

Rob Burridge explains the

## Mainsheet bridle/ strop – change of rules interpretation

The rules interpretation made by the L2k Class Association Committee in September 2004 specifically placed the use and construction of an adjustable bridle outside of Class Measurement Rules.

Since then, with the advancement of materials and after proper discussion within the class involving its members, the committee interpreted the rules on another measurement aspect to allow the Spinlock cleat as a replacement for the gennaker swivel cleat.

Now, following on from the December 2006 article in MM and the discussion on the class website forum, the committee has reviewed the interpretation made on the mainsheet bridle and issued this definition:

**Mainsheet Bridle:** To be constructed from a single length of rope, of uniform diameter and as near in diameter as possible to that originally supplied by the manufacturer. Only the original attachment points may be used but the knot or splice used to attach it is not restricted.

Please note: in making up a mainsheet bridle, additional purchase systems and /or additional fittings are not permitted, ie camcleats.

*It is the intention of the committee whilst policing our Measurement Rules to create a level playing field for all who race. We interpret the rules only to the intention of the rules, in creating one-design racing on a boat sailed and controlled only by the methods originally intended. Where there is ambiguity in both interpretation and policing, there is opportunity for argument. We wish only to protect those who race the boat by the spirit within which it was conceived*

**Basic bridle guide:** An optional alteration to the mainsheet bridle can be formed the following way:

Obtain a 3.5m length of 12-strand Dyneema SK75 (trade name by Marlow is Excel D12). Any diameter of 3mm or more will be strong enough.

Find the centre of the rope and loop it through the base of the bottom mainsheet block. Pass the free ends through the loops on the floor.

The free end now needs to be spliced back on itself. This is done using a fid or a piece of metal or plastic with a smooth pointed end taped to the rope..

Length adjustment of the strop can now be carried out simply by pulling the end of the rope and adjusting the loop length.



Above, the final result (photo Rob Burridge), right, a professional fid.



### John Cox describes how the change can be made

To splice, all you need is a piece of hollow braid rope and a splicing tool/fid. A fid is simply a hollow vehicle, or carrier, with a tapered point into which you thrust an end of your rope or attach it to, so that it can be carried through the rope to form a loop.

**STEP 1:** Seal the rope ends over a flame to prevent unravelling

**STEP 2:** Take the sealed end of rope and attach/insert to your fid, determine the size of the eye and insert your fid through the rope (improvise using an old burgee mast).

**STEP 3:** Your "fid", with rope attached can be easily passed up the centre of the main part of the strop/bridle.

**STEP 4:** Remove your 'fid' through rope further up (the spliced section should be at least 6") and tie a figure of eight in the end to prevent any accidents!

