

RS400 - 2:1 Main Halyard

Avoid the Chafe

A 2:1 main halyard is an essential tuning aid as it enables the Cunningham to be used to maximum effect without the head of the mainsail creeping its way down the mast.

A 2:1 was originally a retro fit with details on the website with pictures based on the “old-style” masthead fitting. Since around 2011 new boats have been supplied with a 2:1 halyard as standard with the dead end of the halyard knotted through one of the spare holes in the “new style” mast head fitting.

However, the edges of the head fitting are fairly sharp and fray the halyard particularly when the sail is eased, as in the left-hand picture below. As can also be seen in the picture the solution is to round off the inner edges using a file and abrasive paper.



Dead ending the halyard by drilling a 5mm hole in the top of the head fitting gives an even pull and removes another potential chafe point. Use the tip of a 7mm drill to put a small countersink on the **top** and **underside** of the hole to remove the sharp edges, this is just visible in the right-hand picture above.

It is still worth periodically pulling through about 50mm of halyard and retying the dead end with a figure of eight knot at the top of the mast. This eliminates the risk of the Dynema halyard breaking due to fatigue around the shackle and also moves the wear point in the cleat.

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