

## SOLAS 9573-153-20

# SOLAS Rubex L4 Stainless Steel Interchangeable Hub Propeller Instruction Manual

Model: 9573-153-20

## 1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The SOLAS Rubex L4 is a high-performance, four-blade stainless steel propeller designed for marine applications. It features an interchangeable hub system, making it compatible with various engine types that utilize Flo-Torq and Vortex hub systems. This propeller is engineered to provide a balance of high-speed performance and excellent fuel economy, particularly beneficial for offshore boats and vessels requiring significant load-carrying capabilities due to its large diameter and blade area.

**Important Note:** The hub kit is not included with this propeller and must be purchased separately to ensure proper installation and function with your specific engine.

## 2. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Proper installation of your SOLAS Rubex L4 propeller is critical for safe and efficient operation. Always refer to your engine's owner's manual for specific propeller installation instructions and safety precautions. Ensure the engine is turned off and the battery is disconnected before beginning any work on the propeller.

### 2.1 Components

The Rubex L4 propeller system consists of the propeller body and a separate interchangeable hub kit. The image below illustrates the typical components involved in a propeller assembly, including the propeller, thrust washer, hub kit, washer, castle nut, and cotter pin.



**Figure 1:** Exploded view showing the individual components of a typical propeller assembly. From left to right: thrust washer, hub kit (black cylinder with yellow splines), the stainless steel propeller, a brass splined washer, a metal retainer, and a brass castle nut.

### 2.2 Installation Procedure (General Guidelines)

- Safety First:** Ensure the engine is off, the ignition key is removed, and the battery is disconnected to prevent accidental starting. Place a block of wood between the propeller blade and the anti-ventilation plate to prevent the

propeller from turning during nut removal/tightening.

2. **Remove Old Propeller (if applicable):** Remove the cotter pin, castle nut, and any washers. Carefully slide the old propeller off the propeller shaft.
3. **Inspect Shaft:** Clean the propeller shaft and inspect it for any damage or corrosion. Apply marine-grade grease to the shaft splines.
4. **Install Thrust Washer:** Slide the forward thrust washer onto the propeller shaft.
5. **Install Hub Kit:** Insert the appropriate SOLAS Rubex hub kit (purchased separately) into the center of the Rubex L4 propeller. Ensure it seats correctly.
6. **Install Propeller:** Slide the assembled propeller and hub kit onto the propeller shaft, ensuring the splines align.
7. **Install Aft Washer and Castle Nut:** Place the aft washer onto the shaft, followed by the castle nut. Tighten the castle nut to the torque specified in your engine's service manual.
8. **Secure with Cotter Pin:** Align the castle nut with the hole in the propeller shaft and insert a new cotter pin. Bend the ends of the cotter pin to secure it.
9. **Final Check:** Rotate the propeller by hand to ensure it spins freely without obstruction.

If you are unsure about any step, consult a qualified marine technician.

### 3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

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Once installed, the SOLAS Rubex L4 propeller is designed for reliable performance. Observe the following general operating guidelines:

- **Initial Run:** During the first few hours of operation, periodically check the propeller nut for tightness.
- **Avoid Obstructions:** Exercise caution in shallow waters and areas with known debris to prevent propeller damage.
- **Trim Adjustment:** Experiment with engine trim settings to optimize boat performance, speed, and fuel efficiency. The Rubex L4's design allows for efficient operation across a range of trim angles.
- **Vibration Monitoring:** Pay attention to any unusual vibrations or noises, which could indicate propeller damage or an issue with the hub kit.

### 4. MAINTENANCE

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Regular maintenance will extend the life and maintain the performance of your SOLAS Rubex L4 propeller.

- **Regular Inspection:** Periodically inspect the propeller for signs of damage such as bent blades, nicks, or corrosion. Even minor damage can lead to vibrations and reduced performance.
- **Cleaning:** After use, especially in saltwater, rinse the propeller with fresh water to remove salt and marine growth.
- **Hub Kit Check:** Annually, or if vibrations occur, remove the propeller and inspect the hub kit for wear or damage. Replace the hub kit if necessary.
- **Storage:** If storing the boat for an extended period, clean and inspect the propeller. Consider removing it for safekeeping if the boat is stored out of water.

### 5. TROUBLESHOOTING

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This section addresses common issues that may arise with marine propellers.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
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Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Excessive Vibration	Damaged propeller blade, worn or damaged hub kit, bent propeller shaft, marine growth.	Inspect propeller for damage; replace if necessary. Check and replace hub kit. Inspect propeller shaft. Clean propeller.
Reduced Top Speed/Performance	Damaged propeller, incorrect propeller pitch, engine issues, hull fouling.	Inspect propeller for damage. Consult a marine technician to verify propeller pitch suitability. Check engine performance. Clean boat hull.
Engine Over-revving (RPM too high)	Propeller pitch too low, propeller cavitation, hub kit slipping.	Consider a propeller with a higher pitch. Check for propeller damage or ventilation issues. Inspect and replace hub kit if slipping.
Engine Under-revving (RPM too low)	Propeller pitch too high, engine overloaded.	Consider a propeller with a lower pitch. Reduce boat load.

For persistent issues or complex repairs, it is recommended to consult a certified marine mechanic.

## 6. SPECIFICATIONS

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The following specifications apply to the SOLAS Rubex L4 Stainless Steel Propeller (Model 9573-153-20):

- **Model Number:** 9573-153-20
- **Material:** Stainless Steel
- **Number of Blades:** 4
- **Diameter x Pitch:** 15 x 19.7 inches
- **Hub System:** Interchangeable (compatible with Flo-Torq and Vortex systems - hub kit sold separately)
- **Product Dimensions:** 12 x 12 x 6 inches
- **Item Weight:** 5 pounds
- **ASIN:** B00IO5P4DQ
- **Date First Available:** February 26, 2014

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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For information regarding warranty coverage, claims, or technical support for your SOLAS Rubex L4 propeller, please contact SOLAS directly or the authorized dealer from whom the product was purchased. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty purposes.

Contact information can typically be found on the manufacturer's official website or through your product documentation.

