

SAIL FURLING GIZMO



I am a great fan of The Harbour Furl, by which I mean rolling the mainsail tightly around its own leech up to the mast & securing it with a couple of ties as in this picture.

I do this before casting off so that, provided your mainsheet is of the length I specify & supply, the mainsheet can be taken forward & clipped onto the sail before releasing the ties. In this way the yard is already hauled up & the downhaul tensioned & the sail is always under control. (I am often dismayed to see skippers or crew with the clew of the sail in one hand & the mainsheet in the other, hoping that they can clip the two together before they get pitched over the side!)

It is also useful to clear the sail from the cockpit when in harbour (hence the name) or when stopped for lunch, etc. The boat should not be left unattended in this configuration as, despite best efforts, the sail may be more loosely rolled at the head & able to break out in a blow, when it will flog horribly!

It is essential that the sail is rolled round the leech & tight all the way up rather than rolled vertically, parallel to the mast, when it will always be too loose. The trick is to pull tension into the leech & aim as if you are rolling the sail down into the bow.

On the smaller boats, it is practical to do this manually but with the larger Drascombes, new, stiff sails or cramp in the fingers it becomes more difficult. Cue the appliance of the science of Gizmology & the creation of the Sail Furling Gizmo. This piece of kit enables a good harbour furl to be easily achieved.

Created in stainless steel & engineering plastic, it has been proved over several seasons.

