

Don't fight with these strap buckles

This is a tiny project only but makes life a lot more convenient by a huge amount. Almost not worth writing something up for it. But sometimes the little things make the big difference!

While I was toying around with the [Rope Ratchet](#)[®] I use for the [Lazy-Up-Anchor](#) and did some spring setup work I made several trips to the boat and each time I didn't like the way the cover straps had to be opened, closed and tightened. First of all you have to wrap the straps around the trailer frame without twisting them. Then you have to fiddle them through these ladderlock buckles and tighten them. That works fine while the cover is brand new but in the AZ sun these buckles and straps age faster than one can tighten them and then the straps don't want to move any more in any direction in the buckle. In addition the ladderlock buckles turned from dark blue to a white surface which means the plastic lost its strength. Not good if they have to hold the cover in a strong wind.



While setting up the [Solar Powered Cover Vent System](#) it dawned on me: I didn't have enough Rope Ratchet[®] in my already large collection and I was definitely missing one size! Up into google searching for the best price on smaller sized ones as the cover doesn't need 3/8" ropes and they would be a bit large and expensive too. 1/8" would be sufficient in strength but I like things to be sturdy and decided that the 3/16" is the better choice. As I had only one 1/8" not already in use for something I had to order anyhow. Thanks to google I found a really good price for them at [Hardware and Tools](#). \$4.70 a piece including rope and hooks if one buys a dozen isn't bad and as I needed another \$10 product for my workshop I made it into the totally free shipping. Once you get used to the Rope Ratchet[®] you can never have enough of them! As suppliers sometimes run out of stock or increase prices you may have to look/google yourself.....



After they arrived and I went to the boat again I cut off the long end of the 1" straps but left the loop with the buckle and enough of the old strap to make a new loop from it in case the original one gets torn apart. The buckle was cut off by crushing the plastic with a heavy duty shear usually used for metal. Rope Ratchet[®] hooked into the loop, the other hook down under the trailer frame and up again. It's hook into the same loop at the cover and tightened. The rope was shortened to just have ~12-15" beyond the Rope Ratchet[®] and the end secured with a double overhand knot. Some of the excess rope makes good spares in case the used pieces are eaten by the sun.

Done and the time to secure the cover cut at least in half!! If the cover is due for replacement (usually every 3-4 years here) these Rope Ratchet's[®] will simply move to the new cover. Well invested \$57 and 2 left over for other things. And before you have suspicions: no, I am not related to them in any way nor do I have any advantage if they sell more. If you buy the competing [Progrip™ Rope Locks](#) it's just fine but they only have 1/8", 1/4" and 3/8" models. I just found the [Rope Ratchet's](#)[®] at a much lower price and for the previously used 3/8" size I liked their style better.



Now coming home tired from the lake storing the boat is a lot faster and more convenient!

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