



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:

Equipment Rules of Sailing. <http://www.sailing.org/documents/isaf-equipment-rules.php>.

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**.

