



MAILCALL

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July 16, 2004

We have recently been asked about new the QL trim tab system by Volvo. We don't know much at this point except to note that the QL approach is new and different and should in fact lift the stern of the boat. But, will the associated drag be acceptable? We see no reason for the QL system to do the job any better than we can, however, we can't say for sure without more information.

The QL system compares in claimed features to a Lectrotab system using the new "OVAL" control but the QL system needs an electronics box so right away it's more bulky. However, until we can examine the whole product, we can't comment much further. Except for one thing; the QL tab or "blade" is not a hinged tab on an angle, like we use, but instead, a vertical blade protruding straight down below the bottom surface of the hull. What happens when this hits something? My depth transducer sticks down also but it's on a pivot so when it gets whacked, it swings up. And it gets whacked with some regularity. Running aground with our pivoted tab is tough on the actuator but not usually fatal. But running aground with the QL system, with the "Blade" extending straight down about 1 1/2" below the hull, will probably leave nothing but the screw holes.

Keep us posted on what you hear and we'll do the same. We are particularly interested in pricing information.

More next week but let us hear from you in the meantime. Use mailcall@lectrotab.com for your reply. Our responses will continue to be very quick!

Best Regards,

L. Jeremy Crews
President