

Cover Story

In need of a new cover for 14/114 Swift and having difficulty finding a high-quality one locally, the Swift team, with the help of Ryan Cairns, has reached out to UK manufacturer 'Rain and Sun' (a former supplier of IDRA 14 covers) to see if they would be interested in supplying off-the-shelf covers to the class once again.

Members of the Swift team, Joey McGauran and Dan Kinlay, along with Ryan, have made a commendable effort in compiling a comprehensive list of precise measurements for a range of boats in the fleet. Not to be left out, team 166 contributed even more data, all of which has now been combined into a single comprehensive document.

While it may seem that the boats are all the same, an old class brings more challenges than you might think. Parts like rubbing strakes, strengthening of transoms, and fittings that have been replaced over the years introduce variations among the boats. The task is further complicated by obstructions like shrouds, coaming, mast, and trapeze wires, some of which interfere with the required lateral measurements. Undeterred by these obstacles, the group devised solutions ranging from plywood templates to laser levels to gather the most accurate information.

With this detailed information, any boat owner will soon be able to easily order a top or bottom cover by picking up the phone, choosing their materials and placing the order, avoiding the hassles experienced in the past.

This collaborative effort has resulted in a valuable resource for the class and will hopefully make it easier for all boat owners to obtain new covers, which are expected to be available this winter.

- Measuring your [Measuring using plywood boards](#)



The **Swifties** have made a very good attempt at collating enough data to provide 14 boatowners with solid numbers that a manufacturer would need to make a cover to fit an IDRA14. Ryan Cairns spearheaded this initiative a while ago to finally pin down enough information so that any manufacturer who follows the information provided, can make a cover to fit **your** boat. Using a version of an [online form](#) from UK manufacturer '**Rain and Sun**', Ryan and the Swifties measured 4 boats over a number of weeks. This is not as easy as you may think because the shrouds, coaming, mast and trapeze wires interrupt taking lateral measurements. Undaunted by such pesky obstacles Ryan employed some laser technology (as you do) to come up with a complete set of numbers. Not to be left in the shade team 166, entered the fray and produced measurements too. All numbers were brought together in a single document. These numbers, and the associated annotated drawings will give any cover manufacturer, a complete set of parameters for making a cover to fit any IDRA14. Beyond the numbers you will need to decide what material, what kind of fasteners, if your boom extends beyond your transom, the exact location of **your** trapeze wires.