



Slugs, Slides & Shackles

SAILRITE TIDBIT

Slugs. Slides. Shackles. (Sigh) Those mysteriously complicated little pieces of hardware that happen to be very handy for deploying the mainsail. Not only can it be difficult to decide what to use and how to attach, but then try and figure out which slugs or slides work with each shackle. Hopefully this information will help put your mind at ease a little when it comes to selecting or replacing your sail hardware.

Why Use Slugs and Slides?

The main reason to use slugs and slides is to facilitate sail handling. With the use of a sail stop, slugs and slides allow for the sail to quickly and easily stack in the mast slot rather than coming out of the track every time the sail is lowered and possibly catching wind and becoming difficult to manage. Slugs and slides also reduce wear on the sail and slide easily up and down the mast, unlike boltroped sail edges.

Selecting Slugs and Slides

First off, let's define the difference between a slug, a slide, and a shackle:

Slugs have a round barrel that feeds into the mast slot instead of the boltrope and a bail for attaching to the sail.

Internal Slides have a flat end, similar to a T shape, that feeds into the mast slot instead of the boltrope and a bail for attaching to the sail.

External Slides are used with external metal track, often found on traditional boats with wooden spars.

Shackles secure around the bail of a slug or slide and attach to the sail, and most must be used with a grommet installed along the edge of the sail.

The easiest way to determine what size slug or slide you need is to measure the slugs or slides you already have. If you're starting from scratch, measure the mast slot and select a size that will fit comfortably in the slot – not too big, not too small – so the hardware can move easily and consistently.

Once you know what size you need, it can be tedious to figure out which shackle will fit. So we've also put together a handy chart for figuring out which slugs and slides fit each of our shackles.

To download the **Slugs, Slides & Shackles (PDF)** paste this link into your browser:
<http://www.sailrite.com/Slugs-Slides-Shackles-Selection-Installation-and-Positioning-Instructions>

Installing Slugs & Slides

There are several different attachment methods to consider when installing slugs and slides. The strongest and most common attachment method is with a shackle and grommet. Webbing is more labor intensive but allows for greater articulation of the slug position. Here are several different attachment examples:



1 | Plastic slide installed using 5/8" wide screw-on plastic shackle (no grommet required).

2 | Plastic slug sewn in place using waxed twine and webbing.

3 | Stainless bail slug installed using stainless steel shackle, plastic insert, and grommet.

4 | Plastic slug installed using plastic shackle and grommet.

5 | Stainless bail slug installed using webbing and grommet.

FEATURED PRODUCTS



All Nylon Round Sail Slugs

Features a nylon barrel and a rocker that helps prevent the slug from tilting in the slot. Secure ahead of the boltrope and insert in the mast slot instead of rope. Secure to a sail with webbing, webbing and grommet, shackle and grommet, or just a shackle. Sail slugs also keep the sail stacked in the slot when a sail track stop is used.



Snap-In Plastic Shackles

Injection molded from a tough nylon to absorb sudden impact loads. Self-locking snap-in pin is often preferred as an easier to fit alternative with higher strength and reduced elongation under load. Pip prevents shackle from jamming and keeps the sail slug or slide from abrading the boltrope. Use with a pressed #1 or #2 spur grommet.

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT



"...Light wind day but able to go along at 5-6 knots boat speed. Screacher is sheeted very inboard. Main halyard could have used a little more tension as evidenced by slack in the bolt rope :) Everything fabric on the boat (except mainsail) was done with materials from Sailrite and done on a LSZ-1 machine. This includes winch covers, back rests, screacher sail cover, screacher cover, jib, screacher, screacher block straps to rear beam, and tramps. Of course you can't see all of that, but you get the point. Thanks!"

-Screacher Sail by Patrick – Bloomfield Hills, MI

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