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### Motorguide 3005.0173

# Motorguide FW46 FB Gator Flex 360 Degree Trolling Motor, 50-Inch

## USER MANUAL

### INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective operation, installation, and maintenance of your Motorguide FW46 FB Gator Flex 360 Degree Trolling Motor, 50-Inch. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the product to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

The Motorguide Freshwater Edition trolling motors are designed for durability and versatility, excelling in various freshwater fishing applications. They offer superior response, silent and efficient operation, and ease of use, suitable for both bow and transom mounting with hand or foot control options.

### SAFETY INFORMATION

Always observe the following safety precautions to prevent injury or damage:

- Read and understand all instructions before operating the motor.
- Ensure the motor is securely mounted to the boat before use.
- Disconnect power to the motor before performing any maintenance, propeller changes, or when the motor is not in use.
- Keep hands, feet, and clothing clear of the propeller, especially when the motor is running.
- Do not operate the motor in areas where weeds or debris could foul the propeller.
- Use appropriate personal flotation devices when on the water.
- Ensure proper ventilation when charging batteries.

### SETUP AND INSTALLATION

The Motorguide FW46 FB trolling motor can be mounted on either the bow or transom of your boat. Ensure the mounting surface is strong enough to support the motor's weight and thrust.

## Mounting the Motor

For bow mounting, position the motor so that the shaft can be fully deployed into the water without obstruction and the foot pedal is accessible. For transom mounting, ensure the clamp is securely fastened to the transom.

1. Unpack all components and verify against the packing list.
2. Position the motor on the desired mounting location. Mark and drill pilot holes if necessary for permanent bow mount installation.
3. Secure the motor using appropriate marine-grade fasteners. Ensure the mount is stable and does not wobble.
4. Connect the foot pedal control cable to the motor's control port.



Figure 1: Overview of the Motorguide FW46 FB Trolling Motor components, including the main unit, shaft, and foot pedal control.

## Electrical Connection

The FW46 FB motor operates on a 12-volt DC power supply. Use a deep cycle marine battery for best performance. Ensure all connections are clean, tight, and properly insulated.

- Connect the positive (+) lead from the motor to the positive (+) terminal of the 12-volt battery.
- Connect the negative (-) lead from the motor to the negative (-) terminal of the 12-volt battery.
- It is recommended to install an appropriate circuit breaker or fuse (not included) in the positive lead, close to the battery, to protect the system.



Figure 2: The MotorGuide FW46 FB Trolling Motor in an upright, deployed position, showing the main unit, shaft, and foot pedal.

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Your Motorguide FW46 FB trolling motor is designed for intuitive operation, providing precise control over your boat's movement.

### Deploying the Motor

1. Ensure the motor is securely mounted and the power leads are connected to the battery.
2. Release the motor from its stowed position by disengaging any locking mechanisms.
3. Carefully lower the motor shaft until the propeller is fully submerged in the water.
4. Engage any depth collar or locking pin to set the desired operating depth.

### Using the Foot Pedal Control

The foot pedal provides hands-free control of steering and speed.

- **Steering:** Press the left side of the pedal to turn left, and the right side to turn right.
- **Speed Control:** The motor features 5-speed technology. Use the rotary dial or lever on the foot pedal to select the desired speed setting (1-5). Speed 1 is the slowest, and Speed 5 provides maximum thrust.
- **Momentary/Constant On:** The foot pedal typically has a switch to toggle between momentary (motor runs only while pedal is pressed) and constant-on modes. Refer to your specific pedal's markings.



Figure 3: Front view of the MotorGuide FW46 FB Trolling Motor, highlighting the main control head and shaft.

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Motorguide trolling motor.

## After Each Use

- Rinse the motor unit, especially the lower unit and propeller, with fresh water to remove salt, dirt, and debris.
- Inspect the propeller for any fishing line, weeds, or damage. Remove any obstructions.
- Check all electrical connections for corrosion or looseness. Clean and tighten as needed.

## Propeller Inspection and Replacement

Periodically inspect the propeller for nicks, cracks, or bending. A damaged propeller can reduce efficiency and cause vibration.

1. **Disconnect power to the motor before handling the propeller.**
2. Remove the propeller nut and washer.
3. Slide the old propeller off the shaft. Note the position of any shear pins or drive pins.
4. Clean any debris from the shaft.
5. Align the new propeller with the drive pin (if applicable) and slide it onto the shaft.
6. Reinstall the washer and propeller nut, tightening securely but do not overtighten.



Figure 4: Detailed view of the Motorguide FW46 FB Trolling Motor's lower unit and propeller, essential for maintenance checks.

## Battery Care

- Keep battery terminals clean and free of corrosion.
- Charge your deep cycle marine battery after each use to prolong its lifespan.
- Store batteries in a cool, dry place when not in use.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

This section provides solutions to common issues you might encounter with your trolling motor.

| Problem                         | Possible Cause   | Solution   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Motor does not run.             | No power to motor; loose electrical connections; dead battery; tripped circuit breaker/fuse. | Check battery connections; ensure battery is charged; reset circuit breaker or replace fuse; verify foot pedal is connected and in correct mode. |
| Low thrust or weak performance. | Low battery charge; fouled propeller; damaged propeller; incorrect speed setting.            | Recharge battery; clear propeller of weeds/line; inspect and replace damaged propeller; increase speed setting on foot pedal.                    |
| Excessive vibration.            | Bent or damaged propeller; debris on propeller; loose mounting.                              | Inspect and replace propeller if damaged; remove debris; tighten mounting bolts.   |
| Steering unresponsive.          | Foot pedal cable disconnected or damaged; steering mechanism jammed.                         | Check foot pedal cable connection; inspect steering mechanism for obstructions.  |

If you encounter issues not listed here or if the suggested solutions do not resolve the problem, please contact Motorguide customer support or a certified service technician.

## SPECIFICATIONS

| Property        | Value                    |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Model Number    | 3005.0173                |
| Thrust          | 46 pounds                |
| Voltage         | 12 Volts                 |
| Shaft Length    | 50 Inches                |
| Speed Settings  | 5-speed technology       |
| Operation Mode  | Automatic                |
| Mounting Type   | Bow Mount, Transom Mount |
| Recommended Use | For Fresh Water          |

| Property             | Value               |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Item Weight          | 22.2 kg (49 Pounds) |
| Colour               | Black               |
| Material             | Acrylic             |
| Manufacturer         | Motorguide          |
| Date First Available | Nov. 8 2010         |

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Motorguide products are built to high standards and are backed by a manufacturer's warranty. Specific warranty terms and conditions are typically provided with your product at the time of purchase or can be found on the official Motorguide website.

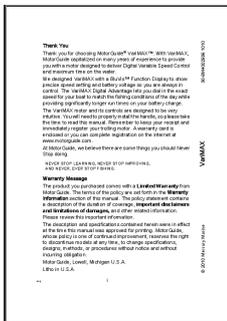
For technical assistance, warranty claims, or to locate an authorized service center, please visit the official Motorguide website or contact their customer support directly. Have your product model number (3005.0173) and purchase information ready when contacting support.

**Motorguide Official Website:** [www.motorguide.com](http://www.motorguide.com)

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## Related Documents - 3005.0173

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|---|--|
|  | <p><a href="#">MotorGuide Wireless Edition Trolling Motor User Manual</a></p> <p>User manual for the MotorGuide Wireless Edition trolling motor, covering installation, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting for optimal boat positioning and fishing performance. Includes FCC/IC compliance and warranty information.</p>   |
|  | <p><a href="#">MotorGuide 2014 Spring Rebate Program: Instructions and Eligible Models</a></p> <p>Complete guide and mailing form for the MotorGuide 2014 Spring Rebate Program, valid from January 6 to April 30, 2014. Includes required materials, submission address, and a list of eligible MotorGuide trolling motor models with rebate amounts.</p>                         |
|  | <p><a href="#">MotorGuide Pinpoint Gateway Setup and Xi5 Motor Upgrade Instructions</a></p> <p>Comprehensive setup instructions for the MotorGuide Pinpoint Gateway, including a detailed guide for upgrading the Xi5 trolling motor software to ensure compatibility with the Lowrance SmartSteer interface. Learn how to connect your system and troubleshoot common issues.</p> |



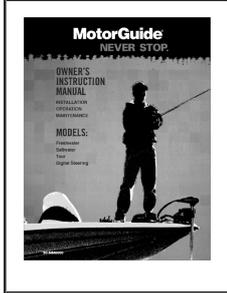
[MotorGuide VariMAX Trolling Motor User Manual](#)

User manual for the MotorGuide VariMAX trolling motor, detailing features like Digital Variable Speed Control and BluVis display, alongside installation, operation, maintenance, and warranty information. Learn to optimize your fishing experience with MotorGuide.



[MotorGuide VariMAX Trolling Motor Owner's Manual - Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Guide](#)

Comprehensive owner's manual for the MotorGuide VariMAX trolling motor, covering installation, operation, maintenance, warranty, and safety. Features Digital Variable Speed Control and BluVis display. Visit [www.motorguide.com](http://www.motorguide.com) for support.



[MotorGuide Trolling Motor Owner's Instruction Manual: Installation, Operation, and Maintenance](#)

Comprehensive owner's instruction manual for MotorGuide trolling motors, covering installation, operation, maintenance, troubleshooting, and warranty information. Essential guide for boaters.