

Chapter 6 : Spinnaker Gear :

My B 323 came with the "spinnaker package". That means a starboard cabin-top winch, a single-line stopper in front of the winch, turning block at the base of the mast, the halyard, and three deck-mounted hinged padeyes: Bow (in front of the anchor locker for the tack), and one on each side as turning blocks, one foot aft of the stern cleats), and three blocks, which are nice, but seem small to me. (But we're only using three-eighth-inch lines here. LESSON LEARNED: Blocks through the toe rail will wear out the holes over the years. It did on my 235. I measured cringle-to-crinkle and my sail is 42 x 37 x 19'8". Doyle made my sail from .75 oz nylon.

I got my asym spinnaker from the local Doyle sailmaker here in Annapolis. The tack line needs to be adjustable. The factory setup has you just put the tack line thru the bow block then wrap around a bow cleat. When I rig the spin, I run it through the bow block, back to the cockpit over the deck and thru a cabin-top line stopper. I added 4 line-stoppers on the starboard cabin top for the spin tack and spin pole line and topping lift line. My owner's manual says the spin halyard is 98 feet. (I think all of the boat's lines are too long considering they are all led to the cockpit (except jib halyard). I pulled each one back to the helm wheel and cut it at that length. BEAR IN MIND: the factory-arrangement spin halyard exits the mast just above the forestay, and I think it's too close. I'd think THAT block is in the mast from the mast factory since they don't know how Beneteau will rig any particular boat/mast. I could be wrong. I can see what looks like two blocks at the masthead fitting, and I would think that would be a better place, but may be way too high if your spin luff is around the 42-foot range. (See the mast pictures elsewhere on this net.) The sailmaker may well have figured using the exit by the forestay in making my sail luff. If you get the dousing sock, you'll probably want to add a small cleat on the front of the mast to tie it off. 2-10-2009 REP