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NEWS

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Blue Sea Systems' Online DC Circuit Wizard Demystifies Circuit Protection and Wire Sizing

Calculating circuit protection and wire size for a boat's electrical system can be a daunting task. Anyone who has performed these calculations knows how difficult it is. Blue Sea Systems has a solution that's as easy as entering a few values on a computer screen. The **DC Circuit Wizard** performs the calculations and recommends appropriate circuit protection—fuse or circuit breaker—and wire size for most DC applications.

The DC Circuit Wizard, available at www.bluesea.com, is for everyone who wants to add or upgrade electric circuits in a boat. When adding an appliance such as a windlass, increasing the size of an existing load such as a stereo, or configuring a boat's entire electrical system, it is necessary to select properly sized circuit protection, and choose the proper gauge circuit wire. When it comes to making these decisions, there are many factors to consider.

The consequences of not applying the factors correctly can be significant. Circuit protection with a rating that is too low may result in nuisance trips. Circuit protection with a rating that is too high will not protect the circuit wire or the device. Wire that is undersized for the current flowing through the circuit may heat up and start a fire.

The DC Circuit Wizard performs calculations based on the variables that must be considered when choosing the correct rating of a circuit breaker or fuse, and choosing suitable wire for the circuit. The factors used to make the calculations are based on ABYC guidelines for marine electrical circuits, plus additional derating factors. All the user has to do is enter values based on their application, and the DC Circuit Wizard displays various options for circuit protection and also indicates the correct wire gauge for the application. On-screen help is available at every step. Click each circuit protection option to link to the product page on Blue Sea Systems' website containing complete product information.

The DC Circuit Wizard is helpful for boat owners and builders to quickly perform calculations and eliminate many unsuitable circuit protection choices. The final decision on wire and circuit protection should come after a review based on additional sources such as the ABYC Standards or one of the many books in the field.

Blue Sea Systems was founded in 1992 based on a commitment to create innovative high quality marine electrical products to improve the safety, simplicity, and reliability of boating. Blue Sea System employees are active boaters who apply their passion to designing, developing, and building products that enhance the experience of boaters.

To use the DC Circuit Wizard, go to www.bluesea.com. For any other information, please visit the website, or contact Blue Sea Systems at 800 222-7617.