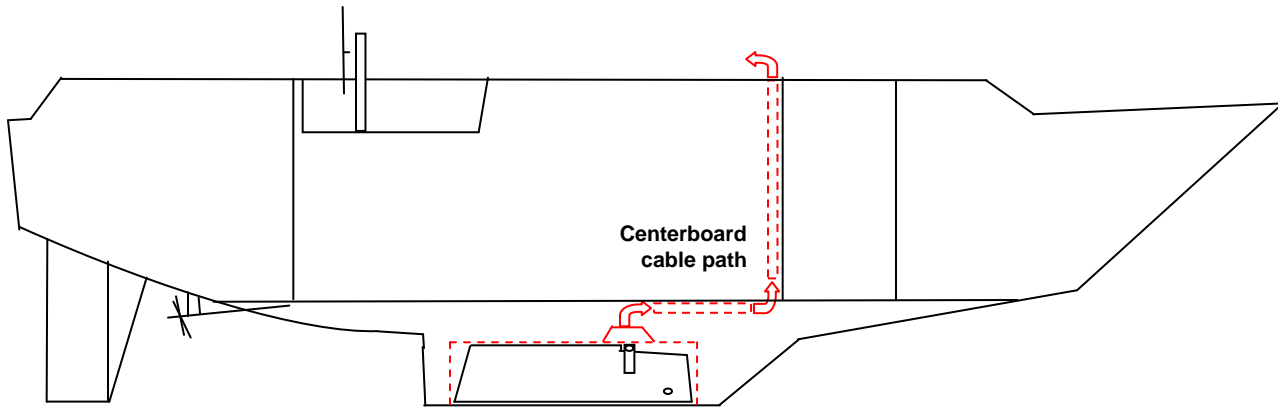


Pearson 385 Centerboard & Cable Maintenance Information



Pearson 385 Centerboard Cable Path

Removing the the Centerboard:

- Lower the centerboard while the boat is in the travel-lift and the bottom of the keel is at least 3' above the ground or so. (enough clearance to get the board out).
- Partially lower the board, and let the tip touch the ground. Remove the cotterpin and use a centerpunch to drive the pin out, keeping tension on the centerboard cable so it will not drop to the ground. Once the pin is out, lower the board to the ground and remove the pennant.
- Attach a short line to the pennant so it can be pulled back down again if someone pulls on the line on the deck.

Replacing the Centerboard after removal:

- 316 Stainless Steel Cable (3/16") is run through sheaves and nicropressed with stainless thimbles on each end (See note below on how to replace the cable). Use two nicropress fittings on the end that is in the centerboard trunk. I used three stranded polyester line (5/8") which I used a rope/chain splice to attach to the thimble on the deck. I placed the centerboard up on end with the boat hanging just above it. I attached a shackle with a 1/4" pin and lock ring INSIDE the two stainless tabs on the centerboard and through the stainless sheave around the pennant cable. (I think this allows for better anti-chafe protection- and forces the pulling forces to be evenly applied to both sides of the stainless straps).
- Have a helper crank up the centerboard slowly using the pennant only to bring the board up into the trunk. As the head end gets into the trunk- use something to support the bottom end to help align the board so you can get a screwdriver or pin in place to get the board close to where it needs to be. With the bottom of the board lifted off the ground you should be able to have someone SLOWLY crank up the board until it is just floating in the perfect place so you can slide in the centerboard pin tight. Insert a new cotter pin, crank up the board and the installation is done.

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Replacing the Centerboard Cable - Parts List:

- (20') 3/16" Stainless Steel Wire – 7x19 (Type 316) (old cable was 14' long)
 - Loos Company (<http://www.loosco.com>) 1-800-533-5667 Part Number: SZ18879
- (3) Loos Sleeves
- (2) 3/16" Thimbles
- Hammer & Long Rod/Punch to drive out centerboard pin.
- Duct Tape
- Wire Cutter for 3/16" S/S wire & Loos Nicropress Crimping Tool
- Friend to help on deck & an hour or so of time

Notes:

- Centerboard weights around 200 lbs (gross estimate. I certainly could not lift the board completely off the ground by myself).
- There is lead embedded in the bottom part of the centerboard
- Board dimensions are approx: 5'5" long and 21" wide.
- At least 4'2" board will hang below the bottom of the keel when lowered completely. Keel is approx 4 ½' below the waterline- so that gives a max depth with the board down of 8'8".
- Centerboard fits very loosely in the trunk to ensure it does not get stuck in there.
- There is a small well just above where the pennant attached to the board when the board is raised all the way up. This allows a place for your Nicropress sleeves and thimble to go when you raise the board.
- After 8 years of use (approx)- three of those years being in Florida waters, the rest in the Chesapeake Bay north of the Bay Bridge- there was no wear on this cable. It was not frayed anywhere and after grinding off the old Loos Nicropress sleeves I found the cable inside to be in perfect condition.
- Pennant is attached to the centerboard using a Stainless steel pin that has a cotter pin on both sides. (I attached a stainless ring to one side to make it possible to take the board off underwater easier). (I have not tried that yet). However, if you do think of the following- the board is 200lbs (at least), it is coated with antifoulant and will be messy to take aboard anywhere. If you do drop the board do so in shallow water so you can find it if it drops.
- On good authority- if your centerboard cable breaks- just run a small line from the top sheave using water to push it through the entire system. Eventually it will come out the centerboard trunk and you then will use that to pull through a new cable.

Pearson 385 Centerboard & Cable Maintenance Information

Replacing the Centerboard cable if your old cable is still intact (Jon's method):

- ❑ Haul the boat and have the yard leave you hanging in the slings. (This will probably mean that you will be the last boat to be hauled for the day).
- ❑ Have the yard raise the boat so there is approx 3' of clearance underneath.
- ❑ Place a couple of boards on the ground, directly under where the centerboard will drop.
- ❑ Remove cotter pins from the centerboard pin and drive the pin completely out.
- ❑ Board will drop slightly as the pin drops out. Now have someone on the deck slowly lower the centerboard down to the ground. Remove the pin that is holding the pennant onto the centerboard and the board will now be free.
- ❑ The centerboard is very heavy. I was able to move it by lifting one end at a time.
- ❑ Tie a small line to the thimble that was attached to the centerboard cable. Now, exercise the cable and have your friend up on the deck pull the centerboard cable all the way up, you pull it completely down, and repeat a number of times until it moves freely. Mine was pretty bound up with sea critters and crud and it took a number of repeats to free it up.
- ❑ *Measure how far down the thimble comes below the keel and write this down for later.*
- ❑ Leaving the line tied to the thimble, again have the person on the deck pull the centerboard cable completely up.
- ❑ Cut the old cable on top of the deck very close to the thimble.
- ❑ Wire is a 3/16" (7x19) wire cable. 7x19 means you have 7 bundles, each of which has 19 strands in them. Unwrap 4 of the 7 bundles of the old cable and go back approx 18" or so. Cut that bundle of 4 leaving three bundles left on the old cable.
- ❑ Take out your new type 316 stainless wire and unwrap 3 of the 7 bundles back approx 18" and then cut those bundles you just pulled back leaving 4 bundles intact.
- ❑ Now, just wrap/wind the two cables back together and unbelievably enough- you almost don't need tape to hold it all together. However, to be on the safe side- wrap the entire length with duct tape.
- ❑ Pull the line tied to the thimble in the centerboard trunk down and have your helper on deck feed the new centerboard cable into the sheave box on deck.
- ❑ Pull extra wire down below so you can easily attach a 3/16" stainless thimble to the cable with TWO loos sleeves. Crimp each sleeve four times. This was how the previous owner attached my cable and I repeated this as well. There is enough room in the system to allow for the two sleeves.
- ❑ Attach a short line to the new cable into the new thimble and have your helper on deck pull the cable back up again.
- ❑ Now comes the hard part. You need to make sure that you have enough travel to allow the board to go all the way down, but not too much where you cannot lift it all the way up.
- ❑ After determining that the new cable slides up/down nicely- pull the thimble in the centerboard trunk down below the keel to the same distance your old cable used to. (Remember you wrote down this measurement earlier...)
- ❑ Cut the centerboard cable on deck to a more workable length- not the final cut yet. Insert one loos sleeve and get the thimble in place- leaving excess wire trailing out of the thimble for now. Pull the cable back and forth a few more time and make sure to peer up into the centerboard trunk to ensure that the thimble will raise up high enough without interference, and the person on the deck needs to make certain when the centerboard cable is raised up where it should- that there is enough clearance on deck to allow the line attached to the thimble clearance.
- ❑ When you are 100% sure you have things right- mark the cable where it exits the loos sleeve and cut the cable. Now crimp on the thimble to complete the job.