RadioShack®
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Talking 360° Laser/Radar Detector

with VG-2 Guard

Owner's Manual

Please read before using this equipment.

❑ *Contents*

☐ *Features*

Your RadioShack Talking 360° Laser/Radar Detector can alert you to all known police traffic radar and laser systems with its distinct visual and audio alerts, including a voice alert. It receives X-, K-, and Ka-band radar signals, and detects both the instant-on and laser systems many police departments use to measure vehicle speed. Plus, your detector can give you advance warning of potential road hazards by detecting signals from transmitters that broadcast Safety Warning System™ alerts.

Note: Before reading this Owner's Manual, read the supplied booklet *Questions and Answers About Vehicle Speed Detection* to familiarize yourself with the terms and uses associated with your detector.

Your detector's features include:

Electronic Compass — provides accurate heading information with alphanumeric display and LED panel.

Voice Alert — greets you as you turn on the detector and alerts you with different vocal indicators including radar and laser detection.

360° Detection — detects laser signals from all around your vehicle.

Alphanumeric Display — appears when you turn on the detector and alerts you with various text messages including radar and laser detection.

VG-2 Protection — makes your detector invisible to the VG-2 radar-detector when it senses VG-2 operation.

X-, K-, Ka-Band, Laser, and Ultralyte Laser Signal Detection — warns you when it detects signals from traffic radar or laser devices. Different tones and display indicators let you know the type of signal received.

Safety Warning System Detection — alerts you to the presence of potential road hazards, and emergency vehicles signaled by a Safety Warning System transmission.

City/Highway Modes — let you minimize alerts when you are in areas that have false radar sources.

City/Highway Selector and City/Highway Indicator — displays which mode is currently selected.

FAST® (False Alert Suppression Technology) — helps prevent false alarms caused by non-traffic radar sources.

Tutorial Mode — lets you experience how the detector alerts you with its detection display and tones to the different signals the detector recognizes.

Memory Retention — retains operational settings in memory without power, so when you turn on your detector, the setting will be the same as when you turned it off.

Instant On or Pulse Radar Protection — alerts you to sudden high level and laser signals.

Your radar/laser detector includes the following items:

- coiled power cord

- windshield bracket with suction cups

- hook and loop tape

- stand for hook and loop mounting

- spare fuse

- Question and Answer About Vehicle Speed Detection

Important: Some areas have laws regulating the use of radar detectors. Check with your local law enforcement agency about the laws in your area.

❑ *A Quick Look*
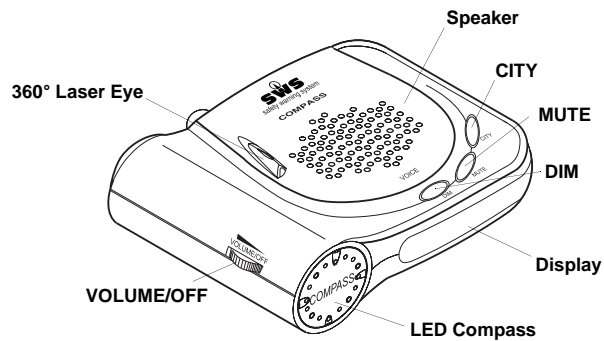
1. **360° Laser Eye** — receives incoming laser signals directed at your vehicle from all directions

2. **DC 12V Jack** — the power cord connection

3. **DIM** — controls the brightness of the alphanumeric display

4. **MUTE** — silences the alert tone for about 20 seconds after the current signal is lost

5. **CITY (City/Highway)** — switches between the city and highway modes

6. **Speaker** — sounds a digital voice alert and tones let you know the types of radar and laser signals detected

7. **LED Compass** — indicates your heading information

8. **VOLUME/OFF** — lets you turn the detector on and off and adjust the volume

9. **High Visibility Alphanumeric Display** — provides a distinct visual of signal detected, signal strength, and heading information, and indicates the selected operating mode

SAFETY WARNING SYSTEM

The revolutionary Safety Warning System (SWS) has won formal approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate on the 24.05–24.25 GHz band for highway safety alerting and traffic signal control purposes.

The Safety Warning System employs low-powered transmitters used by some emergency services and road crews to alert drivers to hazardous road conditions. The SWS can indicate many different emergency or hazardous conditions in the area (61 different messages are currently defined, with 3 additional messages for future use).

The system has the potential to dramatically decrease the occurrence of traffic accidents by increasing a driver's awareness of local road hazards. Having this safety alert compatible radar/laser detector will ensure that you can benefit from this system wherever it is in use.

☐ *Installation*

SELECTING A MOUNTING LOCATION

For the best performance, select a location for the detector where it has a direct view of the road. The detector's radar antenna is at the opposite end from display.

Note: Though the detector has a 360° laser and radar detection coverage, the radar detection is more sensitive to the front.

Mounting Guidelines

Follow these guidelines when selecting a location.

- Choose a location that does not block the driver's view of the road.

- Mount the detector in a level position with a clear view to both the front and rear of your vehicle and insure its view of the road is not blocked by any metal object.

- Some vehicles have InstaClear® or ElectriClear® defogging windshields, which have metal coatings that block signals. Some vehicles have a solar shield that block signals. Check your vehicle's owner's manual to see if your vehicle has these features. A detector installed in a vehicle with any of these features will probably not detect a signal.

- Since window tinting reduces the received strength of laser signals, you should not mount the detector behind any tinted glass.

- Do not mount the detector where the driver or a passenger might hit it in a sudden stop or accident.

- Attach the stand to the bottom of the detector using the two tabs on the stand. Locate the tabs over the two openings on the detector's base and press down.
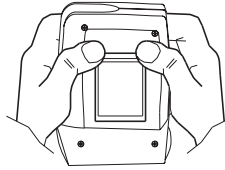
  Note: After attaching the stand, to remove it, press on the tab until it clicks and remove the stand.

Caution: When not in your vehicle, place your detector out of view to help discourage theft and to protect it from high temperatures.
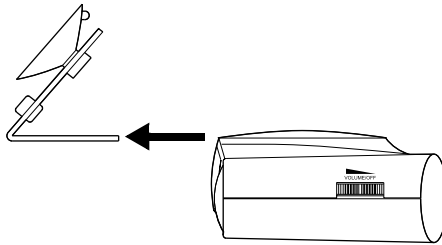
WINDSHIELD MOUNTING
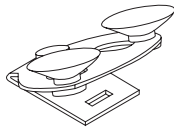
The supplied suction-cup windshield bracket lets you easily mount the detector on the windshield.

Caution: Do not use the bracket in a vehicle that has a plastic coating on the windshield designed to protect passengers during an accident. If you use the bracket on this type of windshield, you might permanently mar the windshield's surface. For an alternative mounting method, see "Hook-and-Loop Mounting" on Page 11.

1. Clean the selected windshield area, position the bracket on the windshield, and press firmly on each suction cup to secure it in place.

2. Slide the detector onto the base plate until it snaps into place.

To adjust the mounting angle, remove the detector from the bracket. Then, remove the bracket from the windshield and adjust it by carefully bending it.

HOOK-AND-LOOP MOUNTING

In some vehicles, the dashboard may be the best location to mount the detector. For this mounting, use the supplied hook-and-loop tape as follows:

1. Use a damp cloth to clean the bottom of the stand and the dashboard. Let both surfaces dry.

   Note: The tape's adhesive might not stick to a surface treated with vinyl cleaner or protectant.

2. Attach the stand to the bottom of the detector.

Tape

Stand
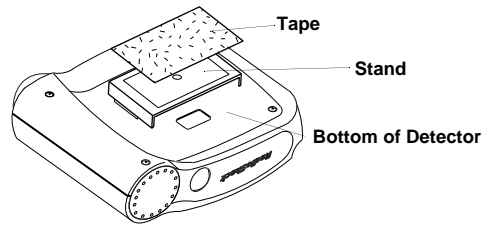
Bottom of Detector

3. Remove the tape's paper backing and stick the tape to the bottom of stand.

   Remove the paper backing from the other side of the tape and press your detector onto the dashboard.

❒ *Connecting Power*

Caution:

• Use only the supplied power cord. If your power cord is lost or damaged, you can order a replacement cord from your local RadioShack store.

• Before plugging the power cord's cigarette-lighter plug into your vehicle's cigarette-lighter socket, make sure the plug's tip is screwed firmly onto the plug. See "Replacing the Fuse" on Page 26 for more information about the cigarette-lighter plug.

- Unplug the power cord's cigarette-lighter plug from your vehicle's cigarette-lighter socket when you turn off the ignition. This prevents your vehicle's battery from being drained if you leave the detector on when you turn off the ignition.

Plug the supplied power cord's barrel plug into the detector's DC 12V jack. Then plug the cord's cigarette-lighter plug into your vehicle's cigarette-lighter socket.

Note: If the detector does not operate when you turn it on, remove the cigarette-lighter plug from your vehicle's socket and check the socket for ashes and other debris. Also, check the fuse in the cigarette-lighter plug and your vehicle's fuse block (see "Replacing the Fuse" on Page 26).
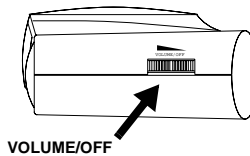
☐ *Operation*

TURNING ON THE DETECTOR

To turn on the detector, rotate **VOL-UME/OFF** toward **VOLUME** until it clicks. The detector sounds a tone, and greets you with its voice alert — "Welcome! Buckle your seat belt," and a text message — **WELCOME!**.
After self-testing, heading information and **HWY** appear. (See "Selecting the City and Highway Modes" on Page 17).

To turn off the detector, rotate **VOLUME/OFF** toward **OFF** until it clicks and the alphanumeric display turns off.

ADJUSTING THE VOLUME

Rotate **VOLUME/OFF** to the left to increase the detector's volume. Rotate it to the right to decrease the volume.

TUTORIAL MODE

Your detector has a tutorial mode to demonstrate the alphanumeric display. Use the tutorial mode to familiarize yourself with the alphanumeric display.

Starting the Tutorial Mode

To start the tutorial mode, turn on the detector while holding down **DIM** and **CITY**. The tutorial mode starts when **TUTORIAL** and **MODE** flash alternately.

Selecting the Demonstration for Each Alert

To select the demonstration for each alert, press **DIM**. The detector displays each alert along with its corresponding audio alert. The detector demonstrates and displays the alerts in the following order:

1. X-Band Alert	7. Rock Slide Area Ahead
2. K-Band Alert	8. School Zone Ahead
3. Ka-Band Alert	9. Road Narrows Ahead
4. Laser Alert	10. Sharp Curve Ahead
5. Ultralyte Laser Alert	11. Pedestrian Crossing Ahead
6. VG-2 Alert	

Finishing the Tutorial Mode

To end the tutorial mode, press **MUTE** at any time.

ELECTRONIC COMPASS

Your radar detector has an electronic compass that can display 8 different headings:

N, E, S, W, NE, NW, SE, SW

Note: The detector displays the electronic compass heading information until it picks up a signal. After the detector displays the signal, it returns to the electronic compass display.

Calibrating the Electronic Compass

You must calibrate the electronic compass in your area before using it. The calibration allows the electronic compass to separate the earth's magnetic field from the magnetic fields generated by external influences such as your vehicle so that the electronic compass provides accurate heading information.

Before beginning the calibration, you must install the detector in your vehicle. See "Installation" on Page 9. The calibration is best performed on a leveled section of pavement, such as an empty parking lot.

When to Calibrate Your Detector

You must calibrate when:

- It is being used for the first time.

- It is being used in a different location.

- The magnetic distortion flag, **DISTORT** is continuously displayed.

Follow these steps to calibrate your detector.

1. Press **CITY** for more than 2 seconds until the voice says "Please turn your vehicle twice," and **CAL....** appears; then **TURN** and **TWICE** flash alternately.

2. With the detector mounted in your vehicle, turn the steering wheel all the way to the right or left and continue driving in a circular motion. Then press **CITY**.

3. After **WAIT** flashes 4 times, if the calibration is complete, **SUCCESS!** appears and the voice says "Calibration complete."

4. If calibration is incomplete, the display scrolls **PLEASE CALIBRATE AGAIN...PRESS CITY-KEY** and the voice says "Please calibrate again."

After calibration, the heading appears.

Note: To achieve calibration, two circles must be made and it must be performed on a level surface in less than 2 minutes.

OPERATION SETTINGS

Selecting the City and Highway Modes

Your detector has two operating modes: city and highway. In city mode, the detector requires a stronger X-, K-, or Ka-band signal before it sounds or displays an alert.

Notes:

- City mode helps prevent false alerts in tightly populated areas where radar signals can bounce off surrounding structures.

- The city mode has no effect on laser alerts or instant-on radar.

The highway mode provides maximum sensitivity for open-road driving. The detector is preset to highway mode and **HWY** appears on the display when you turn it on.

To select the city mode, press **CITY**. The voice says "City mode," and **CTY** appears on the display.

To return to the highway mode, press **CITY** again. The voice alert says "Highway mode," and **HWY** appears on the display again.

Selecting Display Brightness

You can select from three levels of brightness for your radar detector: bright, dim, and dark. Once you set the display brightness, the detector retains the setting until you change it.

Pressing **DIM** once reduces the display's brightness by half; the voice alert says "Display dim." Pressing **DIM** a second time reduces the display's brightness by 90%; the voice alert says "Display dark." Pressing **DIM** a third time returns the display to full brightness; the voice alert says "Display bright."

Muting the Audio Alert

While the detector sounds a radar or safety alert signal, press **MUTE** to temporarily silence the detector. When you press **MUTE**, the voice alert says "Mute on" and **M** appears. The detector automatically resets the mute to off 20 seconds after the radar or safety alert signal stops. Or, press **MUTE** again before it resets, and the voice alert says "Mute off" and **M** disappears.

Note: The laser alert signal remains audible even if you press **MUTE**.

Selecting VG-2 Mode

VG-2 mode is preset to off. To turn on VG-2, hold down **MUTE** until the voice alert says "VG-2 on" and **VG2-ON** appears.

To turn VG-2 off, hold down **MUTE** until the voice alert says "VG-2 off" and **VG2-OFF** appears.

RECEIVING AND IDENTIFYING RADAR, LASER, AND SAFETY ALERT SIGNALS

When your detector senses a radar signal, **X**, **K**, or **KA** appears. An alert tone for the type of band detected sounds, and the display shows the signal strength in numeric form.

Note: The closer you get to the source of the radar, the higher the signal strength number.

When your detector senses an instant-on radar signal, `INSTANT - ON` appears and the instant-on alert tone sounds.

For radar signal detection, if the signal strength number goes higher than 3, the voice alert says "X-band detected," "K-band detected," or "KA-band detected."

When your detector senses a laser signal, `LASER` flashes and the voice alert says "Laser detected."

When your detector senses an Ultralyte laser signal, `ULTRA-LYTE LASER` scrolls and the detector says "Ultralyte laser detected."

When VG-2 is detected, `VG-2` appears and the voice alert says "VG-2 detected."

When your detector senses a SWS signal, a message appears depending on which SWS signal is detected, an alert tone sounds for the type of signal detected, and the voice alert announces the message.

SWS Categories and Messages

Category 1: Highway Construction Maintenance
WORK ZONE AHEAD
ROAD CLOSED AHEAD / FOLLOW DETOUR

Category 1: Highway Construction Maintenance
BRIDGE CLOSED AHEAD/FOLLOW DETOUR
HIGHWAY WORK CREW AHEAD
UTILITY WORK CREW AHEAD
ALL TRAFFIC FOLLOW DETOUR AHEAD
ALL TRUCKS FOLLOW DETOUR AHEAD
ALL TRAFFIC EXIT AHEAD
RIGHT LANE CLOSED AHEAD
CENTER LANE CLOSED AHEAD
LEFT LANE CLOSED AHEAD

Category 2: Highway Hazard Zone Advisory I
STATIONARY POLICE VEHICLE AHEAD
TRAIN APPROACHING/AT CROSSING
LOW OVERPASS AHEAD
DRAW BRIDGE UP
OBSERVE BRIDGE WEIGHT LIMIT
ROCK SLIDE AHEAD
SCHOOL ZONE AHEAD

Category 2: Highway Hazard Zone Advisory I
ROAD NARROWS AHEAD
SHARP CURVE AHEAD
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AHEAD

Category 3: Highway Hazard Zone Advisory II
DEER/MOOSE CROSSING
BLIND/DEAF CHILD AHEAD
STEEP GRADE AHEAD/TRUCK USE LOW GEAR
ACCIDENT AHEAD
POOR ROAD SURFACE AHEAD
SCHOOL BUS LOADING/UNLOADING
NO PASSING ZONE
DANGEROUS INTERSECTION AHEAD
STATIONARY EMERGENCY VEHICLE AHEAD

Category 4: Weather Related Hazards
HIGH WIND AHEAD
SEVERE WEATHER AHEAD

Category 4: Weather Related Hazards
HEAVY FOG AHEAD
HIGH WATER / FLOODING AHEAD
ICE ON BRIDGE AHEAD
ICE ON ROAD AHEAD
BLOWING DUST AHEAD
BLOWING SAND AHEAD
BLOWING SNOW WHITE OUT AHEAD

Category 5: Travel Information/Convenience I
REST AREA AHEAD
REST AREA WITH SERVICE AHEAD
24 HOUR FUEL SERVICE AHEAD
INSPECTION STATION OPEN
INSPECTION STATION CLOSED
REDUCE SPEED AREA AHEAD
SPEED LIMIT ENFORCED
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EXIT AHEAD
CONGESTION AHEAD / EXPECT DELAY

Category 5: Travel Information/Convenience I
EXPECT 10 MINUTE DELAY

Category 6: Travel Information/Convenience II
EXPECT 20 MINUTE DELAY
EXPECT 30 MINUTE DELAY
EXPECT 1 HOUR DELAY
TRAFFIC ALERT / TURN ON AM RADIO
PAY TOLL AHEAD
TRUCKS EXIT RIGHT
TRUCKS EXIT LEFT

Category 7: Fast/Slow Moving Vehicles
EMERGENCY VEHICLE IN TRANSIT
POLICE IN PURSUIT
OVERSIZED VEHICLE IN TRANSIT
SLOW MOVING VEHICLE

❐ *Troubleshooting*

If you have problems operating your detector, the suggestions in this section might help. If you cannot solve the problem after trying these suggestions, take your detector to your local RadioShack store for assistance.

Problem	Suggestion
The detector does not turn on.	Be sure all power connections are secure.
	The cigarette-lighter socket might be dirty. Clean it with fine emery cloth to ensure a good, clean connection.
	Check the fuse in the power cord's cigarette lighter plug. See "Replacing the Fuse" on Page 26.
	Check the fuse that controls power to your vehicle's cigarette-lighter socket. See your vehicle's owner's manual.
Caution: Do not place any metal object other than the cigarette lighter or cigarette-lighter plug in the cigarette-lighter socket. Doing so could blow a fuse in your vehicle or cause the metal object to become very hot.	

Problem	Suggestion
The detector gives a false alert when you use vehicle accessories such as power windows, motorized mirrors, brakes, and so on.	Check the vehicle's electrical system for loose connections, including the main battery cable and alternator connections.
	Install a filter capacitor (1000 µF, 35 volts, on the back of the cigarette-lighter socket, across the power connections.
The detector performs the self-test, but does not respond to radar signals when you see a police car.	A police car might not be equipped with radar (see the supplied booklet, *Questions and Answers About Vehicle Speed Detection*).
	Police might be using VASCAR-type speed detection (see the supplied booklet, *Questions and Answers About Vehicle Speed Detection*).
The detector has poor laser detection range.	Be sure the laser detection lens is not blocked.
	Be sure the detector is properly mounted. See "Selecting a Mounting Location" on Page 9.
	Use lens-cleaning solution to clean the laser detection lens.

❏ *Care and Maintenance*

Your RadioShack Talking 360° Laser/Radar Detector is an example of superior design and craftsmanship. The following suggestions will help you care for your detector so you can enjoy it for years.

- Keep the detector dry. If it gets wet, wipe it dry immediately. Liquids might contain minerals that can corrode the electronic circuits.

- Keep the detector away from dust and dirt, which can cause premature wear of parts.

- Handle the detector gently and carefully. Dropping it can damage circuit boards and cases and can cause the detector to work improperly.

- Wipe the detector with a damp cloth occasionally to keep it looking new. Do not use harsh chemicals, cleaning solvents, or strong detergents to clean the detector.

Modifying or tampering with the detector's internal components can cause a malfunction and might invalidate its warranty. If your detector is not performing as it should, take it to your local RadioShack store for assistance.

REPLACING THE FUSE

If the detector stops operating, follow these steps to check the fuse in the power cord's cigarette-lighter plug and replace it with a 2-amp, $1^1/_4 \times \, ^1/_4$, fast-acting fuse, if necessary.

Caution: Using a fuse that does not meet this requirement can damage your detector, the power cable, or the vehicle's electrical system.

1. Turn the knurled ring on the cigarette-lighter plug counter-clockwise to unscrew it.
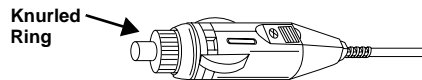
Caution: If you must use pliers to loosen the ring, be careful not to crush the ring or the metal tip inside the ring.

2. Remove the ring and tip from the power cord's cigarette-lighter plug, then remove the old fuse.
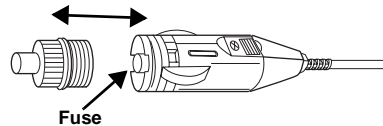
Note: Take care not to lose the ring, tip, or the spring inside the plug.

3. Check the fuse. If it has blown, replace it.

4. Replace the metal tip inside the ring, making sure the spring is intact, then place the fuse inside the cigarette-lighter plug and screw the ring back onto the plug. Make sure the tip is visible when you reassemble the cigarette-lighter plug.

Caution: Never use pliers or other tools to retighten the ring on the cigarette-lighter plug.

☐ *FCC Information*

This device complies with Part 15 of the *FCC Rules*. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by RadioShack may cause interference and void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

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