

How To Rig your Boat For Sailing

1. You rig the boat by connecting the backstay and the headstay. This original write-up was done for a boat without sidestays. If you have sidestays, connect both of them and adjust them so that the mast is vertical. The stays should be snug but do not have to be tight.
2. Snug up the backstay using your backstay bosie.
3. Tighten your headstay using your headstay bosie. As you do this, both your headstay and backstay will become tight. You want to keep these tight, but make sure the mast ends up being straight. If the mast is bent back, loosen the backstay and tighten the headstay. If it is bent forward, you do the reverse. In either case you want to end up with both stays fairly tight. Once you get the boat out in the water, you may have to experiment with mast bend one way or the other to eliminate wrinkles in the main sail.
4. After you get the stays adjusted, snug up the main halyard just enough until you have a smooth luff. Some boats use an adjustable downhaul for this adjustment. Don't over tighten the luff.
5. Next snug up the jib halyard. That is the line connected to the top of the jib (not the wire headstay). Snug it up just enough until the leading edge of the jib is smooth. Don't over tighten the luff.
6. Next connect your main and jib sheets to their respective booms. Turn your radio on and pull your sails all the way in.
7. With your sail arm all the way in, adjust your mainsheet with the bosie so the main boom is almost directly over the center line of the boat but not so tight that it pulls down on the boom.
8. With the sail servo arm still in the same position, adjust the jib sheet so the jib boom is about halfway between the centerline and the outer edge of the boat.
9. Next adjust your rudder so it lines up fore and aft with your keel. Make the adjustment by moving the trim control on your transmitter. Make a note of where the trim is set on your transmitter. If it gets moved while sailing, you will be able to return it to the same approximate place. At this point the boat is ready to sail. Once you get the boat sailing, you will be able to fine-tune the sheet adjustments. When you get it right, the main and the jib should start to luff at the same time when tacking through the wind.
10. **Perform the following test to fine-tune your jib sheet:**
 - Get your boat sailing close into the wind with both sails full.
 - Now, with the sails in tight, slowly turn the boat into the wind and go through the wind until your sails fill on the opposite tack.
 - While making this tack, watch both sails. Ideally you want both sails to start to luff (flutter like a flag) simultaneously.
 - If the jib luffs first, bring your boat back and, with the sail control on your transmitter all the way in, adjust the jib sheet to bring the jib boom closer

to the center.

- If the main luffs first, ease the jib sheet adjustment so that the boom is closer to the outer edge of the boat.
- While making these adjustments, do not change the original mainsheet adjustment.
- Repeat this test and adjustments until both sails luff simultaneously.

The biggest mistake novices make with model sailboats is to have the jib in too close. With the jib in too close, the jib will backwind the main and the boat performance will be a disaster.