

## Sail Track and Slide System

### Installation Overview External Luff



## Installation Instructions

### Instructions for Luff Groove Widths – H through R (1-hole backing plates)

1. As necessary, file the edges of the mast gate until they are smooth (especially the upper inside edges).
2. Remove the STRONG Track from its box. Remove the first three or four tie wraps which secure the outside of the roll. **Do not remove all of the tie wraps at once.** The Tides track is shipped to you in a roll. The outer end of the track is "the top" ...the end you insert into the mast gate.
3. Bend the first few feet of track (step on it and hold for 30 seconds) in the same direction as the track is coiled. This step makes it easier to insert the top of the track in the mast gate.
4. The track will go through the mast gate easiest if you keep the track aligned with the mast luff groove. It is often best to move the boom well off the centerline (or remove it from the gooseneck altogether). Try not to bend the track from side-to-side. Slide the top of the track into the mast gate and guide it up the mast. Press the Tides track against the mast near the mast gate with one hand and push the track up the mast with the other hand using short strokes. Once the track is started, remove the tie wraps as needed. Continue until the top of the track touches the masthead.
5. Pull the track back toward the boom approximately 1-2". Make certain the track is clear of any masthead fittings.
6. If you measured correctly (and Tides cut the track correctly), the end of the track (a flap) should be

approximately 3" above the gooseneck.

If the track is too long, the best thing to do is to measure the amount of track you want to remove and record it. Then, remove the track from the mast and cut this amount from the top of the track. Place the stainless steel cover over the "New" top of the track and, using the holes on either side of the cover as a guide, drill a new ¼" hole through the top of the track. Re-install the track through the mast gate.

7. This type of track contains a series of backing plates and machine screws in that portion of the track between the mast gate and the gooseneck...the "flap". These backing plates are taped into the correct position at Tides. Simply remove the blue masking tape and maintain this same orientation. Press the "flap" against the mast. Using a Phillips head screwdriver, tighten each of the screws. As you snug them, the one-hole backing plate will turn clockwise until its edges engage the sides of the luff groove. Do not over-tighten as this may pull the edges of the track together causing the slides to bind in this area.

### Attaching Tides Hardware to the Mainsail

Tides recommends you use the services of a local loft to attach the slides and batten receptacles to your mainsail. If you decide to perform this task yourself, the following may prove helpful:

8. If your current main has plastic or metal luff slides, cut them away from the main using a shear, Dremel tool or small saw. **Be careful not to damage the webbing.** Begin with the headboard slide. Press the webbing between the posts of the headboard slide and insert the clevis pin through the top post...through the webbing...through the bottom post and insert the clevis ring. When installed, it is advisable to have the head of the clevis pin at the "mast head" end of the assembly...the clevis ring at the "deck" end of the fitting. If, for any reason, the clevis ring should break/fail/work loose, the clevis pin may very well stay in position (even under way) until a repair can be made.

Continue with the balance of the slides.

9. In most cases, Tides Marine has designed a slide option that will accept the batten receptacle currently in use on your vessel. In those instances where you will be replacing your current batten receptacle with one of the Tides products, the following may be helpful.

Remove the existing batten receptacle and position one half of the Tides receptacle in its place, abutting the luff rope. Using the receptacle as a template, mark the sail through each of the receptacle's "installation holes". Using a punch, drill or other sharp object, create a hole in the sail fabric at each of these points.

### "Leach-adjustable" Battens

If you have "leach-adjustable" batten pockets, you will be able to remove batten tension before you attach the Tides batten receptacles. Once this is accomplished, cover the luff-end of batten with Side A

of the Tides receptacle and position Side B of the receptacle on the other side of the sail. Pass the stainless steel machine screws through Side A...then the sail...then Side B and into the stainless nuts located within Side B. Snug. Thread the 10MM stud on Tides Slide (SH – 400) into the batten receptacle. Repeat for each batten receptacle. Once the batten receptacles have been attached, slide the Tides slides into the Tides track. You can re-tension the battens as the mainsail is raised.

### **"Plain Leach Batten Pockets"**

If the leach batten pocket is not adjustable you will have to tension the batten in Side A of the Tides batten receptacle before you install the stainless assembly screws through the mainsail and into Side B. Patience is required.

### **Finishing Touches**

Once the Tides track system has been installed, the following checklist is offered for those of us who are members of the "belt and suspenders" crowd:

- 1) 1) When weather conditions allow, raise the main while the yacht is at the slip/mooring. Tension the halyard as you usually do and, using binoculars, inspect the headboard position on the sail track.

Is it clear of masthead hardware and rigging?

Is the headboard slide at least 2-3 inches short of the quick pin at the top of the Tides track?

- 2) 1) Release the halyard and flake the main. Check the stack height.

Can you still reach the halyard at the headboard?

Does the yacht's sail cover still fit neatly around the main?

If you should have any questions relating to your particular installation, simply note the serial number on the stainless end cap at the base of the Tides track and contact Tides Marine at (800) 420-0949.

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