

# RIG BASICS

HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR  
MAST, RIGGING AND SAILS

# DEDICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Many people over the years have said to me 'you should write a book' but a few close friends have actively goaded me towards the inevitable: 'Basic Bill' Reilly and Johnny Walker stand out for their encouragement and assistance. 'Stretch' Gillingham has contributed some great photos. And Llewellyn and Lesley Bankes-Hughes at Petrosport have made it a reality. Thanks guys.

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**KIM SKOV-NIELSEN**

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## FOREWORD

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I SAILED WITH Kim Skov-Nielsen a number of years ago and I'm not surprised to see this book coming out under his name. One of the many things we had in common was a refusal to tolerate a boat that wasn't set up right, although for me, as something of an expert in gaff sails and wooden spars, dealing with modern rigging has always been a bit of a black art. In this excellent little volume, my old shipmate has clarified everything most of us will ever need to know, and he's shown us how to deal with the whole issue in practical terms.

This book is long overdue and, to be blunt, no skipper putting to sea across the bar should be without it.

*Tom Cunliffe*  
*July 2012*



SAILS ON A MOODY 44 IN THE MED © KSN



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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KIM SKOV-NIELSEN was born to Danish/Norwegian parents in Saigon, Vietnam in 1960 and raised in 14 countries. He is preceded by three generations of seafarers, fishermen and explorers. His first yachting job was building glass-reinforced plastic (GRP) sailboats in polyester chopstrand in a small boatyard on the docks of Antwerp in the summer of 1974.

Kim has worked full-time in the marine industry since 1979, primarily as a yacht skipper and ocean racer. He has sailed almost 150,000 blue water miles worldwide, amassing a wide range of valuable experiences, from building boats to sailing them around the world, from being bosun on a 12-metre yacht at the America's Cup to being assistant project manager at America's Cup and Whitbread Round the World Race level.

Armed with a diploma in marine surveying, Kim established a surveying business in Spain delivering a range of survey and consultancy work to clients worldwide, in places as far apart as Oslo, Buenos Aires and Sevastopol in Ukraine.

Surveying milestones have been to survey and value the Challenge Business fleet of 19 steel sailing yachts, and a short time thereafter to survey and value the Clipper Challenge fleet of GRP yachts.

Kim holds a Lloyd's/IIMS Diploma in Marine Surveying with a speciality in Small Craft. He is a full member of the International Institute of Marine Surveying, a Surveyor Associate of the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors, and an approved surveyor of the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency. He is associated with the International Register of Marine Surveyors and International Register of Marine Consultants, and is also a lead auditor,



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qualified to set up, monitor and inspect International Safety Management systems ashore and afloat. Kim is also an expert witness in UK jurisprudence.

Kim holds a long list of yachting and other qualifications, including: RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Ocean with Commercial and Power Endorsements. In addition to all the MCA Fire-Fighting, First Aid, Construction and Stability and Medical Care courses for Master (Yacht), Kim (unusually) holds an MCAARPA Radar Watch-Keeper's ticket.

A keen scuba diver, Kim is a PADI-qualified rescue diver. Whilst reading International Relations at Georgetown University, Kim served briefly as commodore of the sailing team – GUST.

Among Kim's notable achievements are surviving Hurricane Klaus en-route to the Caribbean in November 1984; building and campaigning the champion One-Tonner *Highland Fling* from the One-Ton Cup and Admiral's Cup to winning the Southern Cross Cup and being top boat in the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race; being a bosun and sail trimmer on a 12-metre at the 1987 America's Cup; project managing the building of the boat and the training of the crew for the 1989 Whitbread Round the World Race, and being the initial project manager for the construction of the Swedish America's Cup Class yacht in Sweden 1990-91.





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