

The Story of My New Anchor Wizard

OK..so where has this thing been all my 50 years of boat/fishing? I am not a mechanical kind of person, but I had the Anchor Wizard Jr., a pulley, and the tower mounted to my aluminum boat in 15 minutes. Most of that time was looking for simple tools. All it took was a drill and anything that can turn a screw or bolt depending on how you mount it. I got the clamp on Jr. which grabbed my double tube gunwale solidly with only hand turning the knobs (took 1 minute). I rolled up almost 100ft. of 124lb. work load braided rope onto the spool then headed to Bass Pro for an anchor. I can see where my Danforth anchor could fit the tower, but I wanted to try out a black coated river anchor with four blades.

I took the Anchor Wizard tower in Bass Pro with me just to make sure the river anchor I chose would fit. There was no need to, it did but it was really fun showing the tower to the young sales people and comparing it with the very small ones sold with anchor systems there. Even the greeter marveled at the tower commenting, "That is one serious piece of equipment." I tied on the 12lb anchor, reeled it up tight so it snugged into the tower and took off for launching. While driving, the anchor was secure and all line was neatly spooled on the Jr. spool.

My first test was in the Blakely River that empties into Mobile bay. For the first drop of the anchor I went to the bow and pushed the anchor free of the tower then went back to the console, gave a slight turn to the crank and the anchor dropped slowly. I turned a little more and to the bottom it went with no backlash. The depth was 20ft. so I let all the anchor rode play out then wound it up but this time did not tighten it enough to fully grip into the tower. The anchor had set but it took very little effort to wind the boat to the anchor then pull it just by cranking the spool. It was covered in mud so I just let it drop once more a few feet into the water, reeled it up and mud was gone. I held the line, gave a little more turn and I was good to go for the next test. While running the anchor did not bang against anything.

I ran to a channel between two marsh islands that are notorious for not being an easy place to anchor. The currents and wind will either land you into the marsh or out in the channel that is the entrance to a yacht club. I was able to anchor with ease any place I wanted and it was at that time it got comical. This device is so easy to use, works so well, it feels like you are cheating. I can now do all needed done to boat and fish from behind my steering wheel or scoot over to a fishing chair. My boat is unstable and me with a bad back, wobbly legs, and told too feeble to boat any more, but the Anchor Wizard has me back in the nautical saddle. I really had gotten to the point where I could not anchor or tie up to pilings anymore but now I can anchor without even going to the bow. I don't even have to stand.

My last test was a stealth mode thing. I cut the engine, used my transom mounted trolling motor and moved near pilings that once were a pier. We have many many of those here in the southeast due to hurricanes. Instead of spooking the fish that hang around this structure I anchored up wind from it, turned off the trolling motor and allowed the Anchor Wizard to play out the line as I got closer to the target. The water around the pilings was very shallow but it was no problem for the boat because when I was ready to leave I just moved the boat back to deeper water by easily cranking the spool.

Back at the dock the tower and spool were no problem any more than anything else is in docking. I docked starboard where the Wizard is mounted, put out a fender and no problem. The gear stayed away from the dock even though I have my spool cocked over a bit to give plenty of clearance from the clamp bolts.

As I told a fishing buddy at the dock, "This is too easy." He said I was just getting lazy. I said, "You got that right!" Seriously, anchoring in my part of the fishing world is a dangerous hassle. From broken legs in anchor wells, people falling overboard, banging up boats with anchors, skippers mad because you did not drop the anchor right where they wanted...it goes on and on, I find the Anchor Wizard so useful it should be stock equipment on boats. The quality of the materials and construction are about as good as it gets made by professional hands on machinists and metal workers, not some machine that stamps out thin steel to make a part. It is so easy to use I would not even consider an electric mass produced anchor system because our salty environment simply eats electronics in no time, but I'm sure if your application needs a motorized Anchor Wizard it will be heavy duty, not flimsy.

The cost of the Anchor Wizard is actually extremely reasonable for what you get. It just does not compare to others I've seen in the retail stores which I think would be rusted out very soon. If I still had my bigger Gulf boat I would be trying to figure out a way to have a bigger Anchor Wizard model mounted to it. Anchoring in rough seas, or any seas in the Gulf of Mexico is not an enjoyable part of boating but this device would take the hassle and pain (probably one reason I have a bad back) out of getting that anchor in and out of 100ft. of water, or more, while the waves are trying to throw you overboard.

Pleased customer in the deep South.
JB