

Top Tip #2

This month's top tip comes from Geoff Carveth, former Solo World Champion.

The centreboard and rudder are very important parts of your boat. The centreboard should fit snugly into the centreboard case if it is to do its job properly. If you've never checked its worth turning the boat on its side and testing for side-to-side movement. If you have a slack fit, then you should pad out the inside of the case to stop the movement. There is a tape, called Jap tape, purchasable from chandleries, that will do the job beautifully, however it is quite pricy so many people invent cheaper alternatives (eg old credit cards, cds etc). Don't forget to pad both sides evenly or you will have an off centre centreboard!

While the boat is on its side check the condition of the centreboard and repair and sand as necessary. If the board is rough and damaged it will slow you down. The same goes for the rudder so this should also be kept smooth and again there should be no side-to-side movement of the rudder blade in the stock, so if there is pad out the stock to make it a good fit.