

# The Mariner

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## The Catalina Coil

By Sharon Drechsler

What surprises me most about using our new gadget – the Catalina Mooring Coil – to tie up to a buoy in Catalina these days is the peace and quiet. We just finished pulling into tight quarters in Emerald Bay with a huge powerboat moored on either side of us and an intense crosswind blowing. I had to laugh, because once upon a time this situation would have sent us scurrying about like, well, like rats leaving a sinking ship. There would have been more shouting and sweating than frantic teens at a rock concert!

My husband, Dick, and I were old hands at manually mooring our previous boat, a 36-foot Catalina sailboat, over at the Island. But, now that we have a Catalina 470, everything is a bigger problem. We found an ideal solution to picking up a mooring buoy for our larger boat with the Catalina Mooring Coil. The Coil is a deceptively simple device consisting of sturdy metal that has been coiled in such a way that the sand line can be slid in and out of the Coil's ring when you turn it sideways, but otherwise holds the line steady as Gibraltar. Our Coil came spliced to a high-quality tethering line. (You can get it without the line.)

So, this time as Dick drives the boat gently forward, I pull up the wand onto the bow and fasten the hawser to the cleat as usual. But here comes the good part. We have temporarily secured the Mooring Coil close by, with the tether leading outside the lifelines and clear aft



Sharon demonstrates slipping the Catalina Mooring Coil onto the sand line, or spreader, after fastening the first hawser to the bow cleat, and dropping them overboard. Photo courtesy of Sharon Drechsler.

to the stern. So now, I slip the Coil over the sand line and, keeping the whole business outboard, I just let them drop. The Coil slides along the

sand line down below. And, presto! No shouting or cussing. No slime on my nice new sailing gloves. No backache for the hubster as he pulls up the Coil from the aft of the boat. He can even use a winch to assist him.

We're all happy (except for any onlookers hoping for some amusing groaning, grunting and grasping to watch). There's a lot to be said for being able to pull up to a mooring buoy confidently and almost effortlessly! In fact, it's so simple my husband could handle it without my assistance. But then, how much fun would that be?

I spoke with the inventor of this device, Stan Harris, and asked why his little invention is such a well-kept secret. Stan, a professional rigger for more than thirty years by trade, avows he is not a marketer. He relies principally on referrals and some small classified ads. What a shame to hide this clever idea under a basket. So, for more information or to order, Stan can be reached at 310-823-2627 or by writing Yacht Rigging Associates, P.O. Box 10367, Marina del Rey, CA 90295.



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