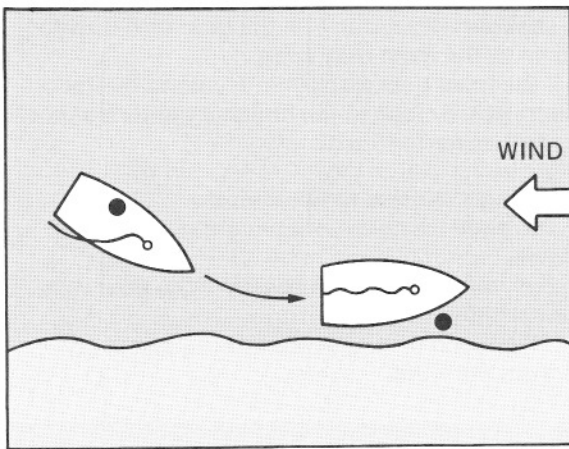# 14 Landing

You can do a good deal of damage to the boat (and even to yourself) by landing badly. The way you land will depend on the direction of the wind, but two points always apply:

- Undo the rudder downhaul and the centreboard shockcord in good time.
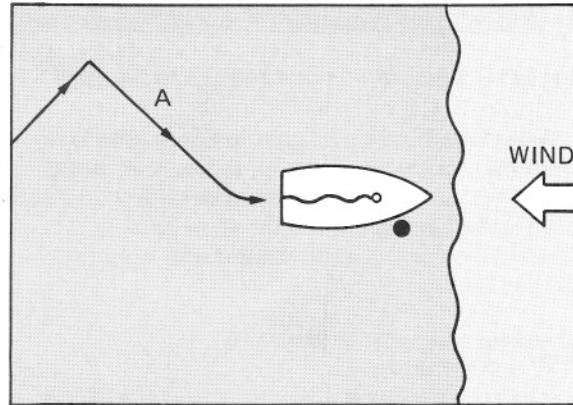
- Push up the self bailer.

Landing with the wind along the shore
This is the easiest wind direction for landing.

1 Sail slowly towards the shore. Control the boat's speed with the mainsheet, letting it out as you approach to slow the boat down.

2 At the last minute, take out the centreboard and turn into the wind.

3 Step into the water on the shore side of the boat, holding it as near the bow as you can.

4 Make sure the mainsheet is free. Slacken the kicking strap (vang).

5 If you are on a sandy shore, leave the boat aground while you get your trolley. If there are rocks, ask someone else to get your trolley for you while you hold the boat.
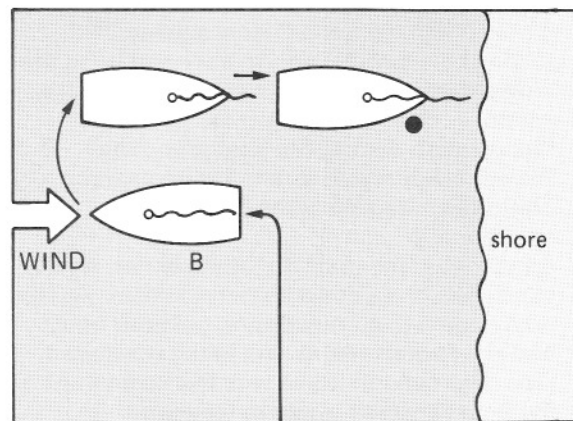
Landing with an offshore wind
Beat in towards the shore. On the approach leg (A in the diagram) control the speed with the mainsheet. At the last moment take out the

centreboard, turn the boat into the wind and step into the water as near the bow as you can. Then proceed as above.

Landing with an onshore wind.
This is the most difficult direction for landing, because the wind is pushing you onshore fast.

Landing in big waves and an onshore wind

The method described above won't work in very large waves, because of the danger that a wave may roll the boat over. Use the following technique instead.

1 While well offshore, undo the rudder downhaul and push it into the cleat. The rudder blade will come up when it hits the beach. Don't pull up the blade – you need all the control you can get. Pull the centreboard three-quarters up.

2 As you get near the beach, choose the smallest wave you can find and surf full speed on it towards the beach. Keep the bow pointing straight at the shore. Sit well back to let the bow ride up the beach. As the boat grounds, jump out and drag the boat up the beach. Don't get to leeward of the boat or a wave may push it into you with painful results.

Landing at a jetty

Sail toward the jetty slowly, controlling your speed with the mainsheet. Turn into the wind at the last moment.

If the 'ideal' position (C in the diagram) is occupied, follow course D. As the boat turns into the wind, go forward (by heeling the boat and slipping round the mast) and grab the jetty. You can crouch on the foredeck while you tie up.

Above: Landing in an onshore wind with the knot in the mainsheet untied.

Unless the waves are very big, land as follows:

1 Sail parallel to the shore, about 30 metres out.

2 Turn into the wind (B in the diagram) and unclip the mainsheet and traveller blocks. If your blocks are taped together, undo the knot in either end of the mainsheet.

3 Point the boat towards the shore and let it drift in. The sail will blow forwards; the wind pressure on the mast is all that is pushing the boat ashore. If you are still going too fast trail a leg in the water as a brake.

4 At the last minute, take out the centreboard and step into the water.

Landing in very shallow water

Come in slowly. Lift up the rudder blade in good time and step into the water early.