Introduction

Welcome

Congratulations on your purchase of the BCT-10 Highway Information System & Scanning Radio! State-of-the-art engineering and advanced electronics provide you with a preprogrammed information radio designed for easy operation and dependability.

With the BCT-10 Scanning Radio, you can listen to hundreds of highway patrol and police frequencies, as well as a number of weather channels.

Plus, new built-in technology sounds an alarm when a highway patrol unit using a mobile extender is detected!

Best of all, you don’t have to program any frequencies. Just set the BCT-10 for your state, and the scanner will do the rest. Please read this Operating Guide thoroughly before attempting to operate the unit.

Features

- Highway Patrol Detection with Strength Meter
- Local Police Coverage
- Highway Patrol Coverage
- 9 Level Strength Meter
- Windshield Mountable
- Instant Weather
- Built-in Speaker
- Pre-Programmed Scanner covers all 50 States Plus Canada
Terms and Definitions

**Frequency**
Radio signals are sent as waves through the air. These waves move up and down. A frequency is the number of times in a certain time period, usually a second, that these waves move all the way up and all the way down and back to all the way up. For example: 123.44 kHz means that the waves are moving all the way up and all the way down and back all the way up again 123,440 times each second.

**Mobile Extender**
When highway patrol officers step away from their cars, signals from the patrol car are sent to their portable radios via a mobile extender. The mobile extender is a transmitter/receiver that receives the signal from the station and transmits it to the portable radio on a different, but lower, frequency.

**Scanning**
Scanning is the process by which your scanning radio looks for “activity” in the channels it is programmed to look at. The scanner checks each frequency for the presence of a signal, and when it finds a frequency with a signal, for example someone talking on it, it stops, allowing you to listen to the signal. The BCT-10’s Highway Patrol Alert System also looks for activity on mobile extender frequencies. When the BCT-10 detects the presence of a signal on one of these frequencies, it will trigger an audio and visual alarm.
Unpacking

Carefully remove all items from the box. If there is any visible damage, do not operate the equipment. Notify your dealer or shipping carrier immediately.

For information or instructions on any problem that you may have, call the Uniden Customer Service Center at:

(800) 297-1023 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central.
Included with Your BCT-10 Scanner

The BCT-10 Highway Information System  Windshield Mounting Bracket and Hardware  Visor Clip Mounting Bracket

BCT-10 Antenna  Cigarette Adapter Power Cord  BCT-10 Operating Guide

Flexible Mobile Antenna  Other Printed Material  Straight Power Cord

If any of these items are missing, please contact your place of purchase.
Installation

The BCT-10 uses a highly sensitive antenna to receive radio signals. Its sensitivity and range depend on the method of installation and the direction of the antenna in relation to the signal source. Before you decide where to put your scanner, please keep in mind one important factor:

For safety, do not mount the BCT-10 in a location where it will obstruct your driving vision.

Helpful Tips

The antenna is located on the side of the unit. It should not be obstructed and should be pointed as close to straight up or down for best operation.

- Do not mount the unit in front of the heater or defroster vents.
- Do not leave the unit in direct sunlight or in the glove compartment of a closed car for long periods of time, as extreme changes in temperature may cause internal damage. Also, removing the unit from the windshield makes you less susceptible to break-in and theft.
- Be sure the BCT-10 is mounted free of obstructions from the rear view mirror, sun visors, or the ceiling of the automobile.
Installing the Antenna

BCT-10 Antenna

1. Pinch the sides of the antenna and attach it to the BCT-10.

Flexible Mobile Antenna

1. Mount the antenna on the inside of the windshield at the far right-hand (passenger) side.

Caution: Be sure the antenna does not obstruct the driver's vision in any way.

2. Route the antenna cable down the edge of the windshield and around the dash.
Caution: *Be sure the cable is out of the way of anyone getting in or out of the car.*

3. Plug the cable’s BNC connector into the BCT-10.

Mounting the BCT-10

Visor Mounting

1. Snap the visor clip onto the BCT-10.

*Note:* *Make sure that the bracket tabs fit securely in the slots.*
2. Slide the clip over the front of the visor.

3. Adjust the angle of the antenna as close to straight up or down as possible.

Note: You can remove and replace the BCT-10 by sliding both the unit and the visor mount off and on the visor.
Windshield Mounting

1. Find a good position for the BCT-10 on your windshield. Refer to the Helpful Tips on page 5 for some guidelines on mounting positions.

2. Put the metal mounting bracket on the windshield to adjust it for best position.

3. If necessary, adjust the metal mounting bracket so that when you slide the BCT-10 onto it, it is parallel to the road surface and fits flush against the windshield. Your BCT-10 should look like the example at the right once it is installed.

Caution: Do Not adjust the metal mounting bracket with the BCT-10 attached. Doing so can cause damage to the bracket and the unit.
4. Snap the windshield mounting clip onto the BCT-10.

5. Slide the plastic windshield mounting clip into the metal mounting bracket.

The mounting clip locks into the plastic portion at three different positions. These positions can be used for vehicles with different vertical angles of their windshields. The back position can be used for vehicles with windshields that are slanted back.
6. Place the bracket and the BCT-10 in the proper location on the windshield of your vehicle and press the suction cups firmly against the windshield. If the BCT-10 does not fit flush against the windshield, try a different position on the metal mounting bracket.

7. Adjust the angle of the antenna as close to straight up or down as possible.
Connecting the Power

Direct Connection

**WARNING:** The BCT-10 is designed to operate only with 12V DC, negative ground power systems. Operation of the unit on other voltages or polarities will cause damage to the unit and may create a fire hazard.

The straight power cord provided with the unit has bare wires at one end, and a small connector at the other end.

1. Connect the positive wire to a 12V DC source in your vehicle’s fuse box.

2. Connect the other wire to ground.
3. Run the power cord from the fuse box to the BCT-10.

**Note:** Ensure the cord does not interfere with vehicle operation or cause a tripping hazard.

4. Plug the power cord connector into the Control Unit at the jack labeled “DC 12V.”

**Note:** Push the connector firmly into the jack.

**Using the Cigarette Lighter Adapter**

1. Insert the small connector into the jack on the side of the unit.

2. Insert the other end into the cigarette lighter socket of your vehicle.
When installing the power cord, make sure that:

- The socket is clean to allow proper contact.
- The power cord does not block the antenna area of the unit.

Your unit also comes with 10 power cord mounting clips. You can use these clips to attach the power cord to the window frame or other parts of the vehicle, keeping it neat and out of the way. Use the double-sided foam tape squares to attach each clip. Slip the power cord into the clip to hold it securely in place.

**Replacing the Fuse**

The cigarette lighter plug contains a 1-ampere fuse to protect it from power surges.

1. To replace the fuse, unscrew the top of the plug.
2. Remove the fuse and replace it with the same type.
3. To replace the top, push in the two metal contacts and twist into place.
Operating Instructions

Applying Power

1. Turn the OFF/VOLUME control counter clockwise to power on the scanner. Adjust the volume about 1/4 turn.

2. During power-on, a self-test is performed. Check the front control panel for proper operation.

3. All the LED’s on the front control panel light up and the numbers 1 through 9 count up on the LED display. An Alert tone is also sounded. This tells you that the scanner is working properly.

4. The currently selected state appears on the display. The BCT-10 always comes on with the last settings selected, and in the last mode of operation.
Adjusting the Squelch

Think of the Squelch Control as a gate.

1. Turn the SQUELCH control fully counterclockwise. This raises the “Squelch Gate” so high that no signals can get through.

2. Turn the SQUELCH control fully clockwise until you hear a hiss. This lowers the “Squelch Gate” so that everything gets through ... noise, weak signals, and strong signals.
3. Turn the SQUELCH control back counter clockwise just until the hiss stops. Now the “Squelch Gate” allows only strong signals through.

4. Sometimes when you open the Squelch, you may trigger the Alert feature even though no highway patrol cars are in the area. If this happens, turn the SQUELCH control counterclockwise until the “rushing” noise stops. Then turn the BCT-10 off, and back on, to reset the Alert feature.

**Note:** In metropolitan areas, you may want to adjust the Squelch control more counterclockwise to reduce the range of the Alert feature. When set fully counterclockwise, Squelch limits the Alert range to a short distance.
Selecting the State

1. Select the state you are operating in by pressing the \texttt{STATE} key repeatedly. If you press and hold the \texttt{STATE} key for 2 seconds, the selector moves rapidly through all the states and Canadian provinces.

2. The state code appears on the display. See the following page for a list of State codes.

\textbf{Note:} \textit{The state codes are in alphabetical order by abbreviation.}
## State Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AK</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>NM</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>NV</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
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<td>CO</td>
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<td>NH</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>YT</td>
<td>Yukon Territories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>All Frequencies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selecting the Frequencies to Scan

Scanning All Frequencies

*Note:* The Alert feature is not active in this mode.

1. To scan all frequencies (except Weather), press the \( \text{STATE} \) key repeatedly or press and hold the \( \text{STATE} \) key until “XX” is blinking on the LED display.

2. All frequencies, except weather channels, are scanned for an active transmission.

3. When the BCT-10 finds an active frequency it activates a built-in two second delay before it resumes scanning.

*Note:* The \( \text{MUTE} \) key does not operate in XX mode.
Scanning Highway Patrol Frequencies

1. To scan highway patrol frequencies exclusively, press the key repeatedly until HP is blinking in the LED display.

2. The HP LED lights up.

3. While scanning, the BCT-10 displays the state code for the state you selected. When the BCT-10 detects an active frequency, it displays HP in the LED and stops for two seconds before it resumes scanning.
Scanning All Police Frequencies

1. To scan highway patrol and local police frequencies, press the \( \text{key} \) repeatedly until LP is blinking on the LED display.

2. The LP and HP LED's will light up.

3. While scanning, the BCT-10 displays the state code for the state you selected. When the BCT-10 detects an active frequency, it displays LP when monitoring an active local police frequency and HP when monitoring an active highway patrol frequency. The BCT-10 will stop for two seconds, and then resume scanning with the state code displayed on the LED.
Highway Patrol Alarm

In most cases, when you are within three miles of a highway patrol unit, and a mobile extender is in use, your BCT-10 will set off a visual and audible alarm. The signal strength will be displayed, and the LED will return to the HP display. The time the ALARM LED will stay on depends on the signal strength.

Setting the Highway Patrol Alarm Range

A range setting is always active for the highway patrol alert. You can set the range for either standard or long range. Signal strength is measured from 1-9. In standard mode, only signals above a level 5 strength will trigger an audible alert tone. In long range mode, all signal strengths from 1-9 will trigger an alert tone. To select the range:

1. Press and Hold the key for 2 seconds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - 2</td>
<td>3 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - 5</td>
<td>2 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 8</td>
<td>1 Minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>30 Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. The LR and SR LED’s toggle and you hear two short beeps once either standard or long range mode is selected.

**Setting the Highway Patrol Alarm Volume**

You can set the Alert Tone volume to either Low, Medium, or High. To change the Alert Tone volume:

1. Press the ☯ Key.

2. You hear a beep and the LED will display L (low), M (medium), or H (high).
Muting the Highway Patrol Alarm

While in the highway patrol mode you can turn off the alarm tone during the time you are listening to a frequency or disable the alarm tone permanently. To disable the alarm tone while listening to a frequency:

1. While in the highway patrol mode and after you receive an alarm tone, press the MUTE key.

2. The MUTE LED flashes.

Note: Only the alarm tone will be disabled. You will still receive highway patrol alarms but only the ALARM LED will come on.

3. To enable the Alert Tone again, press the MUTE key again.

Note: When the ALARM LED goes off, the mute mode will no longer be on.
To disable the alarm tone permanently:

1. Press and Hold the key for two seconds.

2. You hear a two beeps and the MUTE LED comes on.

Note: When the MUTE LED is on and not flashing, you can receive highway patrol alarms, but the alarm tone does not sound.
Monitoring Weather Frequencies

1. To monitor weather frequencies, press the key repeatedly until WX is blinking on the LED display.

2. While scanning, the BCT-10 will display WX. When the BCT-10 detects an active frequency, it displays the weather channel in the LED and stops scanning.

3. Press the key to make the BCT-10 scan for the next weather frequency.
Deleting Frequencies

Some frequencies that have been preprogrammed into your BCT-10 may not be of immediate interest to you, or a frequency may be experiencing interference. You can lock out that frequency from scanning.

1. When the scanner stops on the undesired frequency, press \( \text{Lo} \) one time.

2. To lock out additional frequencies, repeat Step 1.

**Note:** You can delete a maximum of 50 frequencies. Although it is possible to delete the highway patrol alarm frequencies, this should never be done unless absolutely necessary for proper operation of your BCT-10. This causes the highway patrol alarm feature to be inactive on that frequency. No further alarms will be received until the deleted frequencies are restored or a new state is selected.

**Caution:** When you lock out more than 50 frequencies, the first locked out frequency is deleted. You cannot lock out all of the alarm, local police, and highway patrol frequencies. If you lock out all of the frequencies by accident, the BCT-10 will sound two short beeps.
Restoring Deleted Frequencies

Please note that you can only restore all deleted frequencies at the same time.

To restore the deleted frequencies:

1. Make sure the BCT-10 is not scanning. To stop the unit from scanning, turn the SQUELCH knob toward the front of the BCT-10.

2. Press and hold the key until you hear two beeps.

3. All deleted frequencies are now restored.
Using HOLD to Stay on a Selected Frequency

When scanning stops on a desired frequency, you can lock onto that frequency for as long as you like.

To monitor only one frequency:

1. When the scanner stops on the desired frequency, press the HOLD key.

2. The LED display now indicates the service, either highway patrol or local police, you are monitoring. The scanner remains on that frequency until you cancel the Hold mode by pressing HOLD.

Note: While in the Hold mode, the Alarm feature is inactive!

3. To resume scanning and reactivate the Alert feature, press the HOLD key.
If the BCT-10 stops on an undesired frequency, press the HOLD key twice to force the unit to start scanning again before the end of that transmission.

**BE CAREFUL!!** When you are in the Hold mode, there will be no Alert tones or Warning light, even if you are on the Alert frequency.

**REMEMBER!!** When you apply power, the BCT-10 comes on to exactly the same service and in exactly the same mode as when last turned off. If you are monitoring an Alert frequency in the Hold mode when you turn the BCT-10 off, it will come back to that Alert frequency in Hold mode when you turn it back on. The Alert feature will be inactive. To restore the Alert feature, press the HOLD key.

**Memory Backup**

Your BCT-10 has a memory backup system that remembers your frequency selections and deletions when you turn off the unit. This memory lasts permanently without any external power to the unit.

**Birdies**

All radios are subject to receiving undesirable signals. If your scanner stops during Scan mode and no sound is heard, press the HOLD key twice to resume scanning.
# Troubleshooting

If your BCT-10 is not performing properly, try the steps listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEM</th>
<th>POSSIBLE SOLUTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scanner is not working properly.</td>
<td>Check power cord and in-line fuse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Check the Volume and Squelch settings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signal is weak or distorted.</td>
<td>Check antenna and antenna connection, or change antenna.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper reception.</td>
<td>Check antenna and antenna connection, or change antenna.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reposition scanner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan won’t stop.</td>
<td>Check Squelch adjustment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Check antenna and antenna connection, or change antenna.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete reception.</td>
<td>Fringe area of reception.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Check Squelch adjustment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather Search (WX) won’t work.</td>
<td>Check Squelch adjustment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No active station within range.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you still cannot get satisfactory results and you wish to receive product information or return the unit for service, please call or write the Uniden Parts and Service Division at:

Uniden America Corporation  
4700 Amon Carter Blvd.  
Fort Worth, TX 76155  
(800) 297-1023 Monday through Friday,  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central
Optional Accessories

The following optional accessories for your BCT-10 are available from your local Uniden Dealer or through the Uniden Customer Service Center by calling: (800) 297-1023, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central, Monday through Friday.

Windshield Mounting Bracket and Hardware

Visor Clip Mounting Bracket

BCT-10 Antenna

Cigarette Adapter

Power cord

BCT-10 Operating Guide

Straight Power Cord

External Speaker

Coiled Cigarette Adapter

Flexible Mobile Antenna
## Specifications

**Size:** 76W X 136.5D X 33H  
**Weight:** 180 g  
**Power:** 13.8 VDC  
**Operating Temperature:** -20° C (-4° F) to +60° C (+140° F)  
**Antenna:** 50Ω impedance  
**RF Sensitivity:** (FM 12dB signal to noise ratio at 3kHz deviation)  
- 37.02 - 46.02 MHz: 0.3μV  
- 138.3450 - 172.0200 MHz: 0.4μV  
- 423.0000 - 508.4875 MHz: 0.5μV  
**Frequency Coverage:**  
- **VHF Low Band:** 37.02 - 46.02 MHz  
- **VHF High Band:** 138.3450 - 172.0200 MHz  
- **UHF Band:** 423.0000 - 508.4875 MHz  
**Audio output:** Max 1W  

Certified in accordance with FCC Rules and Regulations Part 15 as of date of manufacture.

Specifications are typical and subject to change without notice.
uniden®
Bearcat®

BearTracker

BCT-10

HIGHWAY INFORMATION SYSTEM & PREPROGRAMMED WARNING SCANNER

Operating Guide

UBZZ01258ZZ
Precautions

Before you use this scanner, please observe the following:

**WARNING!**

Uniden America Corporation does not represent this unit to be waterproof. To reduce the risk of fire, electrical shock, or damage to the unit, do not expose this unit to rain or moisture.

**IMPORTANT!**

The installation, possession, or use of this scanning radio in a motor vehicle may be prohibited, regulated, or require a permit in certain states, cities, and/or local jurisdiction. Your local law enforcement officials should be able to provide you with information regarding the laws in your community.
Controls and Indicators

A. DC Input
B. Speaker Out
C. On/Off Volume
D. ALARM Key
E. HOLD Key
F. Control Panel
G. STATE Key
H. Windshield Bumpers
I. Antenna
J. MUTE Key
K. Squelch Control
L. MODE Key
M. L/O (Lock Out) Key

1. ALARM LED
2. MUTE LED
3. 2 Digit LED Display
4. Standard Range LED
5. Highway Patrol LED
6. HOLD LED
7. Long Range LED
8. Local Police LED
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Features</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms and Definitions</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpacking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Included with Your BCT-10 Scanner</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpful Tips</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installing the Antenna</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCT-10 Antenna</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible Mobile Antenna</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mounting the BCT-10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visor Mounting</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windshield Mounting</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting the Power</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Connection</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the Cigarette Lighter Adapter</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacing the Fuse</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Instructions</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applying Power</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusting the Squelch</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selecting the State</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Codes</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selecting the Frequencies to Scan</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanning All Frequencies</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanning Highway Patrol Frequencies</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanning All Police Frequencies</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Patrol Alarm</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting the Highway Patrol Alarm</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting the Highway Patrol Alarm Range</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting the Highway Patrol Alarm Volume</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muting the Highway Patrol Alarm</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring Weather Frequencies</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deleting Frequencies</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoring Deleted Frequencies</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using HOLD to Stay on a Selected Frequency</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory Backup</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birdies</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troubleshooting</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Accessories</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifications</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Uniden America Corporation
Parts and Service
4700 Amon Carter Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76155
(800) 297-1023, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Central, Monday through Friday