

Grab rails installed.



Sewing a leather patch in the topside of the canvas.



Sealing the fabric slit with a hot knife.

chafe as well as adding strength. Center the patches over the slits in the canvas. Sew around the outer edge of the leather square with a straight stitch (**Figure 5**). Now enlarge the 1/4" (6mm) cut to a 1" (25mm) length centered on the fabric and then sew around that larger slit with a straight stitch. Use a hot knife to prevent raveling in the fabric slit (**Figure 6**). Once the leather patches are installed the canvas top is repositioned over the frame on the boat.

To determine the exact length to cut the stainless tubing, measure from the center of each sliding post and cut the tubing 1-3/4" (44mm) shorter than your measurement. The eye

ends add back 7/8" (22mm) on each end of the tubing. Now, install the eye ends on the tubing and secure them over the sliding posts. Make sure the eye end is between the two nylon washers on the side mounts to isolate the rails and keep them from vibrating.

The finished grab rail is not only good looking; it also contributes to increased safety on the water.

About the author: Jim Grant founded Sailrite (www.sailrite.com) in 1972 to supply specialty marine fabrics, component hardware and tools, sewing kits and sewing machines for boaters to build or repair canvas and sails.



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