



Some terms to help the discussion about the mast slot position on the mast, used for the loading and unloading of the mains'l Luff.

Room must remain at the top of the mast in order to haul the sail up fully into the slot before the tack is then dropped down lower into the slot into working position. If you unload the mast to a reef point, the boom must then be at the bottom of the cutaway when the sail is reefed. If you have just barely enough room up top, you risk hauling up too much and jamming the halyard shackle up into the masthead sheeve.. All these ideas together determine the cutaway position. Too high above the normal boom position and reefing requires the boom to be raised all the way up to the bottom of that cutaway. Too low a cut, closer to the normal boom position, and there is not much grip for the lower luff (the section of luff below the cutaway in the slot) when you tighten the outhaul to flatten the sail shape at the foot.