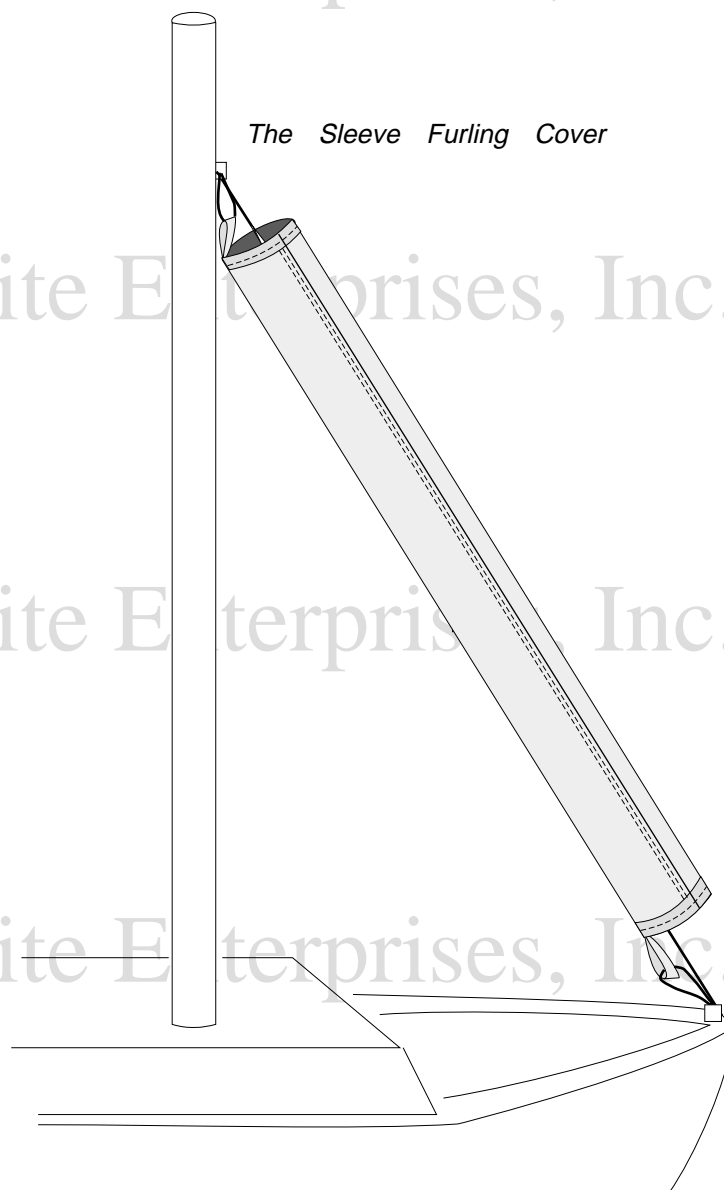


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The Sleeve Furling Cover (Sunbrella)

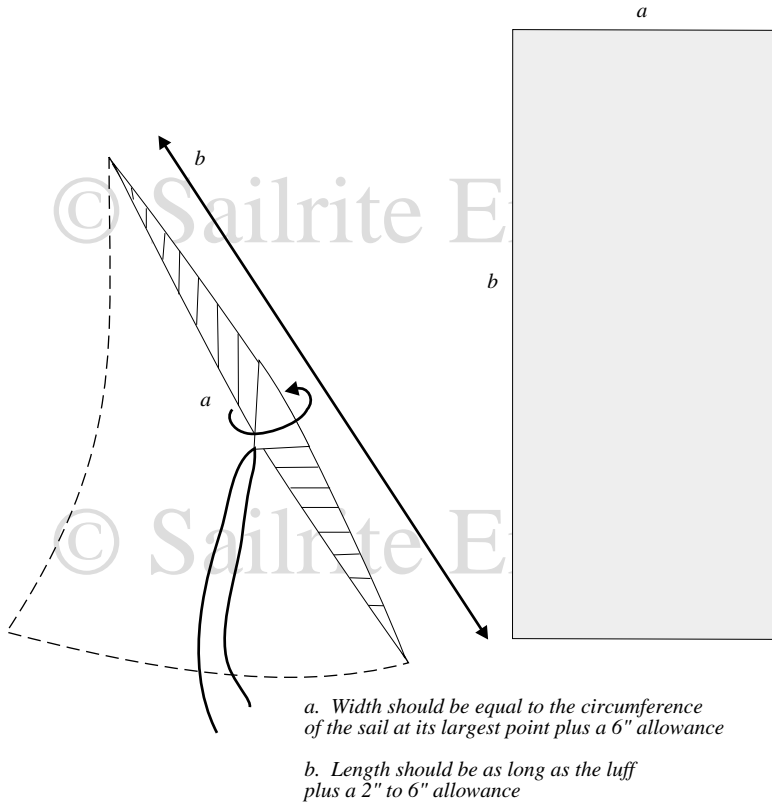
A simple sleeve pulled up over a furling sail with a spare halyard will go a long way toward extending sail life. This sleeve is really nothing more than a long rectangle of cloth with a zipper closure along the two long edges and fabric loops at the bottom and top to hold it in place.

The rectangle should have a width equal to the circumference of the sail at its largest plus 6 inches for hemming and clearance. The rectangle should be as long as the luff of the sail to be covered plus between 2 and 6 inches (Figure 28).

We have sent a 24 foot length of material 46 inches wide. This fabric will be cut along its length as necessary to provide the proper diameter. I would guess that a 30 inch width would be about right but measure around your furling sail to make sure. Use the leftover material for other purposes (bags, covers, etc.).

Hem the rectangle all around by folding over 1 inch of cloth at all edges. Run two rows of straight stitches along each hem. Place the first one right next to the folded edge--it will serve to

Figure 28



hold the hem in place during the next pass through the machine and to keep it from shifting (Figure 29).

Close the sleeve with one or more zippers. The zippers can be stapled or pinned in place to keep them in position as you sew. Be sure that the zipper starts at the end of the cover that will be up near the top of the mast. It can then be started and closed while the cover is being raised. Since zippers are not available in all lengths, you may find two or more in your kit. If so, leave a space of six inches or so between the end of one and the beginning of the next so that the new zipper can be easily started. To install the zipper, just attach one zipper tape to the underside (the hem side) of each long cover edge with two rows of straight stitches (Figure 30). The most finished appearance will result if you allow the cover edge to extend over one half of the width of the zipper teeth, although your stitches must, of course, be placed back away from the teeth to allow passage of the zipper slide.

If you need to shorten a zipper, just cut it at the end last to be closed. Then melt 3 or 4 teeth together to keep the slider from coming off.

There must be a means of attaching the halyard to the cover, and there should also be an attachment point for a line that can be used to hold the cover down over the sail. These attach-

Figure 29

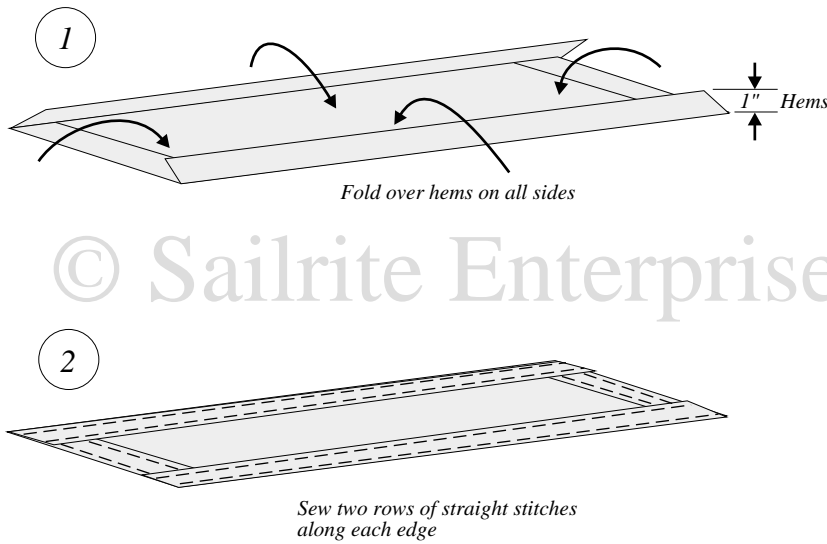


Figure 30
Zipper Installation

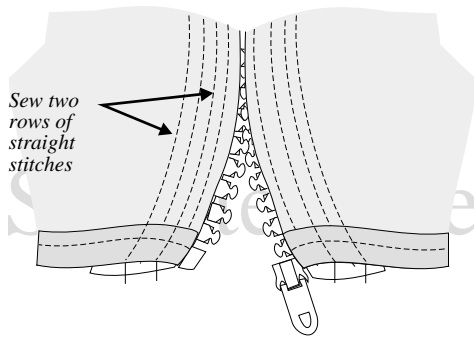
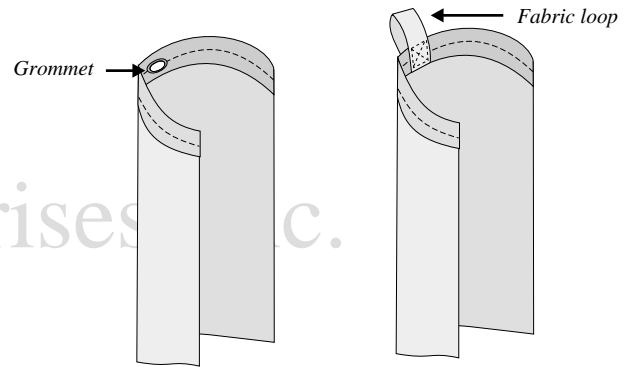


Figure 31



One grommet or one fabric loop should be attached to each end of the cover at its center point

ment points are simple 9-inch pieces of webbing folded and secured to the ends of the cover to provide loops (see Figure 31).

Your sheets will be led down inside the cover to the tack when the cover is in place.

Your furling cover is now complete. If you use it faithfully, the life of your sail will be more than doubled. It is a good investment.



Self-Reliance Under Sail

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