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Member: Mr. Joseph Trombino

Topic: Airframe and Propeller

Question: Looking for info on the aileron trim tab STC for AA5B - any details on installation, cost, etc.

Answer: Several of the airplanes we maintain, and have maintained in the past, have the AeroTrim system installed. We have never actually installed one ourselves so I can only comment that they do work well in both the 2 and 4 place Grummans. Two different locations are allowed in the installation instructions for the tab to be mounted, I think the inboard location is the best for fine-tuning the wings level setting and also for less risk of damage from something striking it moving the plane around in a hangar (for example) or equipment hitting it around an airport (like a mower or tug).

Routing the shielded cable from the trim tab servo (which is actually installed inside the skin of the aileron) runs through the aileron torque tube and exits just between the two belcranks that operate the ailerons. It is important to put a quick disconnect there that is no larger than the OD of the torque tube for removing the aileron for service. It is also important to know that the STC requires the removal of both fixed trim tabs (left and right ailerons) which we have found not done on a few installations.

Whoever does the installation must be very careful cutting into the lower skin of the aileron, making the hole in the torque tube for the control wire, and installing the fasteners for the cover to be installed closing the hole after the servo is installed. (This is actually a small servo like used on RC aircraft.) The control surface must be re-balanced after installation per the maintenance manual instructions.

As far as I know, they are covering all models of our 2 and 4 place planes on their approved model list and they were on the Type Certificate of the AG-5B as a factory option.

OK, for someone who has not actually one, I guess I knew more about them than I thought I did once I got started. Just be careful of who you choose to do the installation and be sure they won't wreck your aileron. They are not cheap to replace!

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