



## Haul Away Joe



**Hugill, Stan: *Hauling on the Foresheet***  
from ***Shanties of the Seven Seas***, 1994.

### Notes

This is a tack and sheet, foresheet, short pull, sweating up, or possibly a halyard shanty (see below).  
Clearly it was popular!

See **David Coffin** performing the shorter version at [youtu.be/FMfZWfpusVk](https://youtu.be/FMfZWfpusVk), where he shows people how the hauling was done,

The longer version is sung on the [Portsmouth Shantymen](#) CD: ***Hangin' Round the Yard***,

Stan **Hugill**'s version gives 20 verses, then he mentions three more.

William Main **Doerflinger**, ***Songs of the Sailor and Lumberman***, revised 1990, says

Haul Away Joe was well liked for its cheery humour. Dick Maitland "never heard it used at anything but hauling aft the foresheet after reefing the foresail, when you needed a short pull and a hard one."

The pull came on the last word in the chorus, a word that was more grunted than sung, all the effort going into the drag on the rope.

Richard Runciman **Terry**, 1921, ***The Shanty Book, Sailor Shanties*** says it's a **foresheet** shanty (see illustration).

Capt W.B. **Whall** 1913, ***Ships, Sea songs and Shanties***, says it is used as a last **short pull** for sweating up.

Stan **Hugill**, 1994, ***Shanties from the Seven Seas***:

This is another famous **tack and sheet** shanty. I learnt much of my version from Paddy Griffiths, who told me it was used mainly for hauling aft the foresheet after reefing the foresail.

On account of the numerous couplets known to fit this shanty\* I am inclined to think that at some time or other it was used as a **halyard** song, since any sheet shanty employed at the most no more than three or four verses.

My friend T E Elwell told me that "pull" or "haul" was often song instead of "Joe" at the end of the refrain. It was on this word that the vigorous, concerted "drag" came.

With some crowds the word was not sung but grunted out staccato, with others the final note was given its full value followed by an upward groan of the voice as the pull came, i.e. "Joe-ugh!".