

Uniden BCT15X

Uniden BearTracker Scanner BCT15X Instruction Manual

Model: BCT15X

1. INTRODUCTION

The Uniden BearTracker Scanner BCT15X is an advanced, GPS-enabled analog scanner designed for mobile and base station use. It features TrunkTracker III technology, allowing it to monitor Motorola, EDACS, and LTR trunked systems. With a capacity for up to 9,000 channels, the BCT15X incorporates Uniden's exclusive Close Call RF Capture Technology and is compatible with GPS receivers for location-based scanning.

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your BCT15X scanner to ensure optimal performance and longevity.



Figure 1: Front view of the Uniden BearTracker Scanner BCT15X, showing the display, control knobs, and keypad.



BCT15X TRUNK SCANNER

- TrunkTracker III
- BearTracker™ Warning System
- Preprogrammed Highway Patrol Frequencies by State
- Frequency Coverage
25-512, 758-823, 849-868,
984-960, 1240-1300 MHz*
- 9000 Dynamically
Allocated Channels

BCT15X

Features

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • System and Channel Number Tagging | • 100 Quick Key System Access | • Search with Scan |
| • Priority ID Scan on Trunked Systems | • DCS/CTCSS Rapid Decode | • Temporary Lockout |
| • Individual Channel Volume Offset | • Auto AGC | • S.A.M.E. Hazard Alert |
| • Close Call* Technology | • Band Scope | • PC Programming and Control |
| • Location-Based Scanning | • Fire Tone-Out | |
| | • Alpha Tagging | |

Figure 2: The Uniden BearTracker Scanner BCT15X highlighting its main features including TrunkTracker III, BearTracker Warning System, preprogrammed frequencies, wide frequency coverage, and 9,000 channels.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Please read and understand all safety instructions before operating the Uniden BCT15X scanner. Failure to follow these instructions may result in injury or damage to the device.

- Use only the power adapter and cables supplied by Uniden or approved by Uniden for this device.
- Do not expose the scanner to extreme temperatures, direct sunlight for extended periods, or excessive moisture.
- Ensure proper ventilation around the unit to prevent overheating.
- Do not attempt to open or service the scanner yourself. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel.
- When installing in a vehicle, ensure the scanner and its mounting do not obstruct the driver's view or interfere with vehicle controls or safety devices.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all items listed below are included in your package:

- Uniden BCT15X Scanner
- AC Adapter
- Vehicle Accessory Power Cord
- Three-Wire Harness
- Mounting Bracket and Hardware
- Antenna
- Serial Programming Cable
- Owner's Manual on CD-ROM
- Other Printed Materials

4. SETUP

4.1 Physical Installation

1. **Mounting:** Use the provided mounting bracket and hardware to secure the scanner in a stable location, either as a base unit or in a vehicle. Ensure adequate space for ventilation and access to controls.
2. **Antenna Connection:** Connect the supplied antenna to the ANT jack on the rear of the scanner. For improved reception, consider an external antenna suitable for your environment.
3. **Power Connection:**
 - **For Home Use:** Connect the AC adapter to the DC 13.8V jack on the rear of the scanner and plug it into a standard wall outlet.
 - **For Vehicle Use:** Connect the vehicle accessory power cord or the three-wire harness to the DC 13.8V jack. Ensure proper polarity when using the three-wire harness (red to positive, black to negative).

4.2 Initial Power-On and Basic Configuration

1. **Power On:** Turn the scanner on using the VOL knob.
2. **Set Location:** Press the large silver knob (Function knob) on the right. Rotate it to select your state, then press the 'E' (Yes) button below the '9' key to confirm. This configures the scanner for local settings.
3. **Disable Loud Alerts:** To adjust or disable alert tones, press the Function knob. Rotate it to navigate to "Set BearTracker," then press the Function knob again. Scroll to "Set Alert Tone" and press the Function knob. Select "Off" using the 'E' (Yes) button. Press the MENU button three times to return to the main screen.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1 Understanding Controls and Display

Familiarize yourself with the scanner's front panel controls:

- **VOL Knob:** Controls power and volume.
- **SQ Knob:** Adjusts squelch level.
- **Function Knob (Silver):** Navigates menus and selects options.
- **Keypad (0-9, E/Yes, No):** For direct frequency entry, menu navigation, and confirmation.
- **POL/HP Buttons:** Quick access to Police and Highway Patrol channels.
- **MENU Button:** Accesses the main menu.
- **L/O (Lockout) Button:** Temporarily locks out channels or bands.
- **SCAN/SEARCH Button:** Initiates scanning or searching.

5.2 Scanning Modes and Features

- **TrunkTracker III Technology:** Monitors Motorola Type I, Type II, Type III Hybrid, Smartnet, Smartzone, Smartzone Omnilink, VOC, LTR Standard, EDACS Standard (Wide), Narrowband (Narrow), Networked (Wide/Narrow), SCAT, and ESK systems.
- **Close Call RF Capture Technology:** Detects and tunes to nearby transmissions instantly.
- **Location-Based Scanning:** When connected to a compatible GPS receiver, the scanner automatically selects programmed systems based on your current location.
- **BearTracker Warning System:** Provides alerts for specific public safety activities.
- **Preprogrammed Channels:** Includes state-by-state preprogrammed channels for local police, DOT, and Highway Patrol frequencies.
- **S.A.M.E. Hazard Alert:** Receives specific area message encoding weather alerts.



Figure 3: The BCT15X scanner is capable of monitoring various public safety communications, including those from law enforcement agencies.



Figure 4: The scanner's S.A.M.E. Hazard Alert feature can provide critical weather warnings, such as those for tornadoes and severe storms.



Figure 5: The BCT15X can provide updates on emergency situations, such as power outages or road closures following severe weather events.

5.3 Programming Channels

The BCT15X offers several methods for programming channels:

- **Manual Programming:** Channels can be programmed directly using the scanner's keypad and menu system. This method can be time-consuming for a large number of channels.
- **PC Programming:** For easier and faster programming, connect the scanner to a computer using the supplied serial programming cable. Third-party software (e.g., FreeSCAN) can be used to manage frequencies, groups, and settings, then upload them to the scanner. This allows for Alpha Tagging, assigning custom names to frequencies for display.
- **Quick Keys:** The scanner supports 100 system Quick Keys and 10-channel group Quick Keys per system for rapid access to frequently used channels.

5.4 Lockout Function

The lockout function allows you to temporarily skip channels or entire bands during scanning:

- **Temporary Lockout:** During scanning, press the L/O button to temporarily skip the currently active channel.
- **Band Lockout:** To prevent scanning of specific bands (e.g., CB, FRS), access the menu, navigate to the desired band, and press the L/O button. This will exclude the band from future scans until the lockout is removed.

5.5 Frequency Coverage

The BCT15X covers the following frequency ranges (excluding cellular telephone bands):

- 25-512 MHz
- 758-960 MHz
- 1.24-1.3 GHz

6. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures the optimal performance and longevity of your BCT15X scanner.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the scanner. Do not use abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Antenna Care:** Periodically check the antenna connection for tightness. If using an external antenna, ensure it is properly maintained and free from damage.
- **Software Updates:** Check the Uniden website periodically for any available firmware updates for your BCT15X model. Updates typically require connecting the scanner to a computer via the serial programming cable.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your BCT15X scanner, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Ensure the power adapter is securely connected to both the scanner and a working power outlet. Check the vehicle's power source if used in a car.
- **No Reception/Poor Audio:**
 - Verify the antenna is properly connected and undamaged.
 - Adjust the SQ (Squelch) knob. If set too high, it may block weak signals.
 - Check if the channels or bands you wish to monitor are accidentally locked out.
 - Ensure the volume is turned up.
- **Difficulty Programming Channels:** Manual programming can be complex. Consider using PC programming software (e.g., FreeSCAN) with the serial programming cable for a more user-friendly experience.
- **Loud or Unwanted Alerts:** Refer to Section 4.2, "Disable Loud Alerts," to adjust or turn off alert tones.
- **Scanner Not Responding:** Try turning the unit off and then on again. If the issue persists, a factory reset (refer to the owner's manual on CD-ROM for specific instructions) might be necessary, but this will erase all programmed data.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Product Dimensions	5.9 x 7.2 x 2.2 inches
Item Weight	0.01 ounces
Model Number	BCT15X
Brand	Uniden
Color	Black
Special Features	Close Call RF Capture Technology, TrunkTracker III Technology, BearTracker Warning System, GPS Compatibility
Connectivity Technology	1.3 GHz
Tuner Technology	Analog
Power Source	Corded Electric

Radio Bands Supported	VHF, UHF, 800 MHz, 900 MHz
Channels	9,000

9. WARRANTY INFORMATION

The Uniden BCT15X scanner is covered by a manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the warranty card included in your product packaging or visit the official Uniden website for detailed information regarding warranty terms, conditions, and registration procedures.

10. CUSTOMER SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or service inquiries regarding your Uniden BCT15X scanner, please contact Uniden customer support. Contact information and support resources can typically be found on the official Uniden website or in the owner's manual provided on the CD-ROM.

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ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question

Answered questions about this manual

Is there a way to place a delay on some channels on the Uniden BCT15X scanner?

Yes, the Uniden BCT15X allows you to set a Delay for channels and systems. This setting forces the scanner to wait for a specified period (typically 2 seconds) after a transmission ends before it..

[Read full answer](#)