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Depth Sounder Troubleshooting

The following troubleshooting tips cover all Signet Marine Traditional Depthsounders:

Instrument Troubleshooting:

1. If your instrument is flashing 18.8 or 19E, this means that it is not sensing a return signal back from the transducer. If this is the case, check the transducer troubleshooting tips below.
2. If the unit is flashing any other number, this means that it is not getting a strong reading and is displaying the last reading that was successful. If the transducer troubleshooting suggestions below are followed and the unit still doesn't work, fill out the Repair Estimate Order Form on our website and send your instrument in for repair.
3. If the instrument is giving no reading at all, check to see that it is getting power by using a voltmeter or test light. The power wiring for all Signet Marine depth sounders is as follows:

Red wire:	Power for the instrument.
White wire:	Power for the lights.
Green wire:	Ground for the lights.
Black wire:	Ground for the instrument.

Transducer Troubleshooting:

1. Make sure that there is no paint or growth on the transducer face.
2. Depth sounders may not work correctly with a battery charger on.
3. Avoid checking depth sounder functionality at the dock. Boats next to yours can cause electrical interference.
4. Ensure your battery voltage is between 11.5 to 13.8 VDC.
5. Make sure that the transducer cable is not next to charging wires or any wires that could cause electrical interference. Do not bundle with knot meter sensor cable.
6. The excess wire between the transducer and the instrument should not be coiled tightly. Spread out the excess cable in large figure eights if necessary. Tightly coiled wire can cause erroneous readings.
7. The depth sounder requires a solid bounce back signal from the bottom in order to give a steady reading. Uneven bottom contours, sea weed, underwater shelves, ledges, schools of fish and soft bottoms can give sporadic bounce back signals.
8. Check the connector at the instrument where the transducer wire plugs into the instrument. If corrosion is found, clean it out with a brush and alcohol.
9. Do not cut or splice the transducer cable. It is matched to the instrument. If the cable is damaged, replace the transducer.
10. Make sure that there wasn't something that you changed on your boat just prior to experiencing your depth sounder problems that could possibly be the source of the problem.