



TAB TALK

Lectrotab Trim Tab Updates

Issue 19, January 14, 2008

Export: In 2007, through GTC Worldwide, Lectrotab supplied 38 distributors in 30 countries with 46% of our total Lectrotab production. Sincere thanks, from all of us, to all of you, who have established our product, with boat builders, boatyards and individuals, worldwide. We have enjoyed building the Lectrotab product and will continue to supply a precision, quiet operating actuator, in and environmentally sound, no-oil design, with the reliability and power to do the job. And, our controls and tabs will continue to be the innovative and reliable products which we have always delivered in the past. Also, for 2008, we will offer a “Fisherman’s” version of the “Oval”, more later.

For the benefit of our U.S. boat builders who export, attached is the list of our current export accounts who can be called upon for service and parts whenever, and just about wherever, parts and service may be needed. Just let us know where your export dealers are and we will coordinate the arrangements for providing local Lectrotab product support.

Technical Observation: As is common practice, our standard trim tab configuration is a tab trailing from the transom, with the actuator sloped from the transom and attached to the tab at a point about two thirds of the way back from the hinge, toward the trailing edge. This configuration is good design in that it balances the upward force, which is exerted by the water on the bottom of the tab, at the actuator attachment point. This balance takes the entire load off of the hinge attachment point and puts all of this force on the actuator. This is what we want, but using our force formula, we do keep an eye on this number to keep it below 700 pounds. Also, this geometry distributes this upward force over 2 short spans, hinge to actuator attachment point, and then from there to the tab’s trailing edge. This reduced force and shorter span reduces the bending tendency to about one fourth. Look at it this way. If the actuator attachment point were moved aft, to the trailing edge of the tab, the total upward force on the tab is then supported, half by the hinge attachment and half by the actuator, but the whole upward force is applied against a span which now is twice as long. This results in the tab being 4 times more likely to bend in an upward bow. The above numbers are intended to paint a picture; to be absolutely correct would take too many pages. The lesson, however, is that if you need to deviate from our normal geometry, keep us posted so we can participate in the modification and, if appropriate, adjust our product to suit.

Thanks for the chat – We have enjoyed serving your trim tab needs through 2007 and look forward to this year. We are growing and we need your input to insure that the way we grow, suits your needs. Give us a call, toll free, 888-LECTROTAB (532-8768). Two rings and no buttons to push. Tab Talk is available via email, or by fax, or from our website, www.lectrotab.com.

Regards,

L. Jeremy Crews

President