

Feedback from using the Swallow 2010 Trial Rig Saturday 10 April

Use

Jib

You need your own shackle for the tack of the jib.

We also put in another (twisted) shackle to raise the tack an inch – not necessarily needed.

Sheeting – we found we could just sheet to the front of our track, about 6 inches behind the rear of the deck. We have made up a bridle for all to use, which attaches to the fitting the mast heel goes into at one end and to the aluminium bar under the side deck by the shroud – we've attached a block to this which can be adjusted for height; if you have a 2:1 the end can be tied off to the becket below the block. This worked fine as an alternative. This bridle is tucked into the jib sail bag for all to use. You may have to adapt where it attaches to if you do not have a bar under your side deck.

Main

The foot of the main is about 6 inches shorter than existing sails. You either need to have a long clew outhaul rope or to put a strop in to bridge the gap.

Halyards on the main and jib fitted our existing arrangements as normal.

Impressions

Weather was force 1 to 3 (sunny!).

The jib seemed more powerful upwind, particularly in the light weather. The sheet load upwind seemed no more than normal. The jib set with some wrinkles which were just cosmetic. Downwind the extra area in the jib made it much more effective below the spinnaker.

The main was much more sensitive to adjustment with the kicker.

The top batten was not easy to tack or gybe in very light weather. As soon as there was wind it was straight forward.

I once had contact between the top batten and the backstay, before I put mild tension on the backstay.

Overall we seemed to be faster upwind than other boats, particularly in the lighter wind and the boat felt less sluggish in these conditions than normal.

Bonuses were the big window in the main and being able to get the spinnaker down over the top of the jib sheets. We wondered if a second jib window would be a benefit.

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