

frequently asked questions

MAINTENANCE

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Through-hull housings

Keep the screw threads of through-hull housings well greased with silicone or water pump grease. Ensure that the outer surfaces of the housing are properly coated with anti-fouling paint.

Boat speed sensor (paddlewheel type)

Use a stiff brush to remove marine growth that may cause the paddlewheel to freeze, and then clean the surfaces with a very weak solution of household detergent. If fouling is very severe, push the paddlewheel axle out by using a small drift, and then very gently, wet sand the surface with a fine grade wet/dry paper.

Inspect the o-rings on both the sensor and the blanking plug and replace if necessary, and then lubricate with silicone lubricant or petroleum jelly (Vaseline®).

Desiccators

Should any display window show signs of moisture having penetrated the seals, e.g. misting of the glass or condensation, the instrument should be removed and returned to the B&G Service Department for drying.

WINTER STORAGE/LAYING UP

Masthead unit

Storage of the masthead unit when the yacht is laid up afloat will increase the life of the sensors. It should always be removed from the masthead before the mast is unstepped. It should be stored in its packing box with the vane and cups removed. The exposed socket at the top of the mast must be protected with the plastic cap supplied with it. The body of the plug and threads should be smeared with silicone grease such as MS4 (Midland Silicones Ltd). The electrical contacts should be inspected for cleanliness and sprayed with a water inhibitor such as WD40. The o-ring should be greased with a silicone type grease and the units replaced.

The masthead unit must never be oiled. The bearings are of the sealed pre-lubricated type and any additional oil may cause chemical breakdown of the existing lubricant. Any scratch marks or corrosion on the masthead transmitters should be rubbed clean with a soft cloth and lightly smeared with silicone grease. This should not be necessary if care is taken when hoisting or lowering the masthead unit, to protect it from collision against the rigging.

If the mast is un-stepped, care must be taken to ensure that the cable is not cut through, but disconnected at the junction box below decks. The bare ends of the cable should be smeared with silicone grease.

Boat speed sensors

Remove paddlewheel unit(s) from housing(s) and lubricate the sealing rings and threads. Place the sealing cap on the housing. Perform the maintenance instructions given in the Routine Maintenance section.

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