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Surveyor 200[™]
Portable Survey Meter

User's Manual

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User's Manual

FOREWORD

This manual provides the basic operation and maintenance procedures for the BICRON Surveyor 200™ Portable Survey Meter.

Section 1.0 Introduction provides a general description of the instrument and its operation, and a detailed listing of its physical and performance specifications.

Section 2.0 Battery Installation describes the procedure for changing the battery and checking its performance.

Section 3.0 High Voltage Test describes how to test the High Voltage.

Section 4.0 Operation provides a detailed description of all the features and settings for the Surveyor 200, and complete operating instructions.

Section 5.0 Hardware Description provides a brief description of the three electronic circuits that make up the instrument, and a description of the GM Tube.

Section 6.0 Calibration provides directions for calibration of the instrument.

The **Appendices** are: A) QC Acceptance Procedure which includes calibration procedures, B) a complete spare parts list so instruments can be repaired on-site, and C) schematic and pictorial diagrams to facilitate repair procedures.

Writing Conventions

In order to maintain consistency throughout this and all BICRON♦NE manuals, certain writing conventions have been followed for safety warnings. They are divided into three categories and defined as follows:

! **DANGER** indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury. ***DANGER NOTICES ALWAYS APPEAR IN BOLD, ITALICIZED UPPER CASE LETTERS.***

! **WARNING** indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury. ***WARNING NOTICES ALWAYS APPEAR IN UPPERCASE BOLD LETTERS.***

! **CAUTION** indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury. It may also be used to alert against unsafe practices. ***CAUTION notices always appear in bold, italicized letters.***

The definition of these safety warnings is according to ANSI Z535.4. The style of the warnings (bold, italicized, etc.) is BICRON♦NE'S.

In addition to the above, we have added the following warning:

! **NOTE** indicates a situation which has the potential for erroneous data collection, loss of electronic data, or damage to equipment, but which does not directly affect the safety of the operator with respect to this product. The responsibility for any safety consequences as a result of erroneous data lies solely with the operator. ***NOTE notices always appear in italics.***

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**BICRON◆NE WARRANTY STATEMENT
COVERING PORTABLE MONITORS**

Instruments and options manufactured by BICRON◆NE are warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of two years from the date of shipment, unless otherwise agreed upon by BICRON◆NE and the customer in writing.

BICRON◆NE's obligation with regard to such products shall be limited to repair or replacement FOB BICRON◆NE factory or authorized repair station, at BICRON◆NE's option.

The calibration (when applicable) for each system is warranted to be within its specified accuracy at the time of shipment. If this initial calibration is determined to be in error, the system will be recalibrated at no charge.

The aforesaid warranty does not cover systems, options or probes which are subject to excessive physical abuse or are used for purposes other than those intended. In no event shall BICRON◆NE be liable for consequential or special damages, transportation, installation, adjustment, work done by customer, or other expenses which may arise in connection with such defective product or parts.

EXCLUSION OF LIMITED WARRANTY

THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS, WHICH EXTEND BEYOND THE DESCRIPTION ON THE FACE HEREOF. THIS EXPRESS WARRANTY EXCLUDES COVERAGE OF, AND DOES NOT PROVIDE RELIEF FOR, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OF ANY KIND OR NATURE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LOSS OF USE, LOSS OF SALES OR INCONVENIENCE. THE EXCLUSIVE REMEDY OF THE PURCHASER IS LIMITED TO REPAIR, RECALIBRATION, OR REPLACEMENT OF THE SYSTEM AT BICRON◆NE's OPTION.

This warranty specifically excludes the following items which are covered by their original manufacturers' warranties: photomultiplier tubes, GM and proportional tubes, crystal and other solid-state detectors and batteries.

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PROCEDURES and CAUTIONS

The equipment herein described is designed and manufactured in compliance with all applicable safety standards. Nevertheless, certain hazards are inherent in the use of electronic and radiometric equipment.

Adequate warnings are included in the manual and on the product itself to cover hazards that may be encountered in normal use and servicing of this equipment. No other procedures are warranted by Bicron.

It shall be the owner's or user's responsibility to see to it that the procedures and cautionary notes are heeded.

Failure on the part of the user in any way to follow the prescribed procedures shall absolve Bicron and its agents from any resulting liability.

This instrument is intended solely for the detection and measurement of ionizing radiation. It should be used only by persons who have been trained in the proper interpretation of its readings and the appropriate safety procedures to be followed in the presence of radiation.

All instructions and warnings contained in this manual or on the instrument must be read before use and must be strictly followed. Failure to follow these instructions and warnings may result in inaccurate readings and/or user hazard.

Indicated battery and other operations tests must be performed prior to each use to assure that the instrument is functioning properly.

CAUTION

FAILURE TO CONDUCT PERIODIC PERFORMANCE TESTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANSI N323-1978, PARAGRAPHS 4.6 AND 5.4, AND TO KEEP RECORDS THEREOF IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 4.5 OF THE SAME STANDARD, COULD RESULT IN ERRONEOUS READING OF POTENTIAL DANGER. ANSI N323-1978 BECOMES, BY THIS REFERENCE, A PART OF THIS OPERATING PROCEDURE.

INSPECTION

Instruments should be examined and tested as soon as received. Claims for transportation damages, if any, should be filed at once with the delivery carrier.

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1.0 Introduction**1.1 General Description**

The Bicon Surveyor 200 is a portable survey meter designed for use with an appropriate GM probe to detect and measure ionizing radiation.

The instrument features a recessed meter movement, laminated control panel, cpm and mR/h meter scales, single on-off/range selector switch, MHV probe connector and mounted probe holder.

Advanced circuit design provides a detector HV check, anti-saturation, dead time compensation, and response time optimized for each range. Built in audio is available.

1.2 Specifications**Radiation Detected:**

Alpha, beta, gamma, and x-ray depending upon detector used.

Range:

Linear ranges of 0-2, 0-20, and 0-200 mR/h with SWGM or EWGM probe; 0-2400, 0-24,000, and 0-240,000 CPM.

Accuracy:

Within 10% of reading for ¹³⁷Cs when calibrated according to NRC Reg. Guide 10.8.

Detector:

Choice of GM probes.

High Voltage:

Electronically stabilized, factory set at 900 V.

HV Test:

Exclusive self test to verify detector HV power supply.

Connector: MHV.

Warmup time: None.

Saturation:

Typically greater than 1000 R/h on all ranges (with exclusive anti-saturation circuit) for most GM probes; greater than 5 R/h for pancake GM probes.

Response Time:

Optimized for each range 0-90% of final reading as follows:

Range	Time
2 mR/h	6 sec.
20 mR/h	3 sec.
200 mR/h	1 sec.

Dead time Compensation:

Exclusive circuitry provides a near linear response.

Temperature:

Operational from -40 C to +60 C.

Humidity:

Less than 5% change in reading from 10 - 95% relative humidity.

Control:

Six position rotary switch: "off", "bat", "HV", "X100", "X10", "X1". See Figure 2.

Battery Complement:

Single 9 Volt (MN1064 or equal). The additional battery holder may be used for storage of spare or parallel-wired.

Battery Life:

Greater than 100 hours with single battery or greater than 200 hours with parallel batteries option.

1.0 Introduction (cont'd)**1.2 Specifications (cont'd)****Display:**

Ruggedized, recessed, high-torque 1 mA meter with 8.51 cm. (3.35 inch) scale marked "0-2 mR/h", "0-2400 CPM", "bat. ok", "HV ok". Meter protected by impact-resistant Lexan® polycarbonate window. See Figure 1.

Geotropism:

Within $\pm 2\%$ of full scale.

Shock:

100 g per lightweight machine of MIL-STD 202C, method 202B.

Vibration:

5 g in each of three mutually orthogonal axes at one or more frequencies from 10-33 Hz.

Construction:

Splash-proof, shock-proof, two-piece, all-metal case. Scratch-resistant laminated control panel and Bicon Kleen-Krome® trim on case top, durable black polyurethane paint on handle and case bottom, stainless steel probe clip on handle.

Audio option:

When specified the unit is equipped with a built-in speaker controlled by a panel mounted on-off switch. This speaker provides an audible "click" for each detector pulse or (if desired) an audible over-range alarm signal.

Size:

10.8 x 20.3 x 17.3 cm (4.25" x 8" x 6.8") including handle and probe clip.

Weight: 1 kg. (2.2 lb), excluding probe.

2.0 Battery Information

Battery Type: 9-volt Mallory MN1604 or equivalent.

2.1 Procedure

1. Turn instrument off.
2. Open pull catches at ends of case and separate case bottom from top.
3. Install battery in appropriate clip on bottom circuit board (clip for spare battery is so marked), observing proper polarity.
4. Replace bottom, orienting rubber under battery; close catches.

Parallel-wired Option: Instruments with this option have both battery clips wired into the circuit. Installing a second battery thus provides approximately twice the operational hours of one battery. Only one battery is needed to power the instrument, however.

2.2 Test

To check the condition of the battery turn the Control Switch to the “bat.” position (Figure 2). If the battery has sufficient charge, the meter will read within the “bat. ok” range (Figure 1).

3.0 High Voltage Test

To check the high voltage setting turn the Control Switch to the “HV” position (Figure 2). If the high voltage is correctly set, the meter will read within the "HV ok" range (Figure 1).

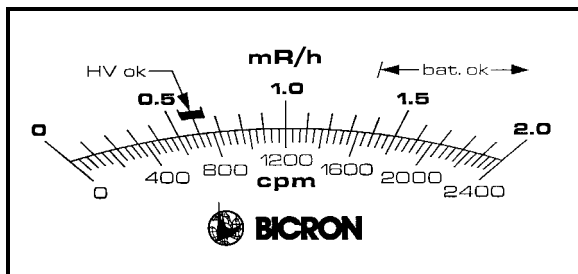


Figure 1
Surveyor 200 Meter Scale

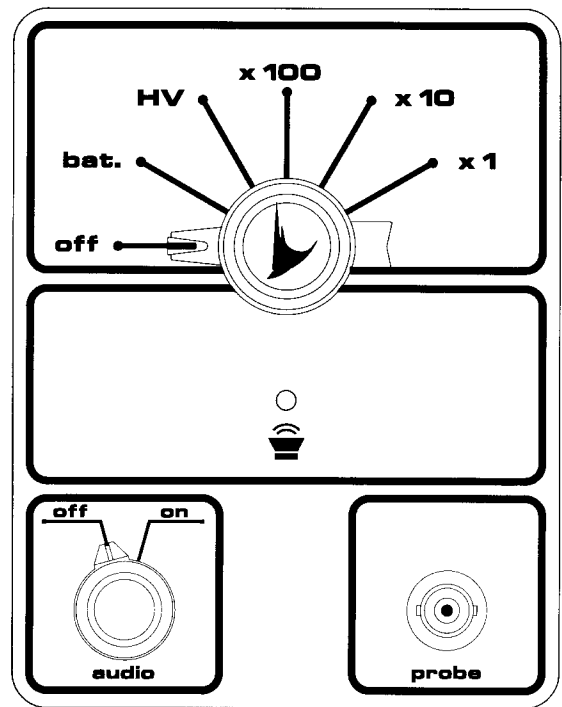


Figure 2
Surveyor 200 Control Panel

4.0 Operation

4.1 Radiation Measurements

1. Select a GM probe appropriate to the survey situation and attach it to the instrument via a cable (connection is so marked).
2. Turn the Selector Switch to one of the linear ranges: "X1", "X10", or "X100".
3. Multiply the meter scale reading by the selector position to obtain the reading. For example, a scale reading of 400 with the Control Switch set to "X10" is 4,000 cpm.
4. Read the mR/h scale (the top meter scale) when using a SWGM or EWGM probe calibrated with the unit for ^{137}Cs (standard calibration). The serial number of the instrument and the probe appear on the calibration certificate.

CAUTION: An external source of ionizing radiation of the type the count rate meter and the GM probe selected were designed to measure must be used to determine proper operation of this instrument.

4.2 Audio

If the instrument is equipped with this option, an internal speaker will produce an audible "click" for each detector pulse. This speaker is controlled by a panel mounted on-off switch labeled "audio".

An audible alarm sounds when the meter is approximately 30% or more above full scale on any range. This over-range alarm can be defeated by turning off an internal on-off switch located on the main circuit board.

The over-range alarm functions only when the panel mounted Audio Control Switch is in the "off" position and the internal switch is "on". When the speaker control is in the "on" position, the over-range alarm is defeated.

5.0 Hardware Description

5.1 Circuit Description

The electronic circuitry in the Bicon surveyor 200 is contained on three interconnected printed circuit boards. Modern solid-state integrated circuitry is used throughout. The major components are:

1. The high voltage power supply which is a feedback-regulated, electronically stabilized supply for the GM tube potential. Additional circuitry provides an HV test readout on the meter scale.
2. The count-rate meter which is a linear charge pump rate meter that converts the GM tube pulses to an exposure rate reading on the calibrated meter scale. The circuitry includes a unique dead-time compensation technique to provide nearly linear response over the full range, an anti-saturation circuit which forces the meter beyond full scale in high radiation fields, automatic time constant selection, and temperature compensation.
3. The optional audio circuitry for individual pulse counting and over-range alarm.

5.2 GM Tube (Probes)

The GM tube consists of a thin shell which acts as the cathode, a fine wire anode suspended within the shell, and an inert gas into which a small amount of a halogen gas has been mixed to act as a quenching agent. End window and pancake tubes have a thin mica entrance window.

A potential of approximately 900 volts is maintained between the two electrodes with the anode always positive. This voltage is slightly less than that required to produce a discharge in the gas. When a nuclear particle or ray of sufficient energy enters the GM tube, it ionizes a molecule of the inert gas. The positive ions are attracted to the cathode and the electrons are attracted to the anode because of the high voltage maintained between the electrodes. In their movement toward the electrodes, these charged particles trigger the ionization of additional gas molecules, resulting in an avalanche of ions flowing between the electrodes. The gas discharge thus created is similar to the glow of a neon lamp. The tube conducts as long as the gas is in the ionized state.

The small amount of halogen gas in the gas mixture quenches the flow of ions, suppressing further electron avalanches until another nuclear particle or ray enters the tube. This flowing and quenching results in a rapid pulse or surge of current in the external circuit. The number of pulses per minute is approximately proportional to the radiation exposure rate. The meter, suitably connected to the tube, indicates the exposure rate or counts per minute (depending on probe used) on a calibrated scale.

6.0 Calibration

This section provides a general description of calibration conditions. Detailed calibration procedures are part of the Q.C. Acceptance Procedure in Appendix A.

6.1 Standard (mR/H)

The instrument is normally factory calibrated with a specific model SWGM (side wall GM) or EWGM (end window GM) probe using ^{137}C 's gamma rays. Recalibration is required (a) after servicing, (b) if the GM probe is replaced, and at regular intervals specified by the appropriate regulatory agencies.

The SWGM (with shield closed) or EWGM probe is placed in a known radiation field with the axis of the probe perpendicular to the beam.

Individual calibration controls are provided for each range, and are used to adjust the meter reading to correspond to the known exposure rate. The locations of these controls are shown on a label on the case bottom.

NOTE: Do not disturb the settings of any controls except those marked "X1", "X10", and "X100".

Calibration procedures should follow those specified by the appropriate regulatory agencies.

6.2 Optional (CPM) Calibration

Electronic calibration (counts per minute) is the only type that can be done when external probes other than a specific SWGM or EWGM are supplied, or when the instrument is not supplied with a given probe.

When an electronic calibration is performed, the unit is connected to a variable frequency pulse generator. The generator is then set at the frequencies needed to produce 65% and 35% of full scale meter readings (cpm) for each range. Calibration controls are set for 65% of full scale readings, and linearity is checked by going to the 35% readings.

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Appendix A

Bicron QC Acceptance Procedure, Number 1012937

1.0 Preparation

1. Perform a visual inspection of finished product.
2. Remove all 9V batteries and connect a 9.30 V ± 0.05 V power source across the main battery terminals on the battery board.

2.0 Calibration

Perform the following calibrations:

1. Turn the Control Switch to "OFF". Mechanically zero the meter via the rear zero adjustment screw on the meter barrel.
2. Turn the Control Switch to "X100". Check the +5 supply at pin 1 of U6 (ICL 7663). The reading should be 5 VDC ± 10%.
3. Leave the Control Switch set at "X100" and connect a voltmeter between pins 1 (ground) and 15 of the 24 pin connector. Adjust R31 (50Kohm zero pot) so the voltmeter reads 1 mVDC +2.5/-1.
4. Turn the Control Switch to "HV" and connect a high voltage measuring device with an impedance 1000 megohms to the probe connector center pin. Adjust the high voltage supply via R45 (50 Kohm pot) to +900 VDC ±3%.
5. Leave the control switch in "HV" and adjust R29 (500 ohm span pot) until the meter reads in the center of the "HV ck" checkband.
6. Perform a CPM calibration (unless isotropic calibration is specified).
 - A. Turn the Control Switch to "X100" and connect a variable frequency pulse generator to test point 2 (pin 5 of the 24 pin connector).
 - B. Adjust the frequency to the value required to calibrate the unit at 65% of full scale in the meter (see Table T-1).
 - C. Adjust R19 (50 Kohm X100 calibration pot) until the meter reads 65% of full scale.

Table T-1

Range	Pulse Generator output (Hz)	Simulated CPM	Acceptable Meter Reading
X100 (65%)	1558	156,000	140,400 - 171,600
X100 (35%)	1030	84,000	75,600 - 92,400
X10 (65%)	244	15,600	14,040 - 17,160
X10 (35%)	135	8,400	7,560 - 9,240
X1 (65%)	26	1,560	1,404 - 1,716
X1 (35%)	14	840	756 - 924

NOTE: The values in this table may not correspond to those for other Bicron or competitive models.

**Appendix A
Bicron QC Acceptance Procedure, Number 1012937 (cont'd)**

2.0 Calibration (cont'd)

- D. Readjust the frequency to the value required to calibrate the unit at 35% of full scale (see Table T-1) and note the meter reading.
 - E. If the reading is within the acceptable range listed in Table T-1, note the meter readings from steps C and D on a Certificate of Calibration. If not, readjust the frequency to the 65% value and adjust R19 to produce a different reading within the acceptable range.
 - F. Repeat steps D and E until the meter readings obtained are within the acceptable ranges for both the 65% and 35% of full scale calibration points.
 - G. Repeat steps B, C, D, E and F (if necessary) for the X10 range (using R17, the 500 Kohm X10 calibration pot), the X1 range (using R15, the 5 megohm calibration pot).
 - H. If specified to be supplied with an SWGM or EWGM probe, perform an isotopic calibration:
 - 1) Connect the GM probe to the probe connector via a cable.
 - 2) Place the probe in a known ¹³⁷Cs radiation field in a fixed geometry.
 - 3) Calibrate each range at 65% and 35% of full scale using the values in Table T-2 and the same calibration pots as those listed for a CPM calibration.
7. Mark all trimpot bodies in such a way as to show the general position of the adjustment screws after calibration.

Range	Field Strength (mR/h)	Acceptable Meter Reading (mR/h)
X100 (65%)	130	117. - 143
X100 (35%)	70	63. - 77
X10 (65%)	13	11.7 - 14.3
X10 (35%)	7	6.3 - 7.7
X1 (65%)	1.3	1.17 - 1.43
X1 (35%)	0.7	0.63 - 0.77

Table T-2

Appendix A
Bicron QC Acceptance Procedure, Number 1012937 (cont'd)

3.0 Audio Switch Test

Perform the following test if the Audio option is installed:

1. Connect a variable frequency pulse generator to pin 5 of the 24 pin connector.
2. Turn the Audio Switch to "ON" and check to see that the audio functions properly on all three ranges, using the pulse generator. Also, check that the audio remains silent when the Selector Switch is on "BAT." and "HV".
3. Turn the Audio Switch to "OFF" and the Alarm On/off Switch mounted on the main PC board to "ON". Drive the meter well beyond full scale with the pulse generator and observe that a continuous tone is heard. Do this on all three ranges.
4. Disconnect the pulse generator.

4.0 Anti-saturation Circuit Test

1. Turn the Control Switch to "X100" and connect a 1000 megohm resistor across the probe connector (from +900V to ground). The meter should peg beyond full scale.
2. Replace the 1000 megohm resistor with a 2000 megohm resistor. The meter should remain at zero.
3. Remove the 2000 megohm resistor.

Appendix A
Bicron QC Acceptance Procedure, Number 1012937 (cont'd)

5.0 CPM Calibration Test

Perform the following test if a CPM calibration was done:

1. Leave the Control Switch on "X100" and turn the Audio Switch to "ON."
2. Connect a suitable GM probe to the instrument.
3. Place a small check source near the probe and switch to each of the three ranges in turn. You should obtain a meter reading for each range.

6.0 Wrap-up

1. Remove all test equipment from the unit. Turn the Control Switch to "OFF" and install a new +9V alkaline battery (MN-1604 or equivalent) in the appropriate battery clip (either clip if the unit has the parallel-wire battery option).
2. Complete, date, and sign a Certificate of Calibration.

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Appendix B
Suggested Spare Parts List

We recommend that you keep some quantity of the following spare parts in inventory. The number of instruments you own and the severity of your operating conditions should guide you in determining specific quantities.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Part No</u>
Main PC Board Assembly	1012017
Switch PC Board Assembly	1002027
Battery PC Board Assembly	9420001
Case Top Assembly	1012147
Handle	9710002
Meter	9400016
Meter Window	9400011
Case Bottom Assembly	1012050
Battery, 9V alkaline, MN1604	9750001
Cable, Probe	9801001
Knob, function	9770003
Knob, round w/pointer	9770001

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Appendix C
Parts List, No. 1012917

Description	Part No.
Main PC Board Assembly	1012017
Switch PC Board Assembly	1002027
Battery PC Board Assembly	9420001
Case Top Assembly	1012147
Handle	9710002
Meter	9400016
Meter Window	9400011
Meter Support Bracket	9850002
MHV Connector	9782001
Probe Clip	9460004
Case Bottom Assembly	1012050
Miscellaneous	
Battery, 9V alkaline, MN1604	9750001
Cable, Probe, MHV-MHV, 36-inch	9801001
Knob, function	9770003
Knob, round w/pointer	9770001

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**Appendix D
Drawings**

The drawings listed below follow this page.

Drawing Name	Number	Rev.
Schematic Circuit Diagram, Surveyor 200A	B1012927	E
Main PC Board Assembly, Surveyor 200A	D1012017	E
Switch PC Board Assembly, Surveyor 50A & 200A	B1002027	D

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