

Inspire & Learn Series
Lagoon: How to Unfurl the Jib / Genoa

<https://youtu.be/aVNLN0aYOQE>

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00m 00s Intro

Welcome to the Inspire & Learn series. We are TMG, a multi award winning dealership in Australia specialising in catamarans. Join us as our expert team teaches you all about anchoring, docking, rigging, sail trim, maintenance and so much more, so you can feel confident in your catamaran handling ability.

In this blog we are going back to basics. Let's talk about how to unfurl your jib / genoa.

Hello and welcome back to another Inspire & Learn episode with TMG. My name is Joe Fox. Today we are looking at unfurling your jib or genoa on the front part, the bow of your boat. In a previous video we have looked at hoisting the mainsail, you might see that behind me.

00m 52s

Things to Consider

We're going to talk through some of the basics of unfurling in a safe and orderly manner. A number of things you need to consider when unfurling the jib is Wind Direction. The wind today is about 8-knots from the South East, so it's really quite benign conditions but perfect for demonstrating this. Unlike hoisting the mainsail, we do not want the boat head to wind while unfurling the jib. This is because if the boat is head to wind, the jib or genoa will become a flag essentially and there is a bit of hardware on the corner that will flap around which can be dangerous, we want to avoid that. The best wind angle to unfurl the jib is at about 90 degrees so when we unfurl the jib, it will come nicely down the Port side, full of wind and not flapping around.

There are a couple of lines which we are going to use to control the furling and unfurling process on the jib.

01m 48s

The Furling Line

This varies from boat to boat. On the Lagoon 42 it's a grey line that runs down the Port side of the boat. The furling line is on a locking system which we want to release so it's free to roam. I'll also run the furling line through my hands once just to make sure there are not any knots or turns in it which will get caught up in the block when we unfurl. I'll show you what

this line does, it has a very important role in this whole process that we are going to look at. Let's trace the furling line all the way forward. You can see it running through fairleads, around the turning block on the Port bow, then it runs over to the furling drum at the base of the headsail. As the sail comes out the drum turns, spooling the furling line onto it and pre-loading the drum essentially, so at the end of the day when we want to put away the sail we pull on the line and it has the opposite effect, wrapping the sail back around the fore-stay.

03m 07s

Self Tacking System

On the flybridge, the Lagoon 42 has a self tacking system which is very easy to use, it makes sailing incredibly simple. Not all catamarans have this system, some catamarans have two sheets because the sail overlaps the mast so you can't have it on a sliding track. Here, there is a locking mechanism on the track. Undo the locks on the slide so when we are tacking and jibing later on in the day, it slides across.

03m 37s

Jib / Genoa Sheets

In order to pull the sail out, unfurl the sail, we are going to use the jib sheet. It can go on the self tacker, lets load up the 1 jib sheet onto the winch but putting on 4 turns and pulling in the slack. We are now set to go.

As I pull out the sail, I am going to take the furling sheet in one hand. This just controls the speed, it means as the furling line is going out, I can control it through my hand. If its windy you will need to use gloves. If it is very windy, you can even put a few wraps around a winch to offer some resistance and slow the sail down so it doesn't come out too quickly. If you have crew members onboard, get them to help you out with that.

04m 29s

Let's Unfurl!

Pull on jib sheet - or use the electric winch

Ease out furling line - ensure no knots or kinks appear

Back at the helm station, with the electric winch, I can pull on the sheet and let the furling line out through my hand.

So there we go, we can see the jib or genoa unfurled beautifully alongside the mainsail which we covered in a previous video. If you would like to learn about how to trim these two sails which we have just hoisted, click the notification button to be alerted when we put out the video on Sail Trim and Technique - Back to Basics.

My name is Joe Fox from TMG, I do hope you enjoyed this tutorial on how to unfurl your jib. Thanks for coming along and we will see you soon.

Join us in the next episode where we teach you how to furl your Jib or Genoa - we'll see you then!