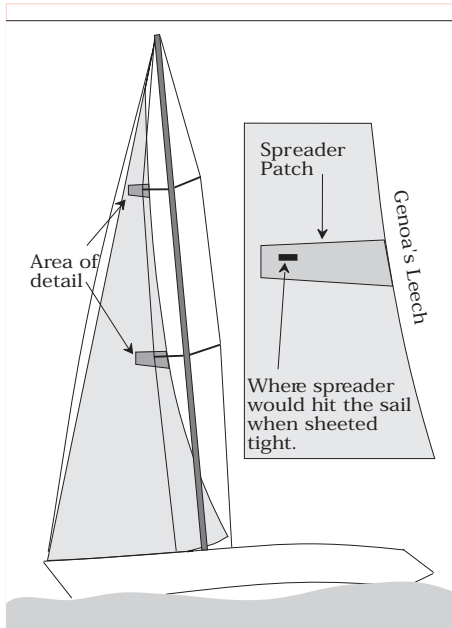




UK-HALSEY SAIL CARE: APPLYING SPREADER PATCHES



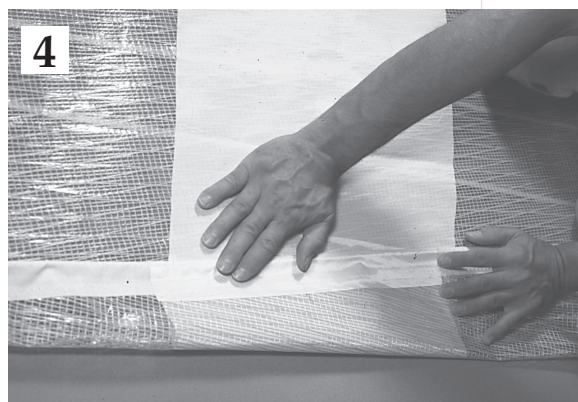
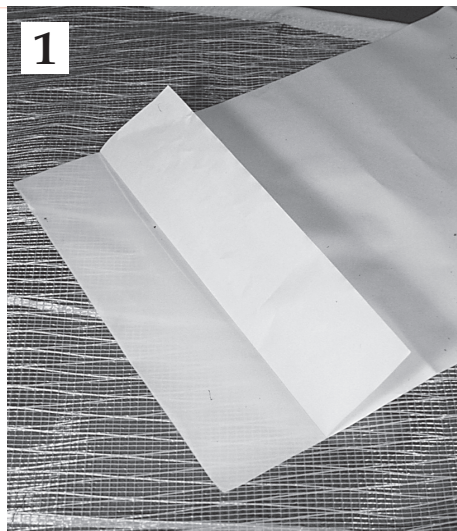
All Mylar-based genoas either come with spreader patches in place or with spreader patch material to be applied. The patches are sticky-back Dacron material that protect the sail from wear as the sail scrapes across the ends of the spreaders during a tack. Never use a genoa without the patches in place.

To determine the proper location for the patches, put the genoa up in calm conditions and go up the mast in a bosun's chair to mark where the spreader hits the leech when the sail is sheeted in tightly. The patch should span from eight inches to a foot in front of that point all the way back to the leech.

Since the leech of the sail rises up when the sheet is eased, place the patch so that three-quarters of the patch is below the point where the spreader hits the sail when sheeted in (See Diagram Above). Don't forget to put patches on both sides of the genoa.

An alternative to going up the mast is to sheet the sail in and make notes of where the spreader would touch the sail. Use visual reference points like seams and tapes.

Before you lower the sail, don't



forget to mark where the stanchion patches should be.

To put the patches on a genoa, make sure that the sail is dry and salt free. With a large flat surface to work on, crease the first five inches of leech edge of the patch and peel off the backing paper (Photo 1). Tack that edge in place so that the patch will be parallel to the water and that two or three inches of the patch extends off the leech of the sail (Photo 2). Lay the patch flat against the sail and have an-

other person slowly peel the paper out from under the patch as you smooth it to the sail (Photo 3).

Hint: The two people doing the job should use their knees to keep the sail under tension so that the sail stays flat in the area you are working.

Next, return to the leech and fold over the first few inches of material that you left loose (Photo 4). After the patch is in place, use a hard plastic squeegee or blunt side of a pair of scissors to truly press the patch to the sail.

Repeat the same process on the opposite side of the sail, but instead of putting the patch exactly on the other side, offset it by one inch in all directions. Mylar sails are susceptible to cracking at hard edges and stepping the patches this way will prevent problems.