

Rigging the Reefed White Xtra

Nigel Fern

If you already have a Standard Zipper or a Mylar Xtra sail then you already know the vast majority of how to rig the Reefing White Xtra. Those of you who are transferring from the original Standard sail there quite a lot of items to take on board.

1. Mast and Boom – if you are moving from a Standard set up to the White Xtra then you will need your mast and boom shortened; Andy provides a comprehensive DIY conversion kit and instructions. Even if you are moving from a Mylar Xtra it is advisable to fit the “crane” to the top of the mast as the White Xtra has a slightly longer luff. While you are at it, I would advise adding the halyard cleat to the gooseneck rather than the original cleat at the mast head. As part of the kit Andy, also, provides a set of non-slip patches to protect the mast. These need placing carefully on the mast in the positions defined.
2. To reef or not to reef? Irrespective of whether you intend to reef or not I would advise that you rig as if you are going to reef! The reason behind this is, that to support the zip when reefed, Andy has designed a stainless steel ring and shackle to attach to the head of the sail and therefore support the zip. This ring has to fitted over part of the mast before joining the two parts of the mast together otherwise you will have to completely un-rig the boat to fit the ring. The ring **MUST** be fitted with shackle uppermost.
3. To raise the sail when reefed use the shackle to attach the ring to the head of



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the sail, attach the halyard in usual way and pass the halyard between the mast and ring and inside the zip. Then haul away not forgetting to close the zip up!

You do not need the ring unless reefing and it will sit quite comfortably on the goose neck just in case!

Reefing the White Xtra Sail

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To reef the White Xtra there are two ways of doing it, a) by following Andy's instructions for reefing whilst hoisted or b) by reefing first. It all depends on the circumstances that you find yourself in.

If you rig your boat and get out on the water and find yourself overpowered then you can choose either method but if you feel that you need to reef from the outset I suggest reefing the sail before hoisting is a positive way forward.

Reefing When Hoisted (with the ring in use)

1. Remove your downhaul.
2. Lower the sail until the upper downhaul eye is just above the boom.
3. Adjust the zip.
4. Attach a WIDE piece of Velcro (fluffy side next to the sail) through the eyelet and around the mast.
5. Reattach your downhaul.
6. Attach your Outhaul hook to the clew eye and tension.
7. Now you have a portion of the sail hanging below the boom that needs to be rolled.



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- a. Starting at the clew end roll the sail and secure with a thin piece of Velcro, fluffy side next to sail ensuring that the outhaul and shock-cord are not trapped.
 - b. Moving forward roll the sail under the window and secure with Velcro as before, securing the forward eye first.
8. Fully hoist the sail and secure the halyard in the cleat. The halyard cannot go in the pocket as it is within the reef, but it can be carefully inserted into rolled sail.



Reefing to Start Off With

1. Depending on your boat park position etc and the wind strength lay out your sail, either on the ground or on your boat and roll it as per 7 above. This avoids the sail and boom trashing about in the wind. I would add a piece of Velcro at the Tack end just to keep the roll secure.
2. Attach your down haul and outhaul and using the method outlined in “Rigging the Reefing White Xtra” (above) hoist the sail until the reef is on the boom, storing the halyard in the rolled sail.
3. Remove the Tack Velcro and reuse it around the mast – see above.
4. Adjust the downhaul and outhaul as required.

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