

Deck & Rig Improvements

From *The Shrimper* (Spring 2005)

Reefing Hooks

Some owners have fitted "staghorn", or rounded, hooks at the forward end of the boom so that the mainsail luff cringles fit over these, one port, one starboard. This obviates the need to use the forward reefing lines and is reportedly very successful. There has been some discussion on this subject on the SOA chat forum. For more details see under *Technical Problems* and scroll down the pages to find *Reefing Hooks*.

Whisker Pole

Loosing the shrimper boat hook/pole is expensive. A 2 meter long wooden pole 20 - 25 mm diameter with suitable end fittings is easy to make and leaves the boat hook free for its designated use. An elastic loop on the jib allows for easy attachment of the pole.

Boom/shroud fouling

Wear on the boom caused by fouling the shrouds when on a run can be stopped by a figure of eight knot in the main sheet so the boom only just reaches the shroud.

Tiller securing

To hold the tiller quickly in the ahead position tie a bungee elastic on to the safety line U-bolt below the tiller. A little stretching will allow it to fit over the tiller and hold it roughly in the ahead position, useful when approaching a mooring or taking the whisker pole out when single handed etc.

Warps

To ensure a warp does not accidentally become detached from the Samson post, pass it under the bowsprit before dropping it over the post. Having two short and two long warps readily available with a bowline or loop spliced at one-end covers most eventualities when coming alongside.