

## HOW WE TESTED

### Fill 'er Up

**P**ractical Sailor acquired an unused 3/8-inch-thick polyethylene tank that measured about 12 inches deep x 15 inches wide x 28 inches long, or about 30 gallons, with a 3.5-inch top inspection port, two 1.5-inch fill and drain hose connections on a side and two half-inch vent hose plugs.

We followed manufacturers' directions for each external tank sensor, and attached the four different sensors, display panels, and foil tapes onto the sides of the test tank. One kit came with all necessary cable and plugs, but we cut, stripped, soldered, and taped No. 18 AWG stranded wires between the sensors, in-line fuses and monitor panels of the others. All were wired to a 12-volt DC battery for power. We filled the tank with water from a garden hose, and then each unit was calibrated and tested per its instruction sheets.

Each kit was evaluated on what it included, quality of workmanship, ease of wiring and installation, how well the instructions were written, relative costs, useful features and functions, and accuracy. We also noted the quality of tech support, website information, and availability through retail distribution.



*To mount an external tank sensor to a holding tank—or any other tank—one full side of the tank must be accessible.*