

TIDESMARINE

Sail Track and Slide System

Installation Overview Internal Luff
A through G (2-hole backing plates)



Installation Instructions

Instructions for Luff Groove Widths – A through G (2-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 holes in that portion of the track between the mast gate and the gooseneck...the "flap". You will be fastening the flap to the mast using a series of **two-hole** backing plates and hardware (provided). Before you begin, wedge a small piece of fabric or tape into the luff groove just above the gooseneck. This will keep the backing plates in position until you are ready to use them to draw the track "flap" against the mast.
8. Next, insert a 2" threaded rod/piece into the uppermost hole of each backing plate. Slide each backing plate (containing a 2" threaded rod) through the mast gate and down the luff groove toward the gooseneck. Starting with the uppermost backing plate, press the flap over the uppermost 2" threaded piece. Move the next 2" piece into position and press the flap over it. Continue this until the 2" threaded pieces are all extending through the track.
9. Beginning with the bottom-most backing plate, insert one of the Phillips head machine screws through the track and into the bottom hole in the backing plate. Repeat this step for each backing plate. Now, carefully remove the 2" threaded piece from the bottom-most plate and replace it with another Phillips head machine screw. Repeat this process for each backing plate
10. With all of the backing plates in place, loosen each Phillips head screw just enough so you can position the track on the mast where you want it. Once in place, tighten each Phillips head screw to secure. Make note of the track shape as you tighten these screws. If you over tighten, you may draw the edges of the track together, thereby restricting slide movement. Should you find that one or more sets of backing plates are now located over the mast gate, you can remove the Phillips head screws (the backing plate will slide down the luff groove) and drill and tap the mast at these points. Insert machine screws to complete the job. Be careful not to over tighten.
11. Once the slides have been attached to the mainsail, insert them into the Tides track. When all the slides are in position, place the stainless end-cap over the bottom of the Tides track and insert the quick pin (provided). .

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:

12. 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.**

13. 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.

14. In most cases, Tides Marine has designed a slide option that will accept the batten receptacle currently in use on your vessel. Simply install the “appropriate slide option” to existing batten hardware.
15. 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. 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. 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 +44 (1202) 656773

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