

Resource File (28 May 2012)

Self-Tacking Headsail that really works!

With a self-tacking headsail it's simple...



... when you go about the headsail moves across from one side of the boat to the other on its own.

There are no winches to grind. And there's no rushing around deck on whilst tacking. Tacking Cool Change is as easy as turning the wheel!

The obvious advantage of a self tacker is that it makes it incredibly easy to sail.

It's no problem to sail single-handed or with an inexperienced crew.

The smaller headsail does not get caught and damaged on the guard rails so it lasts longer. And there's no more heading up front to skirt the sail.

Now what about **performance**?

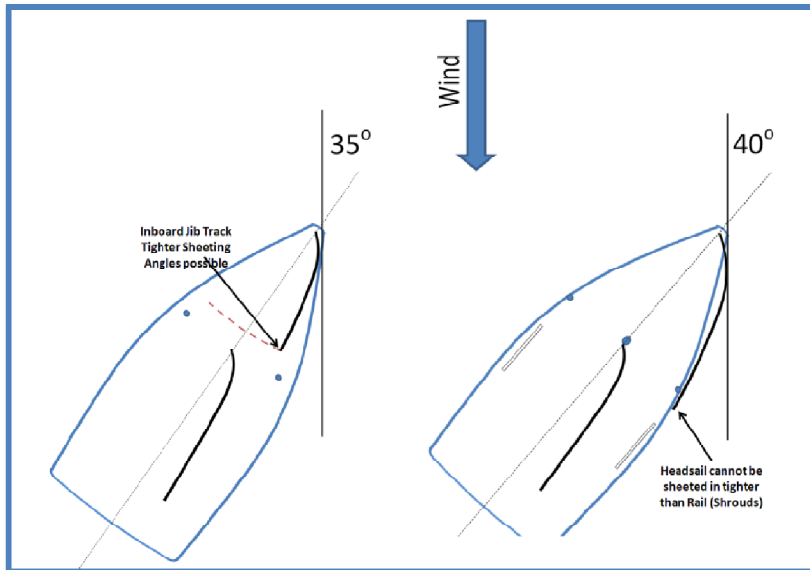
Does the Smaller Headsail Result in Compromised Performance?

... not when the self-tacker is part of the design from day one.

On Yachts designed with the self-tacker in mind, it is part of a high-aspect rig with a large mainsail. In addition a smaller headsail offers a better shape... the jib is flatter so the yacht points higher.

Self Tacking Headsail (www.mysailtalk.com)

Additionally, since the jib track is inboard rather than outside the shrouds VMG (Velocity Made Good) is up to 30% greater because of decreased tracking angles.



Where a small change – makes a big difference.

A true offshore Cruiser is expected to have good windward performance.

With the self tacker you have the headsail sheeted in properly when the need arises. It's important to get the sheeting angle right when going to windward, as a small difference has a big effect on those long offshore beats to windward.

When tacking you don't need to let go or even loosen the jib sheet. This means the jib sheet stays taught and there's minimal flapping of the sail.

The result?...

...speedy tacking with no fuss at all!

On Cool Change, my Moody 45DSe the self-tacking headsail is intrinsic to the overall yacht design as opposed to an after-thought option.

Moody boats are designed with the mast stepped further back and a high aspect rig plan.

This means a beautifully balanced yacht that's easy to sail.

With a self-tacker you have just one jib sheet.

The sheet goes from the clew of the sail to a stand-up block mounted on the self-tacker track. The sheet then feeds up to the mast back down inside the mast and back to the cockpit winch.

When tacking the block simply slides from one side to the other as the bow goes through the wind. Look at the You Tube video to see how simple it works.