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› Shakespeare VHF 8' QuickConnect™ 6dB f/QCM Series Mounts User Manual

Shakespeare QC-8-T

Shakespeare VHF 8' QuickConnect™ 6dB f/QCM Series Mounts User Manual

Model: QC-8-T

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your Shakespeare VHF 8' QuickConnect™ 6dB f/QCM Series Mounts antenna. Please read this manual thoroughly before installation and retain it for future reference.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Shakespeare VHF 8' QuickConnect™ 6dB antenna is a high-performance marine VHF antenna designed for reliable communication. It features the innovative QuickConnect system for easy installation and removal, and a Centerpin PL-259 Connector for secure attachment to your marine radio system. This antenna provides a 5 MHz bandwidth within 2.0:1 VSWR, ensuring clear and consistent signal transmission and reception.



Image showing the white Shakespeare VHF 8' QuickConnect™ 6dB antenna, featuring the QuickConnect base and a black tip. The antenna is approximately 8 feet in length and is made of durable fiberglass.

Key Features:

- **Fiberglass Construction:** Durable and robust design for marine environments.
- **QuickConnect™ System:** Allows for quick and easy antenna installation and removal from compatible mounts.
- **6dB Gain:** Provides enhanced signal strength and range for VHF communications.
- **Centerpin PL-259 Connector:** Ensures a reliable connection to marine VHF radios.
- **8-Foot Length:** Optimized for performance and visibility on marine vessels.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Proper installation is crucial for optimal performance and longevity of your antenna. This antenna is designed for use with Shakespeare QCM Series Mounts.

Installation Steps:

1. **Choose Mounting Location:** Select a location on your vessel that provides an unobstructed view of the horizon in all directions. Avoid mounting near large metal objects that could interfere with the signal.
2. **Install QCM Series Mount:** Securely install a compatible Shakespeare QCM Series Mount according to its specific instructions. Ensure the mount is firmly attached to a stable surface.
3. **Connect Coaxial Cable:** Route a high-quality coaxial cable (RG-8/U or equivalent) from your VHF radio to the antenna mounting location. Attach the PL-259 connector on the cable to the QuickConnect base of the antenna. Ensure a tight and waterproof connection.
4. **Attach Antenna to Mount:** Align the QuickConnect base of the antenna with the QuickConnect receptacle on the installed QCM Series Mount. Push the antenna firmly into the mount until it clicks securely into place.
5. **Verify Connection:** Gently tug on the antenna to ensure it is securely seated in the mount.
6. **Route Cable to Radio:** Connect the other end of the coaxial cable to the antenna input on your marine VHF radio.

Important: For detailed mounting instructions, refer to the manual provided with your specific Shakespeare QCM Series Mount.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Once installed, the Shakespeare VHF antenna operates passively to transmit and receive radio signals for your marine VHF radio. Ensure your VHF radio is properly connected and powered on.

Basic Operation:

- **Power On Radio:** Turn on your marine VHF radio.
- **Select Channel:** Choose the desired VHF channel for communication.
- **Transmit/Receive:** The antenna will automatically transmit your radio's signal when you press the transmit button and receive incoming signals.
- **SWR Check (Recommended):** After installation, it is recommended to perform a Standing Wave Ratio (SWR) check using an SWR meter to ensure optimal antenna performance and prevent damage to your radio. An SWR reading below 2.0:1 is ideal.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance will help ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Shakespeare VHF antenna.

Maintenance Tips:

- **Regular Cleaning:** Clean the antenna periodically with fresh water and a mild soap solution to remove salt, dirt, and grime. Rinse thoroughly. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Inspect Connections:** Periodically check all electrical connections, especially the QuickConnect base and the PL-259 connector, for corrosion or looseness. Clean and apply dielectric grease if necessary.
- **Inspect Antenna Body:** Examine the fiberglass shaft for any signs of cracks, damage, or wear.
- **Mount Inspection:** Ensure the antenna mount remains secure and free from corrosion.
- **Winterization:** If storing your vessel for extended periods in harsh conditions, consider removing the antenna using the QuickConnect system and storing it indoors.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your antenna, consider the following troubleshooting steps:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Poor signal reception/transmission	Loose or corroded connections; damaged coaxial cable; improper antenna mounting location; damaged antenna element.	Check and clean all connections. Inspect coaxial cable for damage. Ensure antenna is mounted in an unobstructed location. Inspect antenna for physical damage. Perform an SWR check.
Antenna not securely attached to mount	QuickConnect not fully engaged; damaged QuickConnect mechanism on antenna or mount.	Ensure antenna is pushed firmly into the QuickConnect mount until it clicks. Inspect both the antenna base and mount for damage.
Intermittent signal	Loose cable connections; internal cable damage; interference from other electronics.	Verify all cable connections are tight. Check for kinks or damage in the coaxial cable. Isolate potential sources of electrical interference.

If problems persist after attempting these solutions, contact Shakespeare customer support or a qualified marine electronics technician.

SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Detail
Model Name	QC-8-T
Antenna Type	Marine VHF Antenna
Gain	6dB
Length	8 feet (approx. 96 inches)
Material	Fiberglass
Color	White
Connector Type	Centerpin PL-259 (QuickConnect System)
Bandwidth	5 MHz within 2.0:1 VSWR
Item Weight	3 Pounds (approx. 1.36 kg)
Manufacturer	Shakespeare
UPC	719441173111

WARRANTY INFORMATION

This Shakespeare antenna is covered by a manufacturer's warranty. The specific terms and duration of the warranty may vary. Please refer to the warranty card or documentation included with your product packaging for complete details regarding coverage, limitations, and how to make a claim.

Retain your proof of purchase for warranty purposes.

SUPPORT

For technical assistance, product inquiries, or warranty claims, please contact Shakespeare customer support. Contact information can typically be found on the manufacturer's official website or on the product packaging. When contacting support, please have your product model number (QC-8-T) and proof of purchase readily available.

