

Thank you for purchasing a new set of X-boat sails from Mad Sails. We appreciate the commitment to support your independent local sailmaker. Listed below are some helpful hints and a tuning guide to maximize your sailing experience.

Here at Mad Sails we use a tuning guide that is based on wind speeds of over and under 12mph. The reasoning is based in the fact that “whitecap” waves start to form at this windspeed on our beloved inland lakes. A quick look up the lake will signal to you to think about changing sail shape to match the conditions. Please understand the wave and wind strength will be different at the windward mark vs the leeward mark, so changing “gears” or sail shape is a constant occurrence. Also, a different sail shape might be needed to get off the starting line fast vs the final leg drag race to the finish. The common theme is adjustability of sail shape. Here at Mad sails we have developed our X-boat sails to have a larger window of speed. You can take advantage of the extra speed by adjusting your sails based on conditions. Listed below are some proven ideas for speed.

No Whitecaps! Less than 12mph of wind.

- Mast Rake 20’ 11”
- Cunningham loose with some wrinkles
- Outhaul pulled to 1” of boom band
- Jib luff loose with some wrinkles
- Jib car positioned so three holes are showing from back of track
- Vang snug but not tight upwind. Tighter downwind to prevent boom from skying.
- Downwind release the jib luff, cunningham and outhaul for maximum sail depth.

Whitecaps up to blowing stink! More than 13mph.

- Mast Rake 20’11”
- Cunningham pulled hard. No wrinkles on luff of mainsail
- Outhaul cranked to boom band
- Jib luff pulled on tight. No wrinkles showing on jib luff
- Jib car positioned so that two holes are showing from back of track.
- Vang on tight upwind and downwind
- Don’t worry about releasing all sail control lines. Boat handling/staying in control more important.
- Bring the centerboard up 2-3”



Sidestay tension should be taught in all conditions.

Bonus Tips

Learn how to sail your boat fast. That means time on the water to develop a feel for your boat and sails.

Train your eye to look up the lake. No staring at the jib luff tell tails. Have eye discipline not to get distracted. Your eyes should be on the sails only 20% of the time. Then 40% on race course management and the final 40% on sniffing out wind. On light wind days adjust eye discipline % to increase focus on sniffing out wind and sail trim. When it's blowing stink.... boat handling and race course management becomes more important.

Don't let your boat speed suffer when you look around. Getting your head out of the boat is important on our little lakes, but only if you can keep your boat at proper heel and trim. Make sure you keep some heel on your boat always. An X boat that is overly flat in windy conditions tends to pound waves and stop. Use the hard chine of the boat as a guideline. It helps dig the boat in and slide forward vs slipping sideways. A boat that is heeled up too much is deadly slow. Weathered helm sets in and sail tends to go out. A constant slight heel keeps maximum water flow over the blades and will help create the proper hydrodynamics for a higher pointing X-boat. Work on constant heel by not cleating the mainsail and practicing the 6" inches in and 6" out technique. As a puff hits, ease the main sheet out 6" while steering up into the wind. As the boat settles out bring the sheet in 6" and start to bear away. This constant heel will help improve your straight-line boat speed.

On an X-boat it helps to **mark your jib and main sheets.** Pull a thread through, then wrap it around about a dozen times. This will create a great baseline for future learning. It's amazing to watch the effect an over or under trimmed jib has on boat speed. Often when a crew shifts his/her weight the jib trim is moved inadvertently.

Practice more than race. Most young sailors learn very little when racing in a pressure situation. The real improvement comes from practice during sailing school or out with a coach. Always practice to replicate racing. Use buoys to create starting lines, gates and mark roundings. Just cruising around develops bad habits. Make your practice sessions short with very high intensity. This will make sailing a race feel downright boring and pressure free and lead to better performance.

Go out and speed test your new Mad Sails. We recommend you go try the maximum and minimum settings on your sail. Put a crazy setup together and then start changing things. Analyze the differences and begin to establish a feel for your boat. The boat and sails will "talk" to you. The boat will tell you what it wants to go fast. You will begin to feel what is correct if you learn to "listen" for clues. As soon as you have mastered a setup in one sailing condition, the next awaits.

At Mad sails we use the highest quality sail cloth and CAD design programs to create the best sails possible. All our sails are produced in house at our World Headquarters right here in Verona, Wisconsin. Our X boat sails can be





X-Boat Tuning Guide and Tips

tailored to your child's size and sailing ability. Service on and off the water is our specialty. Our most recent X-boat sail design has dominated the competition with season championships and high regatta finishes.

Last tip. Smile and have fun. Sailing is an incredible journey.

