When looking for trim tabs for your vessel, what do you look for first? High quality? Cost-effectiveness? Or something that will improve your use of your vessel? If you’re looking for all three, David Hoskin advises you to consider the new Zipwake Dynamic Trim Control System.

SOME PEOPLE FIND purchasing trim systems something of an art form. With wiring that people don’t truly understand and control systems that not everyone ever uses correctly, it certainly can be an issue as these systems are not always straightforward. Other issues include pricing, the components required and whether purchasers should try and install them by themselves. The first thing that I noticed with the Zipwake Dynamic Control System is that all the guesswork is taken away. Everything you need for a trim system comes complete in a box. There are four kits available with differing sizes, dependent on what you can fit on your vessel, and the kit comes with a control panel, a distribution board and a set of interceptors as well as the required wires to connect them all up.

Normally when considering trim systems you think of the large plates or planes that stick out of the end of the vessel that have rams attached that tilt the plates up and down. This is where the Zipwake makes its first difference—the small interceptor device is used to extend and retract a small blade in and out of the unit, which has the advantage of being completely retracted when not being used, and it can be at full extension in 1.5 seconds, giving a much faster reaction time. This also creates a direct lift action that gives less drag than conventional tab systems, and with less drag you have the added impact of less effect on fuel consumption. The interceptors are available in four different sizes: 300mm, 450mm, 600mm and 750mm.

When ordering the kits they are sensibly named with the size of the tab in the description, making for no confusion. The Dynamic Control System is currently suitable for vessels of 20 to 60 feet, but there are plans for larger vessels in the future.

The control panel is a waterproof unit with a 2.4” sunlight-viewable screen, which looks modern and stylish, but the control panel is more than just a pretty control screen. Built into the unit is an internal GPS unit, as well as a 3D gyro. The controls on the front of the unit are straightforward and simple to use, and there is even an auto button that assists in removing pitch and roll from the vessel underway without the boat’s skipper having to do anything. If a better GPS unit is required, Zipwake offer an external GPS, or you can connect the control panel to...
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any other NMEA 2000 GPS that you may already have on board via the NMEA plug on the rear of the unit.

The control panel is connected to the distribution panel via one moulded plug lead; the distribution panel has the power supply cabling for the entire system and also connects up to three pairs of interceptors. Once again Zipwake have made powering the system simple as the distribution panel can be powered with a 12-32 V supply, so there is no need to ask for a different model if you have a 24V or 12V vessel! All the leads are simple and straightforward to connect, and you can purchase the additional interceptors in pairs of any size required.

The other great thing about the system is that you can use any combination of pairs in the distribution board from three of the largest to three of the smallest and anything in between.

Installation of the interceptors on the stern is very straightforward: you attach the unit on the stern flush with the bottom of the vessel, much like installing a traditional trim tab. The difference is the fact that the servo motor unit is inside the unit and not a separate part that has to be mounted above, so the cabling can either be fed through a concealed cable mount behind the unit or an above-water cable gland can be purchased separately.

When choosing which interceptors to use it is recommended that combining units to span as much of the beam as possible gives the best operating results.

The most amazing thing about the Zipwake system is the price point. When I looked at the system and the technology included I instantly wondered about pricing, as something this technical and of such high quality should come with a premium price point. This is not the case - a Zipwake Dynamic Trim Control System 300S kit box (including a pair of 300mm interceptors, control panel, distribution board and all wires) has an RRP of £1,425 (inc. VAT). The largest kit with a pair of 750mm-long interceptors is only £1,725 (inc. VAT). Obviously, when working with larger vessels you will need to purchase additional interceptor units, but this still brings the system in at a reasonable price.

I believe the Dynamic Trim Control System has a very big future ahead of it as it covers such a large part of the powerboat market; and with its modern sleek design and straightforward installation and controls, I won’t be surprised if I start seeing large amounts of these on customers’ vessels in the near future.

www.zipwake.com
Video: https://vimeo.com/122220845

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