



# HOUSEBOAT THRUSTER HB340/350 SERIES

## INSTALLATION/OPERATION MANUAL

VOLUME 2.5 JULY 2023  
Sideshift Inc. 130 Industrial Ave, Unit 303, Carleton Place, ON, Canada K7C 3T2  
**1.877.325.4787 +613.686.6011 INFO@SIDESHIFT.COM**

# INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your purchase of a Sideshift thruster system.

Sideshift thrusters are designed for easy installation by anyone with basic mechanical and electrical skills.

This manual explains everything you need to know about installing your Sideshift thruster.

**We also provide unlimited telephone support at [1.877.325.4787](tel:18773254787).**

**Also see our website for helpful installation videos at <https://sideshift.com/resources/installation/>**

This manual explains the mounting and operation of the HB340/HB350 Houseboat Thruster system. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with this complete manual before starting your installation.



## Safety warnings




- WARNING:** To prolong motor life and prevent overheating operate the thruster in short bursts of 3-5 seconds, and never for more than 20-30 seconds at a time.
- WARNING:** Ensure thruster battery switch is turned off when conducting maintenance and repair of the thruster.
- WARNING:** Use extreme caution when swimmers are in the area of the thruster. Turn off ignition and avoid contact with thruster props when boat is stationary.
- WARNING:** When operating out-of-water do not run thruster for longer than 5 seconds to prevent overheating.
- WARNING:** If conducting an in-water installation, use a cordless drill only, as a corded drill can present an electrocution hazard.

## Required Tools





- Heat gun
- 3/8" drive cordless driver
- 3/8" hex socket
- Wire stripper
- Wire crimper
- SAE wrench set 3/8" to 3/4"
- Pliers
- Drill bits up to 1/2"
- Caulking gun
- Marine sealant
- 1 1/4" and 2 1/2" hole saw




## Parts List

Item	Photo	Purpose
Single Wireless Joystick		Raise, lower and control thruster.
Dual Wireless Joystick		Controls bow and stern thruster on a single console for one-hand operation
Wireless Control Module		Wireless receiver and control interface between joystick and motor controller.



<p>Motor Control Module</p>		<p>Relays commands from joystick, delivering high current from battery to motor.</p>
<p>Threadlocker/Anti-seize</p>		<p>Prevents screw and bolt threads from seizing, facilitating easier assembly and disassembly.</p>
<p>Heat shrink tubes (sufficient for all cables attached to motor controller. Cut to size)</p>		<p>Provides waterproofing for cable at battery terminals.</p>
<p>Terminal protectors</p>		<p>Protects terminals from moisture and prevents shorts.</p>



<p>Battery terminals and crimping tool</p>		<p>Connects cables to batteries, motor controller and battery switch.</p>
<p>Wireless Remote</p>		<p>Controls thruster remotely</p>
<p>Battery Switch</p>		<p>On/Off switch for thruster batteries</p>
<p>Fuse/Digital Voltage Indicator</p>		<p>Fuse protection and digital voltage monitor</p>



# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Sideshift thrusters can be installed with the boat in water or on land, although land-based installation is easier.

View these helpful videos before getting started on your installation:

[https://www.youtube.com/bow mounting](https://www.youtube.com/bow%20mounting)

[https://www.youtube.com/electrical joystick](https://www.youtube.com/electrical_joystick)

## HB340/350 Bow Thruster Placement

The thruster is designed to be positioned on the underside bow of any pontoon-style or flat-bottom style houseboat. Position the unit centrally or off-center, and as far forward as possible for best performance.

The thruster mounting surface can be a maximum of 24"(61cm) from the water. If the mounting surface is more than 24"(61cm) above the water, a mounting bracket will need to be fabricated from Aluminum I-Beam or square tubing to provide a lower mounting surface.

### Flat bottom houseboat









### Gibson style



### Three Buoys



## Step-By-Step Instructions:

**STEP 1:** DETERMINE A MOUNTING SURFACE WITH A MINIMUM OF ¼" ALUMINUM OR STEEL RIGID PLATING *OR* ATTACH RAILS TO FORM AN APPROPRIATE MOUNTING PLATFORM

The unit has pre-drilled mounting slots to accommodate 16" or 24" centers. In some installations it will be necessary to drill through the thruster mounting plate to fit centers other than 24", or to attach to mounting rails. Use a ¼" drill bit to drill the mounting plate.

### Mounting rails



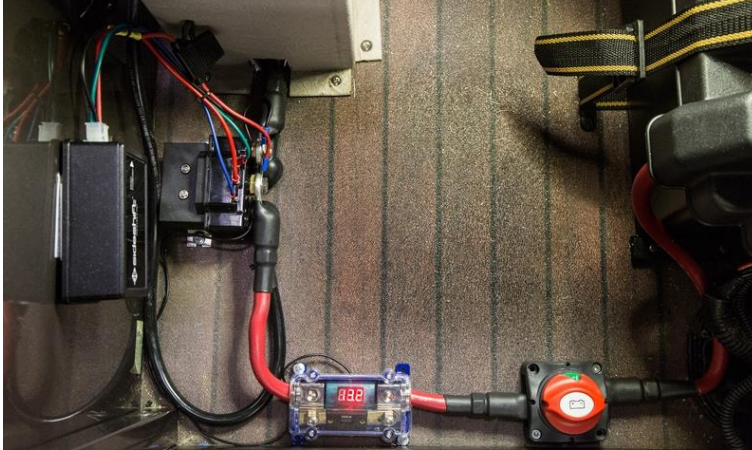
**NOTE:** You will require a helper for Step 2

**STEP 2:** POSITION THRUSTER AND ATTACH TO UNDERSIDE OF DECK

Using a helper, position the thruster in place, and using the supplied self-drilling/self-tapping 1 ¼" stainless hex-head mounting screws, apply a small amount of supplied Loctite to the threads and drive the screws into the mounting surface at the appropriate location. A minimum of two screws are required at the front and two at the back of the unit.



**STEP 3:** FEED THRUSTER CABLES THROUGH DECK AND CONNECT TO BATTERY SWITCH, FUSE AND MOTOR CONTROL MODULE(REFER TO SCHEMATICS ON PG 11/12)



Determine a location for the motor control module and thruster batteries in a dry storage area close to the thruster.

Using a 1 1/4" hole saw, drill holes at appropriate locations for routing of the thruster cables.

Feed the thruster cables into the storage location.

Connect the motor control cables to a dedicated 12v(HB340) or 24v (HB350) battery bank(see page 14).

**WARNING:** Verify that hole placement will not interfere with or damage anything when drilling through the deck and storage location, and that there is sufficient space so that cables can be accessed after passing through the proposed hole location.

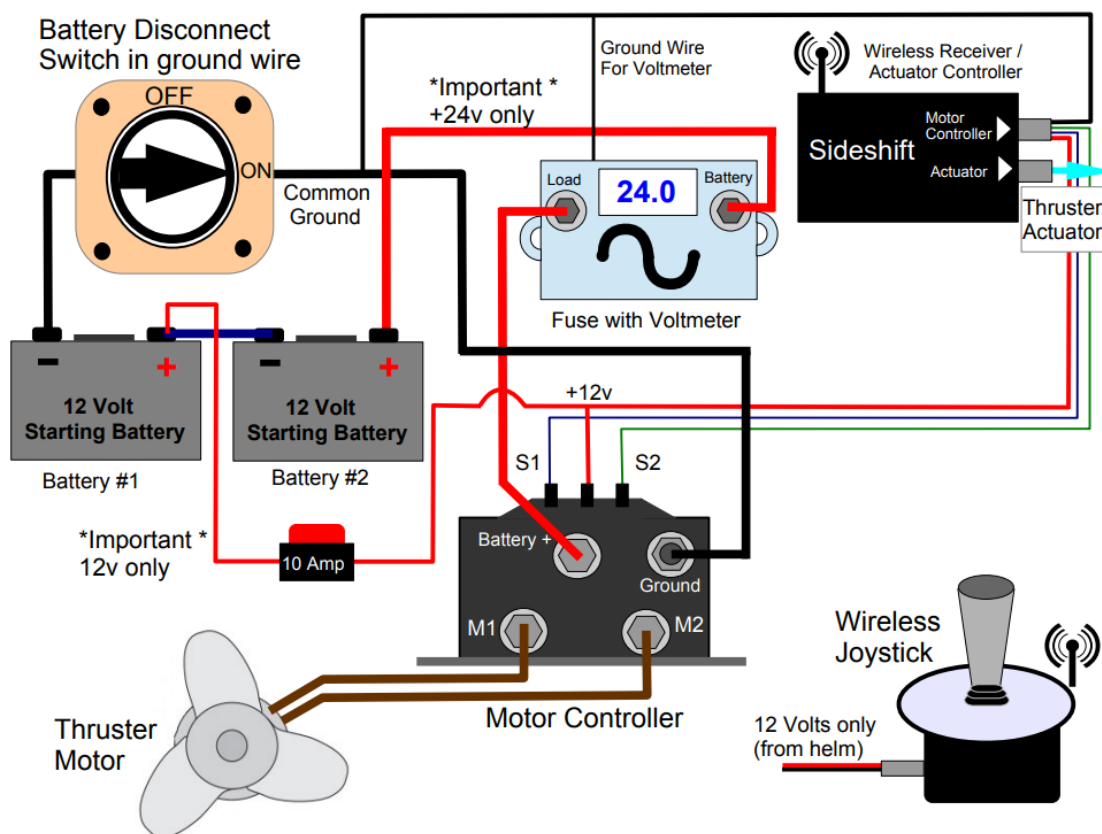
**WARNING:** Ensure the motor control module is located in a dry storage area



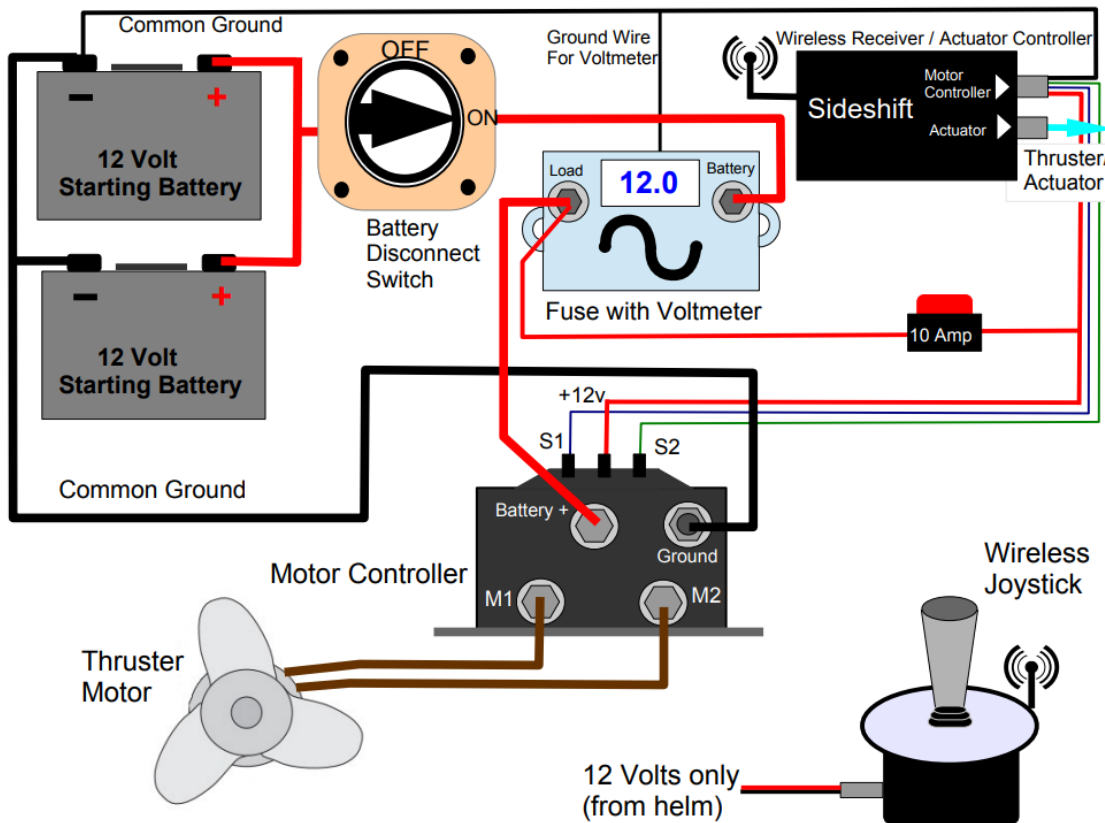
# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## – ELECTRICAL

### Schematic – HB350 24V System



## Schematic – HB340 12V System



Due to the high current draw, Sideshift thrusters must be supplied with dedicated 12v starter-type batteries for each thruster.

**WARNING:** High currents can result in reduced voltage supply to the thruster if improper cable, connectors and/or assembly procedures are used. This can result in poor performance or damage to the thruster motor.

**WARNING:** Ensure the dedicated thruster batteries are fully charged and load tested. Low battery voltage can result in erratic actuator performance (actuator arm will not extend or retract properly) and poor thruster performance or damage to the thruster motor.





# Battery Requirements

Starter type batteries (**NOT deep cycle**) are required for optimal performance. The batteries supplying the thruster must be capable of meeting the required CCA (Cold Crank Amps), as outlined in Table 1: Required Battery Characteristics. Insufficient battery capacity will lead to poor thruster performance.

Model	Qty	Battery Voltage	System Voltage	CCA per battery	Total CCA Req.
HB340	2	12 V	12v	850	1700
HB350	2	12 V	24v	850	850

**Table 1: Required Battery Characteristics**

**Warning:** **It is essential that the cold cranking ampere (CCA) requirements are met as outlined in the table above.**

**Ensure batteries are load tested and properly charged at all times to avoid performance problems and thruster motor damage due to low voltage**

Batteries must be installed as close to the motor controller as possible for optimum performance. If you are installing batteries in a non-ventilated area you will need to use AGM (absorbed glass mat) sealed batteries.

## BATTERY CAPACITY AND AGE

Under normal circumstances with new and fully charged batteries, you can expect around 50 thruster cycles before the battery must be recharged.

It is advisable to recharge batteries after each use if possible, to extend the life of the battery.

As batteries age and with repeated charge cycles, the battery slowly loses its ability to hold charge. The deeper the discharge before recharging, the shorter the life of the battery. Over time it will be able to supply fewer thruster cycles before it requires recharging and eventually will lack the capacity to allow proper thruster performance.

Capacity reduces to the point that performance is poor or few thrust cycles are available before recharging, and the batteries must be replaced.





## BATTERY STORAGE

Over time, batteries self-discharge, even when disconnected. Some new batteries may have a self-discharge of 1-2% per month, but depending on the type and age of the battery, it can rise to 6% per month or more.

If the battery is coated with moist dirt and corrosion by-products, discharge rates can be even higher. Make sure the battery is clean and free of dirt and corrosion on and around the terminals.

If the battery is a flooded type, top up the electrolyte, ensuring that it is above the plates and below the vent cap well.

Fully charge the battery before storage, and store in a cool, dry place. Cooler batteries will self-discharge at a lower rate than warm batteries.

**Check the terminal voltage of the battery periodically using the digital voltmeter located on the fuse holder.** When the terminal voltage drops below 12.4 volts (75% capacity), charge it until fully charged. More frequent charging is preferred if convenient. It is recommended to charge the battery every three months.

Note that as charge capacity decreases, the freezing point of the electrolyte increases. This is important because the electrolyte must not be allowed to freeze. At 62% capacity, the freezing point is -26.5°C/-16°F; at 85% capacity, it is -52°C/-62°F.

## CONNECTING BATTERIES IN PARALLEL - HB340 SYSTEM

You can meet the CCA requirements for the HB340 system by connecting a second battery in parallel to the first.

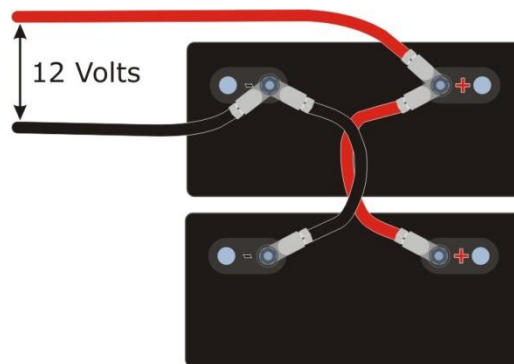


Figure 1: Two batteries in parallel, doubling CCA to 1700

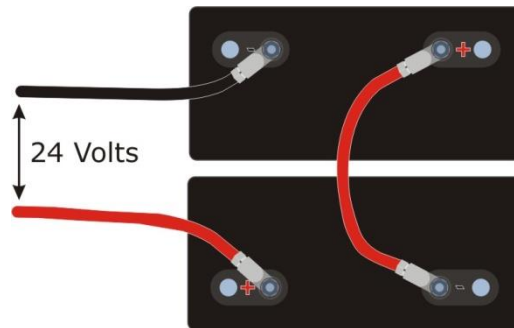


If you use a parallel configuration, the two batteries must be identical: same rating and same manufacturer and ideally new batteries, or at least operated as a pair for their entire service life. Each battery must be charged separately before installing to ensure they start at the same charge level. Batteries which are dissimilar in any way may not charge and discharge equally, leaving one battery undercharged.

To connect two batteries in parallel, prepare two shunt cables of the same gauge used to connect the batteries to the motor controller. Connect the positive post of one battery to the positive post of the other and the negative post of one battery to the negative post of the other.

## CONNECTING BATTERIES IN SERIES – HB350 SYSTEM

You can connect two 12v batteries in series to provide the required 24 volts for the HB350 system.



**Figure 2: Two 12 V batteries in series, providing 24 V**

To connect two batteries in series, connect the negative post of one battery to the positive post of another using a short piece of battery cable of the same gauge used to connect the batteries to the motor controller. The two remaining posts are each connected to the motor controller using two battery cables, supplying 24V.

## Cable and Terminal Requirements

Due to the high current load drawn by the motors, it is essential that the correct type of cable and connectors are used, and that maximum cable length guidelines are observed according to the gauge and thruster model. These guidelines are summarized in the table below. The table assumes cables from the thruster to the controller have not been shortened.



# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## – ELECTRICAL

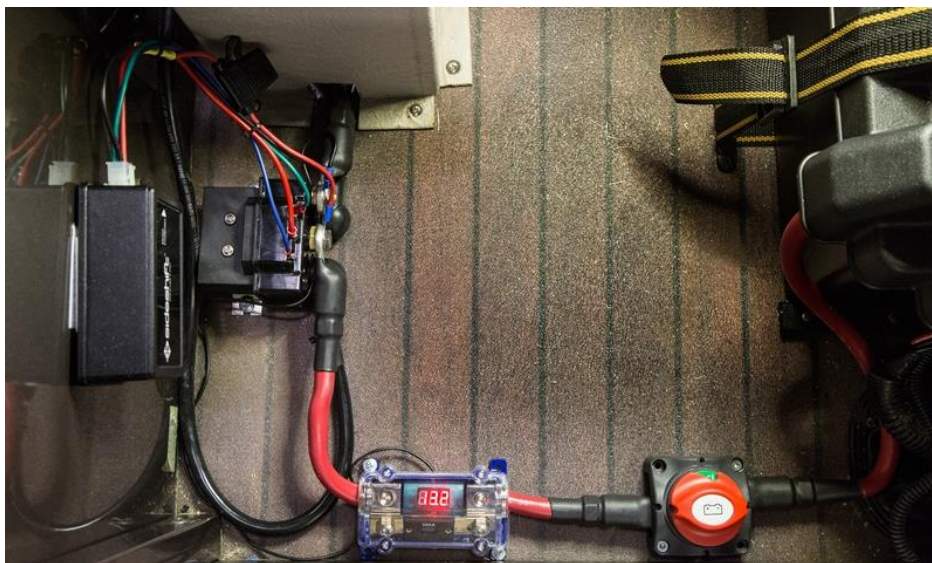
### STEP 1: LOCATE SITE FOR BATTERY SWITCH, FUSE, CONTROLLER, WIRELESS RECEIVER AND BATTERIES

**Find a dry location(Components are not waterproof)** inside the boat for the battery switch, fuse, motor controller and batteries as close to the cable entry point as possible. Keep the total cable run from thruster batteries to motor controller to a maximum of 20ft. The fuse must be accessible so you can easily check system voltage and change the fuse if necessary.

Required cable gauge for connecting motor controller to thruster battery bank, fuse and battery switch:

Thruster Series	Cable AWG
340	2/0
350	2/0

### STEP 2: CONNECT THRUSTER BATTERY BANK TO BATTERY SWITCH, FUSE/VOLTAGE INDICATOR, WIRELESS RECEIVER AND MOTOR CONTROLLER



Refer to relevant schematic on page 11/12 for correct connections.

Fit terminal protectors over each battery lead at the controller end.

Choose a terminal lug to match the cable gauge

2/0 AWG for 340/350 series connection to motor controller use part# T3-2

2/0 AWG for 340/350 series all other connections use part# T3-4

Attach positive cable to the "BATTERY POS" post on the motor controller. Slip battery protector over terminal.

Repeat steps for "BATTERY NEG" cable.

### STEP 3: CONNECT BATTERIES

---

Fit battery protector and then shrink tube to "BATTERY NEG" cable.

Install terminal lug to "BATTERY NEG" CABLE.

Attach positive cable to the LOAD side of the fuse.

Attach "BATTERY NEG" cable to battery terminal.

### STEP 4: CONNECT THRUSTER TO MOTOR CONTROLLER

---

If thruster power cables are too long, cut them to length. Be sure that they are neatly routed, and comfortably reach the motor controller terminals. Leave some slack to make installation easier.

Fit battery protectors and then shrink tube over each thruster lead at the cable end.

For all thrusters use terminal lug part# M1 and M2

Connect one cable to "M1" and the other to "M2" on the motor controller solenoid.

<b>NOTE:</b>	Motor power cable polarity is not identified. <b>If thrusters operate in opposite direction from joystick, reverse S1/S2 connections on motor controller.</b>
--------------	---



## How To Install Terminal Lugs

**STEP 5:** STRIP 1" (2.5 CM) OF INSULATION FROM EACH END OF CABLES

**NOTE:** Take care when stripping insulation to avoid damaging conductor. If some strands are removed the terminal may not make a good connection possibly resulting in performance reduction, a fire hazard or the cable pulling out of the terminal lug.

**STEP 6:** CHOOSE A TERMINAL LUG TO MATCH THE CABLE GAUGE(SEE PAGE 16)

**STEP 7:** INSERT CABLE INTO TERMINAL LUG

**STEP 8:** FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDED WITH THE CRIMPING TOOL. NOTE: HIT CRIMPING TOOL ON A SOLID SURFACE WITH SEVERAL SHARP BLOWS. ENSURE CABLE IS PROPERLY SECURED TO THE LUG BY DOING A PULL TEST.

**STEP 9:** INSTALL HEAT SHRINK TUBE

Slide shrink tube up the cable so that it covers the shaft of the terminal and the insulation of the cable.

Apply even heat to the shrink tube until it makes a solid seal around the cable and terminal.



# CONNECTING WIRELESS JOYSTICK AND ACTUATOR CONTROLS

---

## Model HB350

**Refer to HB350 schematic on page 12 for complete system layout**

1. Position the wireless control module in a dry location near the motor control module.
2. Connect the red(Positive) and black(Ground) leads from the 4 pin motor control cable to the "12v Positive" and "Common Ground" terminals on the battery bank.

**Caution: DO NOT connect red and black leads directly to motor control module or damage to wireless control module will occur.**

3. Connect "24v positive" and "Common Ground" terminals on the battery to "battery neg" and "battery pos" on the motor control module.
4. Connect the green and blue leads from the 4 pin motor control cable to "switch 1" and "switch 2" on the motor control module.
5. Plug the 4 pin motor control cable into the black wireless control module.
6. Plug the 6 pin actuator cable into the black wireless control module.

<b>NOTE:</b> The joystick and wireless key fob are preprogrammed for operation. No pairing or programming is required.
--





## Model HB340

**Refer to HB340 schematic on page 13 for complete system layout**

1. Position the control module in a dry location near the motor control module.
2. Connect the red(Positive) and black(Ground) leads from the 4 pin motor control cable to the "12v Positive" and "Common Ground" terminals on the battery bank.
3. Connect "Common Ground" and "battery pos" on the battery to "battery neg" and "battery pos" on the motor control module.
4. Connect the green and blue leads from the 4 pin motor control cable to "switch 1" and "switch 2" on the motor control module.
5. Plug the 4 pin motor control cable into the black wireless control module.
6. Plug the 6 pin actuator cable into the black wireless control module.

**NOTE:** The joystick and wireless key fob are preprogrammed for operation. No pairing or programming is required.



## Installing Joystick on Console



1. Locate a position on the console of the boat suitable for the joystick. Check under the selected position on the console to ensure a minimum area of at least 4" diameter and a minimum three inches obstruction-free below the area of the joystick equipment.
2. Peel the backing and place the supplied template in the chosen location.
3. Using a 3/16" bit, drill a hole at the center of the template, marked by the cross-hairs.
4. Using a 2.5" hole saw and the pilot hole drilled in Step 3 above, drill a hole at the center of the template.
5. Remove the template.
6. Connect the red and black leads from the joystick power cable to a direct 12v source under the helm.

**Note:** Do not connect the joystick cable through an accessory or other type of switch.



7. Plug the power cable into the back of the joystick
8. Run a thin bead of marine sealant in the groove around the underside perimeter of the joystick, insert into the 2 ½" cutout and press in place. Use a sharp knife or razor to trim any excess sealant.

## OPERATING THE THRUSTER

**WARNING:** The thruster is equipped with an overload protection circuit. Should the thruster encounter an obstruction when being retracted or deployed, the unit will shut down and a continuous alarm will sound. You must turn power off and then power back on to the joystick and to the thruster battery switch, which will reset the unit. Clear any obstruction under the boat and proceed normally.

**WARNING:** Deploy and operate the thruster only when the boat is at slow speed or stopped. Never deploy the thruster when the boat is at speed as this may enable the overload protection circuit(see above warning) or damage the unit.

**WARNING:** Ensure the area under the boat is clear when operating the thruster and that there are no swimmers in the area.

1. Turn power on to the joystick by holding the power button for 1 second. A beep will sound and the blue joystick light will activate.
2. To lower the thruster, press and release the down button on the joystick console. A fast beep will sound during deployment, and a slow beep will sound once the thruster is in the fully down position and ready for use.
3. Use the thruster in short bursts as required. Do not run for more than 20-30 seconds at a time.
4. To retract the thruster push the up button on the joystick console. A fast beep will sound. When the unit is fully retracted the joystick will automatically power off.
5. The joystick will automatically power-off after 10 minutes of non-use.

**WARNING** Retract the thruster only when the boat is completely stopped



## OPERATING THE WIRELESS REMOTE

**Note** You must turn on the system power at the joystick in order to use the wireless remote

1. For operation of the wireless key fob the joystick must be turned on and the thruster in the fully down position.
2. Push the top left or right buttons as required to operate the bow thruster.
3. Push the bottom left or right buttons to operate the stern thruster(if applicable).
4. The wireless key fob will automatically power-off after 5 seconds to preserve battery life.
5. A flashing green light indicates low battery. No green light indicates a dead battery or lost wireless connection.
6. To reprogram the remote turn on joystick and hold top two buttons down on remote for 5 seconds until there is a beep. Check for thruster operation.
7. To replace the battery remove the 4 screws, open the case carefully, and insert a new CR2032 coin cell battery.

## OPERATION AND FAULT MODES

Operation	Action	Features
<b>Power on thruster</b>	Press and hold joystick power button for 1 second	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short beep and solid blue light to confirm power</li> <li>• Auto power-off after 5 min of non-use</li> </ul>
<b>Lower thruster</b>	Push and release actuator down button on joystick console	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast beep during deployment</li> <li>• Slow beep when fully extended</li> </ul>



<b>Raise thruster</b>	Push and release actuator up button on joystick console	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast beep when thruster retracts</li> <li>• System will power-off automatically</li> </ul>
-----------------------	---	---

## KEY FOB OPERATION

Mode	Action	Features
<b>Power on</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thruster must be in extended position before using key fob</li> <li>• Press left or right arrows to operate thruster as required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid green light when power on</li> <li>• Auto power-off after 5 seconds</li> <li>• Flashing green – Low Battery</li> <li>• No light -- Lost wireless connection or dead battery</li> <li>• To reprogram remote turn on joystick and hold top two buttons down on remote for 5 seconds until there is a beep. Check for thruster operation.</li> <li>• Replace CR2032 coin battery if necessary</li> </ul>



# MAINTENANCE

Sideshift thrusters are designed for long life, provided proper maintenance procedures are followed.

**WARNING:** When working near or on the Sideshift thruster, always switch the thruster battery switch to "off".

## Motor Unit

The motor is sealed and requires no maintenance.

## Battery

Ensure batteries are always fully charged. **Check voltage using the supplied voltmeter located on the fuse holder.** Unlike other battery technologies such as NiCad, batteries should be lightly cycled. Avoid discharging beyond 75% capacity and even less if possible. To verify charge, measure the terminal voltage of the battery with **no load**, and refer to the chart below to determine the health of your battery:

Voltage	Specific Gravity	Approximate Charge*
>14.4		Over-charging**
>13.38		Charging
12.62	1.265	100%
12.54	1.251	90%
12.45	1.236	80%
12.4	1.225	75% ***
12.27	1.206	60%
12.18	1.19	50%
11.97	1.155	25%
11.76	1.12	0%

Table 2: Terminal voltage vs. battery capacity





- Note \* It can take 2 hours after charging for the terminal voltage to properly reflect the charge level.
- Note \*\* Over-charging can damage the battery and cause hydrogen gas to form which is an explosion hazard and can lead to serious injury and fire.
- Note \*\*\* Avoid discharging beyond 75% to avoid premature battery failure.



# WARRANTY

All Sideshift Inc. products are warranted to be free from defects due to faulty workmanship or defective materials for a period of two years. Products failing within the warranty period should be returned to Sideshift assembled and complete with a copy of the original invoice.

Return requests must be made directly to Sideshift. The request should include an itemized list of material, stating the reason for the requested return. Upon approval Sideshift will assign a Return Merchandise Authorization Number which must be placed on the return shipping container. Delivery of returned merchandise will be refused and credit will not be issued without written authorization and shipping instructions from Sideshift.

Sideshift Inc. will not be responsible for accidental damage or expense caused by the following conditions:

- Damage due to improper installation
- Improper wire size or low voltage conditions
- Burn-out due to overloading motor or related damage
- Tampering with or altering the motor before, during or after installation
- Damage due to collision of any kind
- Damage due to entanglement of foreign objects such as fishing line and netting material
- Warranty does not cover paint damage, dents, nicks and normal wear and tear of the product following delivery and installation.



# Specifications

## HB340/350 Houseboat Thruster

Parameter	HB340
Power (HP)	5
Voltage (VDC)	12
Start Current (A)	500
Housing Length (in)	34.0
Thruster Arm Length (in)	35.0
Housing Width (in)	12.0
Propellers (in)	8.0
Recommended boat size (ft.)	<50.0
Actuator deployment/retraction time (sec.)	6.0

Parameter	HB350
Power (HP)	7.5
Voltage (VDC)	24
Start Current (A)	400
Housing Length (in)	34.0
Thruster Arm Length (in)	35.0
Housing Width (in)	12.0
Propellers (in)	8.0
Recommended boat size (ft.)	<70.0
Actuator deployment/retraction time (sec.)	6.0

Sideshift Inc.  
 130 Industrial Ave, Unit 303  
 Carleton Place, ON, Canada K7C 3T2

Toll free. 1.877.325.4787  
 Tel. +1.613.686.6011  
 Fax. +1.613.225.9599  
[www.sideshift.com](http://www.sideshift.com)

