

Rudder Retainer Line

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So new rudders are not cheap and being out at sea without one can be a little challenging. The biggest risk is losing it during an unscheduled inspection of the underside of your boat. A few people have added a retaining device and in theory if you have the bungie cord in its cleat then even if the rudder comes off the pintles you should still have it attached to the boat when you finally get it upright again, but you then need to get the thing back on the pintles so that you can get sailing again, in high winds and choppy or wavy conditions this is almost impossible.

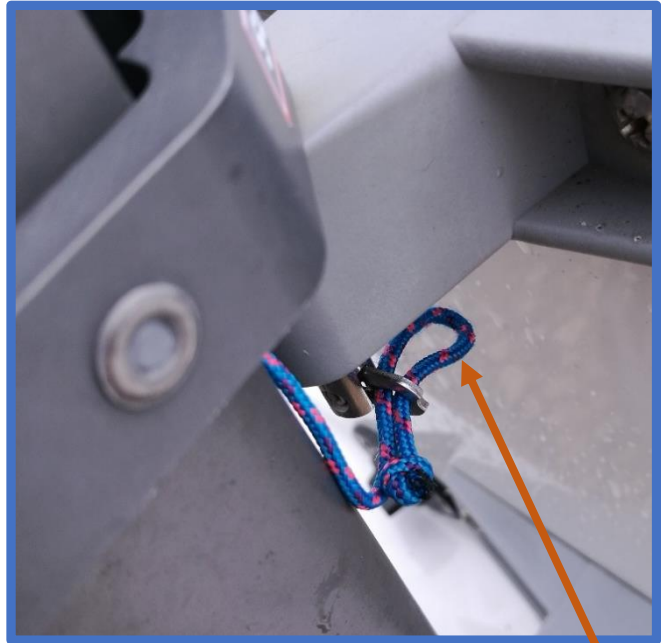
So the solution is not to let it slide off the pintles in the first place, this will save you some positions on the race course, an unexpected bill or an early return home as the boat can no longer be sailed.

I have added a lightweight cord to the rudder as you can see in the photos below, it is used in conjunction with the standard clevis pin on the top pintle. Using a 2mm diameter cord I simply push a loop through the slot that is present on one side of the clevis pin after you have slid it across to retain the rudder. I then drop the stopper knot through the loop and pull the loop tight, making sure there is enough free play in the cord to allow the rudder to travel its full movement from left to right. That's it, simple. To un-do just pull the loop to get it loose, pull the stopper knot back through and the loop will pull back through the clevis pin slot. You need never worry again about losing your rudder or having a complicated unsightly arrangement to retain it on the boat.

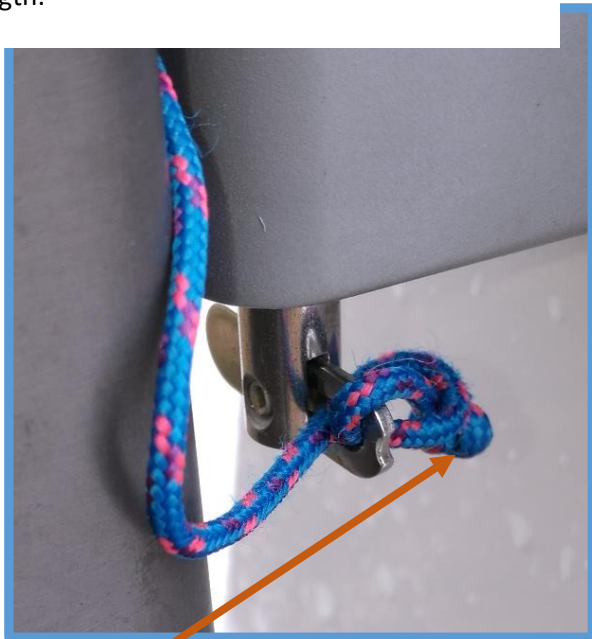
Photos on following page:



2mm Cord, tied to the top pintle fitting with a stop knot in one end. The end of the cord and stopper knot should come down to the bottom rudder fitting, which should be about the right length.



Pass a loop through the slot in the pintle clevis pin



Drop the stopper knot through the loop



Pull this end to tighten the loop and secure the retainer in place