

# SMART TABS



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TUBE SPECTACULAR! WILD RIDES WITH NASCAR STAR ROBBY GORDON

# BoatingLife

The Authority On Recreational Boating

## Get the Ticket!

If you're already committed to a family boat, this easy upgrade will get you more speed.

Two years ago, *Boating Life* ran a test of the Larson 210 and exceeded 50 miles per hour with one passenger and one-quarter tank of fuel. Tim Luce of Winter Springs, Florida, a claims manager for AIG Insurance, read that report and bought his Larson 210 in 2002. But with his wife, Joni, and sons, Beau and Luke, (they swear they're not named after the *Dukes of Hazzard*) and a few skis, the boat topped out at about 47 miles per hour. And while the boat planed off nicely, he hoped for a better hole shot. What could be done to speed up the family load and convert the "sedan" to a sport model? Here is one tactic we think worked well.

**Smart Tabs** The Larson 210 is not a boat you'd expect to benefit from tabs. At speed it has great manners, with no porpoising and no lateral instability (chine walking), and it comes out of the

hole with a minimum of bow lift. But Tim wanted more. So we hooked up with John Diagro of Nauticus, who makes easy-to-install, self-actuating trim tabs touted to improve the handling and increase the speed of any boat. We were skeptical.

On test day, we ran the numbers on the Larson 210 without tabs and then installed them per directions. The results surprised us. In addition to improved performance, we noted crisper handling in turns, a more level hole shot and a comfortable improvement in stability when crossing quartering wakes. In fact, without the tabs, crossing wakes left the boat rocking for three to four cycles — normal in all boats. But with the tabs, we rocked less while crossing and stopped rocking immediately afterward.

How does this work? Diagro of Nauticus says Smart Tabs increase or decrease pressure on the water automatically. If the boat rocks left, the left tab pushes back hardest. The right tab maintains contact with the water to enhance stability. If the boat rocks

right, well ... vice versa. At speed, the tabs are fully deflected but maintain contact with the water enough to enhance stability. This helps increase speed.

### Would we recommend tabs for the Larson 210?

"That boat runs beautifully without tabs," Diagro said after witnessing our first tests, so we detected a bit of concern as we finished the installation. Afterward Diagro relaxed a bit.

"We think our tabs make a great boat better," Diagro said. We agree.

Cost: From \$150.  
Contact: nauticusinc.com; 800-233-0194.

## The Project Boat

### DETAILS

Boat: Larson 210  
Engine: Volvo GL SX 5.0L Carbureted  
Prop: Stiletto Stainless-Steel 19"

### PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Load = 450 lb. + Full Fuel	No Tabs	Tabs
Time to plane (sec.)	3.1	3.1
Time to 30 MPH (sec.)	8.0	8.0
Top speed (MPH)	47.0	49.2

Load = 900 lb. + Full Fuel	No Tabs	Tabs
Time to plane (sec.)	4.5	3.4
Time to 30 MPH (sec.)	10.4	9.5
Top speed (MPH)	46.0	47.7



BRADY VANCE (2)

