

SWINGING SPREADER MODIFICATION

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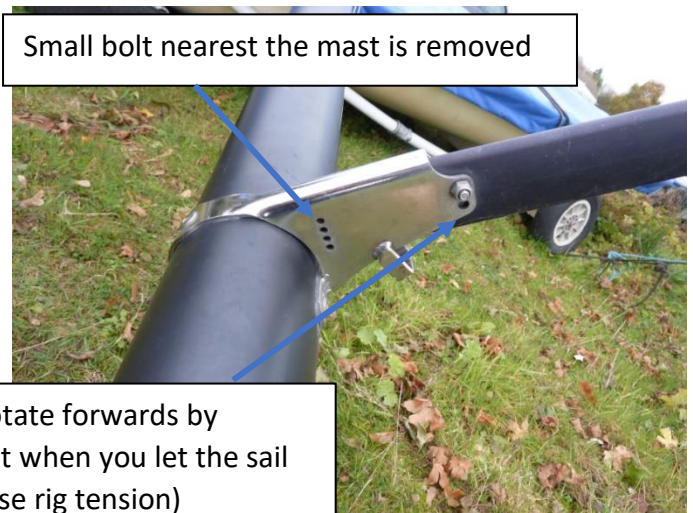
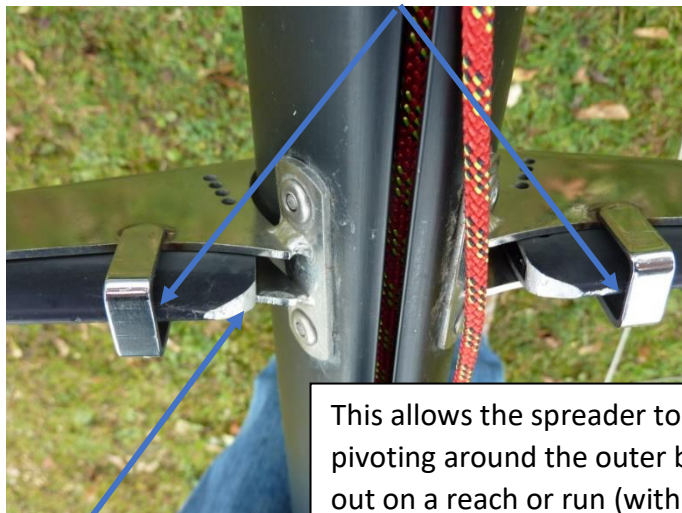
SPREADERS

Why have swinging spreaders? With fixed spreaders when you let the sail out on a broad reach or run the sail pushes into the spreader creating an 'S' shape in the sail. This is not an ideal sail shape for optimum airflow over the sail. If the spreader is allowed to swing and your rig tension is not too tight, as you let the sail out and it presses against the spreader it will pivot forwards out of the way of the sail resulting in an undisturbed sail shape and improved performance.

WARNING: When its windy we advise you keep the rig tension on downwind to prevent the spreaders from moving, a windy day boom up capsize with a swinging spreader setup and low rig tension can and has resulted in bent masts!!!

To get floppy spreaders you need to remove the bolt nearest the mast. In this picture you can see the new retainer on the spreader bracket to stop the spreader swinging too far.

New retainer bracket to prevent excessive spreader forward movement.



This allows the spreader to rotate forwards by pivoting around the outer bolt when you let the sail out on a reach or run (with loose rig tension)

You may have to file down the back corner of the spreaders to make sure they don't catch on the mast or bracket. They are soft aluminium so it's not difficult to do.

For those with older masts that do not have the “new retainer bracket” here are a couple of pictures from one of Mike Gibson’s older boats where he has used a rope retainer to do the same job as the bracket installed on the newer masts.

Here he has drilled a hole in the back of the spreader to allow a 4mm dyneema line to be used to restrict the forward movement of the mast.

