Dynatel™ 2273
Advanced Cable and Fault Locator
Operators Manual
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INTRODUCTION
The 3M™ Dynatel™ 2273 Advanced Cable and Fault Locator consists of a Transmitter and a Receiver for locating buried cables or Active Duct Probes (sondes). It also measures and pinpoints sheath faults in buried cables and conductor faults in aerial cables. The Transmitter provides four frequencies to accommodate varying factors such as distance, cable type, or soil conditions. If desired, all four frequencies may be transmitted at once. The Transmitter also provides a separate Tone function for identifying cables and pairs. The Receiver provides four locating modes to accomplish fast or difficult tracing and to pinpoint or verify a conductor. The Receiver detects 50 or 60 Hz AC Power signals and also measures the signal current in a cable and displays its magnitude. The depth of buried cables or sondes may also be displayed.

Note: For more detailed locating instructions and advanced locating techniques, ask your 3M sales representative or call 800/426-8688 for a free publication called Cable and Pipe Locating Techniques.

INSTALLING OR REPLACING THE BATTERIES

CAUTION!
Do not connect batteries improperly, charge or dispose of in fire. Batteries may leak or explode and cause personal injury. Always remove batteries when storing the units.

Battery Disposal: Since regulations vary, consult applicable regulations or authorities before disposal.
INITIAL RECEIVER CONFIGURATION

Display depth units (inches, feet and inches, or centimeters) may be changed while holding \( \text{On/Off} \) and pressing \( \text{Meas} \). For each press, one of three units will display. To change the passive Power frequency, press and hold \( \text{On/Off} \) then press \( f_{Hz} \) to toggle between 50 or 60 Hz as displayed in the lower left corner of the display.

To change the Null bar graph display mode, press and hold \( \text{On/Off} \) then press \( f_{Hz} \) to toggle between normal Null bar graph display (Null flag will flash) and inverse Null bar graph display (Null flag is on solid). See section About Trace Modes (Page 11) for further information.

RECEIVER BATTERY TEST

The Receiver batteries are tested for two seconds every time the unit is turned on. The time interval can be extended by pressing and holding \( \text{On/Off} \). During the battery test, the bar graph should extend to the right of the battery level mark, otherwise replace the batteries.

Note: When batteries are low, the battery test indicator \( \text{Battery Test Indicator} \) will flash.
TRANSMITTER BATTERY TEST

To test the Batteries, press and hold [Off]. Listen to the tone and watch the display.
- solid tone and 'OK' indicates batteries good;
- beeping tone and 'LO' indicates batteries low;
- no tone and '- -' indicates replace batteries.

Note: The battery test indicates battery condition for normal output levels. If the unit resets when the high output level is selected, use the normal output level or replace the batteries.

USING EXTERNAL DC POWER AND 5 WATT OUTPUT

If the unit has the option A, the Transmitter can be operated from an external 12V DC source as well as its internal batteries. Use the supplied cigarette lighter adapter cable to connect the DC power from a vehicle’s battery source to the Transmitter's external power jack located next to the output jack.

Note: The internal batteries will not be recharged with external DC.

5 Watt Output

An external DC source is required for 5 watt output. To select 5 watt operation, press [5W] once for high output (3W) and again for 5 watt operation. The High Output flag will turn on for 3W and flash for 5W.
LOCATING A BURIED CABLE
Transmitter Setup

Note: Key descriptions can be found inside the Transmitter lid.

Perform a battery test and then connect the Transmitter using one of the three methods below to put tracing signal on a cable.

DANGER!
Voltage greater than 240 volts will damage equipment and cause personal injury and death. Make all direct test connections before turning on the Transmitter. Then activate the Transmitter in the Ohms mode and check the display for voltage readings. Follow standard procedures for reducing the voltage.

WARNING!
Potential for electrical shock exists when handling connecting cables while the Transmitter is in the TRACE, FAULT or TONE modes. Turn the Transmitter off before handling connecting cables.
Direct Connect Method

Make sure the Transmitter is off. Plug the direct connect cable into the front panel jack. Connect the Black clip to the ground rod. Place the ground rod in the earth perpendicular to the suspected cable path. If necessary, extend the black lead with the Ground Extension Cable. Next, remove the ground bonding and attach the Red clip to the shield.

**Note:** Never attach or remove the direct connect cable from the Transmitter front panel jack while the red and black clips are connected to a cable.

Press \( \sqrt{ } \) to turn the Transmitter on in the Ohms mode \( \bigcap \). It will measure the continuity of the cable under test. The results are displayed in ohms and as a tone (solid tone = good ground; beeping tone = usable ground; no tone = poor or no ground).

**Note:** In the ohms mode, the Transmitter can detect voltage as well as ohms. If a low voltage is detected, the display will alternate between displaying ohms and volts. When displaying ohms, the flag over the \( \bigcap \) will be visible. When displaying volts, the flag over the ‘V’ will be visible. When the voltage magnitude is sufficient to impair the accuracy of the ohms measurement, only voltage will be displayed. If the voltage is AC, a sine wave \( \sqrt{ } \) will be visible on the display. If a high AC voltage is detected, a rapid beeping tone will be heard.
Press \( \text{Select Trace} \) to select Trace mode. Press again to select one or all of the four frequencies. The display will alternate between displaying the selected frequency and the output signal current. It is best to choose the lowest frequency for direct connect with far-end ground and a high frequency for direct connect with no far-end ground.

Press \( \text{Select High Level} \) to select high output level for longer tracing distances and deep cables.

Transmitter setup is finished, now go to **LOCATING A BURIED CABLE - RECEIVER SETUP** (Page 10).
**Dyna-Coupler Method**

Connect the Dyna-Coupler to the Transmitter front panel jack using the coupler cable.

Clamp the Dyna-Coupler around the cable below any bonds just before the cable enters the earth. The jaws of the coupler must fully close.

Press \[ \text{button} \] to turn Transmitter on. Press again to select 8 kHz, 33kHz, or 200 kHz.

Select high output level by pressing \[ \text{button} \] .

Transmitter setup is finished, now go to **LOCATING A BURIED CABLE - Receiver Setup** (Page 10).
Induction Method

Place the transmitter on the ground over the target cable with the lid hinge in line with the cable path. Press to turn the Transmitter on.

Press again to select either 33 kHz or 200 kHz. For greater tracing range, select high output level by pressing .

**Note:** If the Receiver is less than 50 feet from the Transmitter, it can pick up signal through the air. For best results, keep the Receiver away from the Transmitter by at least that distance.

Transmitter setup is finished, now go to **LOCATING A BURIED CABLE - RECEIVER SETUP** (Page 10).
LOCATING A BURIED CABLE
Receiver Setup

Note: Key descriptions can be found on the side of the Receiver.

Press \[\text{on-off}\] to turn the Receiver on.

Press \[\text{50/60 Hz}\] to select the 50/60 Hz power frequency (see section on Selecting Passive Power Frequencies on Page 12) for passive locating; otherwise, select the same frequency as the Transmitter.

Press \[\text{vol}\] to adjust the speaker volume as needed: off, normal, high, or high-expanded. The high-expanded setting causes the audio to cut off below a certain threshold.

Press \[\text{mode}\] to select a locate mode (Peak , Null , or Diff ). To select Special Peak mode: from Peak mode, press and hold \[\text{peak}\] then press \[\text{mode}\] to toggle between Peak and Special Peak modes. While in Special Peak mode, the peak flag will flash.

Note: Peak, Special Peak, or Null mode may require re-setting the Receiver gain. Press \[\text{gain}\] when the bar graph remains either fully open or fully closed. This is not necessary in differential mode since the unit automatically adjusts the Receiver gain.
About Trace Modes

**Peak:** In this mode, as the antenna crosses the cable, the Receiver speaker volume increases to a maximum and the bar graph fills from both sides toward the middle. As the antenna moves off the cable path, the speaker volume decreases and the bar graph opens.

**Peak with High-Expanded:** While in Peak mode, press [button] to select High-Expanded (the highest setting). Speaker response is cut off as the antenna moves away from the cable.

**Null:** In this mode, the signal is a minimum directly over the cable and is maximum on either side of the cable. The speaker volume and display signal strength correspond to the signal being received. In the normal bar graph display mode (Null flag flashing) the bar graph opens at low signal strength and closes at high signal strength. In the inverse Null bar graph display mode (Null flag is on solid), the bar graph closes at low signal strength and opens at high signal strength.

**Differential:** In this mode, the Receiver provides an indication of the relative position of the cable to the Receiver by displaying right or left arrows (the arrow points toward the cable). The bar graph increases to a maximum as the Receiver antenna is moved directly over the cable path. Speaker response is a high warbling tone to the right of the cable path, a low warbling tone to the left, and a solid tone directly over the cable.

**Special Peak Mode:** This mode will increase the signal sensitivity of the Receiver when the signal is too weak for normal tracing. Use special attention when using this mode because it is more susceptible to congestion than the normal peak mode.

**Numerical Signal Strength Display Resolution:** The user may select between 3 levels of signal strength resolution. The setting will be displayed on the right end of the bar graph during selection. To change the setting, press and hold the [key] during power up then press the [key]. Display resolution may be changed between the standard 1X, (no bars illuminated), 2X, (One bar illuminated), and 4X (Two bars illuminated). The unit saves the last setting until changed.

**Note:** While tracing cables in any mode, keep the Receiver handle in line with the suspected cable path.
Selecting Passive Power Frequencies

See section Initial Receiver Configuration (Page 3) to set the power frequency to 50 Hz or 60 Hz. The Receiver can be tuned to locate 3 different harmonics of the chosen power frequency.

- **H50 Hz** or **H60 Hz** (high harmonic): Best for general locating of passive power.
- **L50 Hz** or **L60 Hz** (low harmonic): Works best on primary power cables. May be used when high harmonic is weak or erratic.
- **100 Hz** or **120 Hz**: For locating rectified AC power signals, often found on pipelines using impressed current cathodic protection.

When a Power frequency is selected, the Hz symbol will flash, indicating that alternate frequencies are available. To change the selected power frequency, press and hold the [ ] button then press the [ ] button to select the next Power frequency.

Selecting Auxiliary Frequencies

Auxiliary frequencies are used to trace cables without using frequencies supplied by the 2273 transmitter. The Receiver may be able to detect these auxiliary frequencies, depending on the model:

- **31 kHz**: For locating in-service CATV cables.
- **512, 560 Hz** or other frequencies for locating cables connected to a remote location transmitter with that frequency.

If your Receiver has multiple auxiliary frequencies, the Hz symbol will flash when one is selected. To change the selected auxiliary frequency, press and hold the [ ] button then press the [ ] button to select the next auxiliary frequency.
DETERMINING CABLE DEPTH AND CURRENT

Place the Receiver Antenna on the ground directly above the cable with the handle parallel to the path. Press \( \text{[on]} \) and the display will indicate the cable depth and relative current \( \text{[1]} \). Current is displayed in the lower left corner of the display. Press \( \text{[on]} \) twice to continue tracing. You may also press \( \text{[on]} \) to return to Trace mode.

Note: During a depth-current measurement, the display will exhibit ‘– – –’ when the received signal is too low, too high, or erratic.
Using Current Indications During Locating

Both the Transmitter and Receiver will indicate cable current. These current indications will help to select a trace frequency, identify the correct cable and troubleshoot the set up.

When using the direct connect method, the Transmitter output current number is displayed. A “LO” display, or number less than 50, indicates a weak tracing signal. A number higher than 70 represents a strong tracing signal. When the Receiver is used to find the cable near the Transmitter connection point, the current number displayed in the Receiver should correspond (within 5 points) to the Transmitter number if: you are over the correct cable, and most of the signal is flowing in that cable.

Note: On the Transmitter every ten units on the current display represents a factor of two in current magnitude. On the receiver, trace current readings for 512Hz, 560 Hz and all additional auxiliary frequencies (except 31.5 kHz) are now displayed in milliamps. For all other trace frequencies every ten units on the current display represents a factor of two in current magnitude.

When the Transmitter signal is applied using the Dyna-Coupler, the Transmitter current display indicates the current in the coupler and not in the cable. In order to get a measure of the cable current, point the Receiver at the exposed cable about two feet from the Dyna-Coupler. This will be the current number that should be used to identify the correct cable.

In general, when the Transmitter is set up to apply more current on the target cable than any other cable, the cable can easily be identified because the Receiver current reading will be highest.

Note: Since some of the signal in the cable will bleed into the earth, it is expected that the Receiver current indication along the cable will decrease gradually away from the Transmitter. This effect is more pronounced at higher frequencies.
LOCATING SHEATH FAULTS

Transmitter Setup

Remove both the near-end and far-end shield bonds from the test section. Perform a battery test then with the Transmitter off, connect the Black clip to the ground rod. Place the ground rod behind the Transmitter, away from the faulted section, and in line with the cable path. If necessary, extend the ground lead with the Ground Extension Cable.

Attach the Red clip to the shield. Press  to turn the Transmitter on in the Ohms mode Ω. Measure the fault resistance. The results are displayed in ohms. Note that failure to disconnect the shield bonds at either the near-end or the far-end produces a heavy fault indication.

Press  again, to select the Fault mode . For maximum fault sensitivity, select high output level by pressing .

Receiver Setup

Press  to turn the Receiver on.

Press  to select Fault mode . Connect the Earth Contact Frame to the accessory jack on the Receiver using the earth frame cable. Near the location of the ground rod (about one step away), insert the frame probes fully into the ground with the green-banded leg towards the fault and in line with the cable path. Press  to record a fault level reference visible in the lower left corner of the display. The Receiver bar graph is visible on the right side (green). This indicates that the fault is ahead of the operator in the direction of the green-banded leg. Continue along the cable path, re-inserting the frame probes every few steps while watching the Receiver bar graph. When the bar graph is visible on the left side (red), the fault has been passed and is now behind the operator. Move back, inserting the frame every few inches, until the bar graph returns to the green side. Turn the frame ninety degrees to the cable path. The fault is located beneath the center of the frame when the bar graph changes from one side to the other.
To verify the fault location, insert the frame’s red probe directly on the spot identified above. Pivot the frame in a circle around the red leg re-inserting the green leg in the ground every few degrees of the circle. The bar graph should always be on the left (red) indicating that the fault is directly below the red leg.

After a fault is found and pinpointed, move the Earth Contact Frame about one frame width away from the fault and insert it in the ground with the green-banded leg towards the fault. Compare the numeric indicator reading with the fault level reference in the lower left corner of the display. If they are close, the fault is the major one. If the fault reading is 20 points less than the reference reading, multiple faults may exist. Further searching is necessary to find the fault with the highest reading.
LOCATING AN ACTIVE DUCT PROBE (ADP)

Press \( \text{On} \) to turn the Receiver on.

Press \( \text{f} \) to select the 33kHz frequency.

Press \( \text{m} \) to select the Peak mode \( \text{m} \). If you find that the received signal is too weak in this mode, try the Special Peak mode. To select Special Peak mode, from Peak mode, press and hold \( \text{m} \) then press \( \text{m} \) to toggle between Peak and Special Peak modes. While in this mode the Peak flag will flash.

With the Receiver handle perpendicular to the conduit path, locate the ADP position by moving along the path until a peak is found.

Press \( \text{m} \) when the bar graph remains either fully open or fully closed. Refer to the ADP operating instructions for further information.

**Determining ADP Depth**

Place the Receiver Antenna on the ground directly above the located ADP position maintaining the handle orientation perpendicular to the path. Press \( \text{m} \) twice to display ADP depth \( \text{m} \). To return to trace mode, press \( \text{m} \) or \( \text{m} \).

**Note:** *During a depth measurement, the display will exhibit ‘---’ when the received signal is too low, too high or erratic.*
LOCATING EMS MARKERS

EMS markers may be detected and located using either the Dynatel™ 2205 or 2206 EMS Marker Locating Accessory. To attach the accessory, slide the Receiver horizontally into EMS Marker Locating Accessory mounting slot. Make sure the locking button holds the Receiver securely in the slot. To separate the units, press the locking button down and slide the Receiver out of the EMS Marker Locating Accessory mounting slot.

Press \[ \text{ or } \text{ or } \] to turn the Receiver on.

**Locating Markers while Tracing Cable Path**

To detect markers while tracing the cable path, set the 2205 or 2206 accessory mode switch to the *Alert* position, and trace the cable path normally. The internal buzzer in the accessory will alert you to the proximity of a detected marker.

**Note:** Do not use Null or Differential modes when using the 2205 or 2206.

**Locating Markers using the Receiver**

If the buzzer response is too broad, the exact marker position may be pinpointed by using the Receiver.

- Select 577 Hz or 33 kHz on the Accessory. Use a different frequency from the tracing signal.
- Turn the Receiver ON, select Peak mode, and set the frequency to match the Accessory setting.

**Note:** The initial Receiver gain in Peak mode is optimized for interfacing with the 2205 or 2206 Accessory while searching for a marker. Press \[ \text{ or } \] only when a marker is detected and the signal is too strong. To search for a new marker, reset the Receiver gain to the initial setting by turning its power OFF and back ON, or pressing \[ \text{ or } \] and then re-selecting the Peak mode.

Refer to the EMS Marker Locating Accessory operating instructions for further information.
TONING AERIAL FAULTS

Transmitter Setup

Perform a battery test; then with the Transmitter off, plug the direct connect cable into the front panel jack.

If fault is a shorted pair, connect Red clip to tip and the Black clip to ring.
If the fault is a cross (two pairs involved), connect the Red clip to crossed conductor of one pair and the Black clip to the crossed conductor of the other pair.

If the fault is a ground, connect the Red clip to the faulted conductor and the Black clip to ground.

Press to turn the Transmitter on and select Ohms mode to verify the fault. Press twice more to select the Tone mode.
Press to change the high output level.

Receiver Setup

Press to turn the Receiver on.
Press to select Tone mode .
Connect a toning coil to the Receiver accessory jack.
Press to select the low toning frequency (577 Hz).
Move the toning coil along the cable and find a peak signal then press to adjust the Receiver gain.
Press to adjust the speaker volume as needed.
Follow the cable with the toning coil. An aerial fault is located at the point where the tone stops or drops off sharply.
CABLE OR PAIR IDENTIFICATION

Transmitter Setup

Transmitter setup is the same to identify cables or pairs. However, Receiver setups are different. Perform a battery test; then with the transmitter off, connect the Dyna-Coupler to the Transmitter front panel jack using the coupler cable.

Note: Cable Identification requires two Dyna-Couplers: one at the Transmitter and one at the Receiver.

Clamp the Dyna-Coupler around the cable or both and tip and ring of a pair and make sure the jaws fully close.

Press \( \text{on} \) to turn the Transmitter on and then twice more to select the Tone mode \( \text{off} \).
Press \( \text{on} \) to change the high output level.

CABLE IDENTIFICATION

Receiver Setup

Press \( \text{on} \) to turn the Receiver on.
Press \( \text{on} \) to select Tone mode \( \text{off} \).
Connect a second Dyna-Coupler to the Receiver accessory jack using the earth frame cable or another coupler cable.

Press \( f_{\text{max}} \) to select the highest toning frequency (200 kHz). Check the first cable in the group by clamping the Dyna-Coupler around the cable. Press \( \text{on} \) and observe the numeric display, which is relative signal strength. Remember the number and continue by clamping the Dyna-Coupler around the next cable in the group. If the signal strength is greater than the previous observation, press \( \text{on} \). If the signal strength is less than before, ignore it. After checking all the cables in the group, the cable with the highest reading is the one being identified.
PAIR IDENTIFICATION

Receiver Setup

Press \( \overline{\text{ON}} \) to turn the Receiver on.

Press \( \overline{\text{TON}} \) to select Tone mode \( \overline{\text{TON}} \).

Connect the inductive probe to Receiver accessory jack using probe cable.

Press \( \overline{\text{f} \text{a}} \) to select the highest toning frequency (200 kHz).

Insert Probe into the bundle of pairs (or group, if known) and press \( \overline{\text{T} \text{H} \text{H}} \).

Next, divide the pairs into two bundles and insert the Probe into each of the bundles and observe the numeric display. The bundle with the highest reading will contain the target pair. Continue by dividing the bundle with the target pair into two parts and checking each part for the highest signal. In this way the target pair will be isolated.

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

1196 6-inch Dyna-Coupler (includes Pouch)
2200 Series Carrying Bag
2205 EMS Marker Locating Accessory (single frequencies)
2206 EMS Marker Locating Accessory (all frequencies)
3005 1 inch Dyna-Coupler
3011 Inductive Probe
3019 3-inch Dyna-Coupler Kit (includes 9011 Coupler Cable and Pouch)
3229 Active Duct Probe (sonde)
9011 Coupler Cable
9023 Probe Cable
9043 Ground Extension Cable
### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

#### Transmitter

**Frequencies:**
- Trace mode: 577 Hz, 8 kHz, 33 kHz, 200 kHz
- Sheath Fault mode: 10 and 20 Hz for faults and 577 Hz and 33 kHz for tracing
- Tone mode: 577 Hz & 200 kHz pulsed at 8 Hz
- Induction mode: 33 kHz and 200 kHz

**Output Power:** 3 watts maximum or 5 watts w/external DC source (Option A only)

**Battery Life:** 50 hours, typical (Normal output level)

**Recommended Batteries:** Six Duracell™ Alkaline size C (MN1400)

#### Receiver

**Frequencies:**
- Active Trace/Tone: 577 Hz, 8 kHz, 33 kHz, 200 kHz
- Passive Power: 50 Hz or 60 Hz (user selectable)
- Auxiliary: L50/60 (5th harmonic)
- HS0/60 (9th harmonic)
- 100/120 (for rectified power frequencies)

**Auxiliary:**
- T-Model: 31.5 kHz, 512 Hz and 560 Hz
- P-Model: 31.5 kHz
- MD Models: 273 Hz, 333 Hz, 340 Hz, 393 Hz, 400Hz, 460Hz

**Trace Modes:** Dual Peak, Special Peak, Dual Null, Differential (left-right indication)

**Depth Range:** 0 to 360 inches (0 to 914 cm)

**Depth Accuracy:**
- ±10% ± 1 digit for 0 to 60 inches (0 to 152 cm)
- ±15% for 60 to 180 inches (152 cm to 457 cm)
- ±20% for 180 to 360 inches (457 cm to 914 cm)

**Battery Life:** 50 hours, typical

**Recommended Batteries:** Six Duracell Alkaline size AA (MN1500)

### Environmental

**Temperature Range:**
- Operating: -4° to 122° F (-20° to 50° C)
- Storage: -40° to 158° F (-40° to 70° C)

### Physical

**Receiver Weight:** 4.1 lbs (1.9 kg)

**Transmitter Weight:** 5.2 lbs (2.4 kg)
Dynatel is a registered trademark of 3M.
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