



TAB TALK

Lectrotab Trim Tab Updates

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Why Trim Tabs? I Have Engine Trim! We can answer that question for you! First, every planning vessel has an optimum trim angle at which the vessel makes its best speed for a given amount of power. And two, a planning boat's propeller delivers its best boat pushing power when the propeller is operating in a plane perpendicular to the surface of the water in which the boat is running (prop shaft and prop thrust parallel to the surface). **Consideration:** Almost all outboard engines include the "Trim" or "Tilt" function. This is a mechanism which pivots the engine to change the angle between the propeller and the surface of the water. So, how is this feature used? Our observation is that many boaters use engine trim, while on plane, to reduce trim angle (lower the bow) for better speed. While this approach does work, it is not usually the most efficient approach. Trimming the engine to lower the bow requires the prop thrust to be directed downward, away from parallel with the water's surface. This divides the prop thrust, using some of the thrust to push the stern upward (and the bow down) leaving a reduced amount of thrust to propel the boat forward. This approach to "Trimming" only sometimes results in an increase in boat speed.

Conclusion: While engine trim may help, engine trim along with trim tabs will always be more helpful. On plane, use the tabs to optimize the trim angle for best speed. Then use engine trim to optimize prop position (prop shaft parallel to the water) so that all of the engine's thrust is utilized to propel the boat forward for even more speed, and the best overall result. And by the way, in further support of trim tabs, I might add that when the 300 pound gorilla decides to sit on the gunwale, and you don't want to risk ordering him, or her, to move, the trim switch on the engine won't fix it; but the tab switch will.

Welcome: To Admiral Group in Moscow, Russia, our newest and 41st Lectrotab export distributor. Admiral Group's president is Yuri Kantsen who has a diversified operation including new boat sales, brokerage, boating accessories, including Lectrotab exclusively, full service marina operations and yacht repair as well as restaurants, hotel accommodations and a wide variety of entertainment water sports. If anyone has a Lectrotab question in Moscow, it's a local call. We appreciate this opportunity and look forward to Lectrotab's success in Russia.

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,

Jeremy
President