

# Sail Windows

## Special points of interest:

- Especially useful on small boats.
- Not likely to effect sail performance.
- Easily installed after the sail is completed.
- Not so durable in sunlight as sailcloth.
- Likely to be somewhat heavier than sailcloth.

A window just a foot or so above the bottom of a sail can make it possible for the skipper to see boats on starboard tack in time to avoid fouls and worse. This is especially important on small boats where a crewmember cannot be assigned to “watch duty”.

Sail windows are simple translucent or nearly translucent pieces of PVC or Mylar film that are sewn over a completed panel assembly. Then the fabric underneath is cut away.

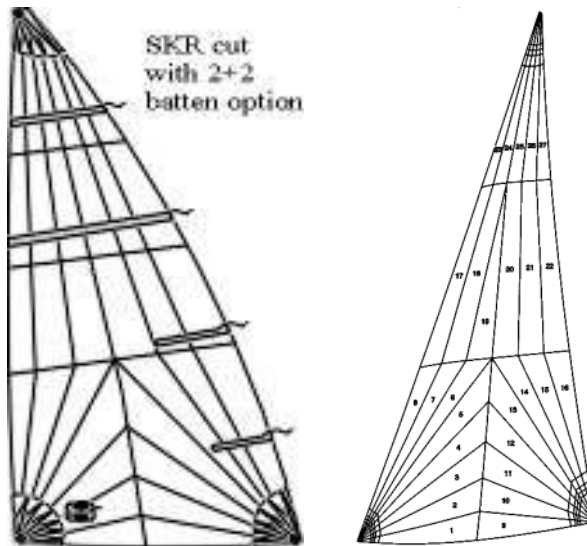
It is important to follow this installation procedure since cutting the window opening prior to sewing the window itself in place can make it difficult to

position the fabric flat without bias stretch — the result can be wrinkles in the finished sail.

Because windows are always placed well inside the edges of a sail, they are seldom under stress and, thus, even though they may stretch a good deal more than the sailcloth to which they are attached (certain to be the case if PVC is used), there is no performance hit.

We like to use PVC (as opposed to Mylar film) in most of the sails we make. Even though it is heavier than sailcloth and somewhat more susceptible to ultraviolet damage than sailcloth, it

can be crumpled many times without damage while Mylar film is so stiff that it creases badly and tends to become cloudy unless it is rolled carefully after every use. Even so, Mylar is light in weight and it does not stretch. There are some who will prefer this material and it is certainly available as a special request.



Mainsail and Genoa showing Window Installation