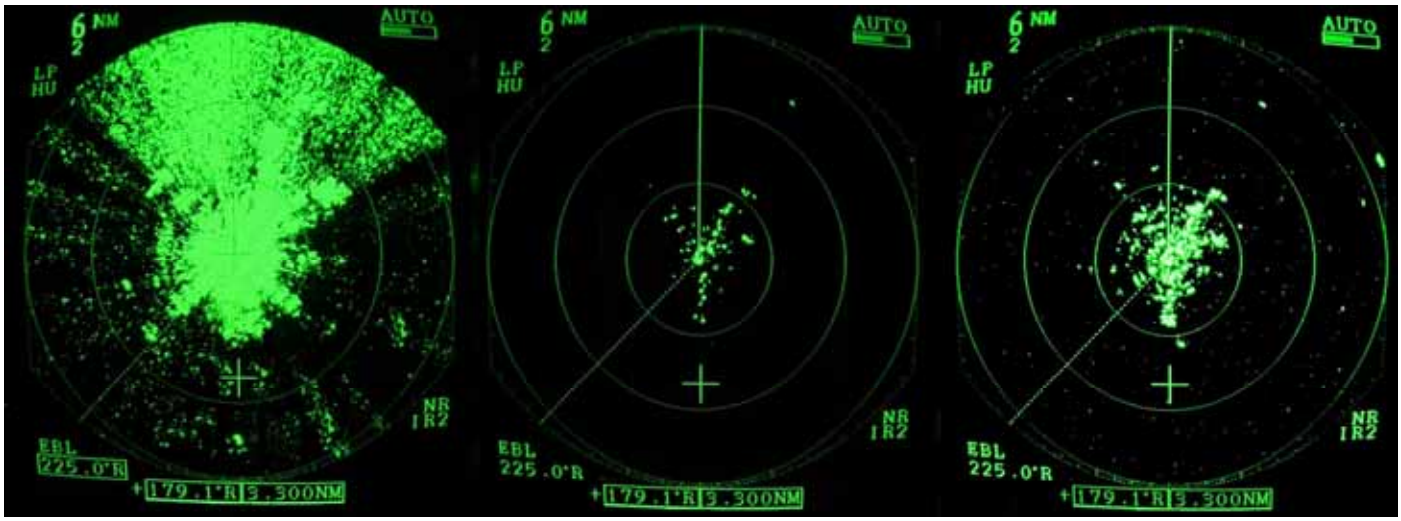
RADAR Adjustments

Common mistakes with RADAR:

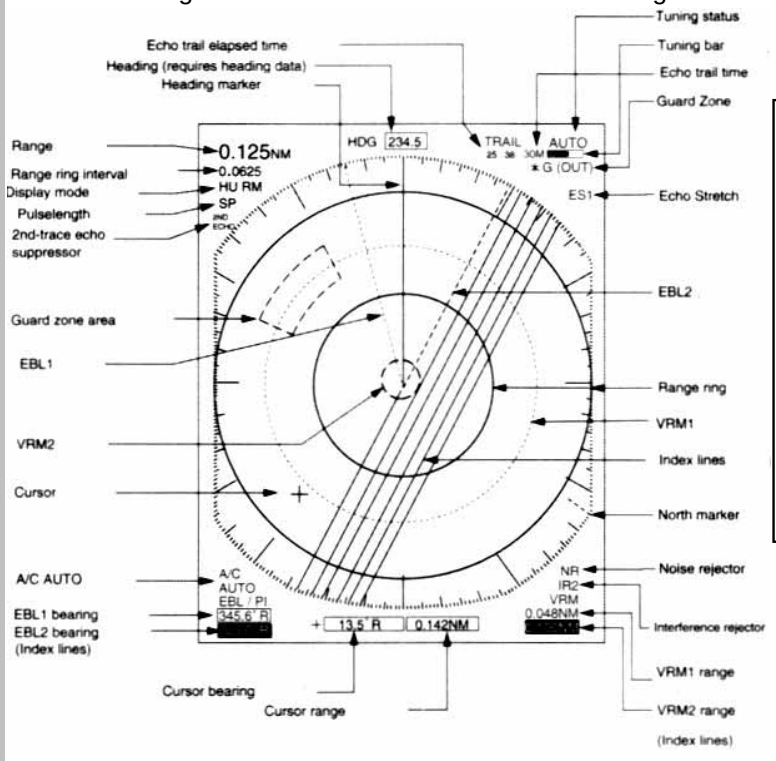
1. "Set it and forget it" Radar takes constant interpretation. There is no way to simply look at a radar and determine whether its properly adjusted
2. Using the auto-adjustment features. Auto tuning works well, but auto-gain and auto-STC/FTC are rarely suitable. Learn the functions and proper adjustment for your radar.
3. Adjusting too much gain out. There should be some specks on the screen. Learn to tell the difference between specks and targets
4. Not re-adjusting gain, FTC, STC (raing clutter and sea clutter) when ranging in and out.
5. Not changing the range. Range needs to be scaled in and out periodically. Shorter range allows better definition of nearby targets
6. Forgetting to tune-down FTC/STC when conditions improve
7. Leaving the range too far out. Small targets may not be picked up on long range, then lost in clutter when nearby.
8. Relying too much on single data sources. Verify and corroborate information with as many sources as possible – chart plotter, visual, DR, and radar. If something doesn't make sense, stop.



GAIN TOO HIGH
Targets Obscured

GAIN TOO LOW
Targets Invisible

GAIN CORRECT
Note 6-mile range – looking for outer targets. Would need to range-in for close-in targets. STC will limit close-in clutter



Adjusting a RADAR

1) Transmit the radar in maximum range

2) Set STC (sea clutter) to minimum

3) Set FTC (rain clutter) to minimum

4) Adjust GAIN control to maximum (the screen should show mostly radar noise)

5) Adjust GAIN control to show a very small amount of noise (only a few noise spots on the screen)

6) Without disturbing the gain control select the appropriate working range

7) Adjust STC(sea clutter) as desired

8) Adjust FTC(rain clutter) if needed

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