



TAB TALK

Email To All Lectrotab Users

August 1, 2006

Interesting Lectrotab Installation. Our New Zealand distributor, Marine Direct, has a customer who has installed 4 tabs on a good sized boat, 2 port and 2 starboard, instead of two big tabs, one on each side, and is using 4 switches for individual control over each tab. The 4 tabs, installed in pairs, port and starboard, provide a wide range of trim control as well as redundancy. The 4 switches, which are installed in a horizontal row, corresponding to the placement of each tab, are easy to understand and the installation is reportedly a nice working setup. More on this later.

“Oval” News. There are about 4000 single station “Oval” Lectrotab controls in service with multi-station installations increasing rapidly. But one error we see with multi-station installations, is installers doing it the hard way. Remember, install one Oval, just as you would a stand alone installation, and then add remotes, up to five, by first connecting nothing more than the communications cable to link them all together in parallel. Then connect 12 or 24 VDC power, fused at 1 amp from a local source, to points 1 and 2 on each remote to power up the microprocessor and the tab position LED’s. No connections are necessary for points 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7! And if you do go to the trouble to connect any of these points, the system won’t work. From Lectrotab, expect simplicity, based just on what the product needs to be, not on how complicated it could be. Have you read a marine G.P.S. manual lately? I have a new G.P.S.; and note that the unit itself is smaller and lighter than the manual!

New Tab Actuator. Attached are two drawings; one shows the current production 12” Lectrotab actuator, which is a drop in replacement for the long Bennett actuator, and the other shows our new, “short” actuator, which can be used to replace the short Bennett model. This new item will be introduced at IBEX in November and will be in production by early 2007. In the meantime, pre-production inventory is available for potential users to evaluate. The new short actuator has a 1 ½” stroke as opposed to the present actuator stroke of 2 ¼”. We are recommending the same lower bracket attachment position, which, with the 1 ½” stroke, will give the tab a 15° deflection as opposed to the 12” actuator’s 21° deflection. This geometry difference will be considered when we evaluate a given application. Also, the new actuator stroke time will be a bit under 5 ½ seconds when operating at no load, so we expect close to 6 seconds under load on faster boats. Our round, model TI-8 and TI-4 tab position indicators will not be appropriate to use with the short actuator since this indicator is available only for 4 or 8 second actuators. However, the new “Oval”, model SETR-50 / 51, is programmable from 4 to 12 seconds, in one second intervals, making 5 or 6 seconds available as appropriate. Both of the attached drawings are available via fax or mail or can be printed from the Lectrotab website under PRODUCTS.

Thanks for the chat – more next month. In the meantime, give us a call, toll free, 888-LECTROTAB (532-8768). Two rings and no buttons to push. Tab Talk is automatic via email, or by fax or mail on request, or from our website, www.lectrotab.com.

Regards,
L. Jeremy Crews, President