

Windward Passage Sail Handling Procedures

Setting the Mainsail:

1. Ensure that the sail bag zipper is fully open and that the zipper pull line is clipped into the starboard lazy jack pelican snaps.
2. Attach the main halyard making sure that it is led completely inside the lazy jacks.
3. The helmsperson should bring the boat dead into the wind at minimum speed needed to maintain steerage.
4. Slacken off the main sheet about 6 inches and lock the main sheet clutch.
5. If crew are available, it is best to begin raising the main by pulling down on the halyard at the mast with someone taking up slack at the halyard winch until all the battens at the leach of the sail are clear of the lazy jacks. Once the battens are clear, the main halyard winch can be used to raise the main the rest of the way.
6. Alternatively, the main halyard winch can be used to raise the sail from the cockpit but care must be taken to ensure that the battens in the leach of the sail do not get caught in the lazy jacks. If using the winch press the button in short bursts and check to ensure that the sail is going up freely and is not binding or caught at the luff or the leach.
7. When the sail is fully raised, lock the halyard clutch and remove the halyard from the winch.
8. Use the winch to tighten the outhaul to the desired position but never farther back than the black stripe at the end of the boom.
9. Release the topping lift clutch and let the topping lift line go forward about 6 inches to ensure that the topping lift is not supporting the boom. Then lock the topping lift clutch.
10. Place the mainsheet on the winch and have the helmsperson fall off and begin sailing.

Lowering the mainsail:

1. Bring in the topping lift until the black mark appears aft of the clutch and then lock the clutch.
2. If you are dousing both sails, bring in the Genoa first (see below) and start the engine and bring the boat into the wind. If you are continuing to sail with the Genoa come up to a tight reach and let out the main sheet until there is considerable luffing in the main.
3. Release the main halyard and have crew at the mast alternately pull up on the halyard from the base of the mast and pull down on the luff of the mainsail.
4. The sail should drop into the sail bag but the battens may catch on the lazy jacks. Crew will need to pull the leach of the sail taut to get the battens inside the lazy jacks.
5. Once the sail is completely down the sail can be left this way until at anchor or, in mild conditions, the sail bag can be zipped up after freeing the zipper control line from the lazy pelican snaps.

Deploying the Genoa:

1. Remove the Genoa furling line from the line compartment and ensure that it is free to run out with no knots or kinks.
2. Take one or two turns with the furling line around the winch and unlock the furling line clutch.
3. Make sure the lazy sheet is free to run and use the active sheet to pull out the Genoa while one crew keeps a little tension on the furling line. If the furling line is let go and it shoots forward it can create a

snarl on the furling drum like the snarl one gets on a casting reel. If this happens, the snarl must be undone or you will not be able to furl the Genoa.

4. If you want to set the Genoa with one or two reefs, the person controlling the furling line should have at least 4 turns around the winch and will stop the unfurling when the first vertical blue stripe appears (second reef) or when the second vertical stripe appears (first reef). Lock the furling line clutch, remove the line from the winch and secure it to the cleat next to the winch.
5. Trim the Genoa sheet for your course.

Furling the Genoa:

1. Unless the conditions make it impossible, you should always fall off the wind until the wind is considerably aft the beam to furl the Genoa. If you must furl with the wind forward of the beam see (5) below.
2. Once on a downwind course, let the Genoa sheet out until the sail is luffing and then pull in on the furling line keeping a slight tension on the sheet and keeping the slack out of the lazy sheet.
3. When the sail is completely furled, continue to pull on the furling line until both sheets have at least two wraps around the furled sail.
4. Lock the furling line clutch and pull both sheets taut and lock them around their respective winches.
5. If you must furl the Genoa with the wind forward of the beam, let out the sheet until the sail has considerable luffing and pull on the furling line. If necessary use the winch to pull in the furling line. However, this puts considerable strain on the furling system and you should continue letting out on the sheet to minimize the strain on the furling line. As the sail is furled it will be possible to put some tension on the sheets to ensure as tight a furl around the headstay as you can. You may need to furl the sail again later when conditions allow in order to get a tight furl around the headstay.