

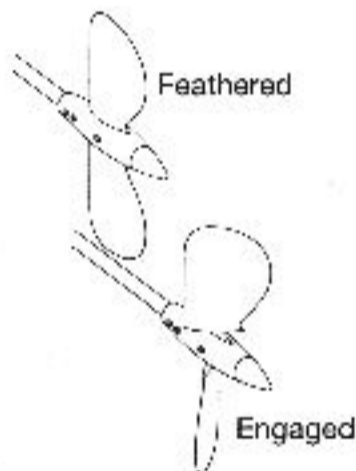
Mastering The Tight Turn

Turning your boat under power in tight places requires the right technique

Turning in tight spaces, such as between moored boats or in a narrow marina fairway, requires a technique called "backing and filling." Prop walk becomes an asset in these situations. If your boat kicks its stern to port in reverse, you'll back and fill by turning the boat clockwise (bow to starboard). If the stern kicks to starboard, make the turn counterclockwise.

Feathering Propeller

A feathering propeller's blades align with the water flow when the engine is not in gear.



Folding Propeller

Folding-propeller water pressure keeps the blades folded when you're sailing. To assure that the blades open properly, shift to reverse first and then transition smoothly through neutral into forward gear.

Recommendations

Do use the prop walk to help turn the boat.

Don't forget that water must be flowing past the rudder for it to have any effect. The effect occurs faster in forward gear than in reverse.

Do test forward and reverse gears of the transmission before you need them.

Excerpted from *Bareboat Cruising*, copyright US SAILING 1996. Phone (401) 683-0800.

