Installation

1. Disconnect all AC and DC power
   Disconnect all AC power originating on or off the vessel. This includes inverters, generators, shore power attachments and any other device capable of supplying AC power to the ship’s circuits.

   Disconnect the main positive DC cable from all batteries to eliminate the possibility of a short circuit and to disable the inverter while installing the distribution panel.

2. Select mounting location and cut opening
   If this panel is to serve as your main shore power disconnect circuit breaker, select a location which is not more than 10 feet from the shore power inlet or the electrical attachment point of a permanently installed shore power cord as measured along the conductors of the feed wires. If it is more than 10 feet additional circuit breakers must be installed within 10 feet of the shore power inlet.

   Select a mounting location which is protected from water on the panel front and back and is not in an area where flammable vapors from propane, gasoline or lead acid batteries accumulate. The circuit breakers used in marine electrical panels are not ignition protected and may ignite such vapors.

   Using the panel template provided, make a cut out in the mounting surface where the distribution panel is to be mounted. Do not yet fasten the panel to the mounting surface.

3. Install branch circuit wires
   Determine the proper wire size for each branch circuit using the chart below. Verify that the standard circuit breakers installed in the panel are correct for each branch circuit. Remove and replace any that are incorrectly sized. The circuit breaker must have a rating less than the allowable amperage of the wire, yet greater than the circuit’s continuous current.

   Use the wire sizing chart below to determine the minimum branch and feed circuit wire sizes.

   **Wire sizing chart**

   The chart assumes wire with 105°C insulation rating and no more than 2 conductors are bundled.

   Not suitable for sizing flexible shore power cords.
5. Installation of Backlight System
The backlight board is a DC device. When installing it in an AC panel both wire leads must be connected to an appropriate DC source and ground.

Connect the yellow negative wire to a DC ground. Connect the red positive wire to any DC positive supply, usually a switch that controls the vessel’s other nighttime illumination.

6. Apply branch circuit labels and mount panel
Apply a label for each of the branch circuits from the 30 basic labels provided. If the appropriate label is not included, the Extended Label Set of 120 labels may be ordered from your marine supplier (PN 8067). Individual labels are also available from Blue Sea Systems for specific applications. Refer to the label order form for a complete listing of individual labels.

Fasten the panel to the mounting surface using the panel mounting screws supplied with the panel.

7. Testing
Connect the shore power cable to the boat AC power inlet. Do not connect the shore power cable to the shore power pedestal. Instead run the shore power cable such that the shore power plug is next to the AC panel. With an Ohmmeter verify that the pins of the shore power plug are connected to the appropriate terminals of the panel. Refer to ABYC E-11 Figure 13 or 14 or NEC / NEMA documents for the standard pin arrangements for your plug.

Connect the vessel’s shore power and verify the Reverse Polarity light is not illuminated. If the red Reverse Polarity light is on then either the hot and ground or the hot and neutral wires have been crossed. Starting at the panel, trace the connections back as far as necessary to locate the error.

Using a multimeter where the power source is connected to the panel verify:

PN 8471 / PN 3471 / PN 8486 / PN 3486 - 120 Volt AC
a. 120 volts between hot and neutral (nominal, this may vary depending on source voltage)
b. 120 volts between hot and ground.
c. 0 volts between neutral and ground.

PN 8571 / PN 3571 / PN 8586 / PN 3586 - 230 Volt AC
a. 230 volts between hot and neutral (nominal, this may vary depending on source voltage)
b. 230 volts between hot and ground.
c. 0 volts between neutral and ground.

Turn on each branch circuit to verify power to each circuit.

Optional Branch LED’s
This Panel is supplied with LED’s pre-installed in all optional branch positions. For future expansion of the panel remove the hot leg of the LED from the AC Neutral Bus and connect it to the Load side of the branch circuit breaker.

Note
All Blue Sea Systems’ AC electrical distribution panels are furnished with 15 amp or 8 amp circuit breakers for branch circuits. 15 amp circuit breakers are used in all 230 volt panels and 8 amp circuit breakers are used in all 120 volt panels. These ratings were selected to minimize the need for removing the panel’s circuit breakers and reinstalling different size circuit breakers. It is very rare to have more than this amount of current flowing in any one circuit. Therefore, these circuit breakers will satisfy the vast majority of marine circuit protection situations.

The Purpose of a Panel
There are 6 purposes of a marine electrical panel:
• Power distribution
• Circuit (wire) protection
• Circuit ON/OFF switching
• Reverse Polarity indication
• Metering of voltage and amperage (in panels with meters)
• Condition indication (circuit energized)

Applicable Standards
• United States Coast Guard 33 CFR Sub Part 1, Electrical Systems.