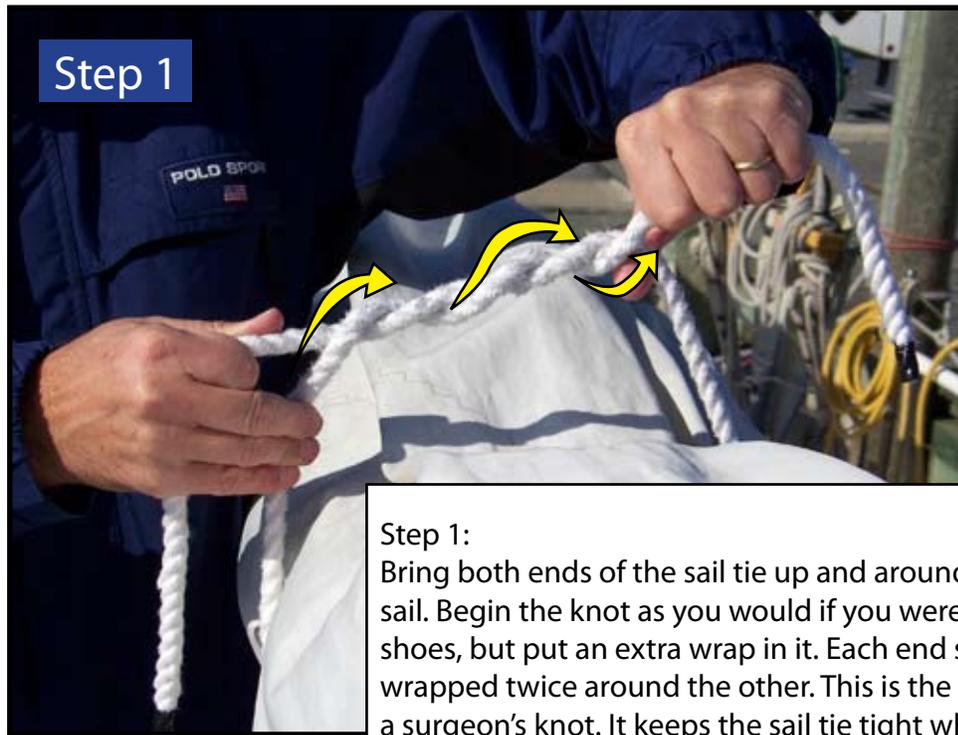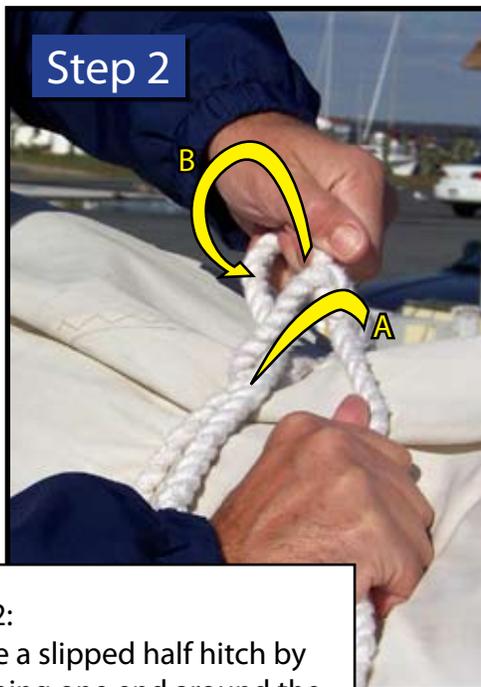# Sail Ties: Securing The Sail

Sail ties are used to secure the main sail when it is lowered and has been rolled up on top of the boom. The knot used for the sail ties is one that keeps the ties secured yet is easy to undo.

Note:
While the reefing points are brought through OVER the jack line to tie only around the sail (see the lesson on reefing points), sail ties should lie UNDER the jack line that runs along the boom under the sail.
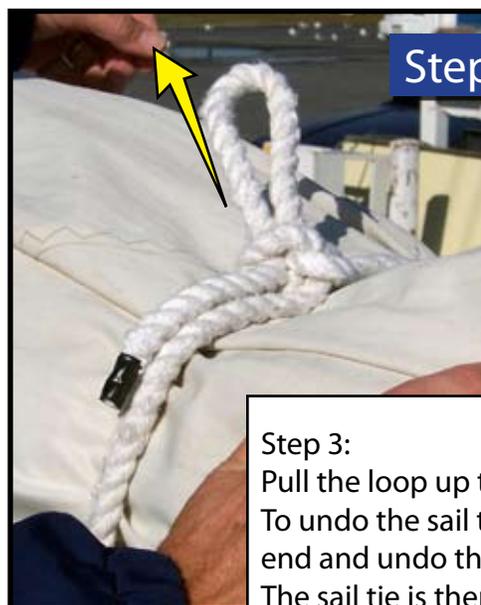When securing the sail, they will tie around both the sail and jack line. When secured beneath the boom when the sails are raised, they will lie directly on the boom.

**Step 1**

Step 1:
Bring both ends of the sail tie up and around the rolled sail. Begin the knot as you would if you were tying your shoes, but put an extra wrap in it. Each end should be wrapped twice around the other. This is the first half of a surgeon's knot. It keeps the sail tie tight while you are forming the slipped half hitch in the next step.

**Step 2**

Step 2:
Create a slipped half hitch by wrapping one end around the other and pulling up a loop. Do not pull the loop through.
(See "Main Sheet: Hanging the Coil" or "Reefing Points" for instructions on a slipped half hitch.)

**Step 3**

Step 3:
Pull the loop up tight to secure the knot. To undo the sail tie, simply pull the shorter end and undo the wraps made in Step 1. The sail tie is then left in place, lying across the top of the boom, and tied underneath the boom to secure it in place while the sails are raised, ready to be used when the sails are lowered again.

# Knots: The *Nathan* Way