

Greetings Jonathan

Here is my general recap of the installation of the Octopus Drive unit with Raymarine X-10 Smart Pilots with ST-70 controller.

I have asked many marine service shops about installing an autopilot on my SeaRay 270 AJ in the area, including the largest Raymarine dealer in the area, Mariner's center located in Muskegon Michigan and they kept telling me I had to go to hydraulic steering, quoting prices around \$7,000. When Raymarine came out with the sport pilot, now called Smart Pilot X-5 I thought I had a solution for my boat, but when I asked the same service shops, they all stated the X-5 would not work with my set up. (Now I am glad I didn't purchase the X-5 because the unit is junk, even the rebuilt heavy duty models are burning the gears up..... Raymarine has some serious issues with the X-5 that is giving them a huge black eye and I am sure it is affecting the sales numbers...) Once I heard about you through friends doing an internet search and my boat dealer SkipperBuds (Coopersville, MI), I started to research your unit and was very impressed. The pdf files online were easy to understand and I could picture myself installing your unit. Every dealer talks about how hard it is to install an autopilot system and shame on me for believing them, even Raymarine talks about in their installation manuals to have a certified installer. I can understand the dealer but Raymarine..... hell when you call Raymarines tech support they don't even know their own product, one person referenced me to one of their dealers.... You got to be kidding me, but they do make a good product with the X-10 and ST-70.

Planning for installation:

Like I stated above, I decided to install the Octopus and Raymarine Autopilot myself. I read through your installation manual and Raymarine's installation manuals a couple of times. I was planning on 6 hours to install all the units, not counting commissioning time. I figured about two hours to install the Octopus drive, took me around three hours (I had to move my batteries and trim tab pump to make a clean installation). The Octopus Type B connection kit was a breeze, I had that installed within 45 minutes, it could not have been easier, pop a cotter pin, retract the steering cable, add the bracket, extend the steering cable and insert your unit with cotter pin....done!!! After reorganizing the batteries and trim tab pump, I installed the drive unit to the base of the boat with 1" SS screws, holes pre drilled and filled with silicon sealant. The only thing left was to center the RFB unit, two screws, line up the red marks, center the outdrive and reinstall the RFB unit. Your stuff was done.

Couple of Suggestions.

- show a picture of the cable assembly in the Octopus showing to remove the screw, slide in the cable, line up the U groove for the bolt locking the unit together
- on the RFB wire diagram, label the wire to match up with different autopilot computers

- with Raymarine

-Octopus pot pin 3 (red wire) goes to the red connector on the X-10

-Octopus pot pin 1 (black wire) goes to the green connector on the X-10

-Octopus pot pin 2 (white wire) goes to the blue connector on the X-10

-on the motor leads with Raymarine

-Octopus motor red +12v goes to the A connector (which is positive, not labeled that way from Raymarine)

-Octopus motor black -12v goes to the B Connector (which is negative, not labeled that way from Raymarine)

-the clutch was fine

Training

-dock side calibration took less than five minute on the dock, mainly due to the RFB unit.

-sea trial was a little more complicated, I had some wind to deal with and had to wait until the winds calmed down, took me about 20 minutes to dial in the sea trial calibration.

Overall the unit has been great, Kim and I recently fished some difficult seas with 2 ft waves coming from the north and 4 ft rollers from the SW, left over from the night before, the autopilot kept me on a straight line, better than I could have. The whole time Kim and I were busy at the back of the boat changing lures, line types and catching fish with no worries on getting back to the helm..... As I mentioned before the joke on the dock was that autopilot saved my marriage..... I tell you what she is a much happier fisherwoman and I a much happier fisherman.

Again thank you and Dave (I believe that is his name, service guy at your place, very helpful and much appreciated)

Happy Octopus Customer  
Kevin and Kim Fleming

Installation Photos









