Introduction

Scanning is easy and fun with the BC248CLT 50-Channel Base Scanner. You can scan in 2 ways:

Scan channels you have programmed

Scan pre-programmed weather channels.

Unlike standard AM or FM radio stations, most 2-way communications (see Types of Communication below) do not transmit continuously. The BC248CLT scans programmed channels at the rate of about 15 channels per second until it locates an active frequency. When the scanning stops on an active frequency, it remains on that channel as long as the transmission continues. When the transmission ends, the scanning cycle resumes until another transmission is received. You can set a 2 second delay (refer to 2 Second Delay, page XX.)

Types of Communication

You can monitor communications such as:

Police and fire department (including rescue and paramedics)

NOAA weather broadcasts (7pre-programmed channels)

Business/industrial radio

Motion picture and press relay

Utility

Land transportation frequencies such as trucking firms, buses, taxis, tow trucks, and railroads Marine and amateur (ham radio) bands And many more in the 29-54MHz, 137-174MHz, and 406-512MHz ranges You must program a frequency into each channel you want to use. If you do not have any known local frequencies to program, call the 800number on the yellow sheet enclosed in this package. A Uniden representative should be able to provide you with a few sample frequencies. Or, use the enclosed order form to purchase a local frequency list.

Where to Obtain More Information

The Bearcat Radio Club and other similar hobby clubs have publications, information on computer bulletin boards, and contests for the radio enthusiast. See the enclosed printed material for more information. Additional information is also available through your local library.

Taking Proper Care of Your Scanner

Do not use the scanner in high-moisture environments such as the kitchen or bathroom. Avoid placing the unit in direct sunlight or near heating elements

or vents. Do not plug the scanner into an outlet controlled by a wall switch as prolonged periods without power causes scanner memory loss.

Unpacking
Carefully check the contents against this list:
BC248CLT Base Scanner
Telescoping Antenna
AM Radio Loop ANT
AC Adapter (Model AC-144U)
This Operating Guide
Registration Form (in this Operating Guide)
Frequency Directories Order Form and other printed information If any items are missing or damaged, contact your place of purchase immediately. Complete and mail your Registration Form immediately. Read this Operating Guide thoroughly before operating the scanner.

NOTES:

The Possession, or use of this scanning radio in a motor vehicle my be prohibited, regulation, 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.

Changes or modifications to this product not expressly approved by Uniden, or operation of this product in any way other than as detailed by this Operating Guide, could void your authority to operate this product.

Installation
Installing the BC248CLT
1. Insert small plug at the end of the AC Adapter cord into the AC10V jack on the scanner.
2. Plug the AC Adapter into any standard 120VAC wall outlet. Do not plug into an outlet controlled by a wall switch; it could cause scanner memory loss.
3. Plug the Telescoping Antenna into the ANT. jack. Extend the antenna to its full height. For UHF frequencies, shortening the antenna may improve the reception.
4. Plug the AM Radio Loop ANT into AM ANT Jack
5. Plug an optional external speaker (8-ohm) into the EXT.SP. jack.

Note

If your scanner receives strong interference or electrical noise, relocate the scanner or its antenna away from the source. If you are operating the scanner in the fringe area or need to improve reception, use an optional antenna designed for multi-band coverage. (You can purchase this type of antenna at a local electronics store.) If the optional antenna has no cable, use 50-70 ohm coaxial cable for lead-in. A mating plug may be necessary for the optional antennas.

Operation

Controls and Functions

1. LCD Display

Displays channel frequency and functions.

2. Numeric Keys

Use to program a frequency into each channel for scanning. Also, use for direct channel access with M.

3. Enter Key E

Press E to complete the programming of a frequency to the selected channel.

4. PRIORITY Key P

Press P to turn Priority mode on or off. In Priority mode, the scanner samples Channel1 every 2seconds, regardless of any other mode the scanner is in, except Weather Alert. If a transmission on Channel1 is detected, the scanner monitors Channel1 until no signal is present. Priority mode cancel when you turn off your scanner.

5. LOCKOUT Key L

Use the LOCKOUT mode to prevent scanning of a selected channel. The L/O indicator appears when the current channel is locked out. Lockout is retained in memory. Press L again to unlock the channel. The LOCKOUT indicator disappears.

6. SCAN Key S

Press S to start scanning.

7. Weather Key W

Press W to find the local weather channel.

8. ALERT Key A

You can activate the Weather Alert only while you are listening to a local weather channel in the Weather mode. Weather Alert mutes the normal weather broadcast audio. A siren sounds when a severe weather emergency tone signal is received.

9. SQUELCH Control

Adjust SQUELCH to set the scan threshold or use AUTO for the factory setting.

10. Volume Control / Power Switch

Turn VOLUME clockwise to turn the scanner on and increase the volume. Turn counterclockwise to decrease the volume or turn the scanner off.
11.DELAY Key D
Press D for a switchable 2second delay at the end of transmissions.
12.MANUAL Key M
Press M to stop scanning. Press M again to step to the next channel. Also, use for direct channel access by first entering the channel number and then pressing M to go directly to that channel.

13.Channel Display
2-digit display that shows 1 through 50.
14.Frequency Display
Six-digit display that shows the current frequency.
15.Memory Loss Indicator
MEMORY LOSS shows on the LCD display when a power failure causes a loss in memory.
16.Alert Indicator
ALERT appears on the LCD display when the scanner is in the Weather Alert mode. The broadcast audio is mute.
17.Weather Indicator
WX shows when in Weather Search mode.
18.Delay Indicator
DLY appears when Delay function is active
19.Priority Indicator
PRI displays when Priority function is active
20.Lockout Indicator
L/O shows when the current channel is locked out.

Scanning Overview
The BC248CLT has 50 memory channels; each can be programmed to store 1frequency within the band of frequency coverage. (For a listing of frequency ranges and bands, see Technical Specifications on page.)
When you press S, the BC248CLT scans each programmed frequency for activity (skipping channels that are locked out) at the rate of about 12 channels per second. As the unit scans, the word SCAN moves across the LCD display.

When the scanning stops on an active frequency, it remains on that channel as long as the transmission continues. What happens at the end of the transmission depends on whether or not the Delay function is active. If the Delay function is active, the scanner pauses on the same channel for 2seconds,

waiting for a responding transmission. If there is no responding transmission
within 2 seconds, the scanning cycle resumes. If the Delay function is
inactive, the scanner immediately resumes scanning.
Getting Started

Turn SQUELCH fully clockwise to the highest number setting (9) .

Turn on the power by pressing SCAN KEY. Adjust the volume to where you can
hear a steady noise.

Set the squelch at the scanning threshold by turning SQUELCH counterclockwise
just until the noise disappears or set on AUTO for the factory setting. The
scanner automatically starts scanning. If you have not programmed any
channels yet, press W to hear your local weather broadcast. Adjust VOLUME
to a comfortable listening level. Adjusting the Squelch Set the SQUELCH
control to AUTO for the factory setting or manually set squelch.

To manually set squelch, open the squelch by turning SQUELCH control clockwise
to position 8 or 9. You should hear a steady sound (scanning stops).Now turn
SQUELCH control counterclockwise slowly until the sound disappears. This is
the threshold point at which scanning starts. At the squelch threshold, an
incoming signal just slightly stronger than the noise will open the squelch.

When squelch is open, you can hear the broadcast (scanning is stopped). If
squelch is set too tight (that is, too far counterclockwise from the threshold
point), a stronger signal is required to open the squelch.
If squelch is set on a point clockwise from the threshold, you hear a constant
sound (noise, if no signal is present); the scanner does not scan.

Programming Tips
Program 1frequency per channel.
The fixed priority channel is Channel1. Program the most important frequency,
or the one of major interest, into Channel1. To quickly program a series of
channels, start with the lowest number channel. For example, when you are
programming five new frequencies into Channels4 through8, start with Channel4.
After you complete the programming in 1channel (by pressing E), press M to
step up to the next channel.

If you make an error during programming, or the frequency is out of range,
Error appears on the channel display. During numeric entry, if you know that
you pressed the wrong number, press . twice. This cancels the entire numeric

entry, and displays the current channel number.

Above 406MHz, the frequency steps are in 12.5kHz increments. To enter a frequency such as 450.4875, press each of the seven digits in sequence. Once you have programmed a channel, you cannot erase the frequency in that channel. However, you can change the frequency in a specific channel by programming a new frequency over the existing one. If you want to manually erase all the memory, first turn off the scanner. Then, press and hold M, 2, and 9 simultaneously while you turn the scanner back on. MEMORY LOSS appears in the LCD Display, indicating that all memory is erased.

Programming Frequencies
Before you can use your BC248CLT, you must program the channels except weather frequencies. Follow these steps:

Example: Program 420.150 MHz into Channel12.Press M to stop scanning.

To select the channel (12), press 1, then 2 on the numeric keypad. Then press M again.

Type in the frequency numbers, including the decimal point, using the numeric keypad:420.150

Press E to complete the entry.

About Memory Back-up
Your BC248CLT has a convenient type of memory back-up system. In the event of a power failure, the scanner provides approximately 3days of memory retention so you don't immediately lose the frequencies stored in any of the channels. If the memory is lost, MEMORY LOSS shows in the LCD Display.

Scanning
Turn on the power, or press S to start scanning. (When the scanner is turned on, it is automatically in Scan mode.)Scanning automatically stops on any active channel, except those channels programmed with L. If the Delay function is active, scanning automatically resumes 2seconds after the channel becomes inactive. If the Delay function is inactive, scanning resumes immediately at the end of a transmission.

Press M anytime to stop scanning. When you press M, you are out of Scan mode, and the scanner remains on the displayed channel. Press S to start scanning

again, or press M to step up to the next channel. If desired, you can press M repeatedly to manually scan all 20channels, 1press per channel, including the channels that are locked out.

2-Second Delay
You can program your BC248CLT to pause for 2 seconds after a transmission ends. This allows time for a slight pause between transmissions. Without the 2second delay, the scanner immediately resumes scanning, missing the rest of the transmission.

To activate the Delay function, press M. You cannot enable the Delay function while scanning.

Press D. DLY appears in the LCD Display. To disable, press the DELAY key again.

Direct Channel Access
This feature allows you to instantly access a specific channel you want to monitor.

Example: Select Channel 4.Press 4.

Press M. When you press 4, the display changes to 4, but the scanner still monitors the previous channel displayed. You must press M to successfully complete the direct access to Channel4.

Weather Channel Scan
The BC248CLT allows you to search for your local NOAA weather channel.

Press W to find the active weather channel in your area from 7 pre-programmed NOAA channels. It is possible that your area is covered by more than 1weather station.

When you press W, the BC248CLT immediately finds an active broadcast. If the broadcast sounds weak and distant, press W again to look for a closer station.

Note
All weather channels transmit continuous broadcasts. Once the Weather Scan stops on a transmission, it remains on that channel. Weather Scan does not resume automatically. You must press W again to resume weather scanning.

In some parts of the country, you may not be able to monitor weather broadcasts,

such as in low-lying areas. Normally a higher location improves the reception.

To exit Weather mode, press S, M, or turn off the scanner.

Note
Do not program a weather frequency into 1of the 20channels. Because weather channels transmit continuously, the scanner remains on that channel, disrupting the scanning cycle. The Weather Scan feature is provided specifically to avoid this occurrence.

Weather Alert
With this unique feature, the BC248CLT can function as a severe weather warning radio. This is especially useful when your area is expecting severe weather conditions late at night. Just set the scanner to Weather Alert mode and sleep peacefully! The BC248CLT will awaken you with a loud siren whenever your local NOAA weather station broadcasts a severe weather emergency tone.

To use Weather Alert:
First, press W a few times to find your best local weather broadcast. The Weather mode must be selected to activate the Weather Alert mode.

Press A. The LCD displays ALERT, and the BC248CLT is silent. The BC248CLT now functions as a Weather Alert radio, waiting to receive a severe weather emergency tone.

When the scanner receives an emergency tone from your local NOAA weather station, it responds with a loud siren at maximum volume (regardless of the volume control setting). The siren continues until the emergency tone stops transmitting. When the siren stops, you can hear the emergency message being broadcast. The ALERT blinks to indicate that the scanner has received an emergency tone at least once. The BC248CLT remains in Weather Alert mode and responds with a siren if another emergency tone is broadcast.

To stop the siren manually and exit Weather Alert mode, press any of these keys: W, M, or S.

Testing the Weather Siren
You can test the siren in any mode to hear how it sounds and to ensure that the circuitry is working.

Press and hold W, then press A to start the siren.

To stop the siren, press any key.

Priority Scanning
Your BC248CLT has a fixed Priority Channel, Channel1. Priority Scan works
like a dual watch function. When you activate Priority Scan mode, the scanner
starts sampling, or keeping track of the activity on Channel1 while listening
to other channels. A constant PRI appears on the LCD display

Note
Priority Scan mode does not work when the scanner is in Weather Alert mode.
Every 2seconds, the scanner checks Channel1 for activity. If a signal is
present, Channel1 is monitored until the transmission ends. When the signal
stops for more than 2seconds, normal operation resumes.

First, program the frequency most important to you into Channel1.Press P to
set the scanner in Priority Scan mode. PRI appears on the display. To exit
Priority Scan, press P again. The PRI disappears from the LCD display.

Channel Lockout
You can lock out a channel so it is not scanned. Locked out does not erase
the frequency from the channel. You can lock out up to 19 channels, including
the Priority channel, but not all 20 channels. Lockout information is retained
in memory when the scanner is turned off.
Example: Suppose you want to lock out Channel2 because it stops on
transmissions you don't want to hear.

Press L when the scanner stops on Channel2. The scanner locks out Channel2,
immediately advances to the next channel that is not locked out, and resumes
scanning. In the Manual mode, press L to lock out the displayed channel.
Pressing L does not advance to the next channel in Manual mode.

L/O appears in the LCD display to indicate the displayed channel is locked
out. Whenever you want to search for channels that are locked out, press
M repeatedly to go through all 20channels. If a channel is locked out, the
L/O indicator shows.

Restoring a Locked Out Channel
To unlock a channel so that it can be monitored during scanning:

Use M to find the locked out channel.

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Press L again to unlock the displayed channel. The L/O indicator disappears.

About the Unit
Helpful Hints

General Use
Turn the scanner off before disconnecting the power. Always write down the programmed frequencies in the event of memory loss. If memory is lost, simply reprogram each channel. The display shows MEMORY LOSS indicator when there has been a memory loss. Always press each keypad button firmly until you hear the entry tone for that key entry.

Location

If strong interference or electrical noise is received, relocate the scanner or its antenna away from the source of the noise. If possible, a higher elevation, may provide better reception. Also try changing the height or angle of the antenna.

Do not use the scanner in high-moisture environments such as the kitchen or bathroom. Avoid placing the unit in direct sunlight or near heating elements or vents. Do not plug the scanner into an outlet controlled by a wall switch as prolonged periods without power will cause scanner memory loss.

Cleaning
Disconnect the power to the unit before cleaning. Clean the outside of the scanner with a mild detergent. To prevent scratches, don't use abrasive cleaners or solvents. Be careful not to rub the LCD Display window. Do not use excessive amounts of water.

Repairs
Do not attempt any repair. The scanner contains no serviceable parts. Contact the Uniden Customer Service Center or take it to a qualified repair technician.

Birdies
All radios are subject to receiving undesired signals or birdies. If your scanner stops during Scan mode and no sound is heard, it may be receiving a birdie. Birdies are internally-generated signals inherent in the electronics of the receiver. Press S to resume scanning.

Press the Weather key again to find the active channel. Then press the Alert key again.

If you still cannot get satisfactory results and want additional information, or to return the unit for service, please call or write the Uniden Parts and Service Division. The address and phone number are listed in the Warranty at the end of this manual.

Technical Specifications
Certified in accordance with FCC Rules and Regulations Part15 Sub-Part C as of date of manufacture.

Band Coverage: 10 bands
Frequency Coverage: 29.0-29.7 MHz 10 Meter Amateur Band 29.7-50.0 MHz Low Band 50.0-54.0 MHz6 Meter Amateur Band137-144 MHz Military Land Mobile144-148 MHz 2 Meter Amateur Band 148-174 MHz VHF High Band Above bands in 5 kHz steps 406-420 MHz Federal Government 420-450 MHz 70cm Amateur Band450-470 MHz UHF Standard Band 470-512 MHz UHF-"T" Band Above bands in 12.5kHz steps and AM/FM Radio Freq.

Sensitivity (nominal) 12dB SINAD: 0.3uV 29-54MHz 0.4 uV 137-174 MHz 0.6 uV 406-512 MHz.

Selectivity (nominal):
-6 dB at 8 kHz (162.4MHz 20dBQS) -50 dB at 15 kHz (162.4MHz 20dBQS)

Channels: 50
Scan Rate: Up to 12 channels per second
Scan Delay: 2seconds
Audio Output (nominal): 0.85W 10%TDH
Power Requirements: 10 VAC using AC-144U AC Adapter
Antenna: Telescoping (included) AM Radio Loop ANT
External Jacks:
Antenna jack External speaker AC10V power jack
Size: 205 (W) x 139 (D) x 73 (H)
Weight: 600g

Features, specifications, and availability of optional accessories are all subject to change without notice.