

Brad,

The first picture shows the fold (Brad inserts “bulge”) that occurred in the tack of our furling mainsail. When trying to furl in the main, this fold would bind on the outside of the furling slot of the mast making it almost impossible to furl in the main... it got even worse in high winds when the fold became more pronounced. We had Doyle stitch a “guide” on the tack. Pic 004 shows the guide stitched on the port side of the main and guided through the furling slot and rounding the furling mandrel. Pic 006 is a close up of the port side of the main. Pic 005 shows the guide Velcro attached to the starboard side of the main. It’s a little tricky getting the guide wrapped around the furling mandrel. We found that instead of trying to manually push it around the mandrel, if we shoved the guide into the slot when the main was out, then furled in the main, the guide would wrap around the mandrel by itself and stick to the Velcro. We would just pull it tight and straighten it out from there.

We now have absolutely no problem furling in the main in any conditions. It works like a dream and never binds.

Here are the pics: (as an aside: I always thought that tightening the main halyard/and heading DIRECTLY into the wind would fix this, but I see that I (Brad) am wrong).

Picture of the problem. Notice the distance from the slot for the furler slot, and the actual tack of the mainsail. The bulging area is what will cause issues as you try to furl the main.



See the Velcro addition? Pic 5



Pic 6.

Notice the sail is not bulging out.



Super close up of port side of furling mandrel.

So, if you are having trouble starting the furling operation of the mainsail, due to the “bulge” of sail at the tack. First, try tightening the main halyard (you KNOW that the halyards stretch all season RIGHT?). Second, if the winds are strong, head directly into the wind when trying to furl. I LOVE the fact that MOST times I don’t have to put the boat head to wind when stowing the main when I have a furling mainsail. But, if you are having trouble starting the furling operation.....put the boat head to wind. If you continue to have problems, consider the solution above!

Ahoy,

Capt. Brad Sindle