

# How to Replace Sail Numbers

Adapted from <http://www.sailrite.com/>

## Purchasing New Numbers

Sail numbers are available from many online websites. Here is a partial list:

- <http://www.sailrite.com/Sail-Numbers-Black>
- <http://www.apsltd.com/sailboat-marine-accessories/deck-rigging-sail-accessories/sail-numbers.html>
- <http://www.sailworks.com/sail-numbers.html>
- <https://graphics.northsails.com/shop/sail-numbers/>

Note: Butterfly sail numbers are 10-inches high.

## Removing the Old Numbers



- Peel off the old numbers.
- To remove the sticky residue, use 3M Adhesive Cleaner. Apply solvent to a soft cloth and rub over the adhesive until the solution can soak in. Leave the sail for a bit while the solvent soaks in.
- Using a terry cloth or other soft towel, scrub off the glue residue.

## Adding New Numbers



When adding your new numbers or insignia, be sure to refer to class rules on where to position the markers on your sail.

- Allow the sail to dry out.
- Starting at a short edge, peel back a small section of the backing paper. Stick the corner in the desired location on the sail and smooth it out, making sure there are no air bubbles.
- Working slowly, continue to peel small portions of the paper off and smooth out the Dacron. Take care on numbers with a hole, to not stretch the Dacron material as you apply it.
- When you are satisfied with your placement, allow the adhesive to cure for 24 hours. After this time, the glue will be permanent.

An alternative approach is to use a process similar to applying decals to boat hulls:

- After removing the old numbers, lay the new numbers on the sail in the desired position.
- Lay a strip of masking tape down the middle of the numbers so they are immobilized on the sail.
- Raise up one side of each number and peel the backing off down to where the masking tape is.
- Using scissors cut the backing off where it meets the masking tape.
- Carefully lay the number back down on the sail avoiding wrinkles or bubbles and smooth it out.
- Repeat this process until one side of all the numbers has been glued to the sail.
- Remove the masking tape.
- For each number remove the backing and carefully lay the number down on the sail.