Operation Manual MPL-H118



TAKACHIHO SANGYO CO., LTD.

Table of Contents

1. Safety	1
2. Introduction	3
3. Composition3-1. Main equipment & standard accessories3-2. Optional equipment	4 4 4
4. Specification	5
5. Description of parts & basic operation5-1. Transmitter5-2. Receiver	7 7 9
6. Warning Message	12
7. Operation of Transmitter (TX)7-1. Direct connection mode7-2. External coil mode7-3. Indirect (Inductive) mode	13 14 17 19
8. Operation of Receiver (RX) 8-1. Peak & Null mode 8-2. Null mode 8-3. Peak mode 8-4. Depth measurement (High precision) 8-5. Logging data 8-6. Current index (Current measurement) 8-7. Passive mode 8-8. Probe for non-metallic pipe	21 22 23 23 24 25 26 28 30
9. Precautions and applications (At the locating site)	32

1. SAFETY

Always locate with proper respect and caution. Equipment misuse or carelessness can result in serious injury or damage to property. Always follow safety rules.

HAZARD ALERT INFORMATION

BE AWARE OF SAFETY INFORMATION

This is a safety-alert sign. This is placed in the manual and on your equipment to alert you to the potential for bodily injury or death.



SIGNAL WORDS

The safety-alert icon is used with the following signal word: DANGER, WARNING, AND CAUTION. When you see these words in the manual or on decals on your equipment, carefully read and follow all instructions. Watch for these words and learn their meanings.

DANGER – Imminent hazards which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.



WARNING – Potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.



CAUTION – Potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor personal injury or property damage.



OPERATOR PREPARATIONS

Important: Read and understand this manual before using the Verifier/Vision Locator. Successful use of the Verifier/Vision Locator depends on good locating skills and correct understanding of receiver response.

GENERAL SAFETY

DANGER: Do not attempt to connect to Live Power without proper protective Equipment and Training.

A DAGER ELECTRIC SHOCK: Death or serious injury will result

NOTICE: Do not apply more than 250 volts across clips. More than 250 volts will damage transmitter.

▲ DANGER: High Voltage. Cutting high voltage cable can cause DEATH or ELECTROCUTION. Expose lines by a non-destructive means before excavating.

▲ DANGER: Traffic Hazards can result in death or serious injury. Avoid moving Vehicles. Wear high-visibility clothing.

WARNING: Buried lines. Always confirm your depth estimate by exposing target line by a non-destructive means.

WARNING: Jobsite Hazards can cause DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY. Wear proper safety equipment.

NOTICE: Non-metallic lines can be accurately detected only by using a probe. Remember this before searching and attempting any excavation activity.

NOTICE: Use only alkaline batteries in the Verifier/Vision receiver and transmitter. Batteries contain acid, which may leak if the batteries are allowed to remain in The equipment when low or completely discharged. This acid can cause Equipment damage.

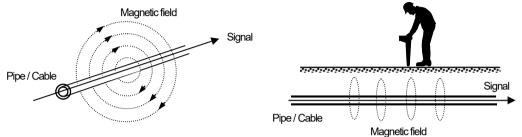
2. Introduction

This equipment is the high performance digital measurement equipment to measure the location and the depth of buried cable / metal pipe from the ground. By adopting the most recent microcomputer technology, the digital correction of the measurement data realizes stable and high precious measurement.

- Principle measurement method -

When current flows through a buried cable/pipe, an alternating magnetic field is generated around it.

Location, depth, and current value of the buried pipe can be measured using the Receiver at the surface of the ground.



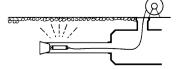
- Feature -

- Adopting the differential coil method allows the Receiver to receive the signal from directly below the Receiver by reducing noise from surrounding area.
 *The model figure of the differential coil.
 - The differential coil method connects two coils. Signal is then compared inversely between each coil.
- Three kinds of the location measurement mode (having error detection protection function)
 - *Peak & Null mode: The method to detect maximum and minimum sensitivity simultaneously.
 - *Peak mode: The method to detect maximum sensitivity.
 - *Null mode: The method to detect minimum sensitivity point indicated with arrow.

User operation is not needed.

Yaw angle, Depth of buried pipe and Current Measurement are continuously displayed when using all location modes.

- Two types of the depth measurement modes
 - *0-5m (16ft) mode: Measurement of depth with high precision is possible in indirect method, at the end of a cable, and jointing points.
 - *0-10m (30ft) mode: Stable measurement is possible at deep depths, near guardrail, or fence. Do not use this mode when in inductive mode.
- The Receiver can measure commercial frequency (50/60 Hz, 100 / 120 Hz) and Radio (from 9k to 33 kHz) without the use of the Transmitter.
- The best-suited frequency is automatically selected in-radio mode (9k-33 kHz) with search function.
- The measured data is stored (maximum 400 data) with one-touch operation.
 The data can be transmitted to a PC as standard function. (PC software and PC cable are option.)
- Broadcasting of four frequencies (512 Hz, 9.5 kHz, 38 kHz, 80 kHz) as needed for various buried utilities.
- A Probe as an option can be used to detect non-metallic pipe.



3. Composition

3-1. Main equipment & standard accessories

Description	Q'ty	Remark
Transmitter Unit	1pc	Used as a signal generator.
Receiver Unit	1pc	Digital locator
Accessories		
38kHz External coil	1pc	Used for External coil mode
Connecting cable	1pc	Used for Direct connection mode
Ground rod	1pc	Used for Direct connection mode
Operating manual	1pc	English version

3-2. Optional equipment

Description	Q'ty	Remark
9.5kHz External coil	1pc	Used for External coil mode.
80kHz External coil	1pc	Used for External coil mode.
Sewer Probe	lpc	Used for non-metallic pipe. Standard probe for 75mm/ 3" & 100mm/ 4" pipe. Frequency: 38kHz or 512Hz
Mini probe	1pc	For 25mm / 1" fiber optic duct. For tracking non-directional drilling tools. Frequency: 38kHz, 512Hz, 850Hz
PC Interface Cable	1pc	Provided as USB cable
Data viewer software	1pc	Provided on the CD
Earphone	1pc	Used in a noisy area.
Carrying bag	1pc	

4. Specification

Transmitter (TX)

Output frequencies 38 kHz :38 kHz±0.02% (Standard frequency)

9.5 kHz :9.5 kHz±0.02% 80 kHz :80 kHz±0.02%

512 Hz :512 Hz ±0.02% (Direct connection mode ONLY)

Dual :9.5 kHz/38 kHz±0.02% (Direct connection mode ONLY)

Output power 5 watts maximum / 80kHz: 1 watts maximum

Operating Modes Direct connection

External coil mode (optional)

Battery type Eight Alkaline LR20 "D"

Battery Life Direct mode : 50 hours (Output 4 mA, 20°C / 68°F)

Inductive mode: $20 \text{ hours (Output } 50\%, 20^{\circ}\text{C} / 68^{\circ}\text{F)}$

Full Power(5W): 10 hours (20°C / 68°F)

Battery Status Low battery indication & Press key readout

Visual Indication LCD: Bar graph & Digital number, includes Backlight

Audio Indication Internal Speaker: Alarm, Beeping sounds

Measuring function Output Current: 0 to 300mA

Line Voltage : 0 to 250V

Output protection AC 250V (512Hz: Output is cut off automatically)

Operating Temperature -20°C to 50°C / 4°F to 122°F

Dimensions When using: 261 x 314 x 110 mm(10.3" x 12.4" x 4.3")

When storage: 227 x 314 x 110 mm(8.9" x 12.4" x 4.3")

Weight 3.6 kg/7.9 lbs. approx. including eight batteries

Receiver (RX)

Active Frequencies 38 kHz : 38 kHz ±2%

9.5 kHz : 9.5 kHz ±2% 80 kHz : 80 kHz ±2% 850 Hz : 850 Hz ±2% 512 Hz : 512 Hz ±2%

Passive Radio RAD : 9 k to 33 kHz (80 bands)

Passive Power POW : 45~65 Hz

120 Hz : 95~125 Hz

Battery type Six Alkaline LR6 "AA"
Battery Life 18 hours (20°C / 68°F)
Battery Status Continuous indication

Power save function Automatically power off after 5minutes of inactivity

Visual Indication LCD: Bar graph, Digital number & character, include Backlight

Depth Display Range High precision depth measurement

Line: 0 to 5 m / 16 ft. (0-5 m / 0-16 ft. mode) 0 to 10 m / 30 ft. (0-10 m / 0-30 ft. mode)

Probe: 0 to 10 m/30 ft. Real time depth measurement

0 to 9.9 m / 33ft. Meter / Feet & Inch

Depth Readout Unit Meter / Feet & Inch
Depth Accuracy*1 2.0m / 6.5ft. : ±2.5%

3.0m/10ft. : ±5%

5.0m / 16.5ft. : ±10%

Current value Current value flowing on the conductor is displayed for line identity in

milliamps.

Audio output Internal Speaker with sound volume adjusting function, Earphone

(optional)

Data logging Memorized 400 points of the depth/ the current measurement/ the date and

time data.

Interface 6-pin output connector

Operating Temperature -20°C to 50°C / -4°F to 122°F

Dimensions $660 \times 130 \times 270 \text{ mm} (26.0" \times 5.1" \times 10.6")$ Weight 2.1 kg/4.7 lbs. approx. including six batteries

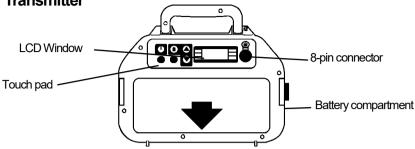
Note: *1 Locators are tested in test field conditions with no adjacent signals.

Always excavate the line with non-destructive means before digging.

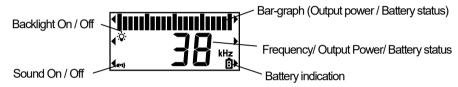
*2 Optional cable is necessary to read the logging data.

5. Description of parts & basic operation

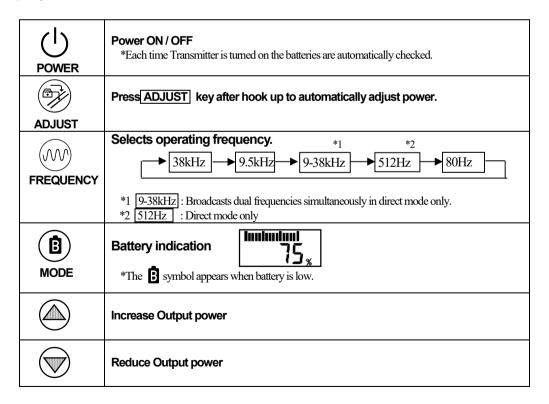
5-1. Transmitter

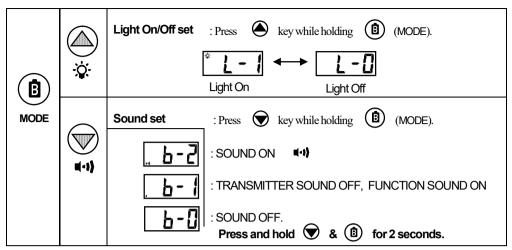


1) LCD window

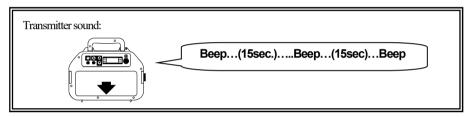


2) Key function





Note: The last setting is memorized after the unit is Turned OFF



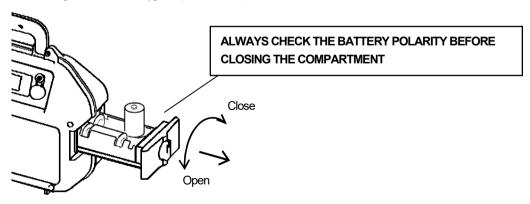
3) 8-pin connector

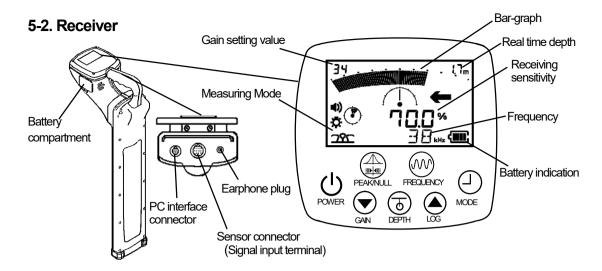
The Direct connection cord or the External coil cord are plugged into the 8-pin connector.



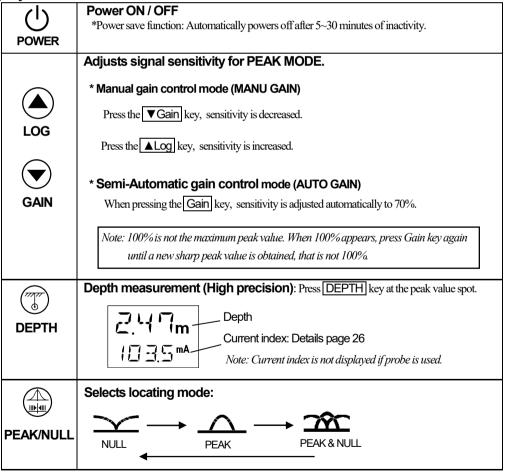
4) Battery compartment

Replace all batteries when there is a low battery condition. Use Eight 1.5V alkaline type D (LR20 / 13A) batteries.





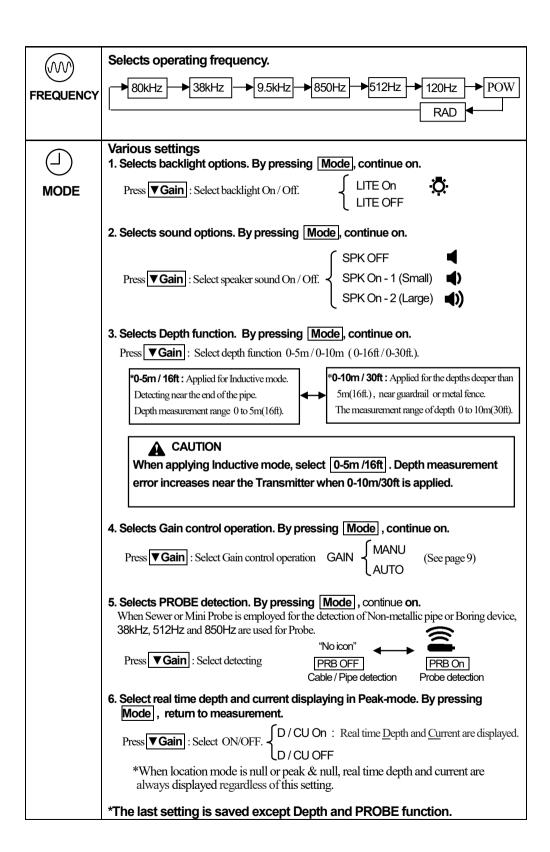
1)Key function



PEAK & NULL MODE: Maximum sensitivity is the point directly above the object line and the buried object line location is indicated with arrow.

PEAK MODE: Maximum sensitivity is the point directly above the object line.

NULL MODE: Minimum sensitivity is the point directly above the object line. The buried object line location is indicated with arrow.





MODE

Setting the Time and Date

a) Power on while holding $\boxed{\textbf{Mode}}$, wait for clock display appears.

The **year** will flash.

Press $\fbox{\textbf{V} \textbf{Gain}}$ to advance the year or $\fbox{\textbf{A} \textbf{Log}}$ to decrease the year.

b) Press **Mode**, the **month** will flash.

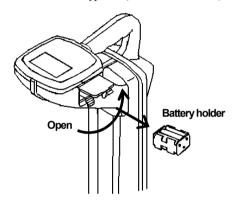
Press **VGain** to advance the month or **Log** to decrease the month.

c)Do same as above to set Day --> Hour --> Minute.

When measurement starts, setting is completed.

2) Battery compartment

Replace all batteries when there is a low battery condition. Use six 1.5V alkaline type AA (IEC LR6/NEDA15A).



Battery 100% Battery 0%

ALWAYS CHECK THE BATTERY POLARITY BEFORE CLOSING THE COMPARTMENT

3) PC interface connector

The connector is used to communicate PC and GPS.
*Interface cable & GPS are supplied as option.

4) Earphone plug

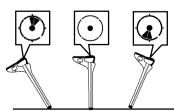
Earphone can be used in a noisy area. Supplied as an option.

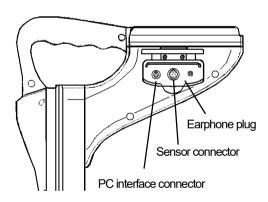
5) Sensor connector (Signal input terminal)

Used with Sensor Coil to find wiring systems in a building or overhead telephone cables. Sensor coil is supplied as options.

6) Digital level

Displayed the inclination of the receiver.





Calibration methodology of digital level

a) Power on while holding Depth key.

PUSH GAIN is indicated in 1 seconds.

b) Hold the receiver in vertical position. (center of left chart)

- c) Press ▼GAIN. Please do not move the receiver until OK is displayed.
- d) Press ▼GAIN again. Incline the receiver to the front, back, left and right, and confirm the display.
 The setting is memorized with Power off.

6. Warning Message

*Messages during your search procedure:

OVER	Receiving signal is too high. a) Indirect mode: Transmitter and Receiver are too close each other. b) Other options: Reduce output of the Transmitter.
LOW	Receiving signal is too weak or not present. a) In the case of direct, induction or coil - Increase output of the Transmitter. - Check batteries, connecting parts and frequency of the Transmitter. - Check signal loop at the Transmitter. b) In the case of Radio / Power mode - There are no conductors to radiate magnetic fields. There is no pipe or cable - There is a conductor, but the signal is too low to adhere to the line. Use Transmitter to search for the line.

*Messages on location:

PUSH GAIN	Press GAIN key. ⇒ Normally this is your object line. Reduces or increases signal strength.
--------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Messages on Depth measurement :

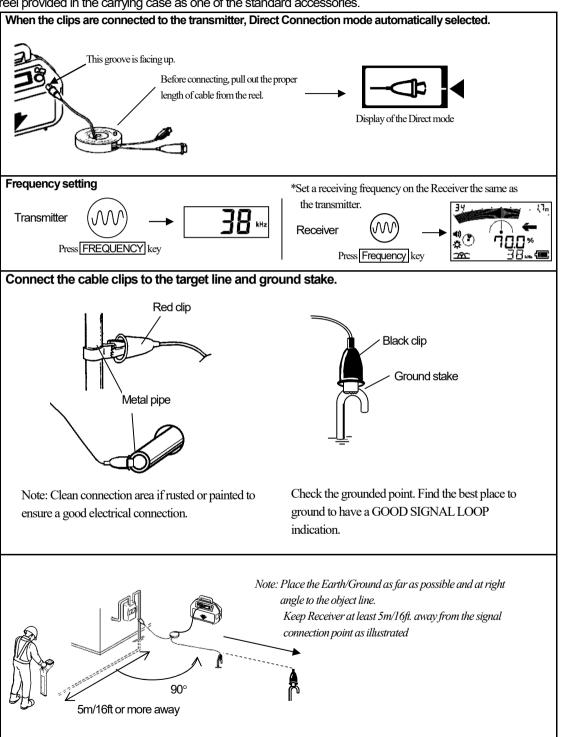
ERR	 a) Received signal level is unstable, or received signal is too weak. b) Located point is not directly above the object line. c) Metallic fences, metallic structures or cars are interfering with the depth measurement. Find area with less interference. d) The Line is disconnected.
16ft/in. 5m	Indicating that the depth measured is deeper than 5 m / 16 ft. In Line detection (0-5m / 0-16ft.) mode, locator cannot read below this depth

7. Operation of Transmitter (TX)

Mode of Detection	Purpose of usage	
Direct Connection Mode Signal	This is the best way to inject AC current directly to the target line. Signal (AC current) will return to the Transmitter through the ground. Black clip Transmitter Red clip Ground stake Ground Target line Effective for detecting the target line in congested areas.	
External Coil Mode Signal	Advantage for live power or cable, that is not accessible for Direct connection. The clamp is waterproof and will attach on any size cable or conduit. No need for a ground stake. Effective for detecting the target line in congested area. The target line must be grounded.	
Indirect (Inductive) Mode Signal	If there is no direct access to the target line, use this method. The Transmitter can induce its signal to the buried line. Place the Transmitter in an upright position and at right angle to the buried line. Minimum TX to RX distance ⇒30 ft. / 10 m Note: When using the indirect mode, set the depth mode of the receiver to 0-5m (0-16ft.) Depth measurement error increases near the Transmitter when 0-10m (30ft) is applied.	
Building Wiring	Used with External Coil to find wiring systems in the building. TX's circuit is protected* up to 250V at 50 / 60 Hz. *If using the low frequency (512Hz,), output is cut off automatically for protecting the unit.	
Probe Mode	Used for tracing small diameter drains or plastic pipes. Also, pinpoint a drain blockage or collapse. Can trace non-directional boring tools. The Probe is available in two sizes 20mm/ 0.79" and 50mm / 2" diameter.	

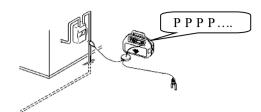
7-1. Direct connection mode

A specific route can be detected in Direct Connection mode. Use two 5m/16.5 ft. connecting cables on a reel provided in the carrying case as one of the standard accessories.



Check the signal loop

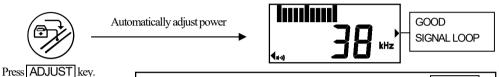
When signal loop is acceptable, Beeping sound is emitted.



- *Transmitter will beep for 30 seconds.
- *Sound stops when Pressing the ADJUSTI key.
- *Sound setting is [b-0]. ⇒Beeping sound off.

Note: Beeping sound is emitted after output is adjusted when the resistance value of the cable is high.

Adjust output power



*When "GOOD SIGNAL LOOP" isn't indicated after pressing ADJUST.

⇒ Clean off the connected part if rusted or painted or move ground stake.

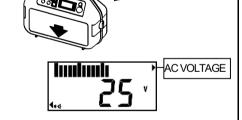
When output is adjusted

- *When locating a long-distance line or deeper depth than 3m / 16ft., Press ♠ key. ⇒ Increase output.

Check the voltage when connecting clip to Power line.

- When voltage is greater than 20 volts, voltage is displayed.
- When voltage is greater than 25 volts, Alarm sounds.

Note: 512Hz output is cut off automatically.



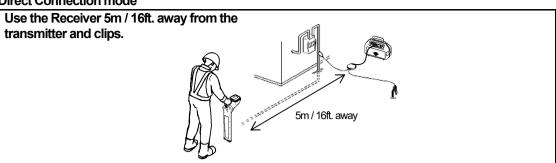
PEEEEE!!!!

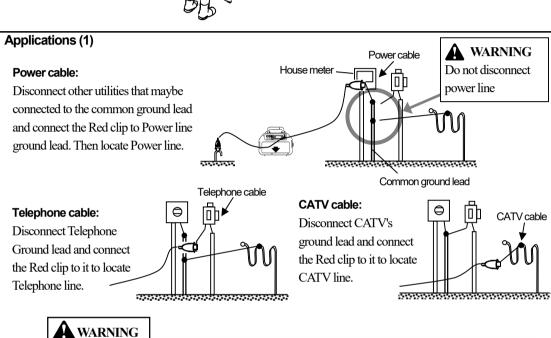


ELECTRIC SHOCK

Death or serious injury will result. 250 Volts maximum across clips. Use protective equipment.

Direct Connection mode



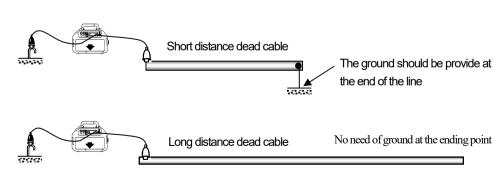




Remember to correctly reconnect common grounds for telephone & CATV. Check Local codes for proper grounding procedure. IMPROPER GROUNDING MAY CAUSE DAMAGE TO APPLIANCES, FIRE OR EXPLOSIONS.

Applications (2)

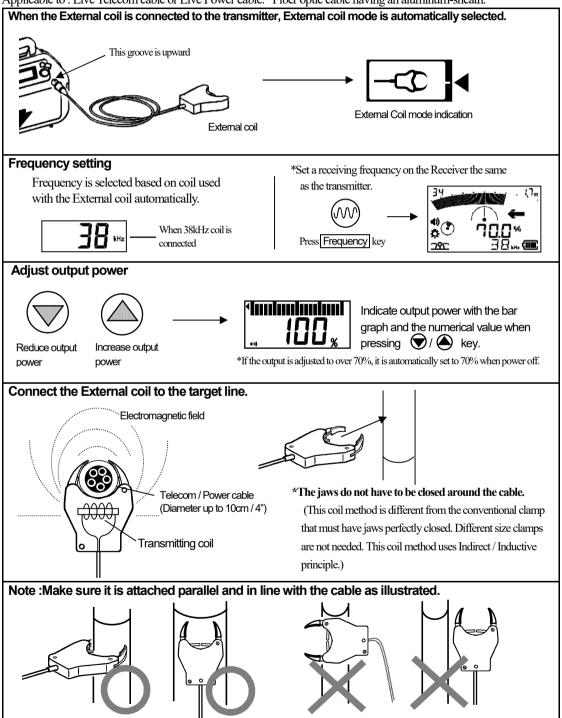
If the dead cable is the object, connect the red alligator clip of the connecting cable to either the aluminum-sheath or a bundle of the copper cores directly.

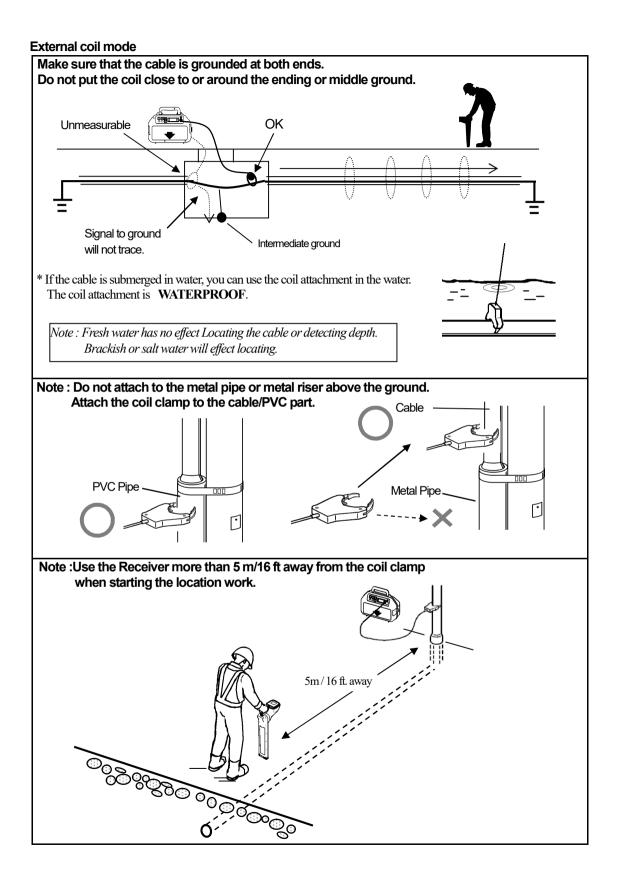


7-2. External coil mode

Use 9.5 kHz, 38 kHz or 80kHz External coil supplied as an option. Use this mode if object is accessible. An induced current, generated by the coil in the External Coil attachment, is applied directly to the exposed part of the cable / pipe to be located.

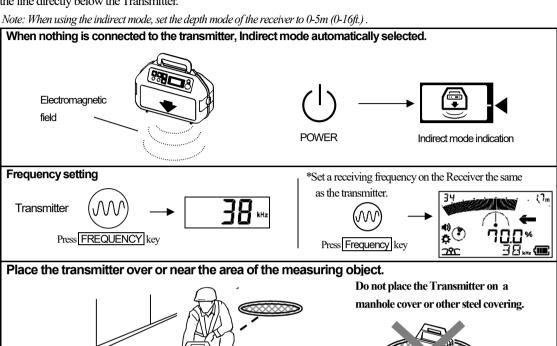
Applicable to: Live Telecom cable or Live Power cable. Fiber optic cable having an aluminum-sheath.



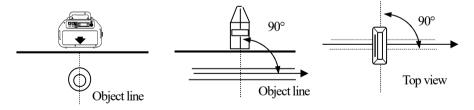


7-3. Indirect (Inductive) mode

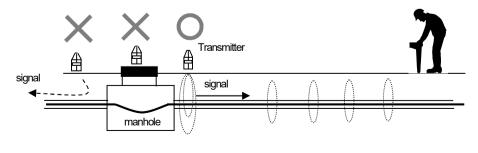
If there is not direct access to the object line, the Transmitter can apply AC current (signal) to the line directly below the Transmitter.



*Place the Transmitter in an upright position at a 90° angle to the object line as illustrated.



*Location near the area of a manhole, place the Transmitter on the side of the manhole you wish to locate.



Indirect mode

Adjust output power



Reduce power





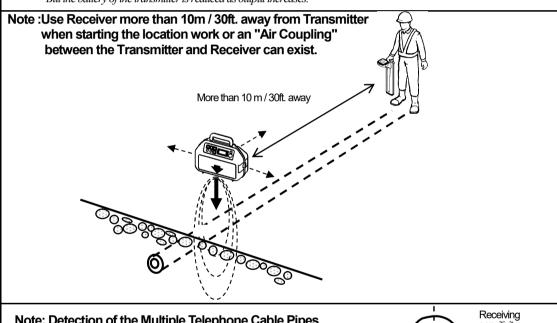
Indicate output power with the bar - graph and the numerical value when pressing \bigcirc / \bigcirc key.

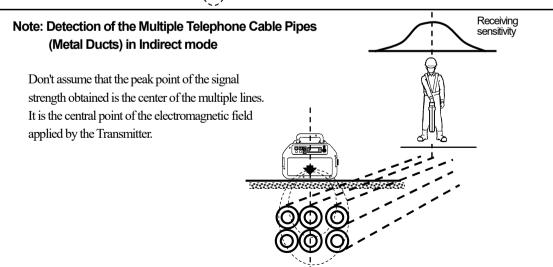
*Standard of adjustment.

- When depth is less than 0.6m / 2ft. $\Rightarrow 50\% \sim 60\%$
- When depth is more than 0.6m / 2ft., less than 1.5m / 5ft.. $\Rightarrow 70\% \sim 80\%$
- When depth is more than 1.5m / 5ft... $\Rightarrow 90 \% \sim 100\%$

Note: If output is adjusted to 100%, you can usually locate in any area.

But the battery of the transmitter is reduced as output increases.

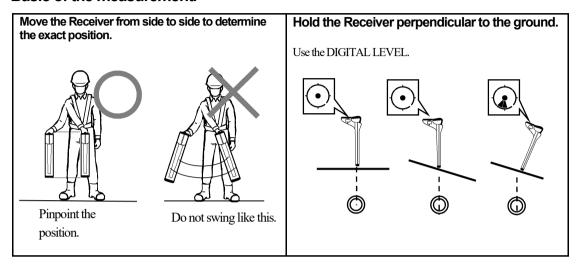




8. Operation of Receiver (RX)

Tutorial

Basic of the measurement.

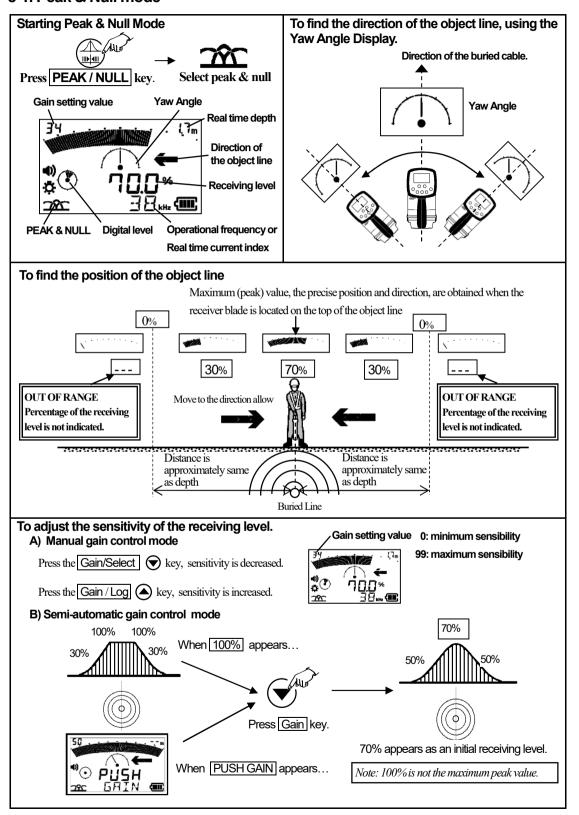


Measurement Mode

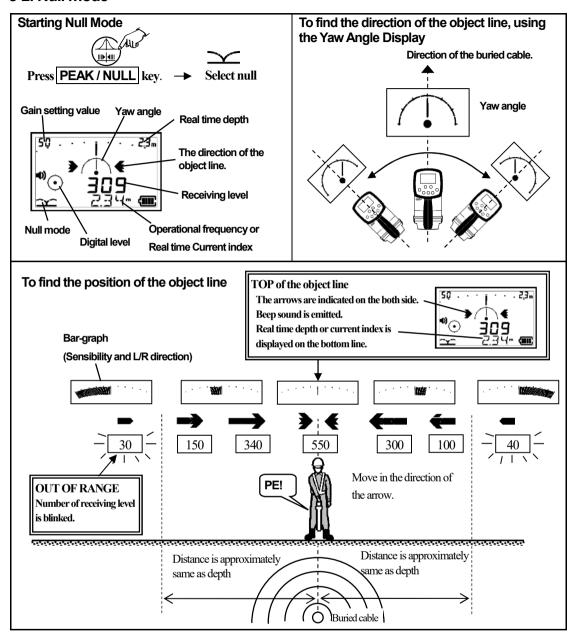
	PEAK & NULL MODE	PEAK MODE	NULL MODE	Functional Description
Icon	TÎC	\triangle	<u>~</u>	
Bar Graph	PEAK	PEAK	NULL	Display the graph detecting right above the cable
Sensitivity Indication	0 – 100%	0 – 100%	0 – 9999	Indicate the receiver sensitivity
Left and Right direction display	YES	NO	YES	Display the direction by left and right allow
YAW angle display	YES	YES	YES	Display the YAW angle
Continuous Depth measurement	YES	YES *See page 10	YES	Display the real time depth of the cable
Continuous Current measurement	YES	YES *See page 10	YES	Display the current value of transmitting signal
Purpose	Various uses	Simple operation	Route searching Using around the metal objects	

^{*}Use the Depth Key when measuring the depth of the buried pipe more accurately

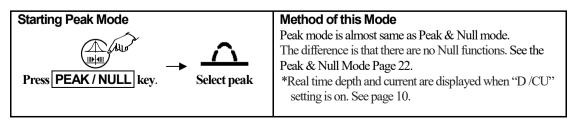
8-1. Peak & Null mode



8-2. Null mode

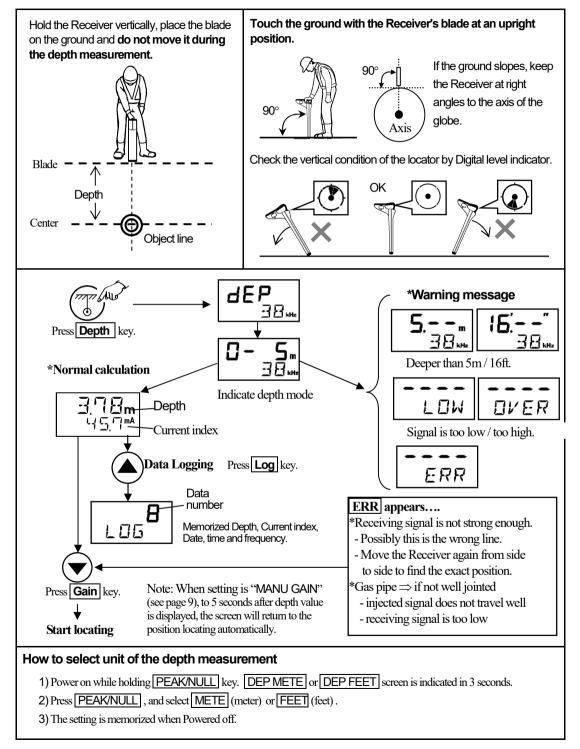


8-3. Peak mode

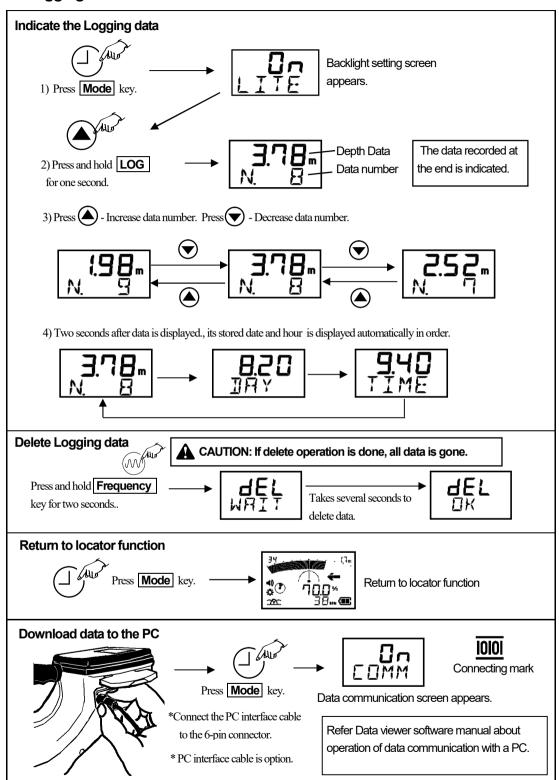


8-4. Depth measurement (High precision)

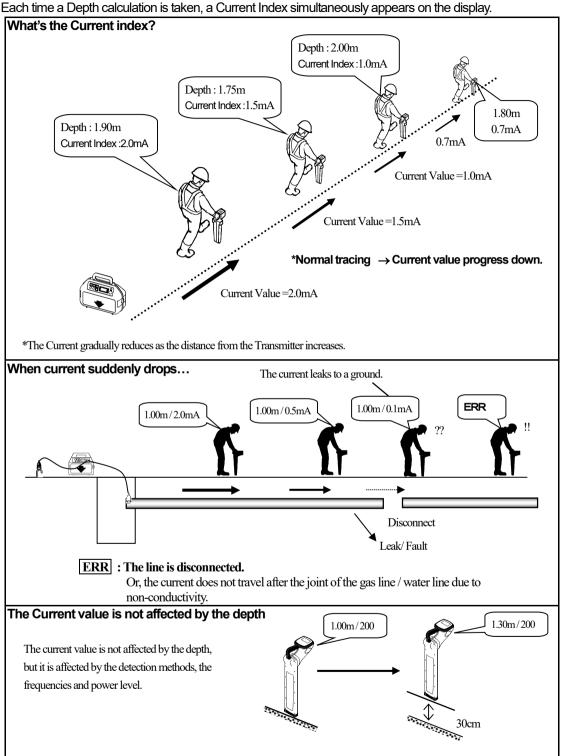
Once the precise location of the object line has been determined, the **Depth** key is pressed to display the distance from the Receiver's blade to the object line. Calculations are indicated on the digital display. *Note: Depth reading is a calculation of received signal strength.*

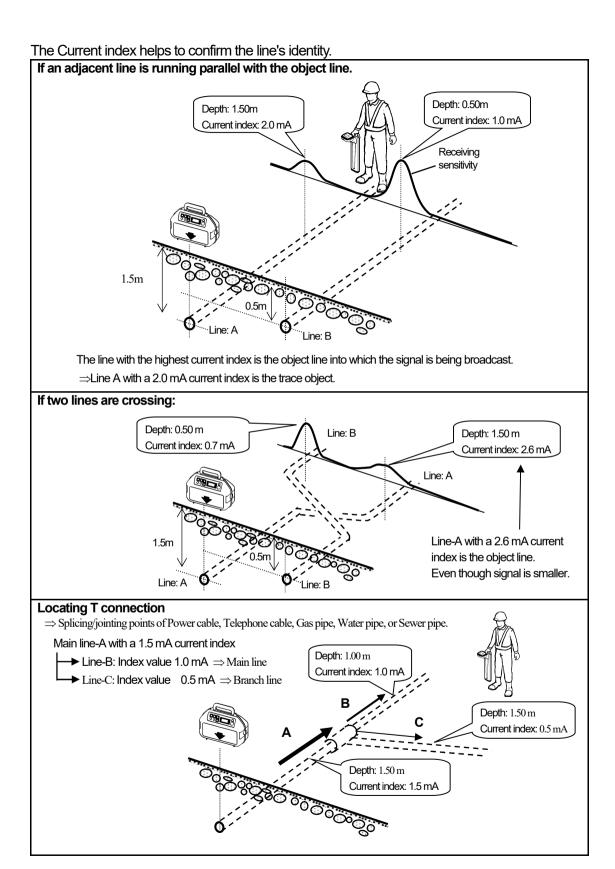


8-5. Logging Data



8-6. Current index (Current measurement)





8-7. PASSIVE MODE

The Power and Radio passive modes of the Receiver are used to search an area for unknown power cables and other utility lines, without using the Transmitter.

Frequency setting



Power mode: Power mode detects 50/60 Hz or 100/120Hz frequency radiated by the live power cable.

50Hz / 60Hz: select POW.

100Hz / 120Hz: select 120Hz.

Radio mode: It locates buried utility lines as they reradiate very low frequency,

Select RAD.

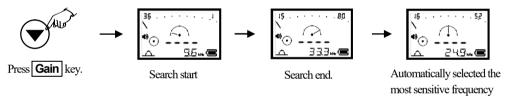
Attention: Radio can only be selected when the peak mode or peak & null mode.

Auto search function of Magnetic field in environment (Radio wave)

When applying Radio wave (RAD) detection, the most sensitive frequency is selected with auto search function.

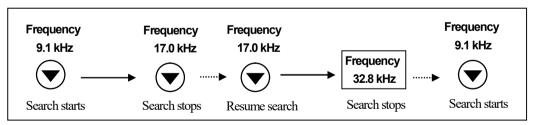
Search all frequencies

Set frequency to RAD, Press and hold Gain for one second. And then, search starts.

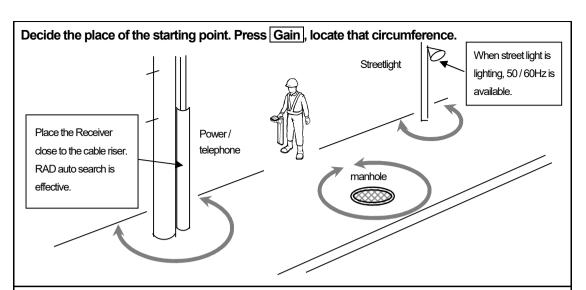


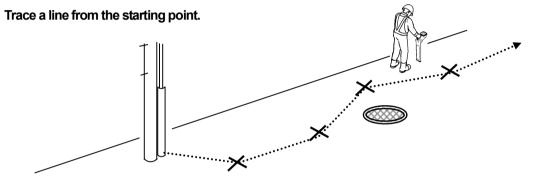
Search frequencies in several bands

Press Gain during search, Search stops. Resume search, the search starts from the halted frequency.



Above mentioned example shows the first search detects the most sensitive frequency from 9.1k to 17kHz. And then search is halted. Then, search resumes. The second search detects the most sensitivity frequency from 17k to 32.8kHz Applying this function, several different kind of cables can be detected in several stages.





 $\label{eq:definition} \textbf{Depth measurement} \quad \operatorname{Press} \boxed{\textbf{DEPTH}} \text{ key after pinpointing the location.}$



A WARNING

Accuracy of the depth measurement using the passive modes is unreliable. Always expose the utility lines by exposing in a nondestructive manner before excavation.

8-8. Probe for non-metallic pipe

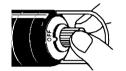
A Probe, supplied as optional equipment, is a small waterproof transmitter emitting a signal that is traced by the Receiver.

The Probe can only be used in the non-metallic pipe.

Note: The metal pipe conceals a signal so that the Receiver cannot detect the signal. Use Direct connection mode.

Battery check

- a) Set the rotary select switch to BATT.
- b) Check if the green lamp is ON.
- c) If the lamp is OFF, replace all batteries with new ones.

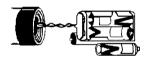






Replacement of batteries

- a) Unscrew the top cover and open the battery compartment.
- b) Four 1.5V AA (LR-6, NEDA15A) batteries are placed in series.
- c) The proper polarities for the batteries are shown on the battery holder.



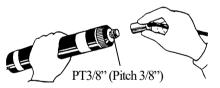




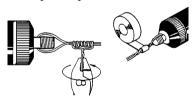
Output setting

a) **OUTPUT LOW:** 0.7 ft to 5.8 ft $(0.2 \text{ m to } 1.8 \text{ m}) \Rightarrow$ less than 4ft/1 m b) **OUTPUT HIGH:** 5.9 ft to 16 ft $(1.8 \text{ m to } 5 \text{ m}) \Rightarrow$ more than 4 ft/1 m

Attach the Sewer probe to the rodding tool and insert the probe into the pipe.

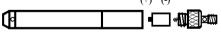


Attach the Sewer probe to the Pulling eye with the pulling wire and pull the probe with the wire.



Mini-Probe Small probe for 1" Fiber optic duct or non-directional boring tools

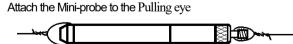
Replacement of batteries

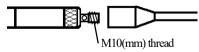


*Mini-probe doesn't have battery check function.

Check the transmission of the probe on the ground before locating.

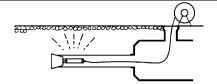
Attach the Mini-probe to the rodding tool





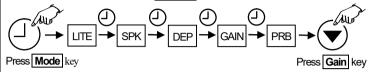
Tracing a non-metallic drain or plastic pipe with the Probe.

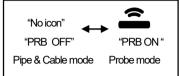
Ex. Feed the Probe into the PVC pipe and locate the blockage or collapse



Receiver \Rightarrow Press **Frequency** key to set the same frequency of the probe.

Set the detection mode to Probe mode.

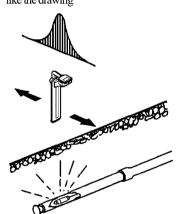




Location measurement (horizontal direction of the line)

Apply Peak mode. Horizontal direction can not be detected with Null mode.

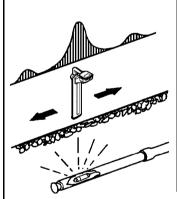
Use the Receiver parallel to the object line like the drawing



Location measurement (Same direction in the line)

Peak mode.

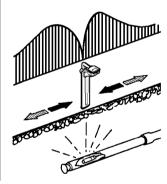
Three sensitivity peaks appear. The largest peak is the point directly above the Probe.



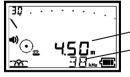
Null mode

When near the Probe, arrow indicates the location above the Probe. When away from the Probe, the

receiving level flashes and the arrow indicates opposite direction.



Depth measurement \Rightarrow Press | **DEPTH** | key



Depth

Current index is not displayed.

* For the Sewer probe:

 $\overline{\text{OVER}} \Rightarrow \text{Change the output to OUTPUT LOW.}$

 \blacksquare Change the output to OUTPUT HIGH.

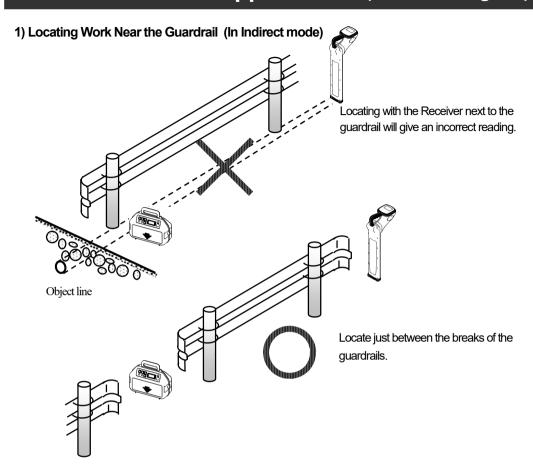
* For the Mini-probe:

 $OVER \Rightarrow$ Receiver is too close to probe.

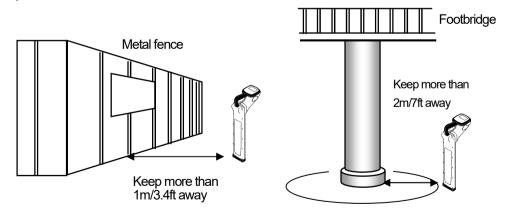
LOW \Rightarrow Receiver is too far away from probe.

* If tracking a boring tool, Probe should be housed in a metal housing with slots milled in housing to allow signal to escape. Location is done as above.

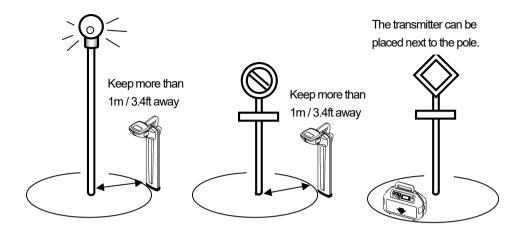
9. Precautions and applications (At the locating site)



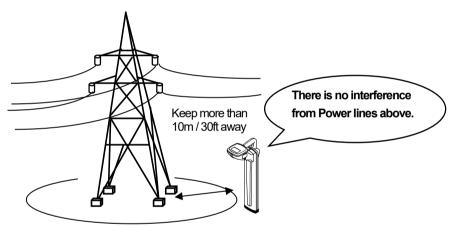
2) Metal Fences or Other Metallic Structures



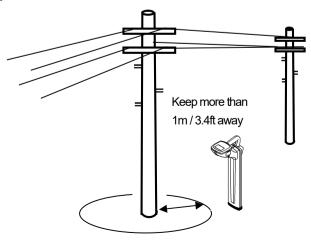
3) Street Light, Traffic-Control Sign



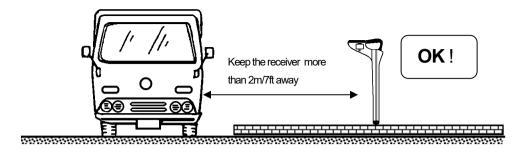
4) Power-Transmission Tower

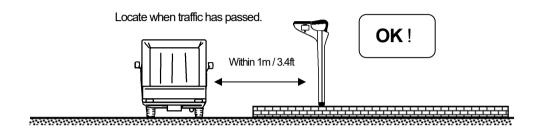


5)Telephone / Electric Power Poles

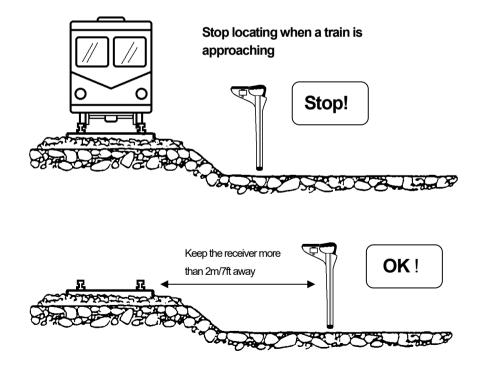


6) Heavy Traffic Flow





7) Railroads



Call & Contact

₹ TAKACHIHO SANGYO CO., LTD.

Tokyo office

19-6, 5-Chome, Shiba, Minato-Ku, Tokyo 108-0014 TEL 81-3-3453-4778 Head office & Factory in Nagoya, Japan