

Lifesling Customization & Rigging Guidelines



Buying a Lifesling and placing it on the stern of your boat doesn't make you any safer. Of primary importance is knowing exactly which rescue procedure works best on your boat. The standard 3:1 Lifesling Hoisting Tackle works well on most sailboats, but not all. Large boats (over 40 ft) may require more than 65 feet of line or you may want to have a 4:1 configuration for greater mechanical advantage.

In an overboard emergency it is likely that the boat owner may be the victim. By practicing and training your crew, the odds are maximized for any and all crew to be able to execute a successful rescue.

CUSTOMIZING THE HOISTING TACKLE:

Lifesling® Attachment to the Boat: Make sure the slings short line is secured to the boat. Attach the sling to the inside of the stern rail.

Identifying the Top & Bottom Blocks: The top block is an all purpose fiddle block. You may want to write on it "TOP", so any user can identify it. The bottom block has a 4" carabiner attached to it.

Using the Halyard: Make sure the halyard can be reached by a crew or provide another lifting line like a spare halyard or topping lift. Rig the tackle and mark place on the halyard with tape or a black magic marker, when the block is 10 ft. above the deck.

Length of the hoisting line: Rig the Block and Tackle. Clip the carabiner close to the cleat that will be used to tie off the MOB. This may be near the cockpit if there is no midships cleat. Lead the fall line back to a fairlead and put a few wraps on a winch. If the line is too short you will need to buy a line which is longer than the standard of 65 feet.

Thickness of the hoisting line: If the boat has self-tailing winches make sure the line fits the winch to provide a secure grip.

Fair leads: The fall line will usually be led back to the cockpit through a jib car, but each boat has its own requirement. You may want to use a dedicated fairlead, snap or swivel block. A normal lead to the winch will help prevent an override. With no self-tailing winches you can optionally install a jam cleat in the cockpit.

Storing the Block and Tackle Line: If you store the tackle in the Lifesling bag there is a chance it may go overboard with the sling. Wherever you store it TAPE A NOTE inside the cover of the sling so others can find it. Mark the tackle so it is easily identified and include it as a part of any new crew's orientation on your boat.

Packing the Block and tackle: Remember to "two-block" the tackle, to prevent tangling and twisting. Flake the line into the storage bag and put the blocks on top.

Yacht Name. The boat name should be marked on all portable safety equipment, including the LIFESLING.

For more information see: [Running a Clinic](http://www.ussailing.org/Safety/Studies/lifesling_clinic.asp) http://www.ussailing.org/safety/studies/2001_bc1.htm

