

Tuning Tips and Guides

The Following Tips and Diagrams are offered to all Streaker sailors as possible, inexpensive additional Sail controls and Tuning aids

1. Boom Outhauler –Forward Puller

I suggest you use 8mm Shockcord. To get the length you need proceed as follows. Position the boom on the boat centreline, use the halyard to hold it more or less horizontal, and then measure from the Kicker Takeoff loop (below the boom) to the aftermost hole in the fitting on the foredeck (to which the forestay attaches) and note the distance down. Go to your nearest chandlers and find the 8mm Shockcord, pull some off the reel, double it over, and with some help pull it out hard to the previously taken dimension and add say six inches (150mm), get it cut to that length - once you have released the tension. You will also need a pulley block, 20mm dia sheave should do, plus a shackle. Buy a type of pulley that will lie with its sheave in a horizontal plane when attached by the shackle to the deck/forestay fitting.

When you get back to the boat thread the shockcord through the pulley block, and remembering to take it either side of the mast, and pass the shockcord through the boom kicker takeoff loop and tie a stopper knot in each end. Pull the shockcord taught and attach the shackle to the foredeck fitting - job done. If that fitting has only one hole you could, at a pinch, fix it to the bottom ferrule of the forestay itself but ideally it should be as near as possible to the deck.

You may need to adjust the overall tension, either to allow you to get the shackle fitted or to increase the tension - hence the extra 6 inches.

Fig 1

2. Sail Outhaul Shockcord Tension and Tuning Guide

For the Outhaul elastic I suggest you use either 8mm shockcord again or drop down to about 5mm. Take about a 1 metre length and double back one end and whip in a loop sufficiently large to fit over the boom - from the gooseneck end. Obtain a Rope End Stopper about 20mm dia and thread onto the loose end of the shockcord. Use a length of control line, say 3mm, and pass it through the ball end too. tie knots in the ends of both the shockcord and control line - each side of the ball.

Hoist your sail and position the shockcord loop on the boom, with its tail on top, so that it cannot go any further aft down the boom than the kicker takeoff loop and tie the free end of the control line to the aft end sail slide. If the sail has a permanently attached slide you should use a closeable Stainless Steel Hook instead of tying. The shockcord should still have a tiny bit of give if you pull the sail right out to the black band and the ball should be about midway along the boom, measured from the kicker takeoff to the aft end.

If you then get a couple of Tuning Guide Sticker Tapes - usually marked 1 to 9 in about 25mm increments - and with the sail set approximately 6" to 8" (150 to 200mm) position them either side of the boom about number 5 being opposite/below the ball end. This means that you can easily repeat sail

settings for different conditions. You can of course dispense with the control line and ball and connect the shockcord direct to the sail slide - you just need more shockcord.

Fig 2

3. Luff Downhaul Tensioner

Another neat trick is a sail luff tensioner. Get a suitably sized boom slider and attach to the tack (lower front cringle) of the sail with either a small rigging link or shackle. Make up another loop ended shockcord but this time position it aft of the kicker takeoff loop on the boom. With the 'tack' pin in the hole in the forward end of the boom pass the shockcord along the top of the boom under the pin and terminate with a light open S/S hook which you can then hook into the sail slide when it is located in the mast - length determined by the tension you feel is appropriate to lightly tension the mainsail luff, to remove excess creases.

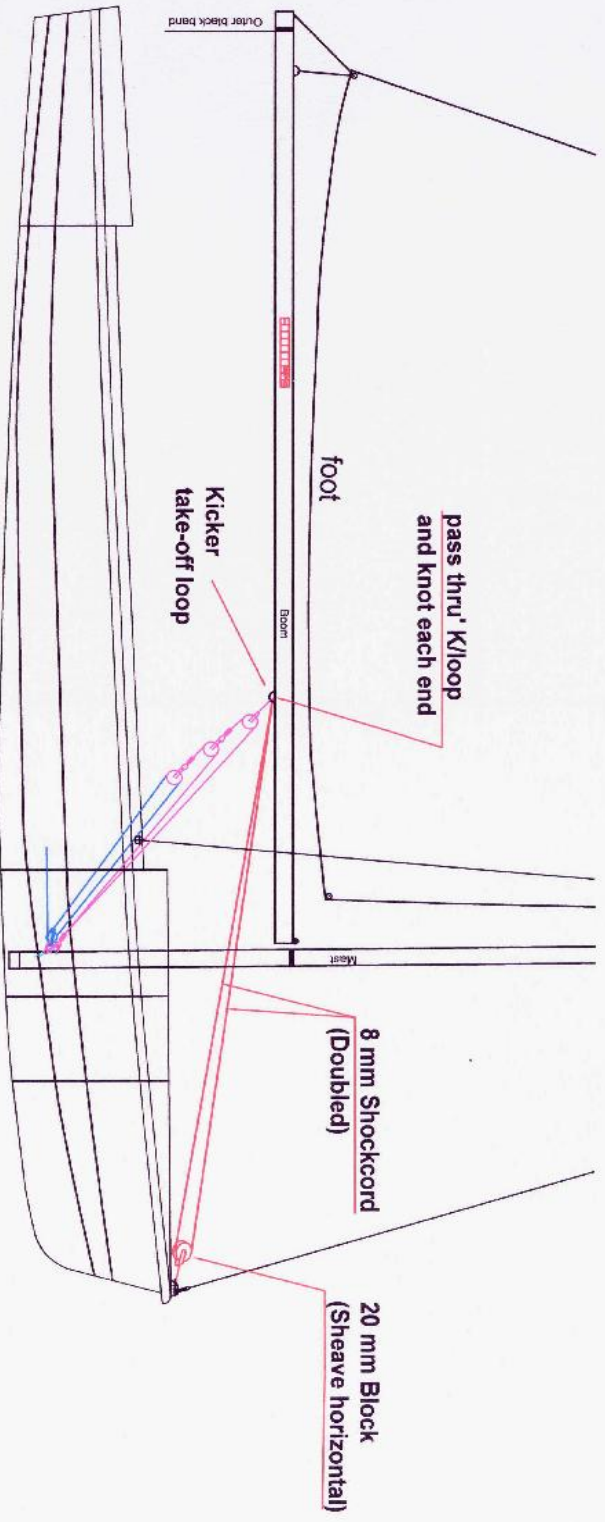
Fig 3

4. Modified Windex with Mast Mount

Fed up with ricking your neck to see your mast top mounted windex. Well try this little modified fitting which you can clip round your mast below the gooseneck - not too low if you fit the Boom Outhauler noted above as, if it interferes, you could lose £15 worth of gear over the side.

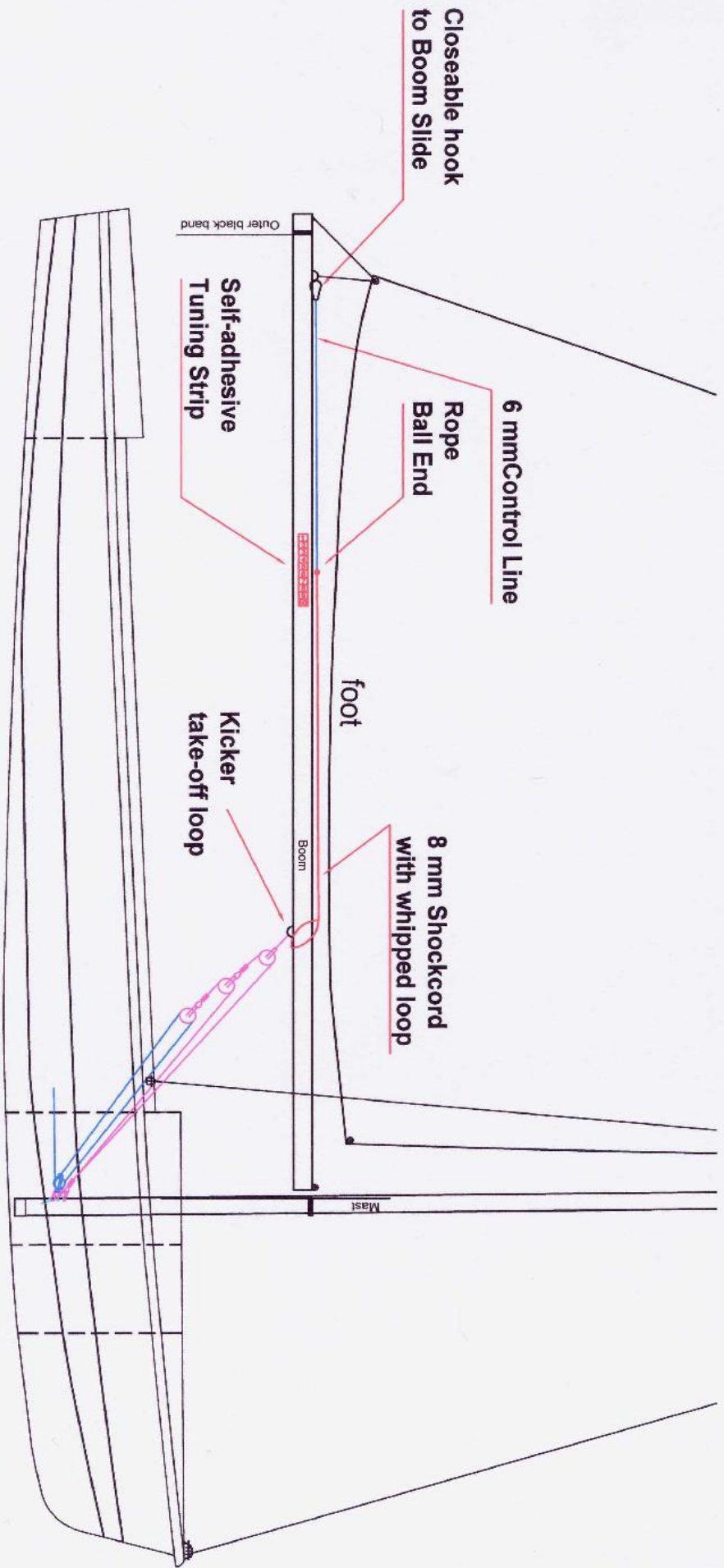
I was lucky and managed to find a suitable Windsurfing fitting some years back which has lasted well. However when I more recently tried to locate one I failed to find a source. Instead I used a bit of 2" (50mm) wide webbing, as supplied with ratchet gear for securing the boat to a trailer. I would imagine that some wide toe strap webbing would do equally well. When bending the 'Windex' use a soft lined vice and remove the fitting with the indicators and the vane before commencing to ensure that you do not damage them.

Alan Simmons 1567



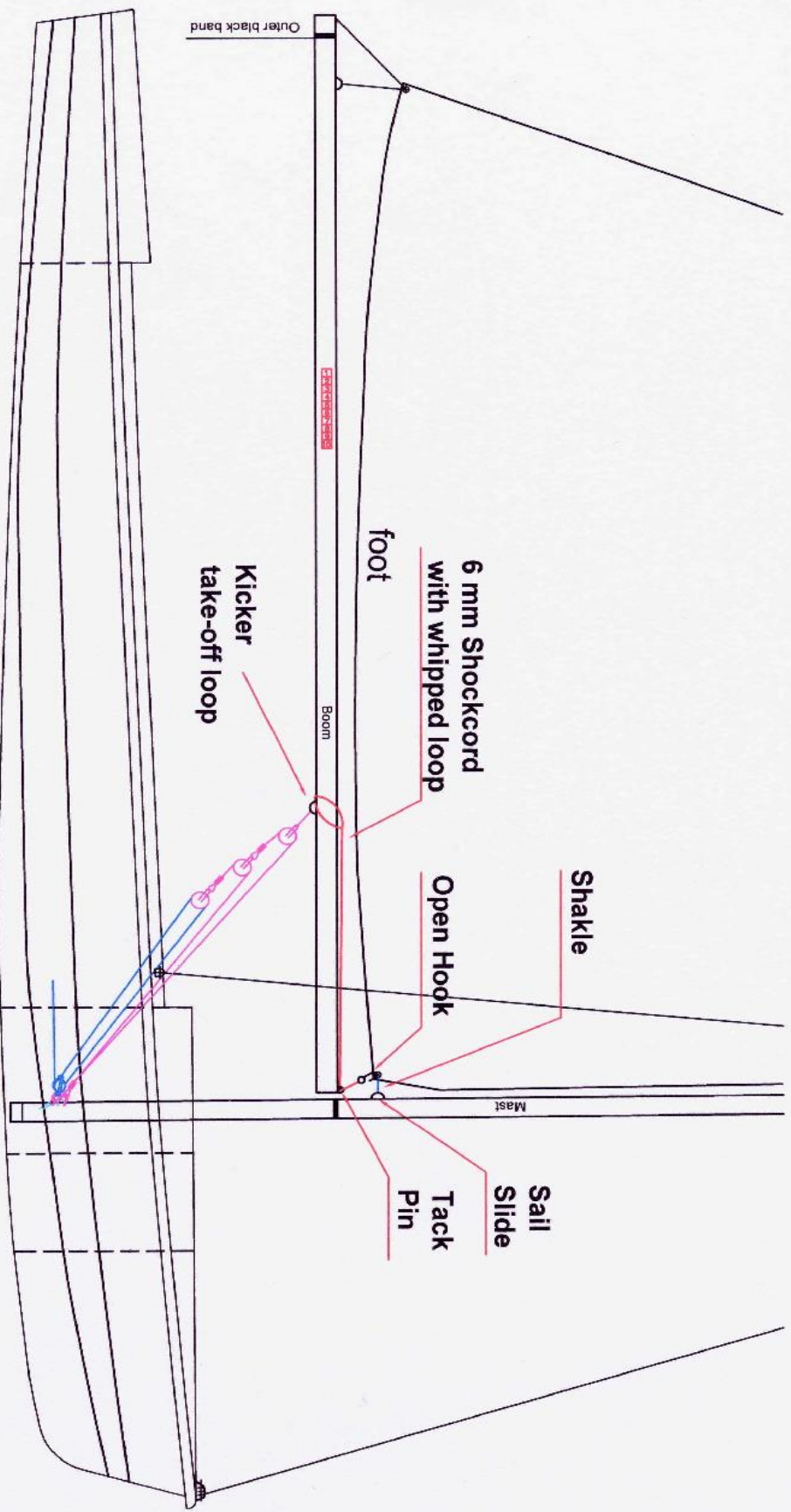
**Boom Outhauler -
Downwind Forward Puller**

Alan S
16/12/2006



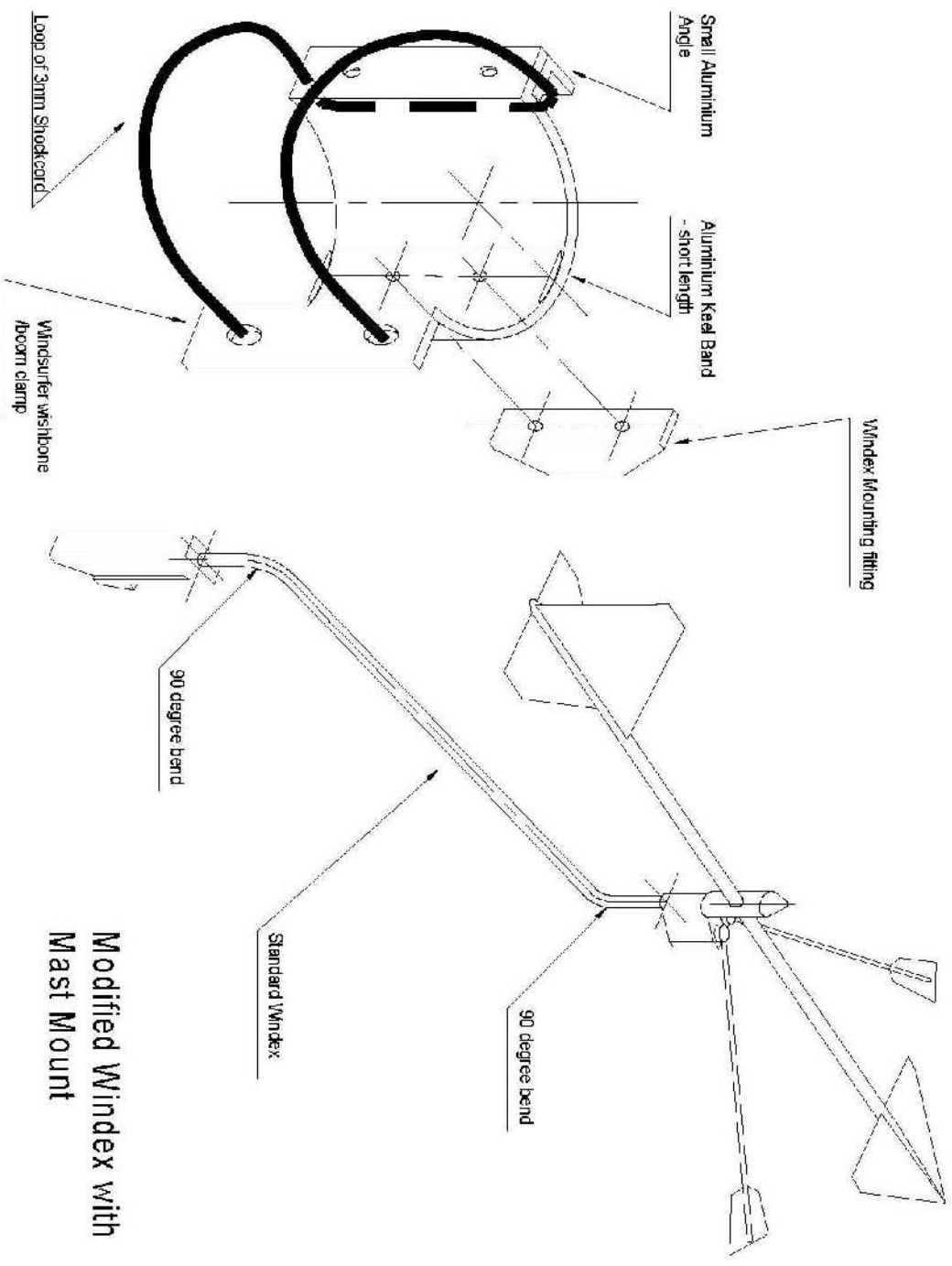
Sail Outhaul Shockcord Tension and Tuning Guide

Alan.S
16/11/2006



**Luff
Downhaul Tensioner**

Alan.S
16/12/2006



Modified Windex with Mast Mount

AS July 2005