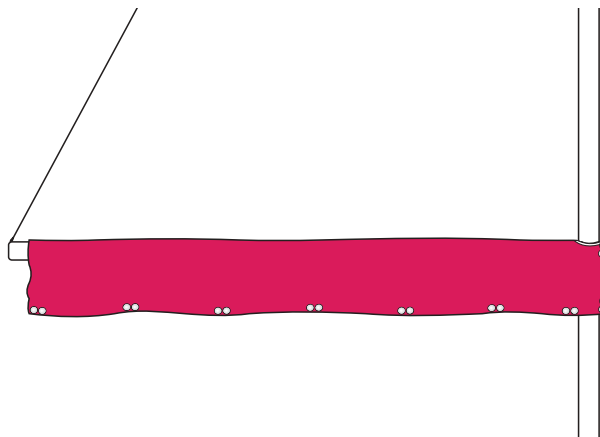


Rectangular Sail Cover Instructions



Sail covers should be made of a fabric which "breathes" in order to prevent condensation. It should also, needless to say, be quite resistant to sunlight, stretch, and abrasion. Both polyester and acrylic fabrics fulfill these requirements, but certainly the best sail covers are made of the latter. The acrylics (the best know is "Sunbrella") are more colorfast and tend to drape a bit better than the polyesters. The only drawback to the acrylics is their tendency to abrade but this can be overcome by adding additional fabric or patches of leather at critical spots.

There are only a few materials, other than fabric, necessary for rectangular sail covers: thread, acrylic binding tape and fasteners. The thread should be V-69 polyester.

Machine stitching in boom sail covers is primarily straight. Make the stitches as long as possible. Some cover fabrics tend to "needle pucker" so the fewer times your needle penetrates the cloth the better the seam will look.

Leather can be used for chafe protection wherever necessary. It is also a means by which handwork can be attractively covered.

There are several fasteners used for boom sail covers. My favorites are "twist-lock fasteners" (also called "common sense fasteners" and sometimes "carriage fasteners") and two sided

plastic sail cover hooks. Your kit will include the twist lock fasteners with buttons to give a more finished look unless you specified otherwise.

Construction Procedures

Begin by draping the fabric that came with your kit over your sail furled on the boom just as you normally furl it.

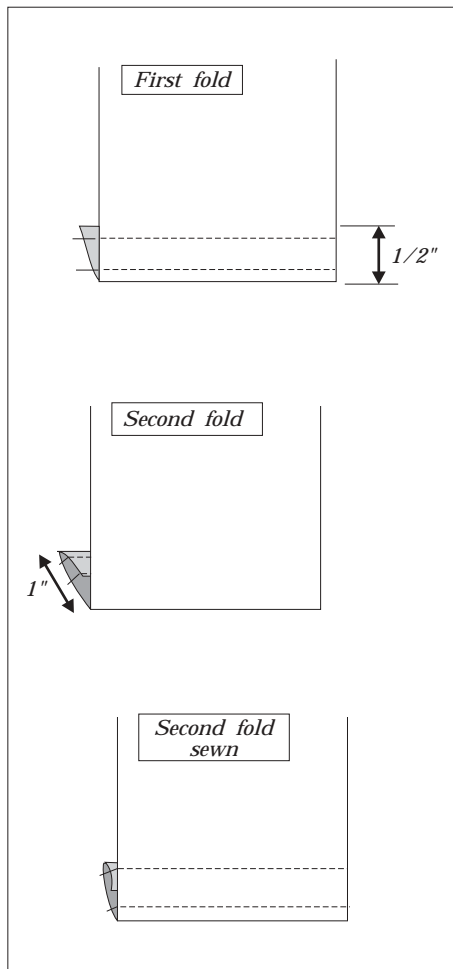
Mark the lower portion of the cover fabric at the front and back ends to indicate how much material can be trimmed away. Allow for a very loose fit—these covers are intended to "drape" the boom rather than "hug" it.

Join the marks you just made with a straight line and trim away the excess cloth. But do allow an extra 1 1/2" below your lines for a double hem all along the bottom of the cover.

Fold each edge over 1/2" (to the "inside") and then fold them again to a 1" hem width. Sew these folded edges in place with two rows of straight stitches. See Figure 6.

If you want your cover to extend forward around the mast, cut a slit along the center of the material at its forward end from 9 to 12 inches long (about 3 inches more than half the circumference of the mast). This slit should be bound with the acrylic bias binding tape included in your kit.

Figure 6
Finished Edge



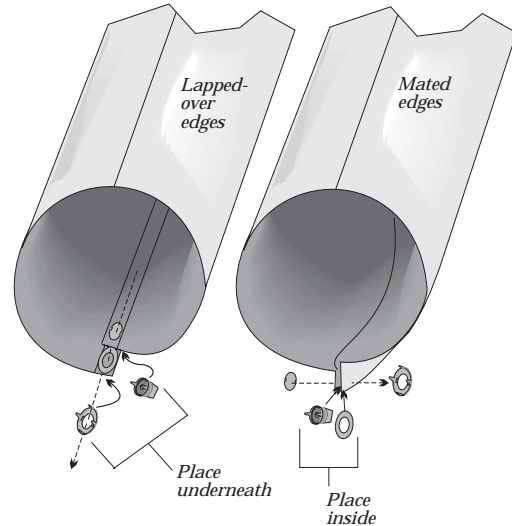
Now fit the cover over your furled sail again and mark the aft most point for its length. Allow 1 1/2", once again, for a hem and trim away the excess material. Hem the aft edge just as you did the lower hems.

The cover should now be placed over the furled sail again and the fastening system installed. Follow instructions "A" if you have a standard kit with twist-lock or common sense fasteners. If you have chosen the optional sail cover hooks, then follow "B".

A. I like to install twist-lock fasteners so that the cloth laps over itself rather than mating inside surface to inside surface. See Figure 9. The lapped closure puts stress on

Figure 9

Twist-lock fasteners being compared in installation procedures



the fasteners in shear, and it means that the finished side of the fastener will be on the outside of the cover.

The only tool required is a small knife. Fasteners are placed from 20 to 38 inches apart between the corners to assure that the wind will not lift an edge and cause it to flap. Press the fastener socket into the cloth where it is to be placed so that its four prongs leave slight indentations. (It helps to place the fabric on a phone directory or some fairly yielding surface.) Make small slits in the cloth with the point of your knife over these indentations. With synthetic cloth it is a good idea to heat the knife blade before making the slits so that they will be well sealed. Insert the prongs of the socket through these slits and place an appropriate backing plate inside them on the other side of the cloth. Then bend the prongs over onto the backing plate with a pair of pliers. The hole which must be cut in order to insert the stud into the socket can be made with the same knife or scissors or with a hotknife to seal synthetic fabric. See Figure 10. Our new button cloth-to-cloth installation does

not use the stud shown in Figure 10. A flat based two screw stud is used instead. Rivets are installed with a snap fastener installation tool to give a more finished appearance and reduce chafe. See Figure 10A.

B. Sail Cover Hooks are installed so that they are not visible once connected (Figure 11). Both pieces are sewn on the inside of the long edges under the boom using a zigzag stitch directly through the thin plastic lip of the hook. The hook should be sewn with the leading edge flush to the fabric. The leading edge of the eye should be roughly 1/4 of an inch from the edge of the fabric. Hooks should be placed, as shown on the beginning illustration, from 20 to 38 inches apart to assure that the wind will not lift an edge and cause it to flap.

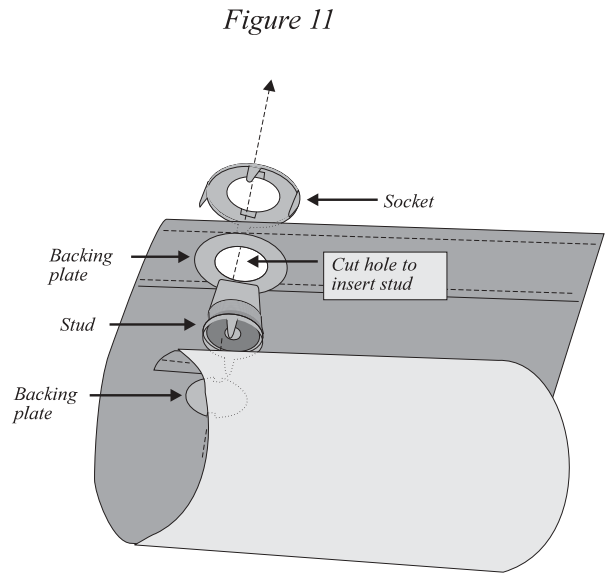
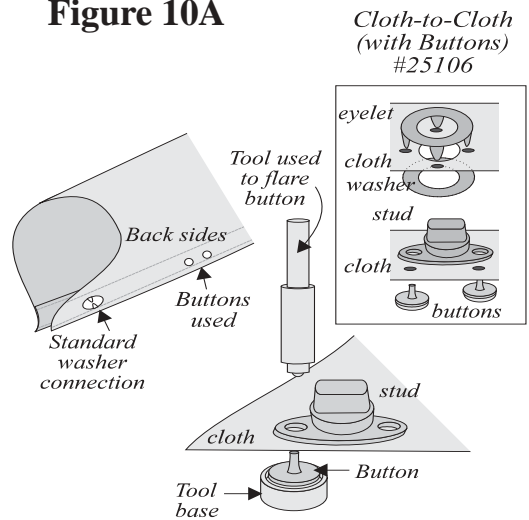


Figure 10A

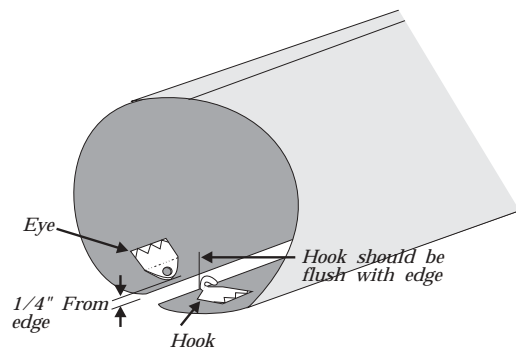


Cloth-to-Cloth
(with Buttons)
#25106

Instructions for covering winches placed on the mast in the way of the cover are included here. In some cases your kit may have enough fabric to allow for them but you may need to order additional fabric. Winches can be handled in two ways: You can merely allow enough extra cloth when trimming to cover them “tent” fashion. A neater appearance, however, will result if a hole is cut in the cover to allow the winch to protrude and a special winch cover is made up (Figure 17). To fashion this cover, cut from scrap cloth a rectangle equal in width to the height of the winch plus two inches and equal in length to the circumference of the hole which was cut in the cover plus four inches (to allow for closing the barrel and attaching it to the cover).

Form a barrel with this rectangle by folding it in half across its length and sewing across the two narrow ends with a row of straight stitches 1/2-inch inside the edges. Cut out a circular piece of cloth one-inch in diameter greater than the diameter of the barrel just formed. I like to cut this circle out roughly and oversized. Then I pin it in place 1/2-inch inside one end of the barrel. It can then be sewn with a line of straight stitches

Figure 11



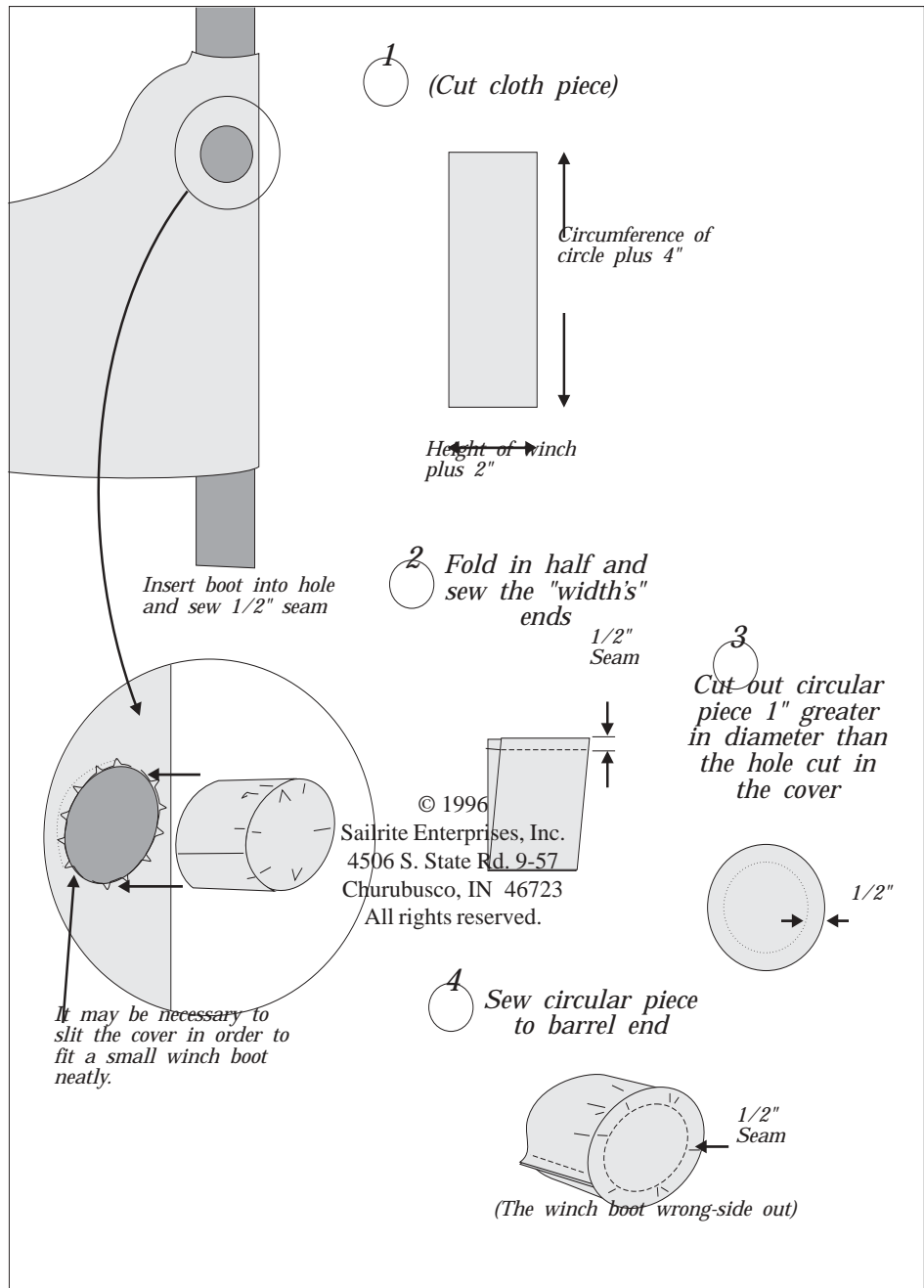
directly over the row of pins. Any extra cloth in the circle can then be cut away.

Now turn the resulting winch pocket right side out and insert it in the cover hole. Pin it in place so that its bottom edge is flush with the opening in the cover. Run a line of stitches all around this opening 1/2-inch inside the two edges.

To prevent any of the raw edges from raveling, you may want to overcast them with a short zigzag stitch. Or you may even go so far as to install binding tape over them.

The rectangular sail cover is now complete. If you encounter any problems or have any suggestions, please let me know.

Figure 17



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