

GUS SAILS - THISTLE TUNING TIPS

Mast

The diamonds should be tensioned so that the mast is straight when sighting up the luff groove. The diamond wires should read "18" when using a model A Loos Gauge. For light crew weight (under 450 lbs) the upper diamond may be loosened to "16" or less to allow the tip to bend, helping to depower in a breeze.

Measure the rake with a tape attached to the main halyard, pulled to the lock position, and through the transom hole to the bottom edge of the hole. The forestay should be adjusted until the tape reads 26'11" with the rig tensioned.

The shrouds should be adjusted to read "40" on the gauge which should produce a reading between "30-35" on the forestay.

Jib Tracks

The jib leads should be two pieces of track mounted on the thwart 16" and 18" from the centerline and 106" measured from the jib tack (underneath the grating) to the center of the track, or one track mounted 90 degrees to the centerline of the boat at 106".

Jib Sheet and Lead

The lead and sheet should be set so the leech of the jib is 1-2" from the middle diamond spreader and the foot is 4" from the railing. Use the inboard track until the main traveler has to be eased halfway, then move to the outboard track to keep the slot open.

Traveler and Vang Sheeting

As the wind increases and you are forced to depower the main to control heel, use a combination of traveler and vang sheeting. Ease the traveler to a setting for the lulls then snug the vang and play the mainsheet in the puffs.

Main Sheet

In very light air, twist the top batten open 10 degrees relative to the boom. In light to moderate air, trim the top batten parallel to the boom. In heavy air, twist the top batten open 10 degrees.

Outhaul

Outhaul adjustment should have enough purchase to pull the foot tight enough for the shelf to fold up and the first seam away from the boltrope to move directly over the boom. Outhaul should be open upwind, in light air. Fully open the shelf in moderate air. An open shelf helps the boat point. Close the shelf off when overpowered. Usually this happens at 10-12 mph.

Cunningham

Very slight horizontal wrinkles from the luff are best for keeping the draft back in the main and the slot open. The wrinkles should be removed when overpowered to flatten the main and help twist the top.

Vang

On reaches and runs, adjust the vang so that the second batten is parallel to the boom and the telltale is flowing.

Spinnaker Pole

Carry the pole as far down and aft as the situation allows. Use a telltale on the pole as a guide for keeping the pole 90 degrees to the apparent wind. Drop the pole until the pole clew is just lower than the free clew of the spinnaker. This will make the spinnaker seem bigger and faster!