

## Article Excerpt from:

**“Marine Holding-Tank Sensors: How do you Know When the Black Water Level is at Red Alert?”, *Practical Sailor Magazine*, Volume 34, Number 2, February 2008**

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### SensaTank Marine 100

The SensaTank Marine 100, made by TouchSensor and distributed by West Marine, says "Holding Tank Monitor" on the box but will work on freshwater tanks as well. This kit can monitor three tanks and contains three sets of fluid-level external tank sensors.

Each set has four proprietary stick-on "Mirus" field-effect detector cell sensors—one each for full, quarter-, half-, and three-quarters full—all pre-wired to a plug.

This plug connects to the interface board presumably located near the tanks. The kit includes 20 feet of CAT-5 type cable and connectors to wire to the remote display panel. The 3.5-by-5.5-inch panel comes with screws and a plug for mounting and connection to 12-volt DC. The kit included an AMP male plug but did not include a female plug, and instructions suggested cutting off the plug to wire up to power. The panel has three field-effect touch-sensor buttons identifying "Tank 1," "Tank 2," and "Tank 3," and an LED lighted bar graph that illuminates progressively to show the level of the selected tank when the corresponding button is pushed.



**SensaTank Marine 100**

It comes with a very simple two-page instruction sheet with good diagrams. The installation is fast and straightforward with "plug-and-play" wiring that is obvious and intuitive with little chance of mistakes. No calibration is required. However, it would help if the detector cell sensors were marked: "full,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ." (There is no "empty" sensor.) We accidentally stuck the quarter-full sensor near the bottom and the full sensor too close to the top. Once affixed, the sensors are very difficult to move.

Operating the monitor is very simple, and reading the level status is straightforward. Pressing and holding the button for the desired tank will illuminate LEDs behind cutouts that clearly show the liquid level. The SensaTank also has a visual alarm: If the tank liquid level reaches either below the quarter-full sensor or up to the full sensor, the indicator light flashes two times per second.

**Bottom Line:** SensaTank Marine 100, our top choice for the multi-tank monitor kits, comes with all necessary wire, connectors, and equipment, is easy to install, and simple to operate. The LED indicator lights are bright with easy-to-read labels, and the empty and full lights will flash when in alarm condition.

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To view the article in its entirety, please visit:

[http://www.practical-sailor.com/issues/34\\_2/features/External-Marine-Tank-Sensors\\_5570-1.html](http://www.practical-sailor.com/issues/34_2/features/External-Marine-Tank-Sensors_5570-1.html)