Headsail Measurement

What is being measured? Luff length (LL), luff perpendicular (LP), half width (HHW), three quarter width (HTW) and upper width (HUW)

What are these? The length of the luff, the distance between the clew point and the luff, and the distances from the half, three quarter and upper leech points to the luff.

In practice:

1. Lay the sail out flat on a suitable floor.
2. Establish head point, tack point and clew point as shown by the diagram.
3. Straighten the luff and pulling firmly measure the luff length between the head point and the tack point. (LL)
4. Measure from the clew point to the nearest point on the luff. (LP)
5. Fold the head point to the clew point. Mark the fold. That is half leech point.
6. Fold the head point to the half leech point. Mark the fold. That is three quarter leech point.
7. Fold the head point to the three quarter leech point. Mark the fold. That is upper leech point.
8. Measure from each leech point to the nearest point on the luff. This will give the half, three quarter and upper widths. (HHW, HTW, HUW)
9. Check for sail edge hollows.
10. Add any hollow (A) to each measured width (B) to get the final widths. (HHW, HTW, HUW)

References:


G.4.1, G.4.2 and G.4.3 define clew point, head point, and tack point.

G.5.2, G.5.3 and G.5.4 define half leech point, three quarter leech point and upper leech point.

G.7.3 defines luff length.

G.7.5, G.7.6 and G.7.7 define half width, three quarter width and upper width.

G.7.11 defines luff perpendicular.

G.2.4 and H.5.2 address sail edge hollows.