



Raising the sail

Raise the sail by pulling on the halyard, then secure the halyard to its cleat. Let the *sheet* (the line that controls the sail) be free so that the sail will swing into line with the wind and flap loosely. Tie a figure-eight knot at the end of the sheet to keep it from slipping through its block.

When the halyard is *into-blocked* (as high as it can go without bending the headboard over the masthead), it should be cleated, made up into a coil, and locked over the cleat. Lift the boom *crutch* (if so equipped) out of its socket and stow it under the deck. It won't be needed again until you dock.

## Setting the Sails

Does it matter which sail you set first? Yes, it does. The mainsail goes up first, then the jib.

If there are two of you, one can unroll the sail while the other hoists the halyard. If you're alone, unroll the sail a couple of turns, then haul on this way until the sail is fully set.

On many boats, you can slightly raise or lower the fitting that connects the boom to the mast. You do this with a piece of line called a *downhaul*, which is secured to the underside of the fitting and sometimes led through a block on the deck to a cleat. A cleat may be attached to the lower part of the mast for this purpose. By adjusting the downhaul, you can control the amount of tension on the luff of the mainsail. After raising the mainsail, hoist away on the jib halyard. Set it taut—and keep it taut.



## Getting Under Way

Get settled first. Sit on the seats, deck, or bottom of the boat, depending on what you like and the type and size of your boat. But be sure to sit forward of the tiller so that you have room to steer.

Now the sails are up, the crew (maybe just you) is settled, and your boat is falling away from the pier or mooring. What do you do?

If you're the *helmsman*, you have to decide what tack to start on. This will depend on the direction in which you choose to go and the amount of sailing room you have in which to maneuver. Your boat is



On a starboard tack