



Installation & Owner Manual

(For All Models SX9510, SX10512, SXPT9510)

Designed for boats 10' - 25' in length with 15 to 350 hp engines

The first and most effective fully automatic trim tab system provides better all around performance for most models and styles of boats. Our dependable trim tabs are designed with the boater in mind so that you can make your time on the water as enjoyable as it should be. All you do is drive, Smart Tabs do the rest!

“ We Make The Best Boats Better”



Check Your Model Here:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SX9510-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> SXW9510-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> SX9510-80 | <input type="checkbox"/> SX10512-90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SXW9510-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> SX9510-60 | <input type="checkbox"/> SXW9510-80 | <input type="checkbox"/> SXPT9510-40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SX9510-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> SXW9510-60 | <input type="checkbox"/> SX10512-70 | <input type="checkbox"/> SXPT9510-60 |

View our Installation video



LECTROTAB

Follow us on:



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PH: 804-368-8428 Toll Free: 888-532-8768



email: smarttabs@lectrotab.com

www.nauticusinc.com



Valued Customer,

Thank you for purchasing Smart Tabs—we truly appreciate your business!

We're thrilled to welcome you to the Smart Tabs family and are confident that you'll love the convenience, performance, and innovation that Smart Tabs bring to your boating experience. Our team has worked hard to ensure that every product delivers exceptional value, and we're here to support you every step of the way.

If you have any questions, need help getting started, or just want to share feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at smarttabs@lectrotab.com.

Thanks again for choosing Smart Tabs. We're excited to have you as a customer. Happy Boating!!

LECTROTAB

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email: smarttabs@lectrotab.com

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing Smart Tabs! We sincerely believe they will live up to all of the performance standards that we have set, for years to come. It is our goal to insure your satisfaction, and we ask that you participate in this partnership.

Please read this Manual so that you understand all of the benefits you can expect in performance from the simple installation procedure.

Principle of Operation:

Smart Tabs utilize a nitrogen gas filled actuator to hold the trim plates down during low speed operation, and allow the water to “automatically” push the plates up (horizontal) at higher speeds. This provides additional “lift” to the stern at slow speeds, creating a more level attitude.

ADVANTAGES**Reduced Bow Rise:**

In addition to a more level ride at slower speeds, the minimum planing speed is significantly reduced. The result is that you will be able to run at the intermediate (comfortable) range which is not available without tabs. This may be especially important when in rough sea conditions.

Faster Hole Shot & Acceleration:

The additional “lift” not only reduces the “on plane” speed, but it allows the prop to efficiently attack the water, using all of the energy to propel the boat forward. Trimming the engine (which uses the prop energy to correct the boat attitude) can be minimized resulting in more forward thrust.

Improved Stability: (Especially at Top Speeds)

The additional surface/planing area on either side of the prop along with its continuous pressure, will improve high speed stability and minimize, if not eliminate, “chine walk” & porpoising.

Since the operation of each trim plate is independent, automatic, and speed sensitive, the stability through turns will also improve. When turning the inside tab will take a shorter path than the outside tab, and tend to move down due to the lower water pressure. This also helps anchor the turn.

Improved Economy:

This advantage will come in two forms; reduced fuel consumption, and reduced engine fatigue due to less resistance and stress.

Improved Safety:

Better visibility at slower speeds is an obvious advantage, but improved handling, reduced hull stress, and a smaller wake also add up to more safety.

Parts List

Note: Each Gas Actuator is coded with a colored cable clamp to denote the

- pressure as follows: one **White** cable clamp = GA5001-90 /90lbs
all **Black** cable clamps = GA5001-80 /80lbs
one **Yellow** cable clamp = GA5001-70 /70lbs
one **Blue** cable clamp = GA5001-60 /60lbs
one **Red** cable clamp = GA5001-40 /40lbs
one **Purple** cable clamp = GA5001-30 /30 lbs
one **Green** cable clamp = GA5001-20 / 20lbs

SX 9510's



- 2 ea- TP9510 - Trim Plates
- 2 ea- CH9510- Composite Hinges
- 1 ea- HK9510- Composite Hinge Kit
- 1 ea- Instruction Manual
- 2 ea- GA5001-30,40,60,80- 10" Gas Actuator w/boot

SX 10512's



- 2 ea- TP10512 - Trim Plates
- 2 ea- CH9510- Composite Hinges
- 1 ea- HK10512- Composite Hinge Kit
- 1 ea- Instruction Manual
- 2 ea- GA5001-70,90 - 10" Gas Actuator w/boot

PT 9510's



- 2 ea- TP9510-PT - Trim Plates
- 2 ea- CH9510-PT - Composite Hinges
- 1 ea- HK9510-PT - Composite Hinge Kit
- 1 ea- PR500-SX - Plate Retractor Kit
- 1 ea- Instruction Manual
- 2 ea- GA5001-30,40,60,80 - 10" Gas Actuator w/boot

PR500-SX Optional Brackets

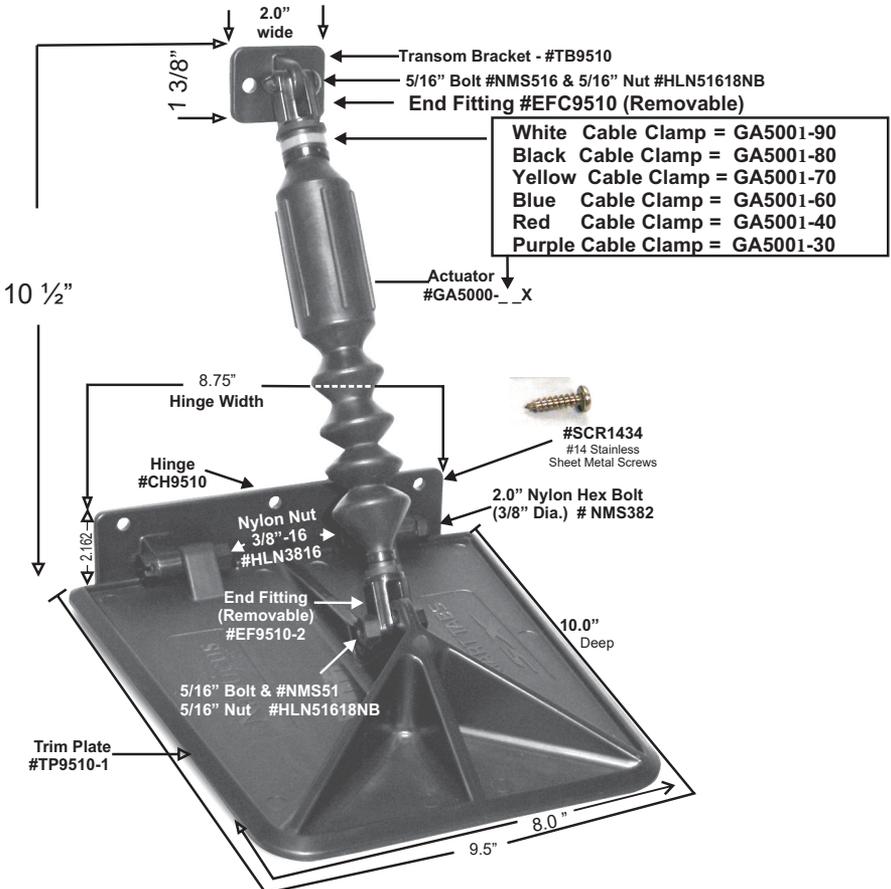


see page 5

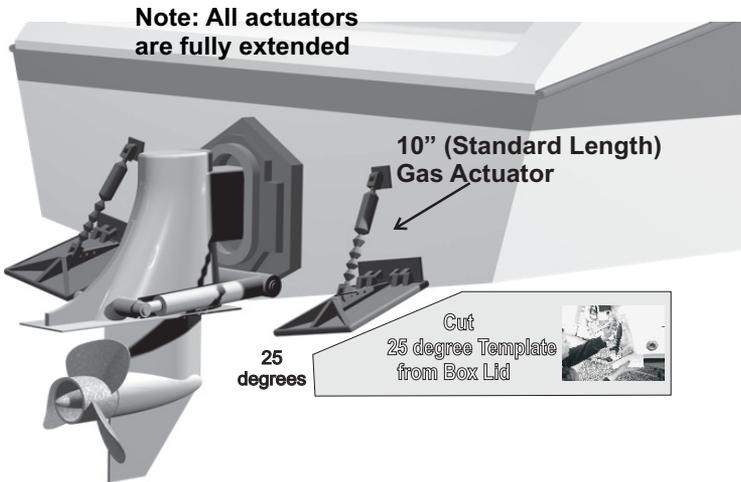
SMART TABS SX Series Parts Identification

SX series Parts List:

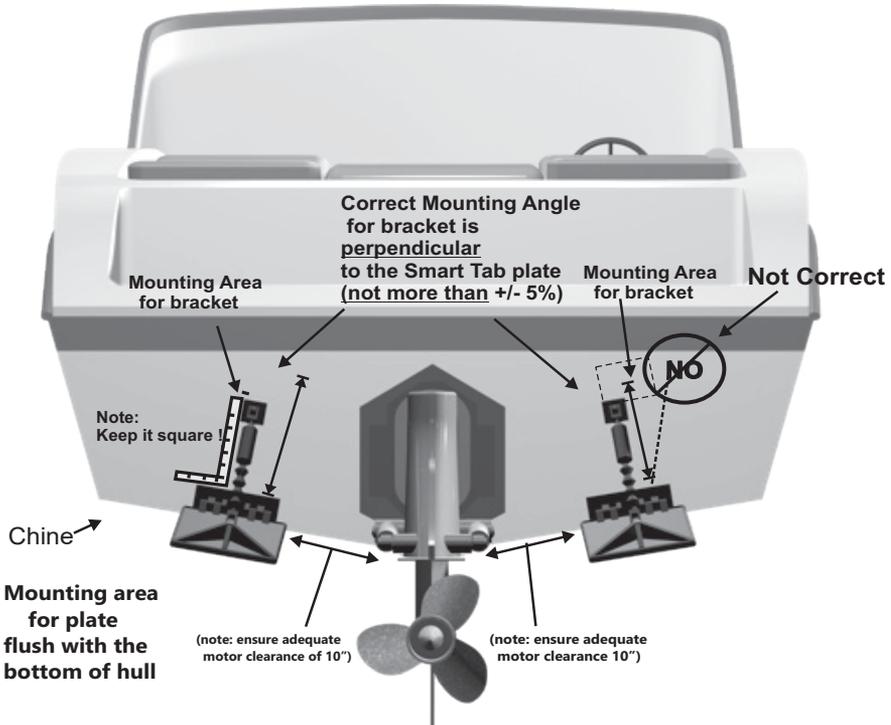
Part #	Description	Qty.
TP9510	Trim Plate	2 each
CH9510	Hinge	2 each
NMS382	Machine Screw/Bolt Nylon 2"	4 each
HLN3816	Nut Nylon 3/8" - 16	4 each
GA5000-__X *	Actuator w boot & end fittings	2 each
<i>*Insert two #'s indicating actuator pressure (ie. GA5001-60X)</i>		
TB9510	Transom Bracket	2 each
NMS516	Nylon Bolt 5/16"	4 each
HLN51618NB	Nylon Nut 5/16"	4 each
SCR1434	Stainless Screws #14 x 3/4"	16 each
EF9510-2	End Fitting for Actuator (bottom)	included
EFC9510	End Fitting for Actuator (top)	included



Transom Bracket Installation 25 degree angle



Standard "V" Hull Designs





10" Gas Actuator

**Important
Information Bulletin**

They are NOT Stuck or Frozen

Smart Tabs Actuators are coordinated with the appropriate kit to provide the necessary lift to the stern of the intended boat.

If the correct Smart Tabs kit is used the actuator will hold the trim plate down until the boat reaches the minimum planing speed. The actuators will then come UP.

Trying to compress the actuators with your hands may not be possible. These actuators will require a lot of force as the rating of pressure is in PSI (pounds per square inch).

For example trying to compress a 60,70,80 or 90lb actuator by hand is not possible without leverage!!

Optional # PR500-SX Bracket for use as Plate Retractors



The PR500-SX Bracket Kit assembly allows you to set the Smart Tabs in two different positions without the use of any additional tools. When the bracket handle is in the **“Down”** position the Smart Tabs will function as trim tabs. When the bracket handle is in the **“UP”** position Smart Tabs will be fully retracted.

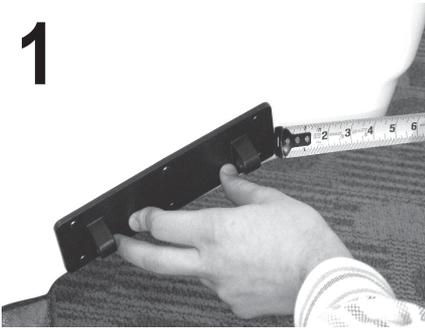
Note: For this application the “Lever Handle” must be in the **“DOWN”** position during installation. Supplemental instructions are provided with the PR500-SX kit. Follow the instructions on Page 7 of the installation manual and substitute the PR500 Bracket for the standard Transom Bracket.

NOTE: This kit is not compatible with the Low Profile Trim Tabs or the SX10512 series.

Assembly and Installation Instructions

NOTE: If mounting the actuator to a different surface than the trim tab, then a different end fitting will be required. The "Clevis" style end fitting (at the plate end of the actuator) will need to be replaced with an "Eyelet" style end fitting in order to facilitate the required rotation when the actuator is compressed. The part number for the eyelet style end fitting is #EF-PS-140

1



Choose The Location: Preferably inside the chine. You don't want any part of the tab any closer than 10" to the centerline of the boat. Align the bottom of the hinge flush with the bottom of

2



Mark Mounting Holes: Use the hinge as a template. Make sure that you can mount the hinge in the same location on both sides of the boat.

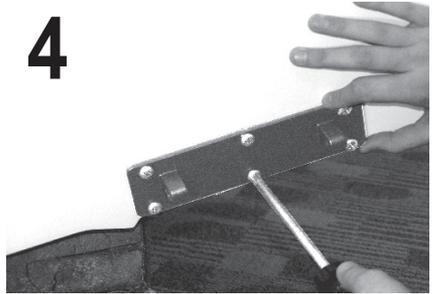
3



Drill the holes: Use a 7/32" drill bit for Fiberglass transoms and a 3/16" drill bit for aluminum and wood transoms.



4



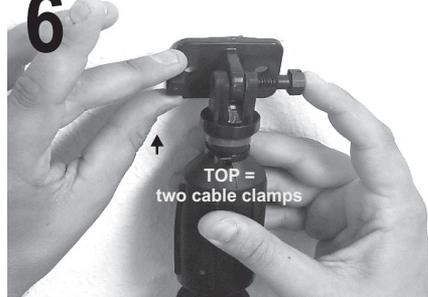
Install the hinge: Use a small amount of marine sealant in each hole. Do not use excessive force when installing screws - ream the hole if necessary. Use a phillips head screw driver to install the screws. **Don't use a drill gun.**

5

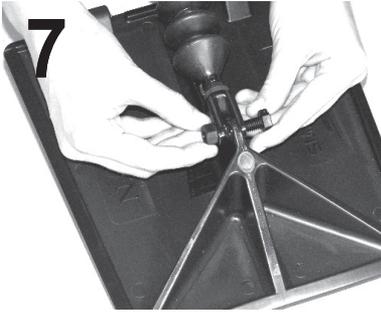


Attach the Plate: Align the plate & hinge holes, and use the 3/8" diameter 'bolts & nuts' to secure the plate to the hinge. Hand tighten the nuts as over tightening will create bending.

6

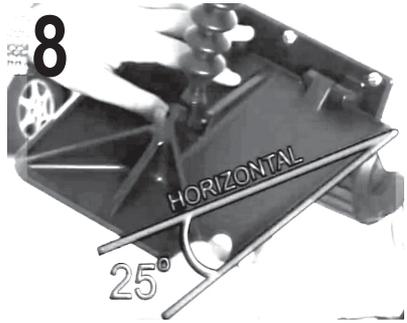


Attach the transom bracket: Use the 5/16x1" #NMS516 Nylon bolt to attach the transom bracket to the TOP of the Actuator (two cable clamps). Secure the Nylon bolt with the 5/16" nylon nut #HLN51618NB.



Attach the Actuator: Use the 5/16" nylon bolt and nut (hand tight & snug) to attach the bottom of the actuator to the trim plate in hole #3 (medium pressure).

NOTE: If needed, pressure adjustments can be made to suit your boat after a sea trial. Refer to page 8 for more information.



Install Transom Bracket:

Allow the trim plate to rest in the deployed position (**do not hold the plate**). It will stop about 25 degrees down from horizontal. Use the template provided in this manual to verify a 25 degree angle.



Drill for Transom Bracket

A) Rotate the actuator to the transom until the upper bracket (Transom Bracket) is seated flush.

B) Mark the holes, and drill with a 3/16" bit for wood or 7/32" bit for fiberglass.



Screw on Transom Bracket

Use marine sealant in the holes and attach the bracket with the #14 sheet metal screw supplied. Use a Phillips head screw driver to install the screws. **DO NOT** use a drill gun.

* Refer to pages 10-12 for installation photos*



Scan here to view SX installation video



Typical Installation

REMOVE FROM MANUAL

Smart Tab Installation angle template



**Cut 25 degree
Template and trace
onto piece of cardboard**

Note

The trim tab will only hang down to 15 degrees against a flat surface because we account for the dead rise of the transom to obtain the 25 degrees. Typical transoms have 10-12 degree dead rise.

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Adjusting Smart Tabs SX for Your Boat

(Conduct a trial run before making any adjustments!)

1 - Smart Tabs “Lift” Pressure - Start At the Mid Point! (see Fig. 4 “A” on page 9)

Purpose:

The plate bracket holes (#1 through #5) allows you to increase or decrease the amount of “LIFT” pressure that the Smart Tabs will provide to optimize the performance of your boat. Hole #1 is least pressure and hole # 5 is most. The balance of your boat is important to its overall performance.

A Heavy Rear End Needs More “Lift”:

If your boat has more stern weight, increasing the “LIFT” pressure will bring the boat on plane more quickly. Move the actuator attachment **UP** from hole #3 to hole #4 for example.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Too much stern lift can cause too much bow pressure at cruising speeds which will reduce top speed and cause bow steering problems. If this occurs reduce the lift pressure.

A Lighter Rear End Needs Less “Lift”:

If your boat is more balanced you may wish to decrease the “LIFT” pressure. Move the actuator attachment down from hole #3 to hole #2 for example.

Notice: Adjusting the nylon bolt position on this bracket does not change the up or down angle of the plate. This adjustment is for changing lift pressure.



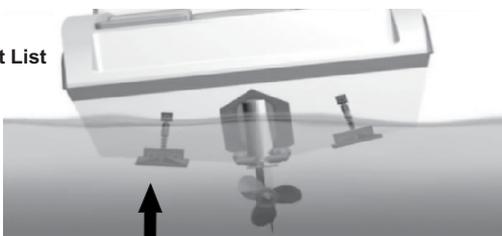
Adjustments for List:

Smart Tabs should only be adjusted if the list is consistent and noticeable at normal cruising speeds. Smart Tabs automatically compensate for list caused by temporary conditions such as load imbalance or prop torque.

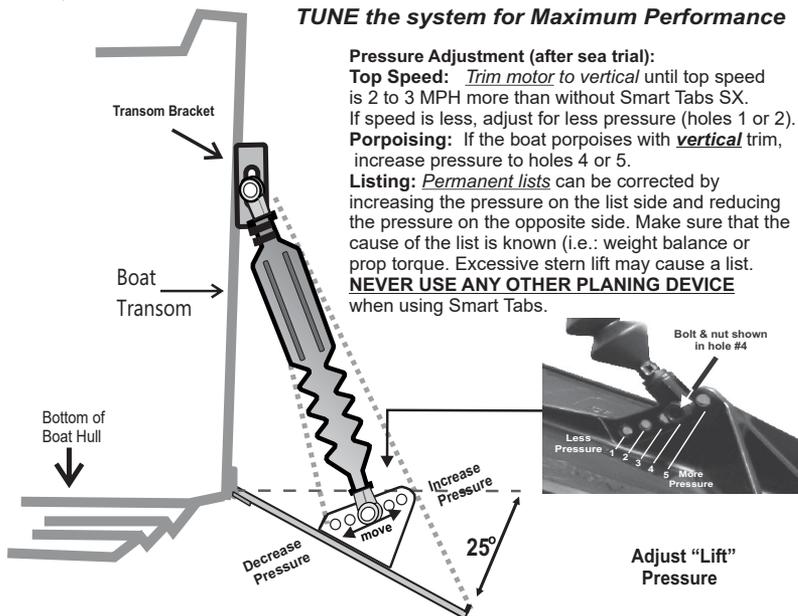
Compensate for the list by increasing the lift pressure on the same side to which the boat is listing. **Do not change the Trim Plate angle, as this will cause steering problems!**

Note: If the list is due to load balance, make sure that this is a permanent condition, and not due to temporary equipment or passenger seating arrangements.

Example: Port List



Increase Lift Pressure on port side tab to correct list

TUNE the system for Maximum Performance**Maintenance****Plastic Parts**

All of the Smart Tabs SX parts are made of Nylon T 6/6 mixed with impact resistant rubber. Due to the nature of the material there is no maintenance required. You may bottom paint the rubber boot if you like.

Gas Spring Actuator

The Gas Actuator with the protective rubber boot is the heart of the Smart Tabs system, and requires some attention. The specially designed boot is sealed to keep dirt, water, and corrosive chemicals from damaging the actuator shaft.

Follow these simple steps to extend performance and life:

1. When not in use it is good to occasionally compress the actuator by raising the trim plate to a horizontal position or higher several times. This keeps the shaft lubricated. The Actuator may be stored in the compressed position.

Note: If the boat is stored on a trailer, load the boat onto the trailer first. As an option you may wish to install our plate retractor kit. Refer to page 5.

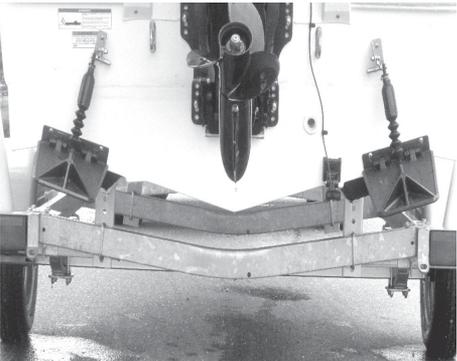
2. Inspect the protective rubber boot for any holes, rips, or tears. If any are found, remove the actuator as soon as possible and replace the boot. If the shaft of the actuator is damaged or corroded, replace the actuator.

TIP: To **check the boot for holes**, simply raise the trim plate (compressing the actuator) and observe the bellows. If properly sealed the bellows will hold in the compressed air.

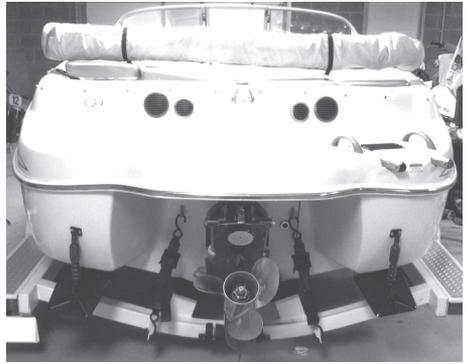
Installation Examples



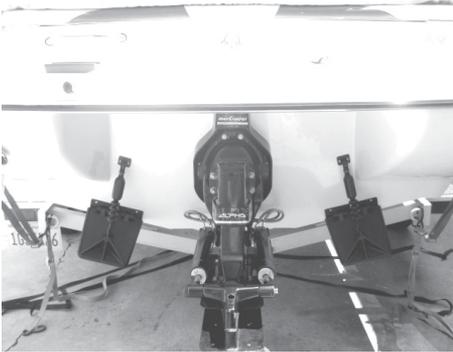
More Traditional Transom Boats



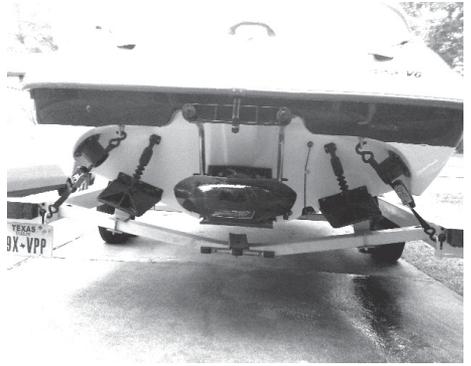
Installation Examples



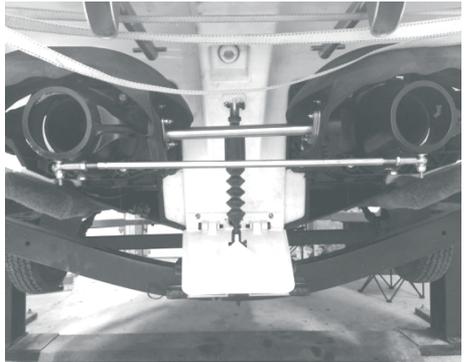
Contoured & Molded Swim Platforms



Installation Examples



Jet Boats



Common Questions and Answers

Q: What is the optimal position for tab mounting?

A: It is preferable *when possible* to mount the outside edge of the tabs to the inside of the chines. The inside edge of each tab must be at least 10" from the center line of the boat (for instance, the location of the drain plug.)

Q: Your instructions say to install the tabs so the outside edge of the trim plate is 5" from the edge of the transom. What if this is not possible?

A: This is suggested as the optimal mounting location, but we realize that some transoms preclude this configuration. The further outboard you can mount the tabs the more benefit you will have for port to starboard control. However, location may be dependent on transom design. Most importantly, make sure the inside edge of the trim plate is at least 10" from the center of the transom.

Q: What is the minimum distance from the bottom of the transom to the mounting location for the upper bracket?

A: SX10512 – Requires 7.5" from bottom of the boat.
SX9510 – Requires 10.5" from bottom of the boat.

Q: My boat has a Hydrofoil. Should I remove it once the tabs are installed?

A: Yes, ALWAYS remove the hydrofoil! Using both will provide too much stern lift at cruising speeds, causing the bow to plow into the water. A bow-down attitude can create other issues such as loss of top speed and a list to port.

Q: I have tie-down straps on the back of my boat. Do I need to move the tie-down hooks to install SMART TABS? Or do I need to order smaller tabs?

A: In many cases moving the attachment location of the tie down straps and the trailer is easy. First, determine the mounting location of the trim tabs; then, review your options. Sometimes criss-crossing (X) the straps is all that is required.

Q: What do the five-hole lift pressure settings mean?

A: The five adjustments on the trim tabs allow adjustments from lowest pressure (#1) to highest pressure (#5). Pressure increases with each hole moving away from the transom. The higher the pressure the more lift you get at the stern.

Q: Why do you recommend placing the actuator in hole #3?

A: We recommend placing the actuator in hole #3 to begin with, then assess your boat's performance and make adjustments if required. Hole #3 is the mean – it measures closest to the actuator pressure rating. For example, SX9510-60 adjusted to hole #3 will provide 60 lbs of pressure.



Q: What is inside the actuator?

A: The actuator's chamber is filled with nitrogen gas and hydraulic fluid. It technically behaves like a spring, but has no internal or external metal spring. By nature of design our actuators provide a dampened reaction to compression and extension, about 1.5 seconds, resulting in a smooth reaction to changes.

Q: What is the life expectancy of the actuators?

A: Life expectancy depends upon usage and exposure to the elements. The nitrogen gas is held in the actuator by rubber seals. Over time, the seals break down, and gas slowly escapes. Typically, this takes 3 to 5 years; the more the system is used, the longer they last. The actuator is protected by an air-tight, chemical- and UV-resistant EDPM rubber boot to increase longevity.

We recommend periodic inspection of the boot to ensure actuator integrity. Damage to the rubber boot allows water and debris to collect inside the boot and erode the actuator, leading to premature failure. Lectrotab warrants rubber boot covers and gas actuators to the original purchaser for two years from the date of purchase.

Q: My boat has a curved transom with SX tabs and the trim plate and transom bracket wont be on the same surface. What do I need?

A: The "Clevis" style end fitting (at the plate end of the actuator) will need to be replaced with an "Eyelet" style end fitting in order to facilitate the required rotation when the actuator is compressed. The part number for the eyelet style end fitting is #EF-PS-140. Call technical support at 888-532-8768 or 804-368-8428 for replacement. To install the end fitting simply unscrew (counter clockwise) the existing end fitting and screw on the new end fitting.

Q: I need replacement actuators and your website/literature says the actuator measures 10 inches long. Mine is shorter. What should I order?

A: All of our actuators are 10 inches long. If the shaft is corroded it will compress and get stuck, which could shorten the length. We do supply 7 ½ inch actuators for certain applications. These are special-order items available only from Lectrotab. If you're unsure which size actuator you need, call Technical Support at 888-532-8768.

Q: How can I retract the tabs for beaching / shallow water / rack storage?

A: The PR500 trim plate retractor kit will retract the tabs and keep them from hanging down below the transom.



"You can get stern lift with trim tabs. I run Smart Tabs they dropped my planning speed down to 13 or 14 MPH.. The trim tabs take a bunch of the porpoising out of the boat when trimming it out to scoot, and really soften how it behaves when crossing wakes. My wife loves them. - R.S, www.iboats.com

A black and white photograph of a speedboat moving across the water, creating a large wake and spray.

" This item that I purchased is the best thing I ever installed on my boat. These trim tabs should be installed on every boat...Thank you Nauticus, for making a wonderful product." - Mulligam474

A black and white photograph of a small boat, possibly a dinghy, in a body of water with rocky shores.

" Previously, the boat was very slow to plane, almost to slow to do anything but tube behind it. These (Smart Tabs) completley changed how this boat performs. It now planes out in what feels like half the distance and time, easily pulls a slalon skier up from a deepwater start."- Doghouse1 www.cabelas.com

A black and white photograph of a boat on a calm body of water.

World Class Customer Support

When you call Lectrotab, your call becomes our top priority. Our technical service team will take the time necessary to guide you on product selection, support you through installation, or resolve any technical issues. Whatever your question, there is someone here to help. Lectrotab will continue to work for you, our valued customers, combining the benefits of modern technology with the classic customer service that was once the standard of American companies. This is the peerless, personal customer service you deserve and should expect.

Business Hours

Eastern Standard Time (EST)

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DOMESTIC LIMITED WARRANTY

Linear Devices Corporation warrants to the first retail purchaser of this product that it is free from defects in material and/or workmanship for a period of; five (5) years on all metal and/or composite components; and two (2) years for rubber boot covers and gas actuators, from the date of purchase. Failures due to material and workmanship defects may be replaced with an exact or like model by scanning the QR code below. A Smart Tabs customer support representative or technician will contact you for additional trouble shooting, information, or to issue a “Return Authorization” number to send the failed part back for warranty evaluation. If the returned part is deemed to be covered under warranty, a replacement part will be shipped to you ground freight, FOB Destination (continental USA) for domestic customers. All part returns must have a “Return Authorization” number. Failures due to normal wear and tear, excessive force, exposure to environment, misuse, abuse, neglect, negligence, incidental or consequential damages or a failure to follow Smart Tabs written installation instructions are NOT covered by this warranty policy. The warranty policy does NOT cover labor cost, hauling fees or any other associated fees pertaining to replacing the failed part.

INTERNATIONAL LIMITED WARRANTY

Linear Devices Corporation warrants to the first retail purchaser of this product that it is free from defects in material and/or workmanship for a period of; five (5) years on all metal and/or composite components; and two (2) years for rubber boot covers and gas actuators, from the date of purchase. Failures due to normal wear and tear, excessive force, exposure to environment, misuse, abuse, neglect, negligence, incidental or consequential damages or a failure to follow Smart Tabs written installation instructions are NOT covered by this warranty policy. The warranty policy does NOT cover labor cost, hauling fees or any other associated fees pertaining to replacing the failed part. To get your warranty part from us, please scan the QR code below and a Smart Tabs customer support representative or technician will contact you for additional trouble shooting information. We will be able to supply you the warranty part, however, you will have to cover all shipping costs, duties and taxes associated with the order. To source your warranty part overseas, please contact your nearest Smart Tabs distributor for warranty replacement evaluation. Smart Tabs distributors are located on the Smart Tabs website at www.nauticusinc.com under “Buy Now”. If you need help sourcing them overseas, please reach out to us at smarttabs@lectrotab.com and we can help guide you to a source.

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