

Raymarine AP Bleed Procedure

5. Post-installation check

WARNING:

Keep clear of moving steering systems at all times. Protect moving parts from access during normal use. Check the following points after installing the pump:

1. Is the pump installed as close to the steering ram as possible?
2. Is the pump secured to a substantial structure on the boat?
3. Have you connected a reservoir pipe between the helm pump and autopilot pump?
4. Have you fitted check valves where appropriate?
5. Are the hydraulic pipes made of a suitable flexible material (i.e. rubber or nylon) with a suitable pressure rating?
6. Are power cables correctly routed and securely connected to the course computer?

You have now finished installing the pump. After installing the rest of the autopilot you must bleed all air from the system (see below).

Note: When you have installed the entire autopilot system, you will also need to complete an autopilot steering check. Refer to the control unit handbook for more details.

Bleeding the system

Bleeding the hydraulic system correctly is one of the most important steps when installing the autopilot hydraulic pump. If there is any air in the system the steering will feel spongy, particularly when you turn the wheel to hardover.

CAUTION:

Any air in the hydraulic system will greatly reduce the performance of the autopilot and the overall steering system.

In addition to the manufacturer's instructions for bleeding the steering system, follow these steps to bleed the autopilot pump when you have installed and set up the rest of the autopilot system:

1. With the system in auto mode, press the -10 button ten times:
 - the autopilot pump will try to drive the rudder to port
 - counter this rudder movement by turning the helm to starboard to keep the rudder stationary
 - you will be able to feel any air in the helm pump: any air in this side of the pump will rise to the helm pump and exhaust into the reservoir
 - continue until all of the air is out of this side of the pump
2. Clear any air on the other side of the pump:
 - press the +10 button ten times
 - the autopilot will try to drive the rudder to starboard
 - counter the rudder movement by turning the helm to port
 - continue until all of the air is out of this side of the pump
3. Repeat in both directions until both sides of the helm pump are totally free of air.

Note: Monitor the reservoir at all times and top up with the manufacturer's recommended hydraulic fluid as required.

CAUTION:

After installation and bleeding, leave the system for 24 hours then check for any air in the system or leaks at the joints and around the pump.

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