



Teaching Better Boat Handling Using Springs

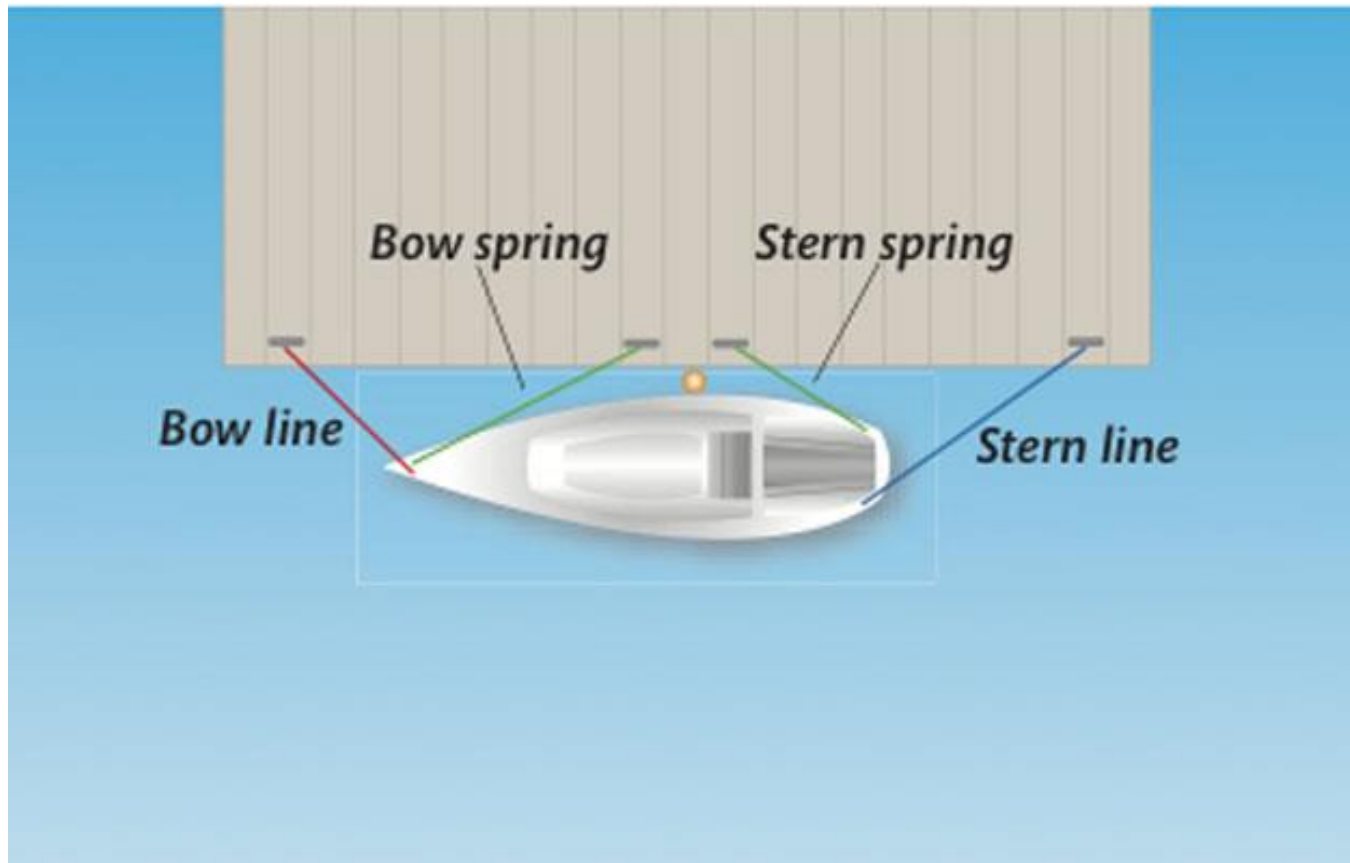
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What we are going to cover

- What are springs and how they work,
 - Springing on
 - Springing off
 - Single handed techniques
- How and when can we include them in a Helmsman course
- Giving these sessions structure to maximise results?
- Questions

You don't need a bow thruster to gracefully bring your boat alongside or to leave a mooring effortlessly, you just need to master the use of spring lines.

Some Terminology



Springing on (with crew)

- Approach mooring at about 35 degrees
- Stop the boat (check with transits) with the bow just clear from bank
- Crew member steps ashore with bow line and places a turn around a bollard towards the centre of the boat.
- When line is secure give clear signal to helm to commence next stage

- Helm places the boat in to forward gear (tick over) with tiller straight
- Once water flow over rudder is established push the tiller towards the bank
- As the stern gets close to the bank start to straighten up your tiller to slow the turn
- Once the boat is alongside place the boat in to neutral
- Helm step ashore with stern line and make fast
- Crew to move bow line forward and make fast



Springing on (Single handed)

- Bring the stern on to the back
- When boat is stopped place the centre line around a bollard towards the stern of the boat step back on-board with centre line
- With the tiller straight put the engine in to gear (tick over)
- Once water flow is established push the tiller away from the bank, you may need to pay out the centre line as stern moves away from bank

- Once the boat is parallel with the bank straighten the tiller
- The boat will now glide sideways in to the bank
- When alongside engage neutral
- Step ashore with the centre line and make fast the stern line
- Taking the centre line with you go and secure the bow line

Springing off

- Complete the usual pre departure checks
- Release the bow line and untie the stern line but keep a turn on the bollard
- Keeping your tiller straight place the engine in reverse (tick over)
- Watch the bow move away from the bank
- Once clear place engine in neutral release stern line
- Move away from bank as normal



How and when can we include them in a Helmsman course?

- These techniques can be introduced from the start of the course, why not spring off as your first demo?
- Springing on with crew can be your main method for mooring, it allows a high success rate allowing students to then confidently try other more challenging techniques
- Students could be tasked with mooring single handed if all crew are busy operating a lock, this is a realistic situation on the canals

Giving these sessions structure to
maximise results?

E.D.I.C.T.S

- Explain – How, What, Why, Where using VARK
- Demonstrate – Clear and concise
- Imitate – Trial and error is one of the best ways of learning as long as safe
- Correction – Feedback on how they did
- Try again – Opportunity to improve
- Summary – Key points and relevant feedback

V.A.R.K

- Visual *“I see what you mean”*
- Auditory *“I hear what you say”*
- Reading/Reflectors *“Have you got a hand out?”*
- Kinaesthetic *“Be quite and give me a go!”*

Summary

Questions?