



The problem we are solving?

The leeward leg of the transom bridle should always be slack. If it is not, you will be working far too hard to effectively play the main/jib sheet to weather. Under most conditions you will simply double the amount of tension on the sheet without accomplishing anything worthwhile. **There is an exception, however.** When the wind is very light (below 4 knots) you will have the vang and cunningham very loose and the boom close to the centerline. Because the boom will be higher than normal the leeward bridle leg will get snug. When a small increase in wind occurs, you will want to immediately increase leech tension at the same instant that you need to swing out a bit on the trap. By changing to this new system, you will be able to do so without stopping to adjust the vang (far too slow to take advantage of small puffs of wind). You will also eliminate two parts and four screws,

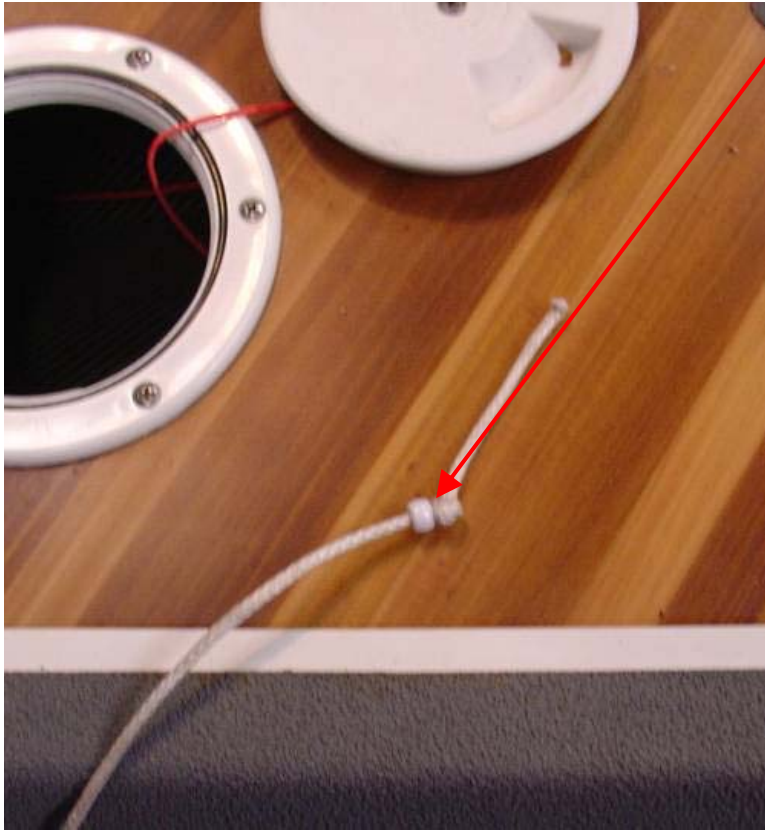
The old system had a skiff knot that attached the mainsheet to the bridle. The new one uses splices that will easily go through the floppy block in the end of the boom.

Start by drilling  $\frac{1}{4}$ " vertical holes through the gunwale about halfway down where the transom bridle fitting normally goes. After drilling, put your hand through the port hole to determine if you penetrated the air chamber (move the bit up and down). If you did penetrate the chamber, you will need to insert and fill around a small tube, like a hollow kite batten or stainless tubing. In the case to the right the drill did not get into the chamber. To make absolutely sure, I put tape over the bottom of the holes and filled them with epoxy and let it set for about 5 minute to see if it leaked out. This sealed the wood and checked for leaks at the same time



In the end the bridle will look like this with a knot and small ball to keep it from pulling through the hole. Here you can see that I left it too long until I can be certain the length is correct

This is a small plastic bead that I bought in a arts and craft store. I simple tied a figure eight to keep it from pulling through.



Below you see the blue mainsheet with a simple eye splice and the white bridle that is simply "woven" through itself four times to keep it in place. This entire splice will easily pull through the floppy block for those light air conditions. To remove for trailering, simply untie the figure eights after marking them and pull the bead off.

