



How to Repair a Small Tear in a Sail

This guide will show you how to patch over a tear in a sailboat sail.

Written By: Emma Cooledge



INTRODUCTION

If the sail for your boat has become damaged with tears, use this guide to help you repair the sail and get it back to working condition.

Sailboats suffer a lot of damage due to natural wear and tear. The sail is one of the most important parts of the boat, and a damaged sail could result in issues with operating the boat.

Before using this guide, ensure that the hole you are trying to cover up is not too large as this could result in a failed repair. This guide is intended as a fast fix to repair smaller holes in a sail and not to replace a whole sail.

Before beginning, make sure to clean the area around the tear that you are looking to repair. Also, select a sail tape that matches the color and cloth type of your sail.



TOOLS:

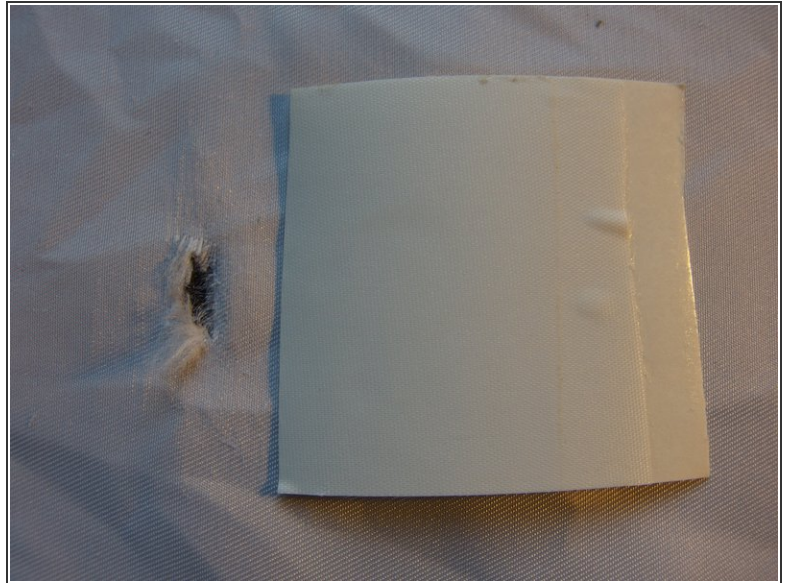
- [Utility Scissors](#) (1)
- [Sail Tape](#) (1)
- [Ruler](#) (1)



PARTS:

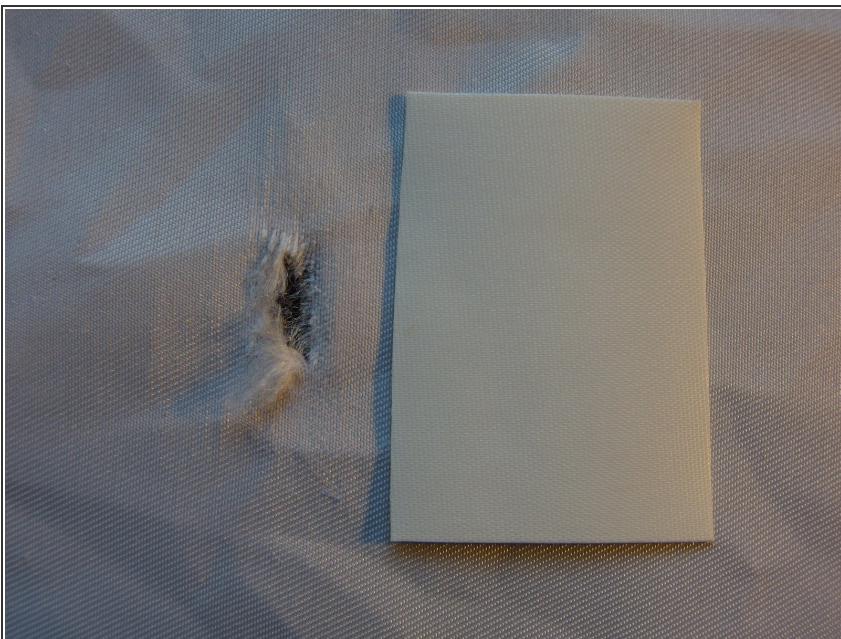
- [Sail](#) (1)

Step 1 — How to Repair a Small Tear in a Sail



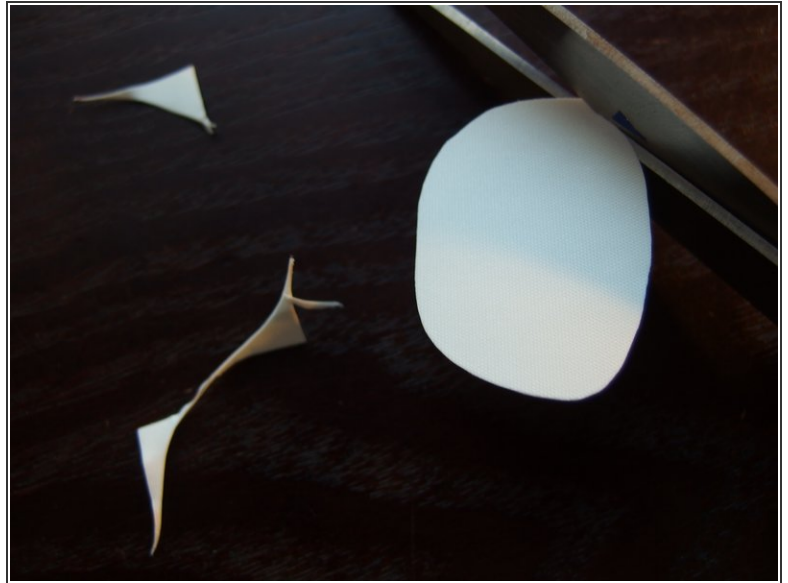
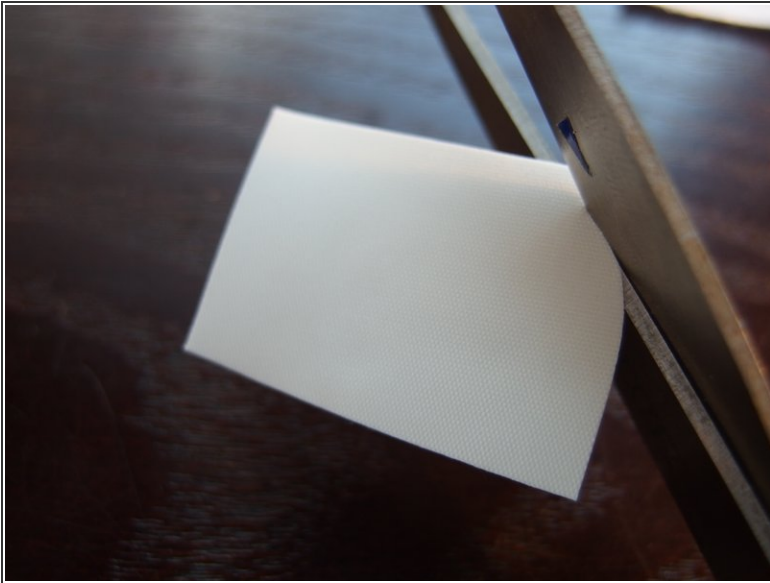
- Cut a piece of sail tape to the length of the tear plus one inch excess.

Step 2



- Trim the tape down until there is 1/2-3/4 of an inch excess on all sides of the tear.

Step 3



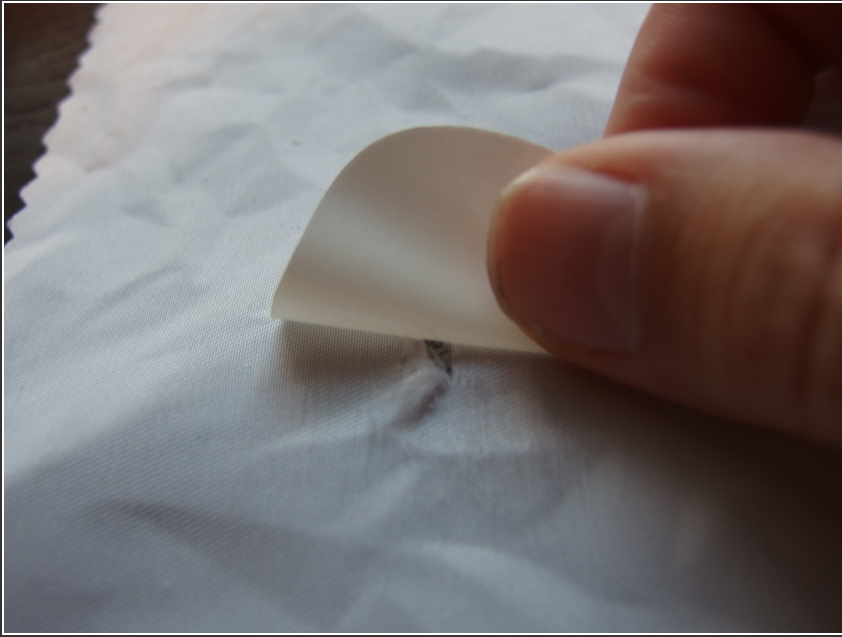
- Round the corners of the tape.
- ⓘ Rounding the corners will prevent peeling and fraying.

Step 4



- Peel the backing off of the sail tape.

Step 5



- Place the tape over the tear.

Step 6



- Flip the sail over.

Step 7



- Repeat steps 1-5 on the back side of the tear.