

UK SAILMAKERS SOLING TUNING GUIDE

MAST RAKE

Rake is checked by measuring the amount of forestay that exceeds the mast length. Hold the forestay along the front of the mast and mark the forestay at that point where the bottom of the mast would be. Check your rake by measuring the distance from this mark to where the forestay intersects with the deck. Set the rake at 28 inches. In light wind conditions (under 7 knots) we suggest a 31 inches rake. This will make the boat easier to steer. Remember that every time the rake is changed, all the control lines (backstay , jib cunningham and halyard ,jib sheet etc) have to be changed.

SHROUDS TENSION

The shroud tension is measured with the shrouds in the middle position, and the backstay on, so the headstay is snug at 28 inches of mast rake. Uppers should be at 600 lbs. for 0-17 knots and 800 lbs. for 18-plus knots. Loweres should be set so that the mast (when sailing), has one and one half inches of sag at the spreaders, for light air; increasing tension to 600 lbs. at 18 knots of wind.

SHROUD POSITION

There should be three settings for the fore and aft movement of the shroud position at the deck. The total travel is 12 inches.

Track Position	Wind Wind	Range
1- Full Forward	Light Air	0-10 Knots
2- Middle Track	Medium-fresh	10-18
4- Full Aft	Heavy	18+

BACKSTAY

The backstay controls the fullness in the mainsail (power) and also the forestay sag. The more backstay tension, the flatter the main, and the less forestay sag results in a flatter jib. Mark the backstay to get a fast setting, so it is easier to repeat fast settings and have the boat ready, quickly after mark rounding.

BOOM VANG

Adjust the vang adjusted for the downwind legs, so the top batten is parallel to the boom. Use the vang also to control the forestay sag to make the jib either more or less powerful.

MAINSAIL TRAVELER

The boom should be on the centerline until approximately 18 knots. Over 18 knots, ease the traveler to depower the main.

MAINSAIL TOP BATTEN

There are two types of top battens. With more than 15 knots use the full battens. Under 15 knots use the old style short battens .

JIB TRAVELER

We have three marks 10 , 11 and 12 inches athwart ship centerline.

CLEWBOARD POSITION

The medium jib has five holes in the clewboard. Use the middle one or the next higher. Fine trim the leech to be more closed by easing the tackline of the jib - for a more open leech, tighten the jib tackline.

LUFF TENSION

All jibs should be set with minimum luff tension, just enough to take most of scallops out.

OUTHHAUL

In light air the outhaul should be stretched to about one to one and one half inches from maximum out. As the wind increases, pull the outhaul all the way out so the sail is flat.

Go Fast Tips

- 1) Sail at maximum crew weight.
- 2) Sail the boat as flat as possible.
- 3) Do not pinch.
- 4) Set the shroud tension for the wind you are expecting in the first part of the race.
- 5) When in doubt select the more powerful option (it is easy to depower.)
- 6) On the runs, heel the boat to windward.
- 7) On the runs use as much crew weight as possible to steer the boat.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or comments, please call us directly at UK Sailmakers Houston.

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