



TAB TALK

Lectrotab Trim Tab Updates

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Reminder: In a normal trim tab installation, the actuator must be free to pivot a few degrees in both the upper and lower brackets. To accommodate this movement, the Lectrotab upper bracket has two “Ears”, which fit over the “Boss” at the top of the actuator. The attachment between the two is a round bolt which serves as the pivot point. The lower bracket is similar, but uses a pre-installed nylon pin as the pivot point. Both of these pivots move as the tab is deployed or retracted. The upper bracket bolt is supplied with a washer and a self locking nut. In the last paragraph, on page 7, of the Lectrotab installation instructions, we say “Tighten the upper bracket bolt until snug. Do not over-tighten”. Hey, this is a pivot point, and if the bolt is tight, the joint can’t pivot and something may break. Snug means “Sorta cozy” – Go easy!

Observation: Recently, I observed a trim tab installation where the tab was attached under the hull and parallel with the “V” bottom. So far so good, however, the pocket in the transom, which accommodates the actuator, was molded vertically. Now, when the actuator is installed in this vertical pocket, the actuator centerline will not be 90 degrees to the tab as we show in figure 4, on page 7 of our installation instructions. I asked why the pocket was molded vertically instead of at 90 degrees to the tab and the bottom of the boat, and the answer was that the pocket “looked better” vertical. Well, that may be, however, when the centerline of the actuator is not 90 degrees to the plane of the tab, a shim will be needed to mate the lower bracket to the “Sloped” tab. However, the shim approach is not good, since the angle to be shimmed changes as the tab moves up and down. A better solution is to turn the actuator ram (always turn it clockwise) until the bracket rests flat on the tab. To secure the bracket at the needed 10 degrees to 20 degrees of rotation, will require non-standard holes in the tab, but this “cocked” attachment will operate without binding. However, with that said, it’s still better to mold the actuator pocket 90 degrees to the tab and hull bottom because even though the “cocked” bracket will work ok, it doesn’t look the best.

Welcome: To Overton’s Marine Distributors; Lectrotab is featured prominently in the 2008, Overton’s catalog which was released this month. We at Lectrotab sincerely appreciate this opportunity and look forward to meeting and supporting Overton’s customers nationwide.

Thanks for the chat – 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