

# SAILS & RIGGING

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## **Tuning the Conventional Fractional Rig (Hunter 27OB, 27IB, 28, 30, 33.5, 35.5, and Legend 37.5)**

### **Tuning the Rigging:**

After raising your mast, attach the headstay, backstay, upper shrouds and lower shrouds. Set the headstay turnbuckle at half open and then tighten backstay turnbuckle to medium tension.

To center the mast athwartships, start with only slight tension on the upper and lower shrouds. Check that the mast is centered in the boat by measuring from the masthead to the chainplates with a steel tape measure hoisted completely up the main halyard. Adjust the upper shroud until the measurements port and starboard are exactly the same. Now the spar is plumb athwartships, tension both uppers equally, counting turnbuckle revolutions as you go. Tighten uppers until you have approximately one inch of "prebend" fore and aft in the mast. This is achieved because the swept spreaders will push the middle part of the mast forward as you increase tension of the uppers.

Now tighten the lower shrouds evenly, making sure the mast remains straight athwartship. Sight up the luff groove to assure this straightness. Lowers should end up almost as tight as the uppers. (The uppers should always be the tightest.) The 28, 30, 33.5, 35.5, and Legend 37.5 are equipped with double spreaders. The three shrouds should be made progressively tighter toward the top of the rig; the uppers should be the tightest of all. Tighten backstay to a taut position: perhaps eight to ten turns past your original tension.

Check the mast tuning by sailing in medium winds (10-12 knots). Sometimes fine tuning the upper and lower shrouds is necessary when the spar is loaded in sailing conditions. Sail on both tacks, sighting up the luff groove to check athwartship straightness. Both upper and lower shrouds should be taut on the leeward side.

When mast tuning is complete, install cotter pins in all turnbuckles and tape over sharp edges of the cotter pins with chafe tape. (Refer to the drawing on Conventional Fractional Rig).