



Coming alongside a pontoon or quay, and leaving

Come in at an angle towards the middle of the berth, helm hard away so the stern swings in, a touch of astern to stop, then the bow spring holds the boat.

Arriving

1. **Come in at an angle** Slowly, under engine, heading 30 to 45° to the pontoon, bow aimed at the middle of the berth. Choose the favourable side: with a right-handed propeller, port side to. Lines and fenders ready on both sides, outside the guardrails.
2. **Helm hard away** One or two metres off the pontoon, helm hard over away from it and neutral. The bow runs along the pontoon and the stern swings in towards it; the boat comes almost parallel.
3. **A touch of astern** A brief burst of astern, a few more revs. The way comes off and, on the favourable side, prop walk pulls the stern in against the pontoon. The boat stops parallel, on her fenders.
4. **Step off with the bow spring** The crew, at the shrouds where the boat is closest to the pontoon, steps off with the bow spring without jumping and makes it fast on the cleat, leading aft. Ahead at tickover, helm away from the pontoon: the boat stays pinned on her own.
5. **Bow and stern lines** Bow line, stern line, then stern spring. If the wind is blowing along the pontoon, the windward line goes on first. Stop the engine once the boat is held.

Leaving

1. **Read the wind** The wind may have shifted overnight. Start the engine early and test ahead and astern. Let go the leeward lines first; the last one is the windward line.
2. **Wind pinning you on: stern out first** Leave the bow spring on, rigged on a slip so it can be let go from on board, and a big fender just aft of the bow. Ahead at tickover, helm towards the pontoon: the stern swings out. Neutral, let go the spring, bring it in quickly, then go astern.
3. **Or bow out first** On a stern spring, fender on the quarter, gentle astern: the bow swings out. Neutral, let go, then ahead without turning too early. With a strong wind pinning you on, this method works poorly.

The dangers

- **A foot or hand between hull and pontoon** Never stop a boat with your feet, knees or hands. A leg trapped between the hull and the edge of the pontoon is the classic injury.
- **Jumping too early** A missed jump ends with a leg in the water between the boat and the pontoon. Only step off when the gap is under control; otherwise go round again.
- **Fingers on the cleat** When the engine pushes against the spring, it snaps tight. Keep your hands half a metre from the cleat: it is the friction of the line that holds, not your grip.
- **A line round the prop** When leaving, a spring that has been let go trails in the water right next to the propeller. Neutral, bring it in quickly, then engage.
- **The wind at the wrong moment** A gust on the beam pushes the bow, then the stern, towards the neighbour. If the manoeuvre goes wrong, get clear and start again rather than forcing it with the engine.

On the VHF "Harbour office, this is sailing yacht Alcyone, eleven metres, from Île de Ré, four persons on board. Request a visitor berth alongside for two nights. Over."



Do this manoeuvre again in the app, as many times as you need, without scratching a hull.
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