REPLACING A SACRIFICIAL SUNSTRIP

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ITEMS REQUIRED:

Either a light weight 3.9oz UV stable Dacron sailcloth or Odyssey Stabilized Polyester
THREAD (minimum RP60)
Double sided tape
Hand sewing thread

A roller furling genoa needs a cover from UV and air pollutants to protect the sail from damage. Begin the project by completely removing an old sunstrip completely except at the head and tack tapes and at the clew. It is worth leaving about 50mm around these areas as an 'undercover' for the new strip.

The choice of materials you may find your sacrificial to be made from is usually those listed below:

Sailcloth: Commonly used when applied by sailmakers. Good \UV resistance and weight compared with the remainder of the sail.

Acrylic Canvas: Used when the canvas of the boat is required to match the sail. A good UV quality but makes the leech of the sail very heavy and hard to fill with wind in light airs.

Adhesive Dacron: If your sail has this on it do not attempt to remove it, as the adhesive will remain and you will be left with a very sticky mess. Simply follow the instructions for recovering as listed below.

PVC: This is a cheaper cloth alternative but does not have the UV qualities of the others mentioned. Is most likely to have several 'cracks' in the cloth.

Odyssey: Recommended cloth for replacing a UV strip as it has proven UV qualities, is lightweight and has the added bonus of being slightly breathable which helps reduce any moisture build up in the gap.

Once the old UV strip has been removed it is worth giving the sail a quick wash or scrub down, as there is commonly some dirt caught underneath. This is also a good opportunity to thoroughly check all the seams and leech tabling for any chafe areas especially around the spreaders. Repair and reinforce as necessary.

Lay out the sail on the floor so that the leech area to be worked on is as flat as possible. This is often helped by folding the front part of the sail in a chevron style, see left, so that any shape in the sail has been removed. Make sure you lay the replacement UV strip on the correct side of the sail. If the drum furls clockwise, the strip should be on the port side of the sail, and for an anti-clockwise a starboard application.

When laid out the leech of the sail normally exhibits a concave shape and this is the reason why the UV strip panels are relatively short and are laid out perpendicularly to the leech. The width of each strip should be just greater than that previously applied – this is easiest to work out by adding say 15 – 20 mm to the inside of the old stitch holes on the sail. The width should also be 50mm longer than the leech by an overlap so that the new UV can wrap around the leech of the sail.

Begin by sticking a layer of double sided tape along the very leech of the sail and by laying the panels up from the clew then working up toward the head.

Turn the first panel marked A on the diagram over and apply double sided tape to the two short lengths and the inside long length of this panel. Stick this down to the prepared set up but do not stick the leech yet. Repeat this stage again but ensure that the second panel overlays the first. Continue until the last panel has been laid over.

Begin by sewing the short lengths making sure that you do not sew in the leech line. It is worth stopping approx 25mm from the outside edge.

Next beginning at the head and with the sail leech rolled tightly, sew down the row of stitching that has been stuck down at the inward edge of the sail, close to the edge of the sacrificial strip.

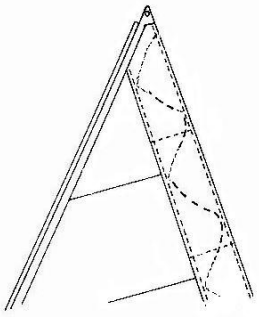
Repeat the process for applying the UV strip to the foot. This will not be as wide as the leech but needs to be laid up in the same way. Sew the short edges again and the inboard length parallel to the foot.

Next lay out the sail again as when laying out the sail originally and check that the UV strip is lying flat and even as anticipated. If everything is as planned pull off the covering of the doubled sided tape on the leech and smooth down so that the sail and UV are stuck together,

Now turn the sail over and beginning at the head of the sail again begin sewing the UV strip to the sail on the same line of stitching as the Leech line tabling. This is usually around 25-30mm inside. The amount of excess laid up should be more than this.

Once this has been sewn down trim the excess off to the line of stitching.

Turn the sail back to the UV Strip and mark a zig zag in pencil on the sacrifical strip between the two long rows of stitching. Then sew along this line. This helps prevent the UV Strip from 'ballooning' and also makes the strip stronger.



Any areas that have been too thick for the sewing machine to go through can be sewn by hand with an awl or speedy stitcher.