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SCHONSTEDT u-LOCATE

SCHONSTEDT u-LOCATE Pipe & Cable Locator Instruction Manual

Model: u-LOCATE

INTRODUCTION

The SCHONSTEDT u-LOCATE is a single-frequency locator designed for accurately locating buried pipes and cables. This device helps prevent costly damages, utility strikes, and service outages by allowing users to scan an area for utilities before excavation. It features an 82 kHz active frequency, a 1W transmitter, passive mode, and depth estimation capabilities. The u-LOCATE is built for durability in various weather conditions and environments, ensuring reliable performance when needed.

This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your u-LOCATE system. Please read it thoroughly before using the device.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when working near buried utilities. Damaging buried utilities can be hazardous. The u-LOCATE is a tool to assist in locating, but it does not replace the need for proper safety protocols and contacting local utility services (e.g., "Call Before You Dig" services) before any excavation.

- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Ensure the work area is clear of obstructions and hazards.
- Follow all local regulations and safety guidelines for excavation and utility locating.
- Do not use the device if it appears damaged.

PACKAGE CONTENTS



Image: The complete u-LOCATE kit, including the receiver, transmitter, connection leads, earth stake, magnet, and carrying bag.

Verify that all components are present in your u-LOCATE package:

- Receiver
- Transmitter
- 4 D Batteries (pre-installed or included separately)
- Connection Leads
- Earth Stake
- Magnet
- Carrying Bag
- Welcome Placard (with QR code for online resources)

SETUP

1. Battery Installation

The u-LOCATE Receiver and Transmitter require D batteries for operation. Four D batteries are included with your unit.

1. Locate the battery compartment on both the Receiver and the Transmitter.
2. Open the battery compartment cover.
3. Insert the D batteries, ensuring correct polarity (+/-) as indicated inside the compartment.
4. Securely close the battery compartment cover.

Note: The average battery life is approximately 20 hours. Replace batteries when the low battery indicator appears on the display.

2. Initial Inspection

Before first use, inspect both the Receiver and Transmitter for any visible damage. Ensure all connections are clean and secure.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The u-LOCATE system operates by detecting electromagnetic signals emitted by buried utilities. The Receiver interprets these signals to guide you to the utility's location and estimate its depth.

1. Receiver Overview



Image: Close-up of the u-LOCATE Receiver's high-contrast screen and control buttons, including frequency and depth estimation.

The Receiver features a high-contrast screen for clear visibility, even in bright sunlight. Control buttons allow for

mode selection and depth estimation. A headphone socket is provided for improved audio isolation in noisy environments.

2. Transmitter Overview



Image: The u-LOCATE Transmitter, showing the accessory connection socket and storage tray.

The Transmitter generates the signal that the Receiver detects. It includes an accessory connection socket for direct connection leads and an accessory storage tray for convenience.

3. Basic Locating Procedure

- 1. Power On:** Turn on both the Receiver and the Transmitter.
- 2. Select Mode:** The u-LOCATE offers an 82 kHz active frequency mode and a passive mode.
 - Active Mode (82 kHz):** Use the Transmitter to induce a signal onto the utility. Connect the Transmitter using the direct connection leads, or place it near the utility for induction.
 - Passive Mode:** Detects existing electromagnetic fields radiated by live power cables or other utilities without needing the Transmitter.
- 3. Scan the Area:** Hold the Receiver upright and walk slowly across the suspected path of the utility.



Image: An operator using the u-LOCATE Receiver to scan for buried utilities in an open area, demonstrating typical usage.

4. Interpret Signals:

- **Visual Cues:** The Receiver's screen will display left/right arrows to guide you towards the utility's centerline.
- **Audio Cues:** An audio signal will increase in pitch and volume as you approach the utility.

5. Pinpoint and Trace:

Once a signal is detected, adjust your position until the arrows are centered and the audio signal is at its peak. Mark the location. Continue tracing the utility's path by repeating this process.



Image: An operator using the u-LOCATE Receiver in an urban environment near an excavation, highlighting its use in complex settings.

6. **Depth Estimation:** At the press of a button on the Receiver, the device can provide an estimated depth of the located utility. Ensure the Receiver is directly over the utility for the most accurate reading.



Image: A close-up view of an operator holding the u-LOCATE Receiver, showing the ergonomic design and how it is typically held during operation.

The u-LOCATE is designed to discriminate between utilities and other buried materials, helping you locate the specific utility you are targeting.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Wipe the Receiver and Transmitter with a damp cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the u-LOCATE system in its carrying bag in a cool, dry place when not in use. Remove batteries if storing for extended periods to prevent leakage.
- **Battery Replacement:** Replace batteries promptly when the low battery indicator is displayed to ensure optimal performance.
- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect cables and connections for wear or damage.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your u-LOCATE system, consider the following:

- **No Power:** Check that batteries are correctly installed and fully charged. Replace if necessary.
- **Weak or No Signal:**
 - Ensure the Transmitter is powered on and properly connected to the utility (in active mode).
 - Verify the Receiver is set to the correct frequency mode.
 - Check for strong interference sources nearby (e.g., other electrical equipment, metal fences).
 - Ensure good ground contact for the earth stake if using direct connection.
- **Inaccurate Depth Reading:** Ensure the Receiver is held directly over the utility and is perpendicular to the ground.
- **General Malfunction:** Try turning both units off and on again. If issues persist, refer to the online resources or contact customer support.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model	u-LOCATE

Manufacturer	Schonstedt Instrument Company
Operating Frequencies	82 kHz (Active), Passive Mode
Transmitter Power	1 Watt
Power Source	4 D Batteries (Alkaline)
Average Battery Life	20 Hours
Item Weight	8.5 pounds
Included Components	Receiver, Transmitter, Batteries, Connection Leads, Earth Stake, Magnet, Carrying Bag, Welcome Placard
Construction	Rugged, shock-resistant, protected against water and dust

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The SCHONSTEDT u-LOCATE Pipe & Cable Locator comes with a **1-Year Warranty** from the date of purchase. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims. For additional support, detailed manuals, and technical assistance, scan the QR code located on the product's welcome placard or visit the official SCHONSTEDT website. Online Manual Link: <https://www.schonstedt.com/documents/u-locate/>