

ACS iC

Attitude Correction System User's manual



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Introduction

Thank you for buying an attitude correction system from Mente Marine. Take a minute to read through the user's manual and you will find how this device can enhance your boating experience. Keep this User's Manual for future reference. No matter if the boat is 15' or 50', ACS will set it up to the desired attitude.

Symbols and abbreviations

ACS	Attitude Correction System
LED	Light Emitting Diode
RPM	Revolutions per minute
QL	Quality Line (Marine accessories from Volvo Penta)

Security



Make sure the ignition key or the main circuit breaker is switched off before lifting or transporting the boat. Should the automatics engage during transport, the trim tabs may be severely damaged.



Do not subject the box to shocks! The ACS contains precision electronics and for instance dropping it onto a hard surface may cause permanent damage.



Do not subject the device to ambient temperatures exceeding 70°C (160°F) while in operation.



The electronics is protected against moisture and water spray according to class IP66. Do not install it in a place where it may get completely wet!

Theory of operation

The deep-V hulls of modern pleasure boats are designed to give you a smooth ride in rough water. The deeper the V, the more need for trim tabs and power trim to maintain a straight attitude. The lateral or, starboard and port balance of the boat is largely dependent on wind and passenger location. The longitudinal or, fore and aft balance depends on speed and loading. When the course is changed, winds change direction and you need to trim the boat. When passengers move, trim again. This need, to constantly adjust the trim tabs, takes the driver's attention, which can even be a security risk at high-speed operation.

When speed changes, the planing angle changes. When winds shift or passengers move, the lateral attitude changes.



The Attitude Correction System (ACS) takes care of the work for you. When changing course, winds shift, or passengers move, the attitude of the boat is automatically corrected by adjusting the trim tabs and power trim.

Blocked while turning

While making a turn, the boat leans inwards. Thanks to the built-in yaw measurement, the system is able to detect heading changes and prevent automatic corrections while turning. Unnecessary adjusting is avoided and the boat exits the turn with optimum attitude. The AUTO indicator is blinking while making the turn to indicate that the ACS is blocked and not active at that moment.

Once set up on a steady course again, the ACS continues measuring and correcting the attitude taking into account the altered conditions.

Adaptable system

The system adapts to boats over the whole range. Thanks to the adaptive functionality, a 15 feet walkaround or a 50 feet performance yacht is set up to optimum running attitude taking into account the difference in size.

It also adapts to varying sea conditions. In calm seas, a list condition is corrected faster than in rough seas. This allows fast reaction when needed and avoids unnecessary operations that could amplify roll in high waves.

Wireless rpm measurement



When slowing down, trim tabs lose their effect. ACS is aware of this and does not attempt to trim list conditions while off the plane. When accelerating, the ACS automatically starts up, correcting the attitude back to the desired even before the boat “breaks over” and reaches the cruising speed.

This is made possible by using a technique for wireless rpm measurement, which does not require any sensor installation or maintenance.

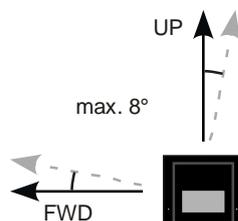
Position indication

ACS shows trim tab position by lighting an indicator LED for each trim tab. When a tab is extended, the lit up indicator LED moves downwards. While controlling, the indicator LED adjacent to the one lit up, is blinking, to show the control direction.

Installation

Installing the box

The box is intended for wall mounting in an upright position. The label on the front side is marked with an UP arrow that should point upwards and a FWD arrow that should point in the forward direction. Exact mounting is not critical, however, as the desired running attitude is set after installation.



Install the box as close to the trim tabs as possible taking into account the length of the cables. 2.5 m (8 feet) and 4 m (13 feet) lengths are available from QL. Do not install it directly on the engine or other equipment that causes unnecessary vibrations or radiates heat. Avoid installing it close to noisy equipment like heaters or fans that may disturb the rpm measurement.

If there is no wall aligned fore to aft, on which the box can be mounted directly, use the mounting bracket. The mounting bracket has four sets of screw holes. One set for use when the bracket is floor mounted, another when roof mounted and two sets when wall mounted. Using the bracket, the ACS can be mounted on either side of a wall perpendicular to the fore-aft line of the boat.

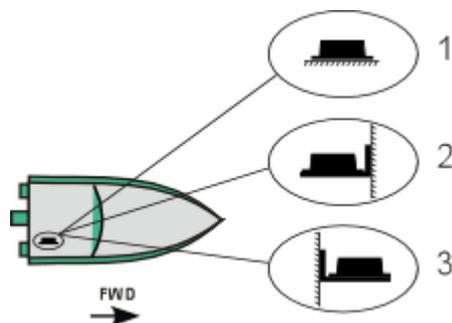
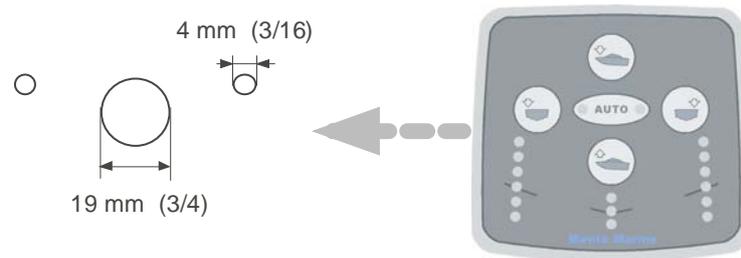


Figure 4. 1) Wall mounted 2)3) Wall mounted using mounting bracket

Installing the control panel

To install the control panel, choose a location near helmsman's position where convenient for the operator to access and drill two 4 mm holes for the threaded rods. Drill a 19 mm hole for the connector.

Apply sealant around the holes and attach the panel using nuts. If the panel is mounted on flybridge or in an open boat, make sure the holes are watertight.



Connection

NB! If the boat already has a manual control panel for the trim tabs, verify the functionality by pressing the buttons one by one and observing the movement. The old control system cannot be left in parallel with the ACS and it is important to check the trim tabs before disconnecting.

The ACS iC products can only be connected to the new type of trim tabs from QL marine (QL Boat Trim System) that were introduced 2005.



Figure 6. Trim tabs from the QL Boat Trim System

Trim tabs

Connect the trim tab cables to the connectors marked 'Port1' and 'Stbd1' according to figure 7 that follows. The trim tab cables are available from the nearest QL dealer in 2.5 m (8 feet) and 4 m (13 feet) lengths.

Control panel

The cable between the control panel and the control unit is available in four lengths from 6 m (20 feet) to 24 m (79 feet). Last two characters of the type designation C-iC-XX denote the length.

Insert the smaller connector in the control panel and connect the red wire to the ignition key run position. For Volvo Penta EVC EC and other electronically controlled engines, the red wire should be connected to the relay for external accessories.

Connect the other end to the connector marked 'Control Panel' according to figure 7 that follows.

Supply voltage

Connect the red wire to the boat's main circuit breaker through the fuseholder. Do not insert the fuse in the fuseholder until the installation is completed. Connect the black wire to the battery's negative (-) terminal.

Flybridge panel

For flybridge boats, a second control panel with product name FCP iC (Flybridge Control Panel) is available. It is installed the same way as the ordinary panel and connected in parallel using the Y cable in the package. The C-iC-XX cable is specified separately!

Both panels are active at the same time and the flybridge panel controls the tabs manually, engages the automatics and shows trim tab position exactly the same way as the ordinary panel.

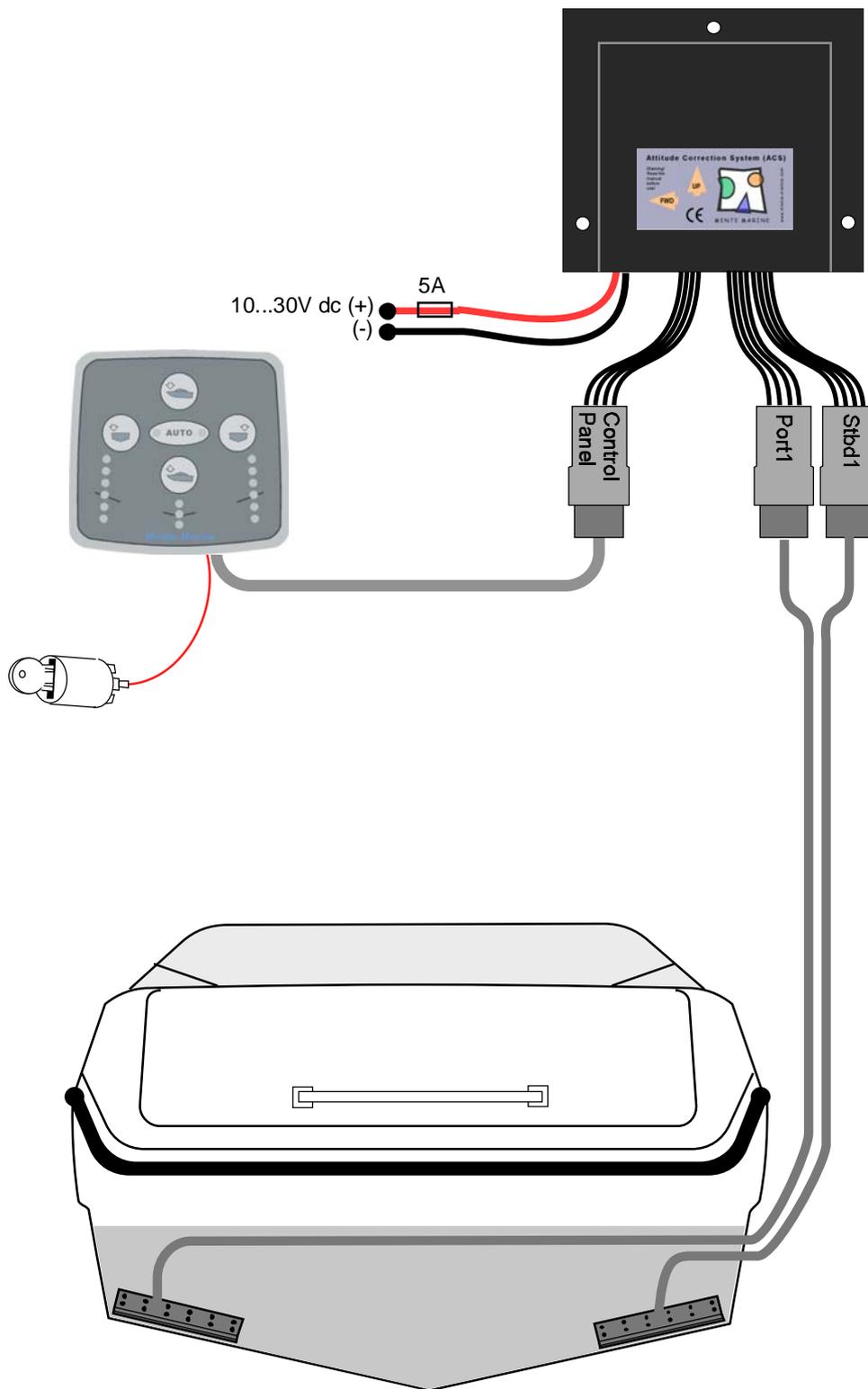
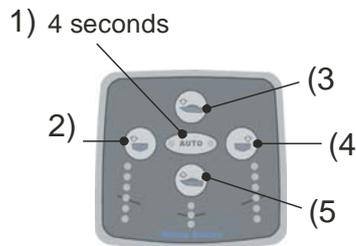


Figure 7. Connection to trim tabs looking forward

Calibration

After installation, the ACS needs calibration. Before you start, secure that no obstacles hinder free run of tabs. Turn the ignition key to run position to activate the ACS.

- The AUTO indicator is blinking to indicate that the device needs calibration.
- Press the AUTO button for 4 seconds until the indicator LED starts flashing.
- Press the button sequence 2 -> 3 -> 4 -> 5 for calibration. An indicator LED in the left and right bar is lit up. For every press, the lit up indicator LED's move one step downwards.



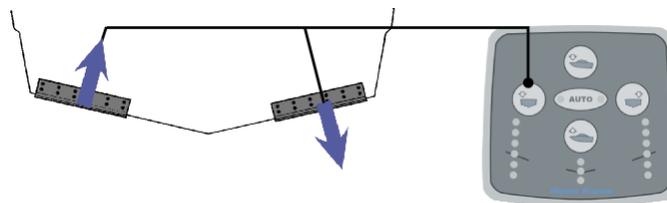
- The ACS will now run the trim tabs to their uppermost position. The starting position does not matter.
- From the uppermost position, the tabs are run downwards and back up again. This procedure may take up to 30 seconds and should not be interrupted.
- After completion, the AUTO indicator LED is deactivated and the indicator LED's for trim tab position are activated. Port trim tab position is shown by the left bar and starboard by the right bar.

Verify connection

IMPORTANT! After calibration, verify the connection by pressing the buttons one by one and observing the trim tabs. Should the trim tabs move in the wrong direction when manually controlled, they will do that also in the automatic mode.

- Press port button and keep it depressed. Port trim tab should then move upwards and starboard trim tab downwards.

Should the trim tabs move in the wrong direction: Exchange the 'Port' and 'Stbd' connectors.

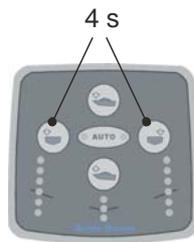


The ACS is now ready for operation. Verify the installation by disconnecting and connecting the power supply. Count the beep signals upon connection. More than two signals indicate some problem with the installation.

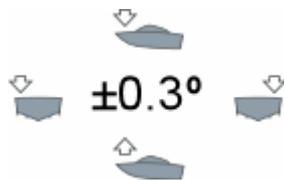
Usage

After installing and calibrating, take the boat for a test drive and store the attitude as described below.

Run the boat at cruising speed. Manually control the trim tabs until you find the best attitude. Then, press the left and right buttons together for 4 seconds. Now, the attitude is stored in memory, the indicator LED to the right of the AUTO button is lit up and ACS set in automatic mode.



In automatic mode, the desired attitude can be tuned by pressing any of the four buttons e.g. pressing starboard button once sets the boat 0.3 degrees to starboard. Pressing the uppermost button lowers the bow 0.3 degrees.



Now, if the speed is reduced, automatic control is suspended and the AUTO indicator starts blinking. The functionality is then temporarily interrupted to avoid operating the tabs at too low speed.

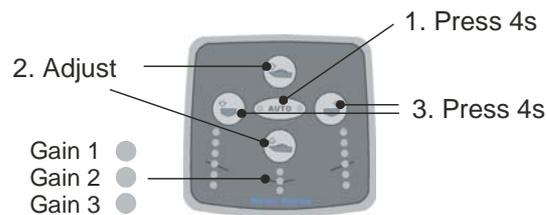
Automatic mode is re-entered every time you go out until the ACS is put into manual mode. By pressing the AUTO button you can toggle between automatic and manual mode. The running attitude remains stored although main breakers are switched off.

Adjusting gain

The gain determines how fast the ACS should correct a list condition. It can be adjusted in three steps and the default setting is step 1. Step 2 provides a bit faster correction while step 3 is the fastest. The setting is optimized if a list condition is corrected without the boat leaning over to the other side and the trim tabs are not operated too often. As a rule of thumb, boats longer than 35 feet should use settings 1 and 2 while boats below 35 feet may use settings 2 and 3.

To change the gain setting, do as follows:

- Press the AUTO button for 4 seconds until the indicator LED starts flashing.
- Press the uppermost or lowermost button to adjust the setting.
- The three indicator LED's in the middle show the setting. The uppermost LED shows step 1, the 2nd LED step 2 and the lowermost LED step 3.
- Then, press the left and right buttons together for 4 seconds. Now, the LED indicator is blinking in the beginning and lit up when the new setting is stored.



Auto return

The ACS automatically retracts the trim tabs when the engine is shut off and they are no longer needed. This is to prevent fouling that may result in a stuck blade.

Shut down

When the engine is switched off, and the trim tabs have retracted, ACS shuts down drawing minimal current from the battery. This feature prevents battery drain and the boat may be left for months with main breakers on.

ACS is activated next time the ignition key is turned to run position.

Troubleshooting

Two indicator LED's are blinking

The functionality of the trim tabs is checked during calibration and normal usage. If they do not work properly, two indicator LED's start blinking in the left or right LED bar. The left bar indicates a fault in the starboard trim tab while the right bar indicates a fault in the starboard trim tab. It may depend on:

1. The trim tab is disconnected from the control unit
2. The trim tab is faulty

Four indicator LED's are blinking

If the control panel cannot communicate with the main unit, four indicator LED's will start blinking. Check the wiring!

Specifications

Compliance	QL Boat Trim System, maximum one trim tab per side
Boat length	15...50 feet
Gain	Automatic, adapts to the boat type
Size	120 * 110 * 40 mm
Weight	330 g
Protection by enclosure	IP 66
Operating temperature	-10...70 °C
Storage temperature	-40...+85 °C
Supply voltage	10...30 V dc
Maximum current consumption	1.0 A (Trim tabs activated)
Current consumption	0.07 A (When idle)
Approvals	CE (Compliance with EMC regulations)



The CE marking assures that this product complies with the requirements of the EC directive for electromagnetic compatibility.

Warranty policy

All ACS's (Attitude Correction Systems) purchased through authorized distribution channels are guaranteed against defects of material or workmanship for a period of 24 months from date of purchase. Service will be rendered, and defective parts will be replaced without cost to you within that period, provided the equipment does not show evidence of impact, liquid damage, mishandling, tampering, or chemical corrosion, operation contrary to operating instructions, or modification by an unauthorized repair shop. The manufacturer or its authorized representatives shall not be liable for any repair or alterations except those made with its written consent and shall not be liable for damages from delay or loss of use or from other indirect or consequential damages of any kind, whether caused by defective material or workmanship or otherwise; and it is expressly agreed that the liability of the manufacturer or its representatives under all guarantees or warranties, whether expressed or implied, is strictly limited to the replacement of parts as herein before provided. No refunds will be made on repairs performed by non-authorized service facilities.

Procedure during 24-month warranty period

Any ACS that proves defective during the 24-month warranty period should be returned to the dealer from whom you purchased the equipment or to the manufacturer. If there is no representative of the manufacturer in your country, send the equipment to the manufacturer, with postage prepaid. In this case, it will take a considerable length of time before the equipment can be returned to you owing to the complicated customs procedures required. If the equipment is covered by warranty, repairs will be made and parts replaced free of charge, and the equipment returned to you upon completion of servicing. If the equipment is not covered by warranty, regular charges of the manufacturer or of its representatives will apply. Shipping charges are to be borne by the owner. If your ACS was purchased outside of the country where you wish to have it serviced during the warranty period, the manufacturer's representatives in that country may charge regular handling and servicing fees. Notwithstanding this, your ACS returned to the manufacturer will be serviced free of charge according to this procedure and warranty policy.

In any case, however, shipping charges and custom clearance fees are to be borne by the sender. To prove the date of purchase when required, please keep the receipts or bills covering the purchase of your equipment for at least two years. Before sending your equipment for servicing, please make sure you are sending it to the manufacturer's authorized representatives or their approved repair shops, unless you are sending it directly to the manufacturer. Always obtain a quotation for the service charge, and only after you accept the quoted service charge, instruct the service station to proceed with the servicing.



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