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MAXWELL RC88CAP12V

Maxwell RC8-8 Windlass w/Capstan 12V User Manual

Model: RC88CAP12V

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe installation, operation, and maintenance of your Maxwell RC8-8 Windlass with Capstan. Please read these instructions thoroughly before attempting to install or operate the unit. Proper installation and maintenance are crucial for optimal performance and longevity of the windlass.



Image: The Maxwell RC8-8 Windlass unit, featuring the main motor housing and the capstan drum. This image illustrates the general appearance of the product.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- Always disconnect power to the windlass before performing any maintenance or inspection.
- Keep hands, feet, and clothing clear of moving parts, especially the chain gypsy and capstan, during operation.
- Never use the windlass to pull the boat or as a primary mooring device. It is designed for anchor retrieval and deployment.
- Ensure the anchor is properly secured in its stowed position before underway.
- Do not allow children or unauthorized personnel to operate the windlass.
- Always use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when working with the windlass.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

1. Mounting Location

Select a strong, flat area on the deck, typically at the bow, that can support the weight and forces exerted by the windlass during operation. Ensure adequate clearance below deck for the motor, gearbox, and chain locker. The chain should fall freely into the locker without piling up.

2. Electrical Connection

The Maxwell RC8-8 is a 12V DC unit. Connect the windlass to a dedicated battery bank or the main boat battery via a suitably sized circuit breaker or fuse. Refer to the manufacturer's wiring diagram (typically supplied with the product) for specific cable gauge requirements based on cable length and current draw. Ensure all connections are clean, tight, and protected from corrosion.

3. Chain and Rope Selection

This windlass is designed for 5/16" chain and 9/16" or 5/8" rope. Ensure your anchor rode (chain and rope combination) matches these specifications for proper operation. The chain should be spliced to the rope using a suitable splice that can pass smoothly through the gypsy.

4. Loading the Rode

Feed the anchor chain and rope into the chain locker, ensuring it is free of twists and kinks. Attach the anchor to the chain. Test the windlass operation with the anchor clear of the water to confirm correct chain/rope engagement and smooth operation.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Deploying the Anchor

- Ensure the boat is positioned correctly for anchoring.
- Release any anchor securing devices.
- Press the "DOWN" button on your control switch to lower the anchor. Monitor the chain counter (if installed) or the amount of rode deployed.
- Once the desired scope is achieved, stop the windlass.
- Allow the anchor to set.

2. Retrieving the Anchor

- Start the boat's engine to assist with retrieval and reduce strain on the windlass and electrical system.
- Slowly motor towards the anchor while pressing the "UP" button on your control switch. This reduces the load on the windlass.
- Continue retrieving until the anchor is clear of the seabed and secured in its stowed position.
- Engage any anchor securing devices.

3. Using the Capstan

The capstan can be used independently for hauling in auxiliary lines, such as mooring lines or dinghy davit lines. Wrap the line around the capstan drum 3-4 times, ensuring a firm grip. Apply tension to the free end of the line while operating the windlass motor to haul in the line. Always maintain control of the line to prevent slippage or injury.

MAINTENANCE

1. Regular Inspection

- Periodically inspect the windlass for signs of wear, corrosion, or damage.
- Check all mounting bolts for tightness.
- Inspect electrical connections for corrosion and ensure they are secure.
- Examine the chain gypsy and capstan for wear or damage.

2. Cleaning

Rinse the windlass with fresh water after each use, especially in saltwater environments, to remove salt residue and dirt. Avoid using high-pressure washers directly on seals or electrical components.

3. Lubrication

Refer to the specific Maxwell service manual for detailed lubrication requirements. Generally, the gearbox is sealed and requires no user maintenance. Moving parts exposed to the elements may benefit from a light application of marine-grade grease or lubricant, avoiding the gypsy and capstan friction surfaces.

4. Winterization

In cold climates, ensure the windlass is thoroughly cleaned and dried before winter storage. Disconnect power. If the boat is stored ashore, consider covering the windlass to protect it from the elements.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Windlass does not operate.	No power; tripped circuit breaker; faulty switch; loose wiring.	Check battery connections, circuit breaker/fuse, and control switch wiring. Ensure power is supplied.
Windlass operates slowly or with reduced power.	Low battery voltage; undersized wiring; excessive load; motor issue.	Check battery charge. Verify correct cable gauge. Reduce load on windlass. Consult a qualified technician if motor issues are suspected.
Chain/Rope jams or slips on gypsy.	Incorrect chain/rope size; worn gypsy; chain piling in locker; twisted rode.	Ensure rode matches specifications. Inspect gypsy for wear. Clear chain locker. Untwist rode.
Capstan slips.	Insufficient wraps on capstan; oily/greasy capstan surface; worn line.	Ensure 3-4 wraps. Clean capstan surface. Use a new, clean line.

If you encounter problems not listed here or if solutions do not resolve the issue, contact a qualified marine technician or Maxwell customer support.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	RC88CAP12V

Feature	Detail
Brand	MAXWELL
Voltage	12V DC
Chain Compatibility	5/16" (8mm)
Rope Compatibility	9/16" or 5/8" (14-16mm)
Item Package Dimensions (L x W x H)	19 x 17 x 11 inches
Item Dimensions (L x W x H)	19 x 17 x 11 inches
Item Weight	45.19 Pounds (approx. 20.5 kg)
Package Weight	42.8 Pounds (approx. 19.4 kg)
Material	Plastic (Note: This may refer to specific components or packaging. Main windlass body is typically marine-grade metal.)
Suggested Users	unisex-adult
Sport Type	Fishing

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Warranty Information

The Maxwell RC8-8 Windlass is covered by a manufacturer's warranty. For specific terms, conditions, and duration of the warranty, please refer to the official warranty documentation included with your product or visit the official Maxwell Marine website. Retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Customer Support

For technical assistance, spare parts, or service inquiries, please contact your authorized Maxwell dealer or visit the Maxwell Marine official website for contact information. When contacting support, please have your product model (RC88CAP12V) and serial number (if applicable) ready.

Official Maxwell Marine Website: www.maxwellmarine.com