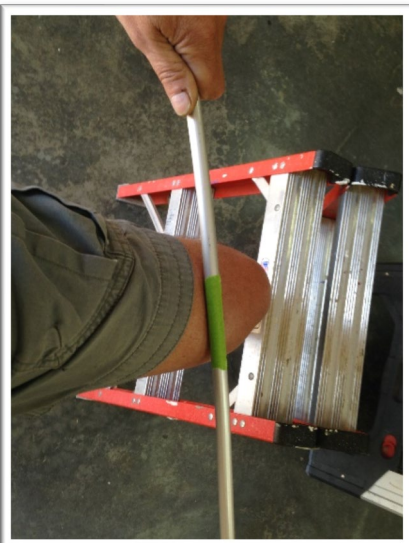
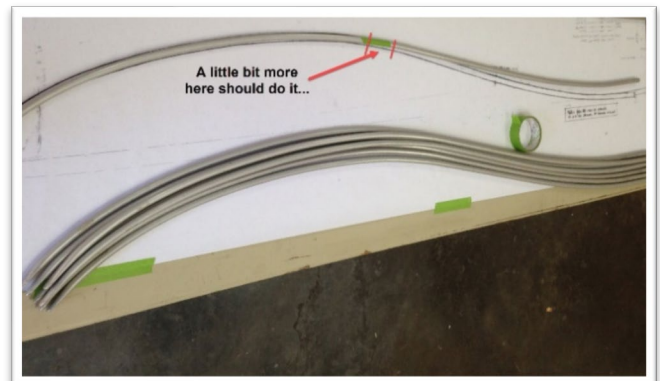
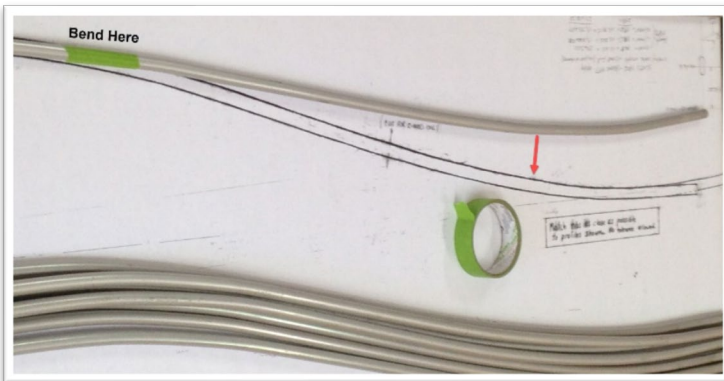
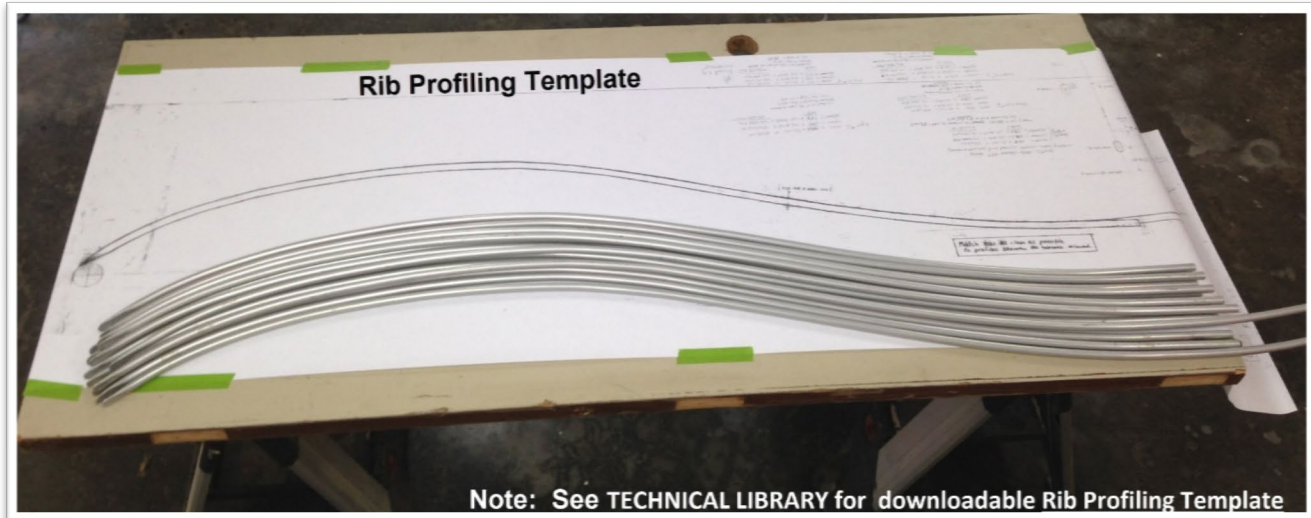




Rib Profiling Technique

by Chelan

It is **very important** to inspect and maintain your sail. It is, after all, what keeps us aloft. Cleaning and making necessary repairs are part of a normal maintenance routine. Just as importantly, though, is checking the profile of the ribs at least once a year as they may have lost a little bit of their intended shape.



Steps:

1. Lay the template out on a flat surface and use tape to secure the edges.
2. Pull some or all the ribs out of their pockets. Clean and inspect the ribs for kinks, burrs and sharp edges.
3. Lay the first rib along the profile in the template. In the example above, you can see that this rib has flattened out a bit and needs more of a bend in the mid-section to follow the template.
4. To bend the rib tube as needed, you could use a small tire, make a jig out of plywood, or simply roll the tube over your thigh, right above the knee with your hands, applying downward pressure as you roll the area to bend across your leg (a human English Wheel). It's better to sneak up on the correct shape rather than trying to bend the profile all at once. It doesn't take long to catch on.
4. Take your time and check your progress against the template after each adjustment. Make all the adjustments in the same plane so the rib lays flat

when placed atop the template.