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› Bennett Marine BOLT1812 Trim Tab System - 18" x 12" Instruction Manual

Bennett Marine BOLT1812

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INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your Bennett Marine BOLT1812 Trim Tab System. The BOLT system is an electric trim tab solution designed to enhance the performance and stability of your vessel. It features robust, water-tight components engineered for the harsh marine environment.

The Bennett BOLT1812 system includes 18" x 12" trim tab planes and durable black nylon actuators. These components work together to allow precise adjustment of your boat's running attitude, improving planing, correcting listing, and optimizing fuel efficiency.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

The Bennett BOLT Trim Tab System is designed for straightforward installation. While the process is generally simple, careful measurement and attention to detail are crucial for optimal performance. The system utilizes electric actuators, eliminating the need for hydraulic lines and fluids, which simplifies the installation process.

Components Overview



This image displays the Bennett Marine BOLT Trim Tab System, featuring an 18x12 inch trim tab with its robust black nylon actuator. The system is designed for marine environments to enhance boat stability and performance.

General Installation Steps

1. **Planning and Placement:** Carefully determine the optimal mounting location for the trim tabs on the transom. Proper placement is critical for effective operation. Consider factors such as hull shape, propeller clearance, and proximity to other underwater fittings.
2. **Mounting the Trim Tabs:** Securely attach the trim tab planes to the transom using appropriate marine-grade fasteners. Ensure a watertight seal around all mounting points.
3. **Installing Actuators:** Mount the robust black nylon actuators to the trim tabs and the transom. These actuators are designed to be water-tight, protecting internal wires and seals from the marine environment.
4. **Wiring:** Route the electrical wiring from the actuators to the control switch (sold separately) and the boat's power supply. Ensure all connections are secure, properly insulated, and protected from moisture. Follow all applicable marine electrical standards.
5. **Control Switch Installation:** Install the trim tab control switch in an accessible location at the helm. Note that the

control switch is typically purchased separately and may offer various features, including digital indicators for tab position.

6. **Testing:** After installation, perform a thorough test of the system to ensure proper function of both trim tabs and actuators. Verify that the tabs move smoothly through their full range of motion.

For detailed, step-by-step instructions specific to your boat's configuration, refer to the comprehensive installation guide provided with your control switch or consult a qualified marine technician.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Bennett BOLT Trim Tab System allows you to fine-tune your boat's running attitude for improved performance, comfort, and safety. The system responds quickly to adjustments, so small, precise inputs are recommended.

Basic Operation

- **Control Switch:** The trim tabs are operated via a control switch, typically located at the helm. This switch allows you to move the tabs up or down, either individually or simultaneously.
- **Adjusting Boat Attitude (Bow Up/Down):**
 - To lower the bow (reduce porpoising, improve visibility, or get on plane faster), press the 'Down' button for both tabs.
 - To raise the bow (increase speed, reduce wetted surface), press the 'Up' button for both tabs.
- **Correcting List (Side-to-Side Trim):**
 - If the boat is listing to the port side, lower the starboard trim tab.
 - If the boat is listing to the starboard side, lower the port trim tab.
- **Small Adjustments:** Due to the rapid response of the BOLT system, make adjustments in short, one-second taps rather than holding the switch down. This prevents over-correction and allows for smoother trim adjustments.
- **Auto Retract Feature:** The BOLT system includes an auto-retract feature. When the ignition is turned off, the trim tabs will automatically retract to their full 'up' position, protecting them from damage during trailering or docking.

Experiment with small adjustments in various sea conditions and speeds to understand how your boat responds and to find the optimal trim settings for different situations.

MAINTENANCE

The Bennett BOLT Trim Tab System is designed for minimal maintenance, thanks to its robust construction and protected components. Regular inspection and basic care will ensure long-term reliability.

Recommended Maintenance Schedule

- **Before Each Use:** Visually inspect the trim tabs and actuators for any signs of damage, corrosion, or marine growth. Ensure the tabs move freely.
- **Monthly / After Extended Use:**
 - Clean the trim tabs and actuators to remove any marine growth, salt residue, or debris. Use a mild soap and fresh water.
 - Check all electrical connections for corrosion or looseness. Ensure the wiring is securely routed and protected.
 - Verify the integrity of the actuator seals. The robust water-tight design minimizes issues, but a visual check is always recommended.
- **Annually:** Consider a more thorough inspection of the entire system, including mounting hardware and electrical

components, by a qualified marine technician.

Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners on the trim tabs or actuators, as these can damage the finish or seals.

TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Bennett BOLT Trim Tab System. For complex problems, it is recommended to consult a qualified marine technician.

Common Issues and Solutions

- **Trim Tabs Not Responding:**
 - **Check Power:** Ensure the boat's battery has sufficient charge and that the main power switch for the trim tab system is on.
 - **Check Fuses/Circuit Breakers:** Locate and inspect the fuse or circuit breaker protecting the trim tab system. Replace if blown or reset if tripped.
 - **Inspect Wiring:** Look for any loose, corroded, or damaged electrical connections between the control switch, actuators, and power source.
 - **Control Switch Malfunction:** If only one tab is unresponsive, the issue might be with the control switch or the wiring to that specific actuator.
- **One Trim Tab Not Moving:**
 - **Actuator Inspection:** Visually inspect the unresponsive actuator for any physical damage or obstructions that might prevent movement.
 - **Wiring to Actuator:** Check the electrical connection specifically to the non-moving actuator.
- **Tabs Move Slowly or Jerkily:**
 - **Low Voltage:** Ensure the boat's electrical system is providing adequate voltage to the trim tab system.
 - **Obstructions:** Check for marine growth or debris impeding the movement of the trim tabs or actuators.
- **Boat Still Lists or Does Not Plane Properly:**
 - **Tab Placement:** Verify that the trim tabs are correctly installed and positioned according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Incorrect placement can hinder effectiveness.
 - **Load Distribution:** Ensure the boat's load (passengers, gear, fuel) is evenly distributed. Trim tabs can compensate for minor imbalances but cannot overcome significant weight distribution issues.
 - **Actuator Function:** Confirm both actuators are extending and retracting fully and evenly.

Always disconnect power to the trim tab system before performing any inspection or maintenance to prevent accidental operation.

SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Detail
Model Number	BOLT1812
System Size	18 inches x 12 inches
Lift Type	Electric
Actuator Type	Robust water-tight black nylon

Specification	Detail
Item Weight	Approximately 25 pounds
Product Dimensions (Overall)	Approximately 25 x 15 x 5 inches
Fit Type	Universal Fit
Manufacturer Part Number	BOLT1812

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For specific warranty information regarding your Bennett Marine BOLT1812 Trim Tab System, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Bennett Marine website. Warranty terms typically cover manufacturing defects and material failures under normal use.

If you require technical assistance, have questions about your product, or need to inquire about warranty claims, please contact Bennett Marine customer support directly. Contact information can usually be found on their official website or in your product packaging.

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