

Marine “Under-table” Radio, Mount for Mobile Radios



Many amateur radio operators are also avid boaters. No matter if it's a rowboat or even a large yacht, the issue of bringing along or mounting an amateur transceiver usually comes up sooner or later. In my case, I have a 21 ft pontoon boat and I was trying to decide how to mount 2 mobile transceivers in an out-of-the-way, yet somewhat accessible location. I was looking at the floor-mounted pedestal table and it occurred to me that it would be neat to mount the radios

underneath the table surface.

The pedestal table in my boat is about 23" in diameter with 4 molded-in cup or drink holders. This or something similar is used on power boats and yachts in varying sizes and configurations.

At first I thought I could just use the underside of the drink holders to support a round piece of plywood that would in turn support the usual mobile radio mounting brackets. However, looking at the thin plastic used in the molded drink holders made me change my mind.

Fig 1 (above) shows what is a much better idea, with the radios mounted on an 18" diameter piece of marine plywood, fastened to a suitable bushing, located under the regular table. This "under-table" table, works great and can be easily rotated, like a "lazy-susan", so the radio you want to use is always handy. Four radios could easily be accommodated and there is still room beside each radio for the mic, swr meter etc.

Fig 2 (below) shows the basic components.

An 18" diameter piece is cut from some exterior or marine plywood, and a center hole of 3" diameter to clear the pedestal.

Looking in one of the building stores plumbing section, I came across a 3" plastic closet flange made by Oatey, p/n 43654, that seemed made for the purpose. The lip of the flange is 3" OD, but about 2.5" ID. With a little shimming, it's a perfect fit for the 2 1/4" diameter pedestal.



A simple screw type pipe clamp below the flange on the pedestal, keeps it from slipping down and yet allows it to turn easily.

Fig 3 (below) provides some dimensions and shows the addition of 1" clearance holes in the table for radio power and antenna leads. These cables are kept neat using a velcro wrap on the pedestal.

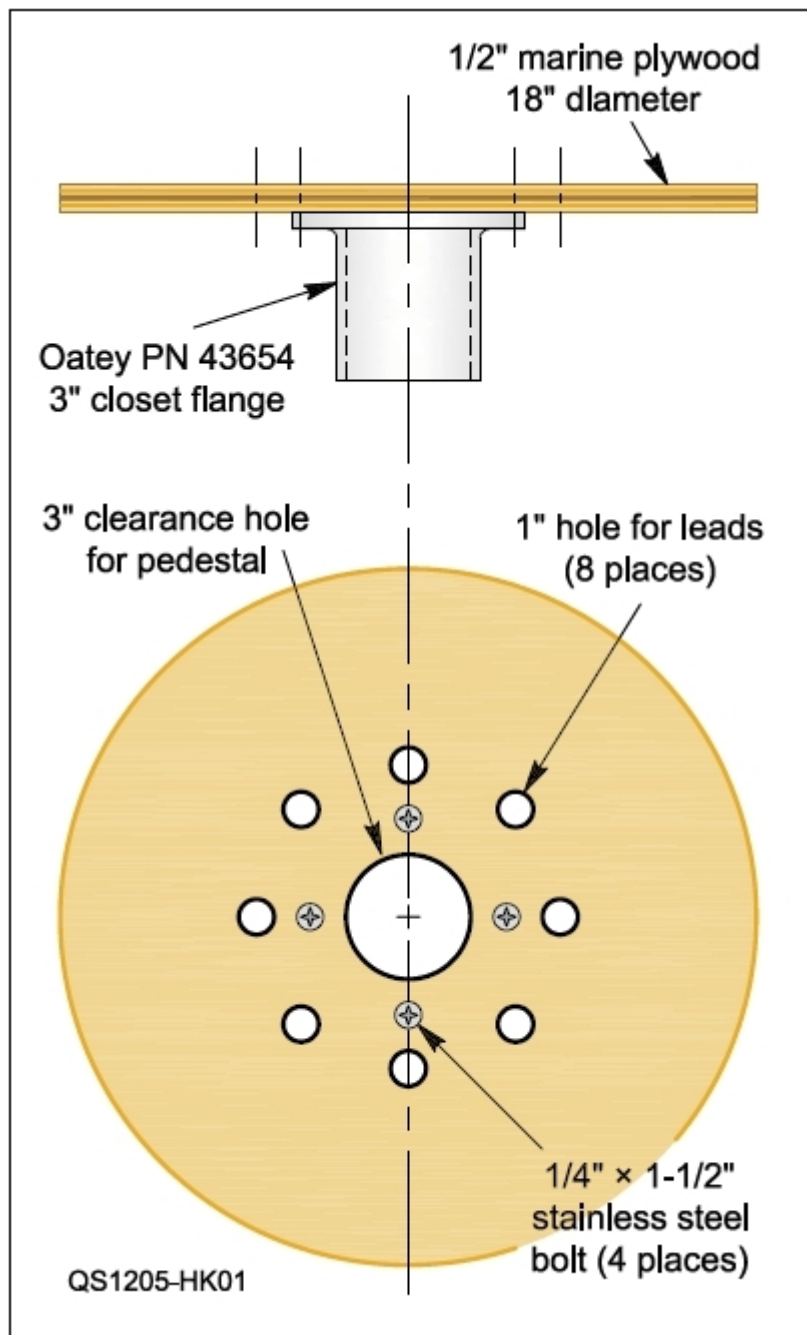


Fig 4 shows the radios mounted on the “under-table” before the table top is replaced.

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June 13, 2011

