
AUTOANCHOR

AutoAnchor 550C
Rodecounter and Windlass Control

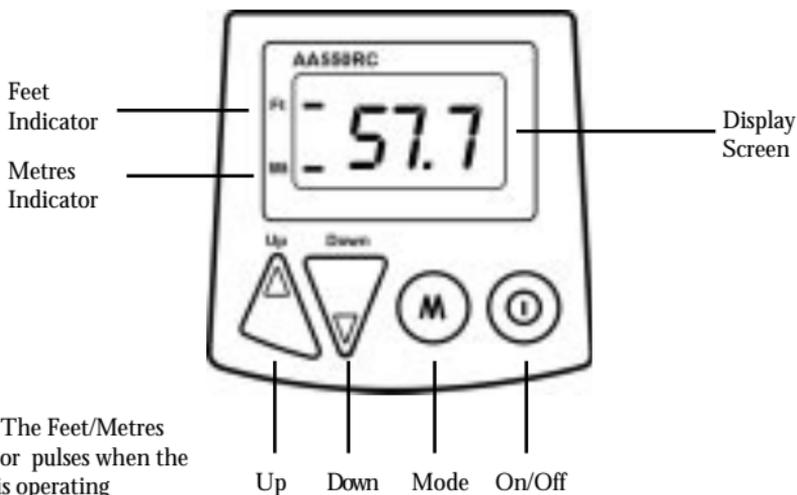
Operation Manual



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AutoAnchor 550RC Diagram



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

AA550RC Documentation

The documentation supplied with the AA550RC includes this Operation Manual plus the Installation Instructions & Wiring Diagrams. The Operation Manual includes calibration and testing instructions, plus operation and troubleshooting information.

AutoAnchor 550RC Installation

The AA550RC should only be installed by a qualified marine electrician. Do not attempt to install the AA550RC unless you are suitably qualified. Technical specifications, installation instructions and wiring diagrams are supplied with the AA550RC. Non compliance with these instructions could impair windlass and AA550RC operation, and could result in personal injury and/or damage to your boat. Non compliance with the instructions will negate the manufacturer's warranty.

The AA550RC is designed for installation on the rope/chain windlasses on the pre-programmed selection list. It can be used with all-chain windlasses using the custom setting. The AA550RC will not count correctly if the windlass selection is wrong or the windlass is not standard (eg it is installed with a different chainwheel or motor).

Windlass & Anchor Installation

The windlass must be installed according to the windlass manufacturer's instructions with the correct size rope and chain. It must also be regularly serviced and lubricated.

For smooth operation, the windlass requires a good quality, properly fitted bow roller and a swivel should be connected to the anchor where it joins the chain.

Note: Rope/chain anchor rodes must have a minimum of 10 ft (3 m) of chain. Chain must be galvanised steel.

Calibration and Testing

Before using the AA550RC it must be calibrated to the windlass and rode on the boat and tested in a safe environment.

Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC)

The AA550RC meets and exceeds the CE standard for EMC (EN60945). These standards are intended to provide reasonable protection against interference by other emission generating products on the boat. However, compliance with these standards is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. The installation instructions must be followed to minimise the potential for interference.

AA550RC Use

It is the owner's sole responsibility to ensure the AA550RC is installed, used and maintained in a manner that will not cause accidents, personal injury or property damage. When using the AA550RC the operator must use safe boating practices and safe windlass and anchoring operation.

Before using the AA550RC the operating instructions must be read and understood and the AA550RC must be calibrated and tested.

The AA550RC makes anchoring less stressful but nothing can replace good seamanship and safe boating practices.

The user of the AA550RC must:

- **use the windlass strictly according to the windlass manufacturer's instructions;**
- **personally control and supervise all windlass and anchoring operations; and**
- **always ensure the anchor is fully docked and secured before moving the boat**

The AA550RC manufacturer and supplier accept no liability for personal injury or property damage resulting from failure to follow the installation instructions or the use of the AA550RC in a way that may cause accidents or damage or that may violate the law.

To the best of our knowledge the information in this manual was correct at the time of printing. However, the AA550RC is continuously being reviewed and improved and product specifications may be changed without notice. The latest product specifications may not be reflected in this version of the manual.

Documentation relating to the AA550RC is created in the English language and can be translated from English to another language. In the event of any conflict between translated documents, the English language version will be the official version.

PART 1 - FEATURES

The AA550RC provides easier windlass control and security in knowing how much anchor rode has been released.

SAFETY FEATURES

- The safety lock reduces the chance of unintentional windlass operation from the console
- The safety cutout allows you to press any button on the console unit to stop windlass operation when using the automatic function
- The anchor retrieval stopping point (when using the automatic function) stops the windlass motor before the anchor reaches the boat and the AA550RC beeps to warn the operator to change to manual operation for final docking of the anchor.
- During final docking the AA550RC beeps continuously while the operator is pushing the up button

DIAGNOSTICS

Electronic fault diagnostics help to identify problems with:

- The power supply
- The wiring
- The sensor
- Windlass rotation

MEASUREMENT

- Anchor rode measurement is in feet or metres
- Settings and measurements are retained if the unit is turned off or the battery fails
- The counting operation continues if the windlass is operated by another switching mechanism on the boat (eg deckswitches)

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS - AA550RC

Power Supply: 12V or 24V DC

Current Consumption: 50mA

Temperature Range: 23°F to 140°F (-5°C to 60°C)

Solenoids: Max 4 Amp draw

Maximum Voltage: 30V DC

EMC: CE 60945

PART 2 - CALIBRATION



The AA550RC must be installed and operated in accordance with the instructions supplied. Non compliance with any of these instructions could impair windlass and AA550RC operation and will negate the manufacturer's warranty.



Before operation the AA550RC must be calibrated to comply with the boat's windlass and anchor rode and then tested in a safe environment.

It is useful to record the calibration settings in the spaces provided so that they are available for future reference.

You will need to clear the safety lock before any calibrations can be entered. To do this turn the AA550RC on, hold down the MODE button until **C** clears, then release the MODE button. (Refer to the diagram on page 7 to see the buttons). For further information about the safety lock refer to page 8.

Select Feet or Metres

The AA550RC displays measurements in feet or metres. The unit indicator shows the unit of measurement selected.

Unit Indicator

Feet

Metres



To select feet or metres:

Step 1 Turn the AA550RC on.

Step 2 Clear the safety lock. When the safety lock is on the display shows **C**. To clear it hold down the MODE button until **C** clears, then release the MODE button. The unit indicator will show the current setting.

Step 3 Hold down the MODE button until the indicator has changed position (approximately 5 seconds). Note: The **C** will appear and disappear as the indicator changes position.

After selecting feet or metres, enter calibration mode as follows:

Step 1 Turn the AA550RC off.

Step 2 Hold down the MODE button and press and release the ON/OFF button. Release the MODE button. The AA550RC will flash between Item 1 and the current setting. (Refer below).

Item Setting



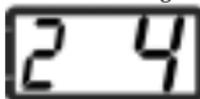
Item 1: Safety Lock

Default Setting is ON

Record Calibration Entered: _____

The safety lock should be left ON at all times. If you choose to disable the safety lock use the UP or DOWN button to change the display setting to OFF. To set the safety lock again press the UP or DOWN button to reset to ON. Press the MODE button to advance to the next item. The display will flash between Item 2 and the current setting for Item 2.

Item Setting



Item 2: Anchor Retrieval Stopping Point

Default Setting 4 ft or 1.5 m

Record Calibration Entered: _____

This sets the length of rode to be retrieved by manual operation of the unit after the automatic upward control has stopped. For safety the anchor retrieval stopping point cannot be set below 2 ft (0.7 m). Use the UP or DOWN buttons to enter the value in feet or metres. The setting is accurate to +1 chainwheel revolution. Press the MODE button to advance to the next item. The display will flash between Item 3 and the current setting for Item 3.

Item Setting



Item 3: Total Length of Rode on Board

Default Setting 196 ft or 60 m

Record Calibration Entered: _____

Use the UP or DOWN buttons to enter the total length of the rode (including both rope and chain). The minimum setting is 32 ft (10m). Press the MODE button to advance to the next item. The display will flash between Item 4 and the current setting for Item 4.

Item	Setting
4	OFF

Item 4: This setting is not used for the AA550RC. It cannot be changed from OFF.

Press the MODE button to advance to the next item. The display will flash between Item 5 and the current setting for Item 5.

Item	Setting
5	1

Item 5: Windlass Type

Default Setting 1

Record Calibration Entered: _____

You must select the windlass the AA550RC is connected to. If you do not select the correct windlass the AA550RC will not count accurately. Refer to the windlass selection table provided. When you have found the correct windlass, use the UP button to enter the AutoAnchor reference number. (If you go too far use the DOWN button to go back.)

If you have selected a windlass from the selection table Item 5 is the last calibration. Now save the settings:

Prog

To save the settings, hold down the MODE button until **Prog** is displayed, then release the MODE button. The unit will then return to normal operation.

Calibrations for All-Chain Windlasses

Item	Setting
5	CUST

Press and hold the DOWN button until the display reads CUST. Then release the button. Press the MODE button. The display will flash between Item 6 and the current setting for Item 6.

Item	Setting
6	11.8

Item 6: Chainwheel Circumference

Default Setting 11.8 in or 300mm

Record Calibration Entered: _____

Use the UP or DOWN buttons to enter the chainwheel circumference. If you selected feet use inches (in increments of 0.10). If you selected metres use millimetres. The chainwheel circumferences for some windlasses are listed on the selection table. If your chainwheel circumference is not there, follow the instructions below to calculate it.

Follow steps 1 - 7 to calculate the chainwheel circumference.

Step 1 Use adhesive tape to place a mark on the chainwheel (See Fig 5).

Step 2 Use adhesive tape to place a mark on the chain coming out of the chain wheel (See Fig 5).

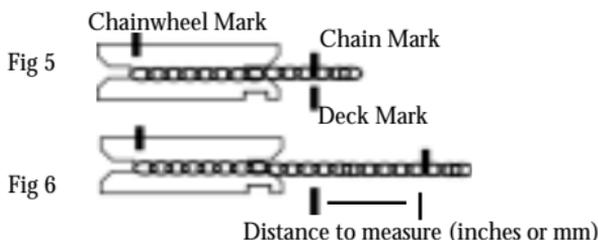
Step 3 Use adhesive tape to place a mark on the deck below the mark on the chain (See Fig 5).

Step 4 Carefully release the chainwheel so that it can be turned by hand to feed the chain out.

Step 5 Using the mark on the chainwheel as a guide, turn the chainwheel one revolution, causing the chain to be released on to the deck.

Step 6 Measure the length of chain from the mark on the deck to the mark on the chain. (See Fig 6). This measurement is the setting to enter.

Step 7 Use the UP or DOWN buttons to enter the setting. The setting is entered in inches (in increments of 0.10) or millimetres.



After 1 turn of the chainwheel to feed chain out

Item 6 is the final calibration for an all-chain windlass. Now save the settings:



To save the settings, hold down the MODE button until **Prog** is displayed, then release the MODE button. The unit will then return to normal operation.

To Abort and Re-start Calibration

Press and hold the ON/OFF button until **Abrt** is displayed. Release the ON/OFF button. The AA550RC is now off. Hold down the MODE button, and press and release the ON/OFF button. Release the MODE button to restart calibration at Item 1.

TESTING

Before the AA550RC is used for anchoring, it is important to test it in a calm, safe environment as follows: After the calibrations are saved, follow the instructions to raise and lower the anchor using both manual and automatic operation. See Part 3 of this Manual. If the AA550RC does not count, stop, start or operate exactly as specified in the instructions or any diagnostic messages appear on the LCD, refer immediately to Troubleshooting (Part 4 in this Manual) or to your supplier for assistance.

PART 3 - OPERATION

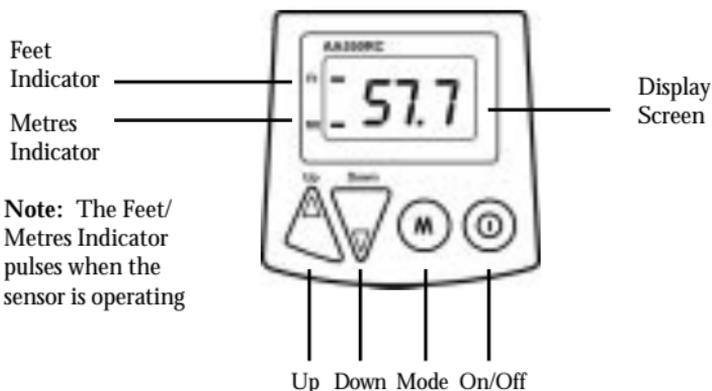


WARNING

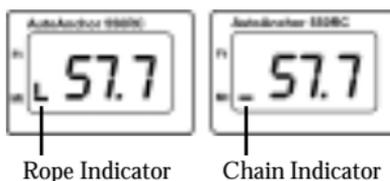
Before using the AA550RC the operating instructions must be read and understood, the AA550RC must be calibrated to the windlass and rode on the boat and it must be tested in a calm, safe environment.

When using the AA550RC you must:

- use the windlass strictly according to the windlass manufacturer's instructions;
- personally control and supervise all windlass and anchoring operations; and
- always ensure the anchor is fully docked and secured before moving the boat



Note: The Feet/Metres Indicator pulses when the sensor is operating



Note: The display indicator shows whether the AA550RC is counting rope or chain.

HOW TO OPERATE YOUR AA550RC

SAFETY LOCK (C)

The AA550RC is fitted with a safety lock to help protect against unintentional windlass operation. Before operating the windlass the safety lock must be released. When the safety lock is on, the screen shows **C** and the UP and DOWN buttons will not operate.

To Release the Safety Lock: Turn the AA550RC on, hold down the MODE button until **C** clears from the screen, then release the MODE button.

Note: The safety lock automatically reactivates 5 minutes after the AA550RC was last operated. It can also be reactivated manually at any time. To do this hold down the MODE button until **C** is displayed on the screen. Release the MODE button and the safety lock is set. The safety lock reactivates automatically when the console unit is turned off.

The AA550RC can be operated manually or by using the unique automatic function.

Always ensure the AA550RC display reads 0.0 before releasing the anchor from the docked position.

MANUAL OPERATION

To Release the Anchor and Rode - Using Manual Operation

Step 1 Turn the AA550RC on.

Step 2 Clear the safety lock if necessary. (See above).

Step 3 Press and hold the DOWN button to start the windlass and release the anchor and rode.

Step 4 Release the DOWN button to stop the windlass operation.

To Retrieve the Anchor and Rode - Using Manual Operation

Step 1 Turn the AA550RC on.

Step 2 Clear the safety lock (Refer to page 8).

Step 3 Press and hold the UP button to start the windlass and retrieve the anchor and rode.

Step 4 Release the UP button to stop the windlass operation when the anchor is fully retrieved and docked.

Step 5 Ensure the anchor is fully docked and secured before moving the boat

Note: During retrieval the AA550RC will beep to warn the operator the anchor has passed the preset anchor retrieval stopping point. (Refer Item 2, page 4). **Extra care must be taken at this stage of retrieval.**

AUTOMATIC OPERATION

The AA550RC has a unique automatic function. Using this function the operator can:

- Preset the length of rode to be released
- Control the operation of the windlass with a single touch of the button
- Retrieve the anchor automatically to a preset stopping point

Note: If there is a sensor or a load error. (Refer to Troubleshooting page 16) the automatic function will not operate. If this occurs the windlass can still be operated using manual operation but the AA550RC will not count accurately.



WARNING

There is an inherent risk when using any automatic function on a boat. If you choose to use the AA550RC automatic functions, you must still control and supervise all windlass and anchoring operations.



AUTOMATIC ANCHORING

Enable Automatic Operation: The AA550RC is supplied with the length of rode to be released set to OFF. The automatic function cannot be used until a “rode to be released” value is entered. (See Step 3 below). Once a “rode to be released” value has been entered the AA550RC remains enabled for automatic operation. The setting is retained by the AA550RC even if the battery fails. To disable the automatic operation use the DOWN button to reset the “rode to be released” to OFF.

To Release the Anchor and Rode

Step 1 Turn the AA550RC on.

Step 2 Clear the safety lock if necessary. (Refer to page 8).

Step 3 Press the MODE button once. The value flashing shows AUTO and the preset length of rode to be released. If this value is correct go to Step 4 below.

To change the rode to be released setting: Press MODE again. The display will flash between SET and the current value. (The default setting is OFF). Use the UP or DOWN buttons to change the setting. Press the MODE button again to return to AUTO and go to Step 4 below to release the anchor. Or press the MODE button twice to return to normal operation. If you do not change the SET value, press the MODE button once to return to normal operation.

Step 4 Press and release the DOWN button. The windlass will deploy the anchor and rode. The windlass will stop and the AA550RC will beep when the preset length of rode has been fully released.

SAFETY OVERRIDE - Press any button on the AA550RC to stop the windlass during automatic release or retrieval. To restart press the MODE button once to enter automatic operation again and resume rode and anchor release or retrieval.

IN AN EMERGENCY SHUT OFF THE POWER TO THE WINDLASS USING THE ISOLATING/BREAKER SWITCH.

To Retrieve the Anchor and Rode

Step 1 Turn the AA550RC on.

Step 2 Clear the safety lock if necessary. (Refer to page 8.

Step 3 Press the MODE button once. The value flashing shows AUTO and the length of rode out.

Step 4 Press and release the UP button. The windlass will retrieve the rode and anchor. The windlass will stop and the AA550RC will beep when the rode and anchor has been retrieved to the anchor retrieval stopping point. (Refer to page 4).

Step 5 Now manually operate the UP button to fully complete retrieval. The AA550RC will beep during this process.

Step 6 Ensure the anchor is fully docked and secured before moving the boat.

OTHER SETTINGS

Reset Display to Zero

Turn the AA550RC on. Clear the safety lock if necessary. Press and hold the ON/OFF button. A rapid beeping will be heard. Release the ON/OFF button when the display shows 0.0.

Change Backlighting Level (This is best done in low light).

Turn the AA550RC on. Clear the safety lock if necessary. Press and hold the ON/OFF button down. The AA550RC will start to beep. Press and hold the UP or DOWN buttons to adjust the light level. When you reach the desired level release the UP or DOWN buttons before you release the ON/OFF button. **Note:** If the ON/OFF button is held down for longer than 2 seconds without starting the adjustment this will reset the AA550RC display to zero.

Reset Factory Default Settings



This setting should only be used if the AA550RC settings have been corrupted. Using this setting will remove all your calibration settings.

To apply the factory reset: Turn the AA550RC off. Hold down the MODE and UP buttons together. While holding these buttons press and release the ON/OFF button. When the LCD display reads **LoAd** release the MODE and UP buttons. The unit will turn itself off and the factory default settings will be reset.

Now re-enter the calibration settings for your unit. Refer Part 2.

ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY (EMC)

The AA550RC meets and exceeds the CE standard for EMC (EN60945). These standards are intended to provide reasonable protection against interference by other emission generating products on the boat. However, compliance with these standards is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. The installation instructions must be followed to minimise the potential for interference. AA550RC equipment must be installed to maintain the following distances away from any equipment transmitting or cables carrying radio signals eg VHF or SSB radios, cables and antennas or radar antennas: The console at least 1m (3ft), except for SSB radios and radar antennas where it must be 2m (6ft) away; and the cables at least 500mm (1.5ft) away.

PART 4 - TROUBLESHOOTING & MAINTENANCE

POWER SUPPLY



THE POWER SUPPLY MUST BE DISCONNECTED BEFORE MAKING ANY CHANGES TO WIRING OR ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS.

Power to the AA550RC, toggle switches, deck switches, solenoid pack and windlass motor **must be supplied from a common point and not from separate systems.** Multiple battery bank negative terminals must be permanently connected together to become the common negative return (ground). Refer to the installation instructions.

Polarity: The AA550RC is polarity sensitive. Battery polarity must be checked before connecting the power otherwise the unit may be damaged.

Resettable Breaker Switch: A 5 Amp switch to shut off power to the AA550RC must be installed in a position easily accessed by the operator.

Cables: Battery and motor cables must be installed to maintain a distance of at least 300 mm away from the sensor head. Cable specifications are set out in the installation instructions and on page 17 of this manual

Voltage: Neither the windlass nor the AA550RC will operate with insufficient power. (See below). Batteries must be properly maintained and charged and all connections and wires must be of good quality and the correct gauge to prevent voltage drop. To check the voltage to the console unit: Turn the AA550RC off and then press and hold the DOWN button - the voltage will display on the LCD. During operation, if the voltage drops below the minimum the AA550RC will show **Lo Pr** and the voltage.

Minimum voltage required to start windlass operation	12V system	10 Volts
	24V system	20 Volts
If the windlass is already operating this is the minimum voltage required to continue operating. A drop below this voltage will stop the windlass.	12V system	7 Volts
	24V system	14 Volts

ELECTRONIC DIAGNOSTICS

Definitions **SoL** = Solenoid, **SEN** = Sensor, **Lo Pr** = Low Power

The AA550RC has built in diagnostics to help with troubleshooting. The diagnostics help identify problems with the battery, the solenoid, the sensor, wiring and windlass rotation. Some of the messages appear when you try to operate the AA550RC but others only appear briefly when the AA550RC is turned on. Always check for the diagnostic messages by switching the AA550RC off and then on again.

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Use the table below to help identify a problem and provide a possible solution. If you cannot resolve the problem, contact your supplier for further information.

Problem	Possible Solution
1. AA550RC will not turn on or turns off.	Check battery connections, polarity and voltage. Check the voltage being received by the AA550RC by turning it off and holding the Down button. The voltage is displayed on the LCD. See page 13 for minimum voltages. Check fuses and wiring and for the Lo Pr diagnostic message. (See below).
2. AA550RC will not operate the windlass using manual operation.	Check if the safety lock is on. Check voltages at the battery and the AA550RC (See 1 above). Check wiring for loose connections. Check for diagnostic messages for solenoid error (See below).
3. AA550RC will operate the windlass manually but not using the Auto function.	Check the rode to be released is not set to zero (Refer page 10). Check for diagnostic messages for sensor error (See below).
4. Windlass rotates down when the Up button is pressed and up when the Down button is pressed.	The motor or solenoid wiring is reversed. Change the wiring and check the direction of the windlass rotation.

5. The windlass does not stop exactly at the preset point.	This is not a fault. Stopping is accurate to +1 chainwheel revolution. The chainwheel may run on slightly with momentum.
6. The windlass stops before the length of rode specified is deployed.	Using the Auto function the AA550RC stops the rode release 10 ft (3m) short of the Total Length of Rode on Board setting. (Calibration 3).
7. AA550RC counts when the windlass is not turning or counts erratically displaying a large number eg 8888.	The sensor may be damaged or the sensor cable is not the specified type.
8. AA550RC beeps when it is turned off or locked.	Uncontrolled anchor rode is running through the windlass. Check the clutch is not free and allowing the rode to run out. Check the anchor is secured.
9. The count pauses during retrieval.	If the sensor indicator is still pulsing this is not a fault. The rode is changing from rope to chain.

DIAGNOSTIC MESSAGES

<p>10. Lo Pr + a number eg 7 <i>Displayed when the Up or Down button is pressed.</i></p> <p>Plus the AA550RC will not operate the windlass.</p>	<p>Check the battery voltage. If the battery is fully charged check wiring for loose connections. Check the cable size. If the cable is the wrong size there may be voltage drop between the battery and the AA550RC. See the cable specifications on page 17 and the minimum voltages on page 13.</p>
<p>11. SoL oL <i>Displayed when the Up or Down button is pressed.</i></p> <p>The windlass may operate for a short period and then stop.</p>	<p>The solenoids could be exceeding the maximum 4 Amps or the solenoid wires are shorted to ground. The AA550RC is designed to turn the solenoids off if these events occur.</p>

<p>12. SoL uP</p> <p>SoL dn</p> <p><i>Displayed when the AA550RC is turned on.</i></p> <p>Plus the AA550RC will not operate the windlass.</p>	<p>The Up (orange) wire is not connected to the solenoid</p> <p>The Down (yellow) wire is not connected to the solenoid</p> <p>Or, in both cases, the deck switches could be activated.</p> <p>Note: Diodes or interlock devices between the AA550RC and the solenoid will stop the system operating properly.</p>
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Note re SEN and LoAd messages. When these messages are displayed the AA550RC will still operate the windlass up and down manually but the Auto function will not work and the count will not be accurate.

<p>13. SEN 1</p> <p>SEN 2</p> <p><i>Displayed when the AA550RC is turned on.</i></p>	<p>The sensor wires are disconnected or shorted together.</p> <p>The sensor wire is shorted to ground.</p>
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<p>14 . SEN 3 or SEN 4</p> <p><i>Displayed during operation.</i></p>	<p>The sensor has no, or insufficient, signal. Check the calibration settings are correct. Check if the sensor is damaged. Check the magnet is not corroded. Check for loose wiring from the sensor to the AA550RC. Check the magnet and sensor are aligned and the gap between them is no less than 1 ¼" (30mm) and no more than 2" (50mm).</p>
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<p>15. SEN 5</p> <p><i>Displayed during operation.</i></p>	<p>The AA550RC has failed to detect the change from rope to chain or there has been excessive rope slippage. Use Manual Up to complete retrieval and then reset the counter to zero (see page 11).</p>
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<p>16. LoAd Err</p> <p><i>Displayed when the AA550RC is turned on.</i></p>	<p>The load sensor wires are not connected to the motor.</p>
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<p>17. LOC</p> <p><i>Displayed when a button is pressed.</i></p>	<p>Hold down the Mode button to release the safety lock.</p>
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CABLE SPECIFICATIONS

Cable from AA550RC Console to the Sensor: Belden 9501 (AWG24) or equivalent, tinned, 2 core, screened.

Cable from AA550RC Console to the Motor Terminals (Load Sensor Wires): AWG18 (1.0mm²)

Note: The AA550RC load sensor terminators supplied must be used and must connect direct to the motor terminals. These wires have motor terminal connectors and a 1000 Ohm resistor prefitted for short circuit protection.

Cable from AA550RC Console to batteries and solenoids:

All battery and motor cables must be ring type.

This specification is based on the total cable length measured from the battery to the console plus from the console to the solenoids.

Where the total length is less than 33 ft (10m) - AWG16 (1.5mm²)

Where the total length is between 33 ft (10m) and 66 ft (20m) - AWG14 (2.0mm²)

Where the total length is between 66 ft (20m) and 132 ft (40m) - AWG12 (3.0mm²)

For lengths greater than this refer to your supplier.

MAINTENANCE

The AA550RC does not contain any user servicable parts. User maintenance is limited to :

- Checking all cables and connections for signs of wear or damage and replacing them as necessary
- Checking the sensor head is not worn and has not moved out of alignment with the magnet and replacing the sensor if necessary
- Checking the magnet is not worn or corroded and replacing the magnet if necessary

Note: Do not use chemical or abrasive materials to clean the console unit. If it is dirty wipe it with a clean damp cloth. Avoid wiping the display screen with a dry cloth as this could scratch the screen.

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