designed for our poles (see our website).

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