

The Steersman

Spring powered self steering gear for sailing

How to decide if the Steersman is suitable for your boat

Winch Size range and type

The Steersman can be used with winch sizes which have a base diameter between 120mm (4.7 inches) to 160mm (6.3 inches).

The winch itself must be self tailing, or be fitted with a 'Wincher'.

Swinging room

In order for the platform to swing, there must be at least 365mm (14.5 inches) from the centre of the swinging platform pivot point to the edge of the boat, when measured inside the stanchions. Or, a minimum of 150mm (6 inches) from the outside edge of the coaming, or deck on which the existing winch is mounted, to the side of the boat, again when measured inside the stanchions.

Spring Length

In order for the spring to be effective, the aft end mounting point, usually the pushpit upright pole, must be at least 1000mm (39 inches) from the proposed mounting point of the Steersman Platform.

The keeper eye fixing point, usually a nearby stanchion, needs to be within about 400mm (16 inches) from the outer end of the swinging platform

Helm Position

Using a tape measure, take a point 550mm (22 inches) astern of the where the Steersman Platform will be mounted, and call it point A: then a line from point A to the tiller, or centre of the wheel. The wheel or the tiller link point should be roughly within about 10° from point A.

