

The Rest of the Adjustments

Camber: An addition to the comments in “Boat Trim for Speed” on camber, in really light winds reducing camber will help prevent the sails from stalling.

Sidestays: The sidestays should be snug and adjusted for a straight and vertical mast from side to side. With loose lower stays, lay the boat on its side on a table and measure from the masthead to the table. Flip the boat and measure again. Adjust the upper sidestays until the measurements are the same. Then tighten the lower stays and sight down the mast. Adjust the lower stays until the mast is straight.

Forestay: The fore-aft rake of the mast is adjusted with the forestay. Adjust the mast to be perpendicular to the deck.

Backstay: Tightening the backstay will reduce the camber in the middle of the main and jib by bending the mast and straightening the forestay.

Uphaul: The uphaul and/or downhaul for each sail should be tight enough to eliminate horizontal wrinkles in the sail, but not so tight as to produce vertical wrinkles.

Mast Step: Moving the mast forward will produce a tendency to turn downwind, and visa versa. This must be adjusted along with changing the relative power of the main and jib. Try to end up with similar cambers in both sails and a nearly neutral helm.