Steering Cable Measurement

When replacing your existing cable, you can usually find a part number and/or length stamped on the outer jacket. If it is not legible it will be necessary to make careful examination of your system to determine what type of cable you need and then to actually measure the length required for proper cable replacement or selection and installation.

Follow the following quick method for measuring all steering cables to determine the correct length you will need. Simply measure the length of the “B” requirement as indicated below. Then add 30 inches. Divide the total by 12. Your answer will probably be XX.X. Whatever the number is before the . is the whole foot conversion. Take that number and round up to the next whole foot measurement. This works for either rack (shown below) or rotary steering cables.

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“B” Measurement = _______
Add 30” = 30”
Total = __________
Divide Total by 12 = _____.__

Round up to next whole foot measurement which is _______ feet
Order this length of cable.
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**EXAMPLE**

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“B” Measurement = 152”
Add 30” = 30”
Total = 182”
Divide Total by 12 = 15.2

Round up to next whole foot measurement which is 16’.
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Control Cable Measurement

Because of the variety of boat cable applications and designs, there are some rules of thumb that apply when ordering a replacement cable. First, if you are replacing an existing cable, check the cable jacket for part number or measurement. Or, when the cable is removed, simply measure it from tip to tip. (DO NOT measure only the jacketed area referred to as “B” measurement in the above steering cable. That only applies to steering cables.)

If you are installing a cable in a new installation, plan the cable routing carefully. Always make it the shortest route with the least bends, from the control to the device you are controlling. (i.e. throttle, transmission) After you have determined the route your cable will take, simply measure the complete distance from control to the device, then round up to the nearest whole foot measurement.

If you have any questions, please call us at (252) 728-5566.