



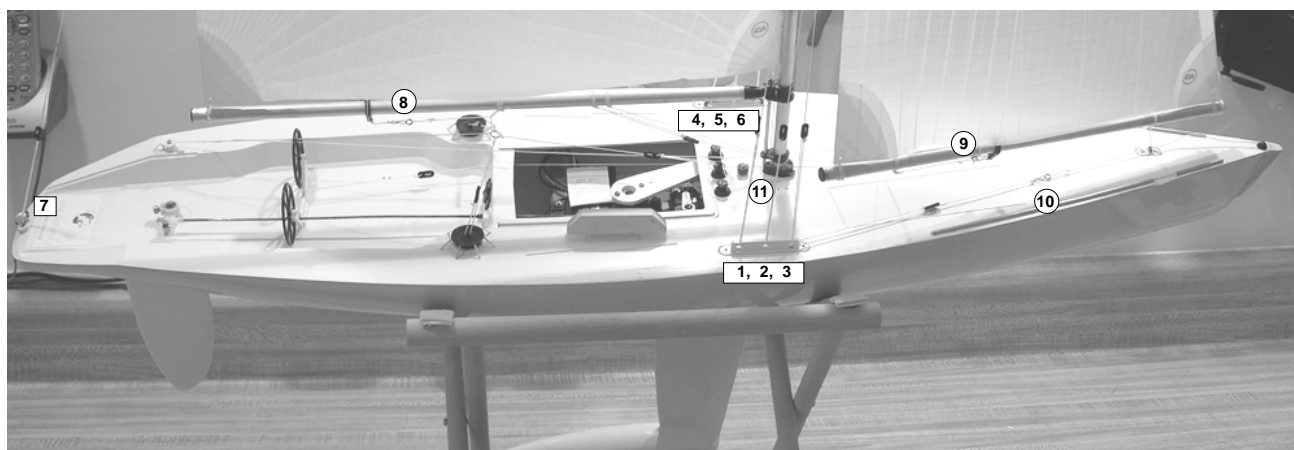
THE BOATYARD

How to Retrofit a Removable Rig

by Dick Martin

UGH OH! WHEN YOU BUILT YOUR CR 914 you had no idea that you might catch regatta fever and would want to have a removable rig to make it easier to transport your boat! Not to worry. Retrofitting a removable rig is a *snap* (I can't believe I wrote that). There are only 11 strings that connect the rig to the hull, and you may need to modify only nine of them. None should need to be replaced. They are numbered on the

photo below: 1 through 6 – shrouds; 7 – backstay; 8 – mainsheet; 9 – jibsheet; 10 – jib boom tack string (henceforth JBTS); 11 – Cunningham. (You'll notice that the boat shown here does not have cleats on the deck for the JBTS and Cunningham. Those cleats can snag other lines, on your boat and on others nearby, and many 914ers have removed them.)



Shrouds

The simplest way to make them disconnectable is to use the snap-hook method shown in the current version of the Assembly Instructions that come with the kit. Buy some snap hooks at a fishing tackle shop, attach the big ends to the eyes in the side and aft chainplates (“eye plates”), thread the ends of the shrouds and backstay through the small end of the snaps and tie to the bottom hole in the bowsie. I'm betting that you located your bowsies high enough above the chainplates that you'll have enough slack to be able to re-attach these seven strings without difficulty. If they prove to be too short, however, simply tie a loop of string—as an extender—through the snap, and thread the shroud/backstay through this loop. You do not need to replace your shrouds/backstay! If you use extender loops, don't forget to glue their knots with CA, and check them for chafing periodically.

Figure 4-5-6 (on page 11) shows a slightly neater solution for the shrouds. A short piece of stainless or brass wire, the ends of which are bent to engage in shallow holes drilled in the base of the chainplate (so the ends can't snag things), runs along the inner side of each chainplate, impaling loops in the ends of the shrouds. Figure 7 shows a similar device holding the backstay to its chainplate, as well as one of those extender loops described above.

Sheets and other connections

You can use conventional snap-hooks for these connections as well. I prefer much smaller connectors, which are available in the fishing tackle department at Wal-Mart, called Norman Lures Speed Clips. They are sleek and tiny, fool-

proof, and I guarantee they will never snag some other string accidentally. Pinch them to spread their jaws so that a loop at the end of the sheets can be inserted. Tie the base of these clips to the main and jibsheet boom sliders as shown in figures 8 and 9. Note the loop of string holding the business end of the jibsheet clip up next to the jib boom in figure 9; that keeps it from sagging down and possibly snagging on something when the jibsheet goes slack.

Since my boats don't have deck cleats, I use a Speed Clip (figure 10) to connect the JBTS to a string and bowsie arrangement attached to the forward hole in the starboard chainplate. The loops in the ends of the sheets and JBTS need to be compact enough to pass through the string-ring “turning blocks” on the booms and the foredeck fairlead. I use tiny bowlines (be sure to glue them with CA, too).

The Cunningham of the boat shown here is an odd-ball arrangement that adjusts with a string-ring tied around the mast. On *Mariah* I run my Cunningham to a side chainplate, thread a loop at the distal end of the Cunningham through one of the holes in the chainplate, and impale it with the shroud-skewer wire along with the shrouds.

Retuning

Don't forget to retune thoroughly after you make these modifications. Not only the shrouds and back stay, but the sheet lengths as well. Once you have done that, however, simply mark the bowsie locations with an indelible marker and you'll be able to replicate your tuning quickly each time you reinstall your rig. ▲



Fig. 4,5,6



Fig. 7

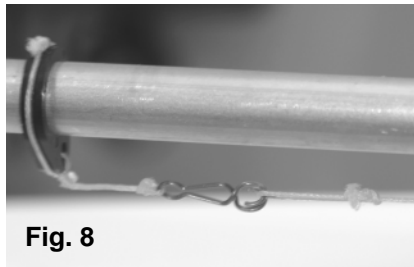


Fig. 8

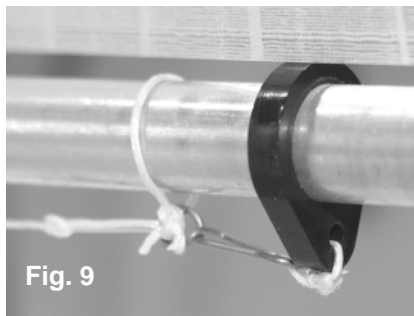


Fig. 9

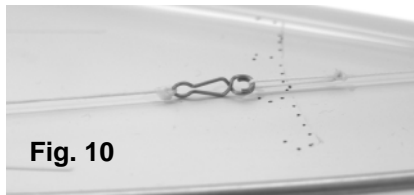
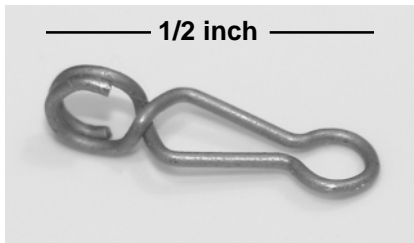


Fig. 10



A Norman Lures Speed Clip. When you pinch the middle part, the jaws on the business end (on the left) spread open, allowing a loop of string to fit securely in the ring formed by the jaws.