



UK-HALSEY EXPLAINS HOW TO SET UP & USE A CRUISING SPINNAKER

The UK-Halsey Flasher adds great versatility to your sail inventory to say nothing of making your hours on the water much more enjoyable. This brochure will cover setting up your Flasher, raising and dousing the chute, and trimming your sail.

THE EQUIPMENT LIST

The UK-Halsey's Flasher requires much less equipment to fly than a standard symmetrical racing spinnaker.

Spinnaker Halyard: This halyard is different than a jib halyard since it either exits the mast above the forestay, or it leads to a block outside the forestay (See Diagram Below).

A TACK LINE: The tack line length can vary. The simplest set up is to tie the pendant to the stem fitting so that the tack of the chute is about four feet off the deck. For those who like to tweak their sail trim, the pendant must be long enough to reach a winch in the cockpit.

A TACK HOOK OR COLLAR: Either of these helps stabilize the sail, while letting the sail rotate from side to side. If you have a wire headstay, just connect the tack hook to the headstay. A Dacron collar is necessary if you are using a roller furling genoa or have a grooved head-stay system. The collar reduces chafe by distributing the sideways load (See photo).

SHEETS: The sheets should be about twice the length of the boat. Any diameter line will be strong enough, so choose one that is wide enough to be comfortable to handle, yet light enough for good light air performance. If you are going to be trimming the sail with a self-tailing winch, make sure that the line is wide enough for the self-tailer.

TWO SHEET BLOCKS: These blocks can be snatch blocks, fiddle blocks, or any other type of block. Attach them to the aft corners of the boat.

A STASHER: The optional Stasher (dousing sock) allows you to raise and lower the sail in complete control. The Stasher is a sleeve that contains the sail as it is hoisted, sets it free when you're ready, and encases the chute when it's time to douse.

INSTALLING THE STASHER

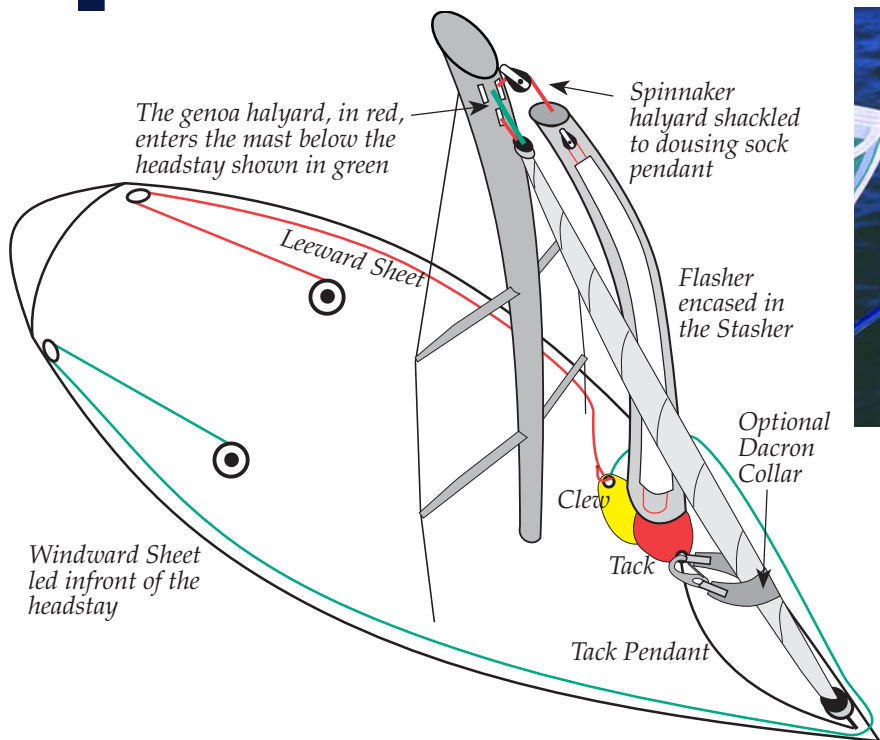
Your Flasher only has to be installed in the Stasher once. After that the sail/sock combo stays together, whether in use or in the bag. To install the Flasher in the sock, lay it out in a clean open space with the head at one end and the tack and clew at the other. Reach through the top of the Stasher and pull the rest of the sock around your arm. Connect the head of the sail to the shackle at the bottom of the wire pendant. Next, have a second person pull the

bottom of the sock down until the sail is encased.

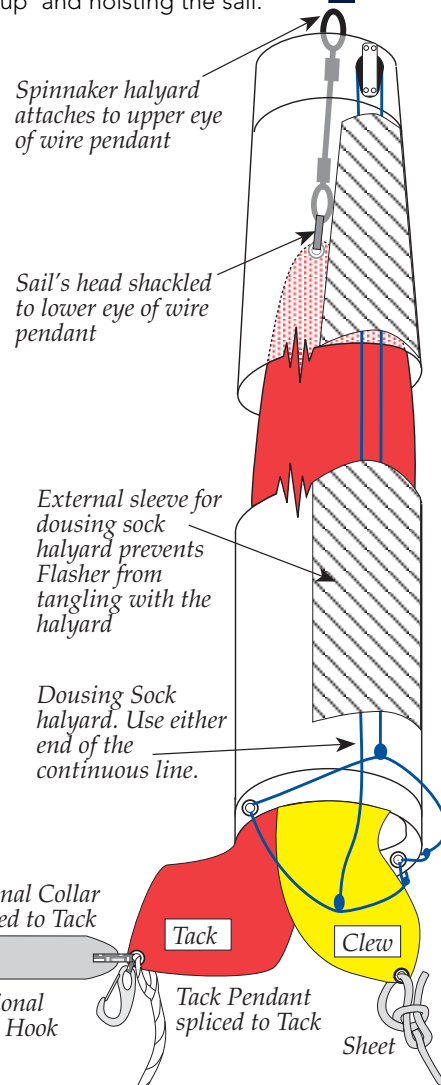
The diagram to the right shows the Flasher installed and ready for use. Be careful not to twist the sail as you pull it through the sleeve.

Once the Flasher has been installed in the dousing sock, stuff the package into the sail bag. To facilitate raising the sail, pack the bag as follows: Grab the sock four feet from the bottom and put it into the bottom of the bag. Working your way up, stuff the rest of the sail/sock combo into the bag. When you are finished the tack and the clew of the Flasher as well as the head of the Stasher should be at the top of the bag.

With the three corners accessible you will have an easy time hooking up and hoisting the sail.



Flasher Collar and tack line (green).



SET UP AND HOIST

First things first. Clip the Flasher bag to the deck or lifelines on the side of the boat from which the sail will be flying. Many sail bags have been lost overboard by not taking this first step!

- Cleat or tie the tack line so that the tack will be about three feet off the deck when the halyard is raised.
- Pass the tack collar around your headstay and clip the hook to the O-ring. (Note: Your genoa must be lowered or roller-furled at this point.) The collar holds the tack of the sail forward while the tack line controls the tack height.
- Run the leeward sheet from the block on leeward corner of the boat, outside of everything (the lifelines and shrouds) and attach it to the clew of the sail. Make sure the sheet is never led under the lifelines. Lead the windward sheet the same way, but be sure to pass it in front of your headstay and over the bow pulpit before attaching it to the sail.
- Finally, attach the halyard to the top of the Stasher.

To keep your Flasher under control and to keep the deck level when you hoist, make sure the boat is headed on a very broad reach. The wind should be over your aft quarter and the mainsail should be out almost all the way to the shrouds. This way you will be able to hoist your Flasher in the mainsail's wind shadow.

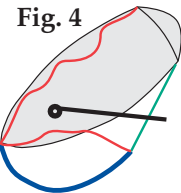
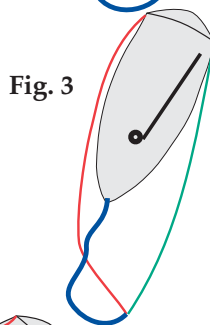
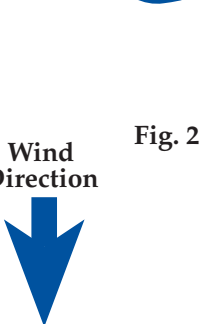
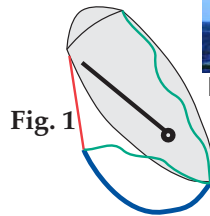
Hoist the Flasher/Stasher combo with the spinnaker halyard. Once the halyard is up all the way and secured, raise the sock and go sailing. While in a secure position like sitting in the middle of the foredeck or standing at the leeward shrouds with an arm around a shroud, raise the Stasher halyard. The Stasher is raised completely once the whole sock is above the head of the Flasher. Once the Stasher has been raised, tie halyard of near the base of the mast.

The Flasher stays listless until the boat is turned closer to the wind allowing the Flasher to get out of the mainsail's backwind.

TRIMMING GUIDE

Trimming a Flasher is simplicity itself. The tack line controls the sail's shape, and the sheet controls the sail's angle to the wind. The Flasher can be flown just as you would a spinnaker, with the wind anywhere from about 75 degrees off the bow to dead on the stern. You'll only be able to sail on a beam reach in light air, because as the breeze builds, the boat will heel over too much to be comfortable. Conversely, you'll only be able to sail very broad angles to the wind when the wind is blowing over 8-10 knots.

FLASHER JIBING TRICKS



SETTING THE TACK HEIGHT: Just remember, the closer to the wind you sail, the closer to the deck the tack is set. Normally, while reaching, set the tack even with the top of the bow pulpit. Lowering the tack makes the front of the sail round and moves the draft forward. As you bear off, ease the tack line so that the luff flattens out. Setting the height of the tack takes a practiced eye. Here is what to look for. The leading edge of the sail should be straight and the highest horizontal seam



Photo 1



Photo 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4

in the sail should be parallel to the water. If the leading edge of the sail bows out, then the tack is too high. Once you get the tack height set, you trim the sail like any other sail; pull the sheet in until the leading edge stops curling. If you think you are slow, let the sheet out until a curl starts.

RUNNING: To sail dead downwind you'll need to set the Flasher with a pole and sail wing-and-wing. Either a whisker pole or spinnaker pole will work. The easiest way to set up your chute wing-and-wing is to attach the outboard end of the pole

to the clew of the sail while it is still on the same side as the mainsail, then jibe the main.

In winds under 15 knots, sailing dead downwind is slower than sailing at broad reaching angles — regardless if sailing with a Flasher or a normal spinnaker. You will sail more comfortably, have better control, and get to your destination sooner if you jibe from broad reach to broad reach downwind. Plus, you won't have to hassle with the pole.

JIBING THE FLASHER

Jibing is easy when you follow a few tips. Start the process by steering to a very broad reach. Trim the mainsail tight so that the boom is over the boat (Fig.1 & Photo 1). Let go of the Flasher sheet until the entire sail is streaming out in front of the boat (Fig.2 & Photo 2). Turn the stern of the boat through the eye of the wind, jibing the boat. As you turn, the clew of the Flasher will cross to the other side of the headstay (Fig.3 & Photo 3). Trim the Flasher and then finally ease the mainsheet (Fig.4 & Photo 4).

THE TAKE DOWN

The key to a controlled dousing of the Flasher is to completely blanket the sail behind the main. With the chute hanging almost limp in the main's wind shadow it is simple to pull the Stasher down over the sail. Once the sleeve is pulled down, your chute is totally under control. Now you can lower the Flasher/Stasher combo to the deck or better yet, right into the forward hatch.

INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO

To un-tap the fun of sailing with the Flasher, UK-Halsey produced a 17-minute video called "The Cruising Spinnaker A-Z". The production is a true "A-Z" treatment. The cost of the DVD is \$20, which includes first class mailing within the United States. Buy it from your nearest loft or our online store.