

Whitefriars Sailing Club

Hire Laser Daggerboard and Mast Tie

It is important that the daggerboard and the mast on the Laser are attached to the hull so that they will not fall out and sink when you inevitably capsize. It is much harder to right a capsized dinghy if the daggerboard has gone missing! It is also a Laser Class Association rule that the mast is secured when racing.

The WSC Hire lasers use a simple rope and hook system to help achieve both.

At the foot of the mast, attached to the deck blocks is a short length of rope (red with black and white flecks). On the longer end there is a small bobble, on the other shorter end, there is a white plastic hook as well as some knots in the rope.

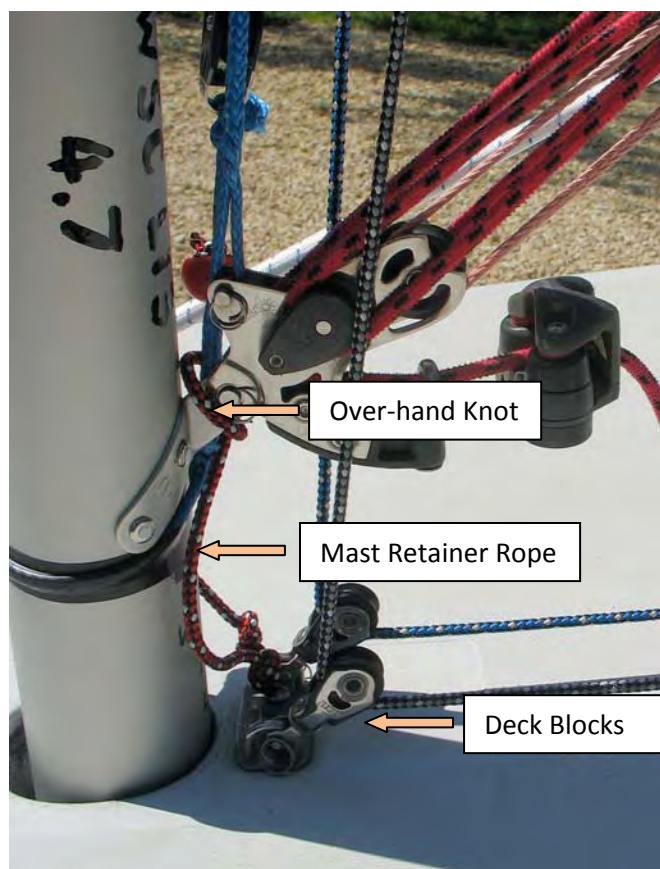


Figure 1: Tying the mast on

To secure the mast to the boat, the long end with the bobble is tied in a simple half-hitch or over-hand knot around the kicker unit mast fixing. It does not need to be tied tightly as the bobble stops it coming undone accidentally. The rope is long enough to allow the mast to rotate during sailing, but short enough to stop the mast falling out of the mast hole when the boat is inverted. You can also view the following video clip on YouTube which shows this being demonstrated

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TISM_heAgHI&feature=player_embedded

Let us now look at the Daggerboard attachment.

The daggerboard is tensioned and fixed to the hull using a piece of thick elastic shock cord (daggerboard tension elastic) that is fixed to the bow eye or fairlead at the bows. This shock cord has a plastic hook on the free end which is hooked to the rope loop on the front, top corner of the daggerboard (figure 2).

CAUTION: The Daggerboard tension elastic should always be hooked into the daggerboard rope loop whenever the boat is on the water regardless of whether the daggerboard is in the daggerboard slot or lying on the deck. The daggerboard does not swim, you may have to in order to get it back!

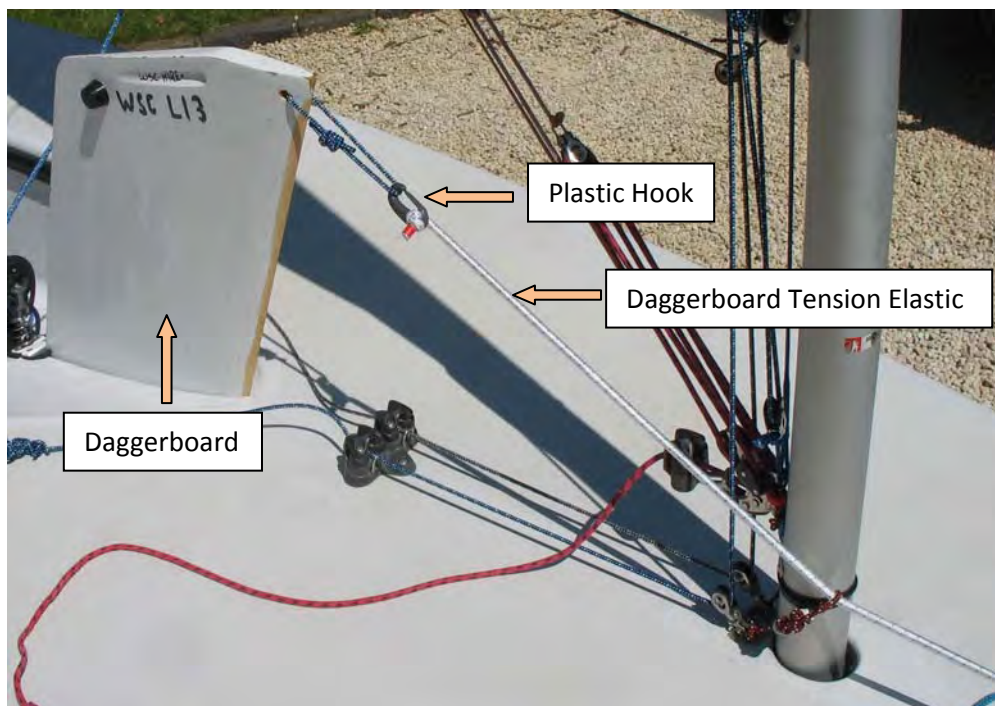


Figure 2: Daggerboard Tension Elastic hooked to Daggerboard

The elastic provides tension so that the daggerboard remains in position as you raise or lower it in the slot. However, when the daggerboard is raised, the tension elastic can get in the way of the kicker. Note also that if you raise the daggerboard too far up, the top of the daggerboard will also catch on the boom – cue capsize!

In order to keep the tension elastic away from the kicker when the daggerboard is up, the other (short) end of the mast retainer rope with the white plastic hook is looped around the tension elastic and hooked back on itself (figure 3).

Again you can view the following video clip on YouTube which shows this being demonstrated

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TISM_heAgHI&feature=player_embedded

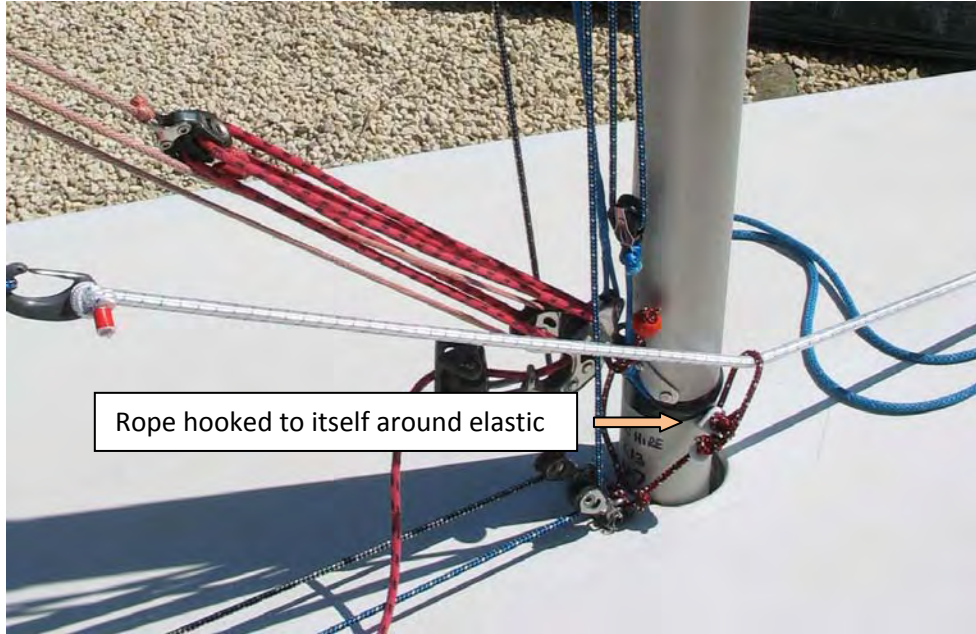


Figure 3: Short end of mast retainer rope looped and hooked around Daggerboard Tension Elastic hook