

Radar Best Practice

Setting up a Radar

WEST

When setting up a radar, remember to consider and work through all of the following points:

- ✓ Set the screen brilliance
- ✓ Set the control panel brilliance
- ✓ Select day or night display
- ✓ Align radar with the true heading using the gyro compass and apply the gyro error, if any. Do not align with a gyro repeater
- ✓ Ensure the radar heading marker is aligned with the fore and aft line of the vessel
- ✓ Check that the radar scanner is not obstructed and is free to turn
- ✓ Ensure that no one is working on or near the radar scanner
- ✓ Turn on the power to the radar scanner
- ✓ Once the radar has warmed up, switch from standby to transmit
- ✓ Set display mode to either relative or true motion
- ✓ Select picture orientation: North-up, head-up or course-up
- ✓ Select an appropriate range scale for the prevailing circumstances and conditions
- ✓ Offset the screen centre if deemed appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions
- ✓ Set the gain
- ✓ Tune the radar either manually or automatically
- ✓ Adjust the manual rain and sea clutter controls, or switch on automatic anti-clutter
- ✓ Set the pulse length; short, medium or long – longer pulse length for higher range scales
- ✓ Set the interference rejection level as required
- ✓ Switch enhanced video/echo stretch/target expansion on or off as required
- ✓ Switch echo averaging on or off as required
- ✓ Switch the range rings on or off as required
- ✓ Switch the VRMs on or off as required
- ✓ Switch the EBLs on or off as required
- ✓ Switch target AIS data on or off as required
- ✓ Check the performance of the radar using the performance monitor



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Important: The above points are listed for guidance only. It is essential that you read the operating manuals for the radars aboard your vessel and ensure that the set-up instructions specified by each manufacturer are followed.