

8-STEP “NEVER DRAG” ANCHOR GUIDE

An 8-step process to obtain the perfect anchor set – without stress, raising of voices or uncertainty:

1. Talk like a Team

- Talk real time ,all the time as you circle in on your destination
- We use old-school “marriage saver” headphones from Cruising Solutions
- These are now obsolete and replaced by “My Team Talks” headgear from Sena
- Cost is about \$300+ for 2, but worth every penny
- Alternative - use someone mid-ship as a relay or get some hand signal system down pat

2. Find the Spot

- Don’t rush in and drop without looking around
- Find the bottom that you want for your anchor (usually 100% sand here in Bahamas)
- Get familiar with the area – and where the neighbors are and how they set
- Circle around the spot to be to ensure adequate depth all-around
- Talk about the spot as you circle – back in the cockpit if needed
- No rush, take your time

3. Stop & Drop

- Point into the wind and motor right up to the spot where you plan to drop the hook
- Stop the boat on the spot and then, after the boat is stopped, drop the hook
- Drop the hook + rode length equal to water depth + freeboard + 3-5 feet

4. Scope with the Wind

- Now wait for the wind to gently push you back away from the anchor
 - In light airs, let the engine do the gentle pulling by idling in reverse
- Drop more chain in 10-15foot lengths as the wind blows you back
- As the rode gets tight continue dropping in 10-15foot increments
- Repeat until you reach a scope versus water depth
 - We do 3-4x scope for day hook / light wind
 - 5x for overnight moderate winds
 - 7x for overnight strong winds but not more than that in crowded anchorage!
 - NOTE: let out more scope if winds pick up vs original set

5. Power Set

- Attach your anchor rode to a cleat on your bow
 - Use a dock line or similar for a chain rode; else just tie your rode directly to the cleat
- Let the boat settle out on the cleat, taking all tension off the windlass
- Wait for the wind to put you directly in line with you rode
- Then pull back with the engine at 2000+rpm for 20-30seconds
- Watch that the boat pulls back and then STOPS MOVING vs a fixed/faraway point
- Stop pulling and put the boat back to idle / neutral

6. Snub it up

- Attach a snubber to smooth the ride and take the load off the windlass
 - Use 1 snubber in lighter winds, 2 snubbers in heavier winds

7. Set the App

- Drop the virtual hook at the spot where your anchor landed
- Set the alarm to monitor movement and alert any dragging
- Don’t have an app – we use **Anchor!** (apple); **Anchor Watch / Alarm** (android) looks to be a good alternative too

8. Watch & Wait

- Stay on board for at least 30-60 minutes before leaving
- Monitor movements in the anchorage of other boats as well your own

Above information provided as helpful guidelines only – always use your own best judgement for your boat!

Provided by SV BOLAIRO, last updated December 2019 - - - www.AquaNautBoats.com/sailor