# SELECTION & INSTALLATION GUIDE OC15270 REV: C - 10 MAY 2010

## AUTOPILOT DRIVE UNIT - TYPE S & T - DASHBOARD MOUNTING

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## A1. SYSTEM OVERVIEW:

- 1. The Octopus rotary mechanical autopilot drive (model MDR-40) is an automatic pilot drive system which makes it easy and economical to install an automatic pilot on smaller powerboats steered with mechanical push pull cable steering systems and small sailboats with access to a quadrant or tiller. The unit is powerful and fast capable of delivering over 300lbs of cable thrust, with a normal H.O. to H.O. time of 15 seconds.
- 2. The drive unit either replaces or is used in conjunction with common brands of mechanical rotary and rack & pinion steering helm units, it incorporates a drive motor, a solenoid clutch and offers rudder feed back (RFB) capability. The MDR40 drive is based on the MORSE 290 rotary helm unit and accepts MORSE 304415 and Teleflex SSC52 rotary cables without modification. If the vessel is fitted with a TELLEFLEX 'Safe T' or 'Big T' or UFLEX 'T71', T73NR', 'T81' system, a simple cable end adapter must be fitted to the cable before installing the drive. If the vessel is fitted with a rack and pinion type steering system (or other brands of rotary system), the MDR40 drive can be used, but the steering cable must also be replaced with a MORSE 304415 or Teleflex SSC52.

#### A2. IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The MDR40 drive will fit a large number of vessels, which were just difficult or economically not practical to fit automatic pilots to before. The product does have some limitations, which must be observed, please note the following:

- 1. The MDR40 drive unit is designed around the MORSE 290 Rotary Drive Helm manufactured by Morse Controls of Hudson Ohio, USA. To meet A.B.Y.C. regulations, this type of steering is recommended for use on vessels with a maximum speed of 40 m.p.h. The MDR40 should not be fitted to vessels, which exceed this speed.
- 2. The MDR40 drive unit should not be fitted to boats where the maximum horsepower of the engines exceeds the maximum horsepower rating for the vessel as stated on the vessel manufacturers tag.
- 3. If the existing steering system on the vessel is a **NFB** (no feed back) type. The MDR40 drive, which is **NOT** a **NFB** helm, can be fitted, but it is **STRONGLY** advised that the helmsman be formally familiarized with the operational characteristics of the new helm.
- 4. The MDR40 drive is designed to produce a maximum cable push/pull of 300lbs, which requires a peak power of 60 watts. This makes the unit very capable of handling the vast majority of cable steered vessels. However some vessels fitted with push pull cable steering systems have very stiff steering or steering which is heavily loaded in one direction due to hull design and engine considerations. Generally speaking, the MDR40 will steer vessels that do not require more than a 15-lb force on the rim of a 14-inch diameter steering wheel to hold a course, this equals 105 in/pounds of torque. If the steering wheel input torque exceeds this figure, the MDR40 is not a satisfactory drive system and we would suggest that the vessel be fitted with a hydraulic linear actuator drive system such as our OCTOPUS 1212LAM12.

#### 5. IMPORTANT SAFETY FEATURES

#### Ensure that the Helmsperson is made aware of the two following safety features when using the Autopilot.

#### A: MANUAL RELEASE

A 'manual release' feature is included in the drive in case the Autopilot is switched to manual mode by mistake creating a dangerous manoeuvre or violent movement of the steering wheel on a Power Boat due to propeller action or trim forces.

The drive unit while under consistent load from the boats steering system in one direction or no movement, will maintain the clutched engaged when the Autopilot is switched to manual mode.

This feature minimizes uncontrolled boat swing, violent steering wheel movement and potentially dangerous manoeuvres.

#### Manual Release Procedure.

The wheel or tiller is required to be moved slightly to disengage the drive. A small joggle action (turning the wheel from side to side) will release the clutch and allow return to manual control.

#### **IMPORTANT**

The helmsperson should always be ready to take manual control of the boat when the Autopilot is returned to manual mode.

#### **B: MANUAL OVERRIDE**

In the event of **UNCONTROLLED** automatic steering or other **EMERGENCY** situations, automatic return to **MANUAL** steering is provided through the operation of a thrust limiter. It is **STRONGLY** advised that the helmsperson be formally familiarized with this **MANUAL OVERIDE** procedure.

**Manual Override Procedure**. The helmsperson can overcome the steering action of the drive unit by exerting force on the steering wheel in the opposite direction to the drive. With this action the drive unit thrust limit will 'slip' allowing the helmsperson to take control.

#### **DOCKSIDE TESTING**

Due to the 'Manual Release' safety feature, when the yacht is not in motion it might be required to joggle the wheel/Tiller (move from side to side) to engage or disengage the drive.

#### SEA TRIAL

Before the Autopilot is tested at sea the helmsperson should be made aware of the two safety features and the procedures required.

#### A3 4 – STEP INSTALLATION PLANNING:

When planning an installation, it is recommended that you follow 4 steps :

- STEP 1: Ensure that there is adequate space available to accommodate the drive.
- STEP 2: Determine the compatibility of the existing steering cable cable adapter selection.
- STEP 3: Determine the dashboard mounting style Bezel Kit + Helm Spacer Kit.
- STEP 4: Accessories Selection Review.

#### B1 STEP 1 – Determine Available Space behind dashboard

## B1a DEPTH

Depending upon the dashboard mount style that is used, the depth required to accommodate a drive will vary slightly, but all styles are within 10 inches. Note that in some cases where enough depth is not available, it may be possible to re-rout some components or wiring harness etc. Also there is a way to gain additional depth clearance by introducing a custom spacer. See page 15 for details.

B1b LEFT - RIGHT

Using the centerline of the steering wheel shaft as datum and looking forward in normal helmsman position. The drive requires 4-1/4 inches to the left x approx. 6 inches depth (from the rearmost face of the dashboard and 3-1/2 inches to the right x 10 inches.

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B1c UP - DOWN

Using the centerline of the steering wheel shaft as datum and looking forward in normal helmsman position. The drive requires 3 inches up x 10 inches and 3 inches down x 10 inches.



B1c - GRAPHIC

## C1 STEP 2 – Determine Steering Cable Compatibility

The Octopus drive is based upon the Morse 290 rotary helm unit and accepts Morse 304415 rotary steering cables and Teleflex SSC52 rotary steering cables. Cable adapters are available to accept rotary steering cables from other popular rotary helm manufacturers.

- a. Manufacturers identify the steering cable with a part number and length. This can usually be found on the outer case near to the tiller/engine connection. Using either cable part number or by comparison of outer cable head detail, see graphics C2a thru C2d, establish if a cable adapter is required.
- b. If the existing steering cable/helm is a RACK type, see graphic C2e. A new Morse 304415 or Teleflex SSC52 rotary steering cable must be fitted, see section ? for guide to calculating the cable length.
- C2. STEP 2 Cable Head Detail Graphics



## C2. STEP 2 – Cable Head Detail Graphics (Continued)



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## C2. STEP 2 – Cable Head Detail Graphics (Continued)





C2d - GRAPHICS

C2e RACK Style Cable – Replace Rack Cable with new Rotary Cable - Order OC15109-XX Cable) See section ? on page ? for guide to calculating Cable length.



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## C2 STEP 2 – Cable Head Detail Graphics (Continued)



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## D1 STEP 3 – Determine the Dashboard Mounting Style

In order to accommodate the full range of dashboard mounting orientations, bezels and rigid/tilt steering wheel shaft options. The Octopus drive can be mounted to the dashboard panel in a variety of ways using different mounting brackets and if required, spacers and bezel kits. There are 2 main dashboard mounting types.

TYPE S – STRAIGHT SHAFT: This type can be mounted in 2 ways, either at 90 degrees to the dashboard or at 20 degrees to the dashboard. Spacer Kits are also available to reduce the space required behind the dashboard. See graphics D2a & D2b for basic Bezel Kits and E2a & E2b for Bezel Kits + Spacer Kits.

TYPE T – TILT SHAFT: This type mates the drive with the tilt steering mechanism that was supplied with the original steering system. Currently the Teleflex Performance Tilt mechanism is supported by a factory configured drive unit. Spacer Kits are also available to reduce the space required behind the dashboard. See graphics D2c for basic Tilt Mechanism and E2c for Tilt Mechanism + Spacer Kits.

NOTE: Consult factory for information on available retro-fit components for mating to older Tilt Mechanisms manufactured by Morse, Teleflex and Uflex.

#### D2 STEP 3 – Dashboard Mounting Style Detail Graphics

## D2a TYPE S – STRAIGHT SHAFT: Morse 90 Degree Mounting

#### **REQUIRED PARTS:**

- a. Octopus Part Number AFMDMSRW (straight shaft drive unit)
- b. Octopus Part Number OC15SUK10 (90 degree bezel kit)
- c. Octopus Part Number OC15SUK06A thru E (rudder feed back kit) See section E3 on page 19 for additional selection information



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#### D2 STEP 3 – Dashboard Mounting Style Detail Graphics (Continued)

## D2b TYPE S – STRAIGHT SHAFT: Morse 20 Degree Mounting

#### **REQUIRED PARTS**:

- a. Octopus Part Number AFMDMSRW (rigid shaft drive unit)
- b. Octopus Part Number OC15SUK09 (20 degree bezel kit)
- c. Octopus Part Number OC15SUK06A thru E (rudder feed back kit) See section E3 on page 19 for additional selection information



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#### D2. STEP 3 – Dashboard Mounting Style Detail Graphics (Continued)

#### D2c. TYPE T – TILT SHAFT: TFX Performance Tilt Mechanism

#### **REQUIRED PARTS:**

- a. Octopus Part Number AFMDTPRW (TFX Performance tilt drive unit)
- b. Octopus Part Number OC15SUK06A thru E (rudder feed back kit)
- See section E3 on page 19 for additional selection information
- c. Teleflex Performance Tilt Mechanism (supplied by end user)



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#### E1. STEP 4 – Accessory Selection Review

There are 6 types of accessory to be considered.

RUDDER FEED BACK MECHANISM: All autopilot installations require a rudder angle feed back device. The Octopus mechanism is based upon a rotary potentiometer, attaches directly to the drive unit with 2 screws and the calibration procedure is simple. Alternate devices attach directly to the tiller arm using a linkage mechanism; they require hard wiring and adequate protection from the elements and in many cases from accidental damage due to poor stowage of equipment or simply being stepped on. See graphic E4 on page 17 for further details.

STEERING CABLE ADAPTERS: When replacing the originally installed rotary helm unit, it is usually possible to re-use the original steering cable. The most popular types of rotary steering cable can be adapted to mate with the Octopus drive unit. See section C on pages 4 thru 7 for further details. Note that when replacing a "RACK" type helm a new rotary steering cable must ALWAYS be fitted.

HELM BEZEL KIT: Helm bezel kits are used to mount the straight shaft helm to the dashboard and provide an aesthetic finish. They are available in black only at either 90 degree or 20 degree. See section D on page 8 thru 10 for further details.

TILT MECHANISM: The available factory configured tilt shaft drive unit is designed to mate with the Teleflex Performance Tilt Mechanism. Retro-fit components are available to enable drive units to mate with older types of tilt mechanism from Morse, Teleflex and Uflex. Consult factory for more details.

HELM SPACER KIT: These spacer kits can be used to shift the helm rearwards in order to reduce the amount of space required behind the dashboard. The kits consist of multiple stackable spacers and connection hardware. The individual spacers are manufactured from aluminum and are protected from the environment with a black anodized finish. Consult factory for other finishing options. See graphics E2a thru E2c on page 13 thru 15 for further details.

FRICTION BRAKE: This device is only available for the TYPE S – STRAIGHT SHAFT installation. It attaches to the neck of the helm and steering shaft and applies an adjustable friction force resisting the rotation of the steering shaft. It has the effect of dampening out helm backlash and resisting steering bias loads that can be transmitted from the forces created by propeller wash, especially on outboard engine installations. See graphic E3 on page 16 for further details.

#### E2. STEP 4 – Accessory Selection Detail Graphics

E2a. Type S - Straight Shaft 90 degree Mount with Helm Spacer

#### **REQUIRED PARTS:**

a. Octopus Part Number OC15SUK16 (90 degree mount spacer kit)



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#### E2. STEP 4 – Accessory Selection Detail Graphics (continued)

E2b. Type S - Straight Shaft 20 degree Mount with Helm Spacer

#### **REQUIRED PARTS:**

a. Octopus Part Number OC15SUK17 (20 degree mount spacer kit)



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#### E2. STEP 4 – Accessory Selection Detail Graphics (Continued)

E2c. Type T - Tilt Shaft for TFX Performance Tilt Mechanism with Helm Spacer

#### **REQUIRED PARTS:**

b. Octopus Part Number OC15SUK18 (TFX Performance tilt mount spacer kit)



COMPLETE INSTALLATION



MAX THICKNESS = 1.0 INCHES OR 25mm (2 SPACERS)



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E3. STEP 4 – Accessory Selection Detail Graphics (Continued)

## E3 FRICTION BRAKE

**REQUIRED PARTS:** 

a. Octopus Part Number OC15SUK11





COMPLETE INSTALLATION (bezel omitted)



COMPLETE INSTALLATION

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#### E4. STEP 4 – Accessory Selection Detail Graphics (Continued)

## E4 RUDDER FEED BACK MODULE

#### **REQUIRED PARTS:**

a. Octopus Part Number OC15SUK06A THRU F

#### MECHANICAL CALIBRATION PROCEDURE

- 1. Before installing the drive unit into the vessel, disassemble the RFB module from the drive housing, by removing 2 attach screws.
- 2. Install the drive unit into the vessel and install the remote steering cable following the drive installation guide.
- 3. Complete the electrical hook up of the drive following the drive-autopilot installation guide.
- 4. Complete the electrical hook up of the RFB module following the drive-autopilot installation guide.
- 5. Center the gear on the RFB module by aligning the red paint mark on the gear with the red paint mark on the housing as shown in underside view graphic below.
- 6. By turning the steering wheel of the helm unit, centre the rudder. Note that on power assisted steering systems, you may need to run the engine to achieve this.
- 7. Reassemble the RFB module to the drive housing and install and tighten the 2 attach screws. Ensure that the mesh between the RFB module and the drive gear is not excessive.
- 8. See autopilot installation guide for instructions on additional software controlled RFB fine calibration and HO limitation.



COMPLETE INSTALLATION



**RFB MODULE** 



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## F1 Electrical Hook Up

- F1a Motor and Clutch Power Supply Cable
  - i. Following Auto Pilot manufacturers installation guide and wiring diagram, connect 4 x 16 AWG wires (supplied in jacketed cable from drive) with Auto Pilot junction box.
  - ii. Following Auto Pilot manufacturers installation guide, perform electrical tests.
- F1b Rudder Feed Back Signal Cable
  - i. Following Auto Pilot manufacturers installation guide and wiring diagram, connect 3 x 24 AWG wires + shield core (supplied in jacketed cable) from RFB module with Auto Pilot junction box.
  - ii. Following Auto Pilot manufacturers installation guide, perform electrical tests.

## G1 System & Accessory Checklist



| CHECKLIST 1                          |                           |   |   |       |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|-------|--|--|--|
| MDR DASHBOARD MOUNT A/P DRIVE SYSTEM |                           |   |   |       |  |  |  |
| DESCRIPTION                          |                           |   | PART NUMBER   | ORDER |  |  |  |
| MANDATORY<br>SELECT 1 DRIVE UNIT     | BASIC SYSTEM              | straight shaft drive unit<br>(includes 90 degree bezel kit)                 | AFMDMSRW<br>(with RFB - supply<br>a/p make & model)<br>AFMDMSW<br>(without RFB) |       |  |  |  |
|                                      |                           | tilt shaft drive unit<br>(to match up to TFX<br>performance tilt mechanism) | AFMDTPRW<br>(with RFB - supply<br>a/p make & model<br>AFMDMSW<br>(without RFB)  |       |  |  |  |
| ACCESSORY SELECTIONS                 | RUDDER FEED BACK          | RFB potentiometer module<br>(supply autopilot model and<br>manufacturer)    | OC15SUK06<br>A thru H   |       |  |  |  |
|                                      | STEERING CABLE<br>OPTIONS | adaptor for TFX SSC61<br>adaptor for TFX SSC62<br>adaptor for TFX SSC72     | OC15SUK08<br>OC15SUK08<br>OC15SUK07   |       |  |  |  |
|                                      |                           | adaptor for MORSE 304415  | OC15SUK07   |       |  |  |  |
|                                      |                           | adaptor for UFLEX M47   | OC15SUK07   |       |  |  |  |
|                                      |                           | steering cable  | OC15109-XX<br>(length calculated<br>from routing path)                          |       |  |  |  |
| ۲ /                                  |                           | 90 degree bezel kit   | OC15SUK10   |       |  |  |  |
| OPTIONA                              | HELM MOUNT OPTIONS        | 20 degree bezel kit   | OC15SUK09   |       |  |  |  |
|                                      |                           | 90 degree bezel spacer kit  | OC15SUK16   |       |  |  |  |
|                                      |                           | 20 degree bezel spacer kit  |   |       |  |  |  |
|                                      |                           | friction brake kit  | OC15SUK18   |       |  |  |  |
|                                      |                           |   | 001000111   |       |  |  |  |

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