

shut to contain the ring, loop or whatever. The device is then pulled back towards yourself making the other end of the bar – the one with the line attached to it – spring open so that the ring on the buoy (or whatever) can drop out with the line threaded through it. If you have access to the web, visit the website www.moorfast.com and watch a very clear animation of this process – it's easier to understand when you see it than when you read it – or follow our step-by-step pictures.

The MooR FasT is brought back aboard and the messenger line now threaded through the mooring ring is used to lead a mooring warp through in its place. It's usually best to bend this warp onto the messenger line before using the MooR FasT so that there's no chance of losing the end of the messenger if you are using the device from some distance. In my experience a sheet bend or double sheet bend to secure the messenger to the warp usually works best, as there are no stiff ends to catch on the ring or hoop as you pull it back through.

The swinging bar both opens and closes easily across the mouth of the MooR FasT, although it may take several uses from new for it to free up nicely, but it does require a fairly heavy or fixed object to push against in order to operate. For example, the MooR FasT will thread a line very well through the metal ring on top of a mooring buoy, but will struggle and often fail to work on a rope pick-up loop on top of a buoy. That's not exactly a criticism

of the MooR FasT, more a note of one limitation. Similarly, it is quite possible to pass a line round a large mooring cleat fitted to a marina or harbour, but it takes practice to discover the technique and decide the best method for you.

Another place where a MooR FasT is very handy is in a lock when entering or leaving a marina or harbour. Not having to put a crew member ashore via a slippery, vertical ladder is a clear safety bonus.

In many cases it's the ability to thread a line through something beyond arm's reach that makes the MooR FasT so useful. Putting a mooring line onto a buoy from a high foredeck in wind against tide conditions, for example, no longer means hanging precariously over the toerail. Similarly, when picking up a buoy or coming alongside singlehanded, the MooR FasT can be a real little helper – and if you do happen to lose your grip, it will float while you go round and recover it. *Colin Jarman*
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Sailing Today Verdict

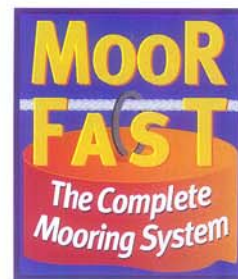
A clever, deceptively simple device that often makes mooring a safe and easy process when otherwise it might not be. Don't confuse it with a boathook, but do give it space on board. A welcome present for you or your crew



The new MooR FasT with detachable braided leader line and snap-on head coupling clip

Answerback
From **Chris Bentley**
Marketing Director
MooR FasT (Marine) Ltd

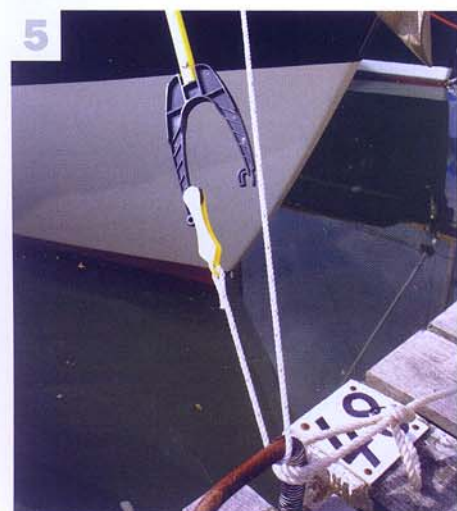
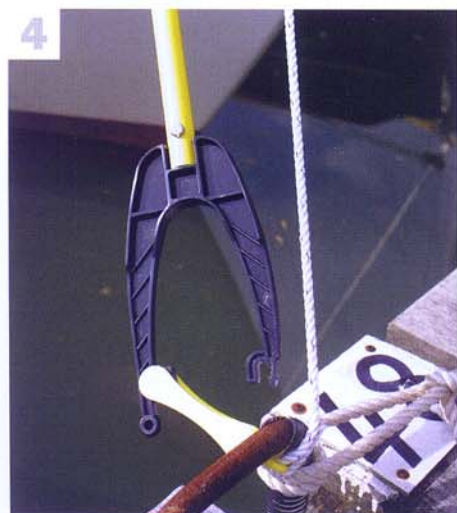
We are delighted Colin liked the MooR FasT enough to recommend giving it space on board. As he says, it is easier to understand when you see it working than to describe in words and pictures (although, in addition to the animation on the website, there is a short, downloadable film of a mooring pick-up and this is also available on CD and video). And MooR FasT will be at both Southampton and London (ExCeL) Boat Shows.



Using the product in a variety of mooring situations does require a bit of practice. But the more you use it, the more applications you discover. For instance, as well as threading a line through a ring, whatever, you can also unthread it by turning the head through 180 degrees and push-pulling again. Useful, if for whatever reason, you need to let go in a hurry. You can also thread it around twice to give a chafe-free turn. We are still discovering new ways to use it ourselves! (For some more ideas, go to www.moorfast.com).

We have also improved the product itself from the feedback we have had from our customers. The leader line is no longer permanently spliced to the head so you can, if you need, substitute your own warp (up to 15mm) which avoids having to tie it on each time. And we have also changed the leader to a braided line, as the picture shows. The former means of attaching the head to the pole, a 10mm stainless bolt, has also been replaced with a neater, and very secure, spring clip which snaps a stainless steel pin right through the pre-drilled holes in head and pole. It's quick to snap on or off, and we will be developing extra uses for this facility very soon – watch this space!

We welcome user's comments, and any more unusual ideas on use. So, thinking caps on and email us at info@moorfast.com. The best ideas will appear on our website.



Step 1 The MooR FasT's handle can be extended rather more than shown here for a really good reach

Step 2 Push the MooR FasT against the ring or loop so that the end of the bar (without the messenger attached) begins to open

Step 3 Continue pushing until the bar is able to snap shut again with the loop or ring enclosed in the U-shaped mouth of the MooR FasT

Step 4 Now begin to withdraw the MooR FasT so that the end of the bar with the messenger attached is pulled open

Step 5 This withdrawal frees the MooR FasT from the mooring loop or ring and pulls the messenger through in its wake

Step 6 Finally, the messenger is used to pull the mooring warp or line through the ring or hoop and back aboard