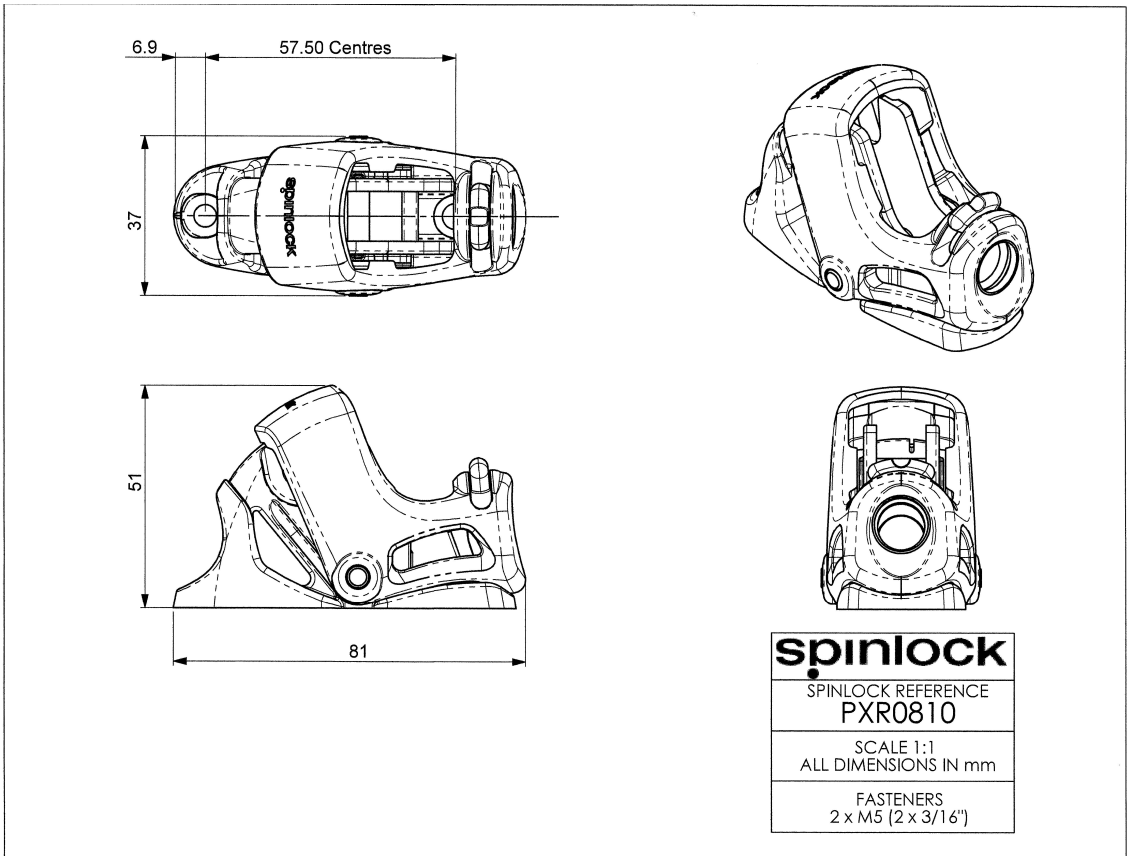
Replacing the Headsail Furling Cleat – submitted by Bill Templeton C350 #333 *Makani Kai*

I found the original "horned" cleat mounted on the starboard side cabin top for the headsail furling line to be awkward and even dangerous to release when under load. Cam cleats with their square or diamond shaped bases would not fit comfortably in the space and rope clutches still had the challenge of how to release them under pressure if they did not lead fair to the winch. I finally located a cam cleat by Spinlock (PXR0810) that solved these problems and even added greater flexibility using the furling/reefing system. The base of the Spinlock unit is relatively narrow in a fore-and-aft orientation and fit the space available. The fasteners are "inline" like the original cleat …. although only the forward screw hole could be reused. I "filled" the unused (aft) screw hole with a panhead ss self tapping screw and a little sealant…. Then "swung" the Spinlock base slightly to port to clear the "filler" screw and finished attaching the Spinlock with another self tapping screw. This placement, plus an adjustable fairlead built into the Spinlock, minimizes friction when directing the furling line to the winch. The cam can be engaged/disengaged in a typical manner using the built in lever. An additional advantage of the Spinlock over a rope clutch is that the cam can be engaged/disengaged with a quick jerk of the furling line down or up….**even from the helm!** This relatively minor add-on (only one new screw hole in the boat) fits clearly into the "why didn't I do it a long time ago" category…..it has greatly improved my wife's and my ability to set/reef/furl the headsail.




HARKEN

