

Instructions for Numbering Sails

by John Davis

These instructions are for using number templates to easily number your sails with a uniform and readable method. The template numbers are sized and spaced to meet international regulations, and work equally well for AMYA Classes that do not closely regulate numbering style. The numbers are 4" tall and fit tall and narrow rigs. They may be too large for some sails, yet they work fine on the V-32 mainsail. These templates are not legal for some classes (CR-914, Laser, others). Check your Class Rules to be sure these are legal for your class, and for correct placement—these instructions use a suit of US One Meter sails as an example.

From the AMYA website <www.modelyacht.org/my/mydownloads.html>, download the .pdf files for the “pos” sail number that matches the last two digits of your Class Registered sail/hull number, the “rev” sail number, and the Class Insignia, if it is available. Print one Class Insignia and two each of the Positive and Reverse Sail Numbers.

When you print a number (or insignia), but before you click OK in the “Print Dialogue Box”, check the “Page Handling Section” there to see if “None” is selected next to “Page Scaling”. The most common selection is “Fit To Paper”. (It could also say: Shrink Large Pages, Tile Large Pages, or Tile All Pages.) If you have selected, Fit To Paper, or Shrink Large Pages, Adobe automatically applies a reduction scaling (you will see “Zoom: 96%” in the “Preview” section of the Print Dialogue Box), and the numbers print 100mm tall. If you have selected None, Adobe applies 100% scaling, and the numbers print 105mm tall.

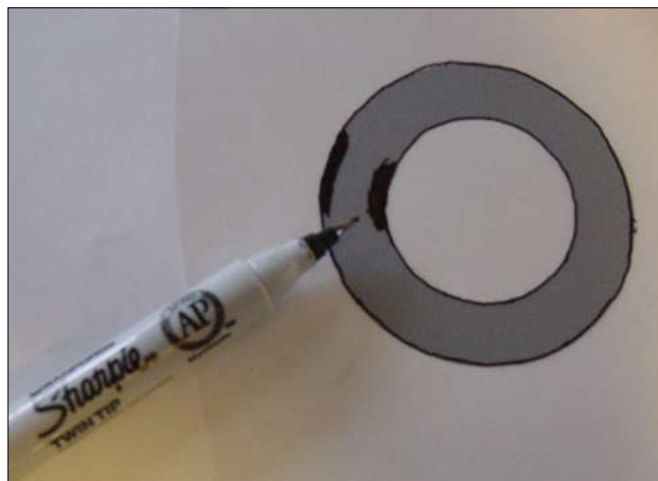
the positive number. Line that up with the bottom of the reverse number, tape along the seam, and you now have your completed Port template for numbering the port side of your main and jib. To make the Starboard template, cut on the 65 mm line below the positive number. Align that with the top of the reverse number, tape along that seam, and you now have your completed Starboard template. The reason for this sequence is to keep the taped seam away from the number you will be tracing onto your sails. For now set aside these templates and get your printout of the Class Insignia.



To make the Port template, cut on the 65 mm line above

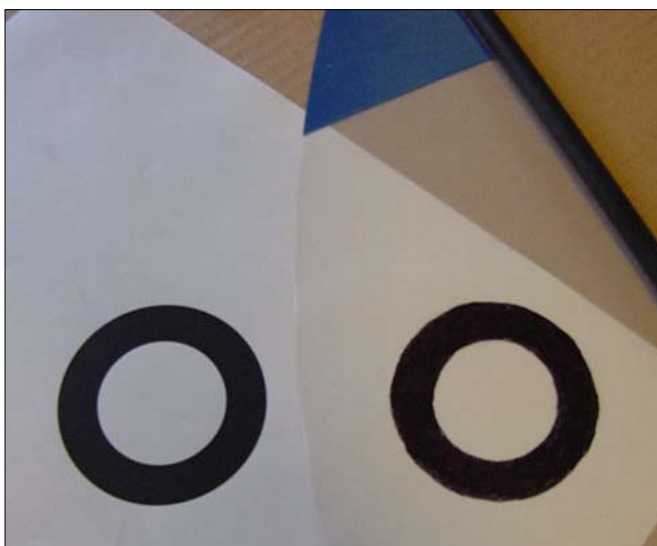
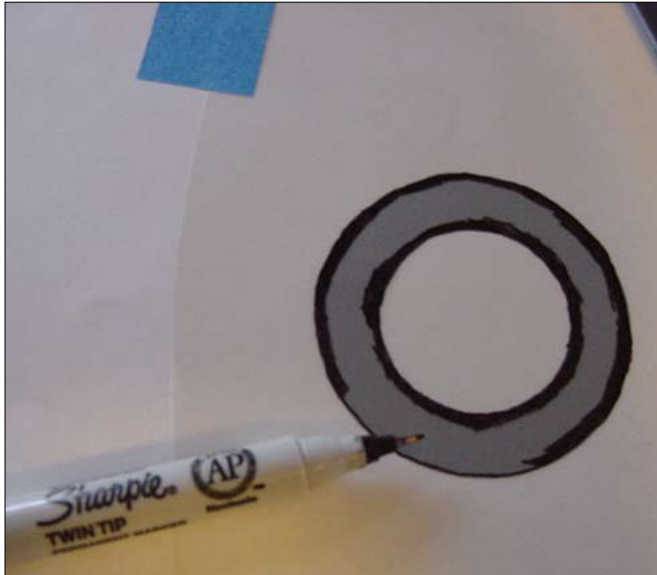


Our sails are translucent, so these templates make an effective pattern for tracing directly onto the sail material. You



will slide the template under the sail, and lightly tack it in position with low tack masking tape. Note: the wrong tape applied too heavily, will wrinkle your sail when it is removed! Again, check your class rules/specifications for placement. In this case, I placed the top of the US One Meter Class Insignia 3" below the headboard of the mainsail. You will mark on the starboard side.

Now, trace the insignia onto the sail material. I use a



BLACK Sanford "Sharpie" brand permanent Marker that has "Twin Tips" to give me fine and ultra fine points. This entire process is easier if the sails are not attached to the mast and boom, but this example shows this will work on a fully rigged suit of sails. You can trace the outline and then fill it in with either the fine tip or the ultrafine tip. Don't go too slow, or your line will look jagged. You will soon develop a smooth motion that will yield clean lines. If you do not like the results, simply wipe away with acetone (works on Mylar sails), and start over after the sail material is dry. When you carefully remove the small pieces of masking tape and slide the template away from the sail, you will have a nicely printed Class Insignia. I usually just put the class insignia on the starboard side of the main, but again, check the class rules to know if both sides of the sail need to have the class insignia.



Now for the sail numbers... We will start with the main. Place a mark half-way up the luff of the main. This will be the point where you align the bottom of the Port numbers. Note that you may need to adjust this point downward if you see the numbers interfere with elements on the sail. If the numbers need to go lower on the sail, just keep them as high on the Main as possible. Slide your port template under the sail and lightly tack it in place. There are two heavy vertical reference lines for parallel alignment to the luff of the main. The inboard line is for narrow "A" mains, and the outboard line is for everything else. In the next photo you can see the small arrow drawn at the half-way point of the main luff. You can also see the four dots indicating the four corners of the numeral one. Do not fill in this number one. Most classes allow you to use the last two digits of your AMYA hull registration number as



your sail number. Obviously, when you go to a regatta, you are likely to find another skipper with the same two numbers as you. The Regatta Director will decide who keeps their two digit number, and who must add a one in front of their number to avoid duplication of racing sail numbers. By just marking the corners of the digit one, you can easily and quickly fill in the one at the pond. In the meantime, if you don't have to fill in the one, no one will see those dots on the racing boats, and you will have your two digit sail numbers.



Now, outline and then fill in the numbers as you did with the insignia:



Acknowledgement: The font for these numbers came from Lester Gilbert's excellent website at <http://www.onemetre.net/>

After finishing the Port side of the Main, remove that template and flip the sail over. Attach the Starboard template in the same manner as you attached the Port template, only this time you can align the reverse-print numbers on the bottom to the numbers you already traced on the Port side of your sail. You are now ready to trace the Starboard numbers:



The Jib is done in the same sequence followed with the Main. The difference is that where you want the Main numbers placed fairly high on the Main, you want the Jib numbers to be placed fairly low on the Jib. Also, instead of the numbers being parallel to the Luff as on the Main, the Jib numbers should be parallel to the Leech of the Jib. This alignment will allow the Jib and Main numbers to be visually parallel to each other.

Use a straight-edge from the Head grommet to the Clew grommet to establish this visual reference on the Jib. Then align the right side of your Port template to that edge. Slide the template up or down to avoid elements (like battens) on the sail. As before, lightly tack the template to the bottom side of the sail and trace your Port numbers. Flip the sail over, and trace the Starboard numbers. The next sequence of photos illustrate this process.

Start with the Port side, establish the Leech line, and tape the Port template in place:

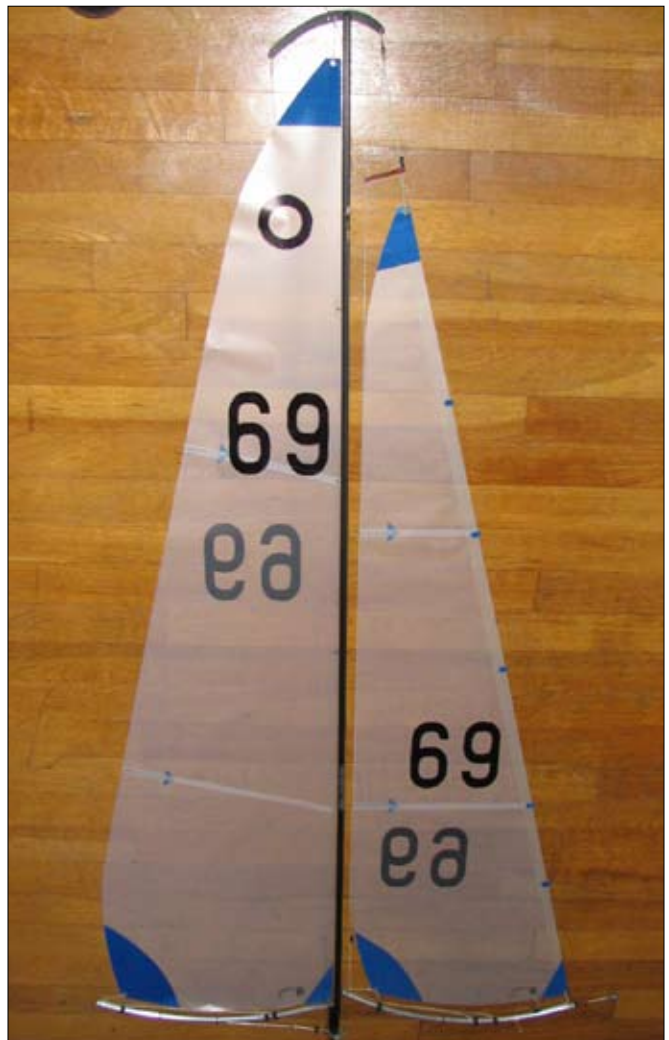


Port Side:



With the Jib numbers completed, your suit of sails is numbered, and you are ready to sail. Fair winds...

Starboard Side:



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This application is for (circle one): **NEW MEMBERSHIP** _____ **RENEWAL** _____

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PRIMARY ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ - _____

COUNTRY _____

TELEPHONE _____

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ADULT	25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership
FAMILY	27.50		
JUNIOR	12.50		

Enter Birthdate: _____

Postage: Members residing in the USA may optionally select first class mailing of Model Yachting. "Snowbirds" using two addresses must include postage for USA First Class. Members residing outside the USA must include an additional fee to cover the costs of mailing.

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BOAT REGISTRATION: Class _____ Sail # _____	7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boat Registration
<i>This is only for New Boat Registrations or Transfers for New Ownership Boat Registrations are a one time Fee for the duration of Boat Ownership</i>			
TOTAL		<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership + Post + Boat Registration

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NUMBER _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ EXPIRATION _____ - _____

SIGNATURE _____

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