

Signal Finder™

RADIO TELEMETRY / TRANSMITTER TESTER & SWITCH



Product Description

The Signal Finder is a compact, wide-band receiver designed to verify the operation of telemetry transmitters. Transmitters equipped with a magnetic switch may be turned on and off with the Signal Finder's internal magnet for single-step operation.

Features

- Durable weather-resistant case.
- Magnet for turning transmitter ON and OFF.
- Push button operation prevents battery drain when not in use.
- Microprocessor-controlled signal detection algorithm.
- LED & Tone indicators signal that transmitter is operational.
- LED & Tone indicators signal that tester battery is functioning.
- Lanyard attachment point to prevent loss in the field.

Specifications:

Dimensions2.24 x 1.34 x 0.4 in
56.8 x 34.7 x 10.2 mm
Weight.....0.6 oz / 15 g
Frequency150 to 450 Mhz / No Tuning Required
Battery1 x CR2032 Lithium Coin Cell

A New Product Review by Harry McElroy

During the 2009 season, I used a Signal Finder, a transmitter tester. Using a magnet, it controls the on/off switch of Marshall Radio and other magnet-activated transmitters. I used it to test a Scout worn by a male goshawk and a male Harris' while hawking quail. To report the action of the transmitter, a button on the Signal Finder is pressed to reveal a light and a beep. The light is quite bright and can be seen in direct daylight. When the button is held down, the tester will indicate the transmitter is on by flashing and beeping in cadence with the transmitter. If the transmitter is off, the tester will not signal with the light or beep.

This small 15-gram device allows a falconer to check the status of a transmitter without turning on a receiver. Like so many electronic gadgets, it has a touch of personality all its own. If held at the correct angle it will pick up the signal from several feet away. If one stands near other hawks whose transmitters are on, the tester will pick up the signal from all the transmitters. It may be necessary to walk a few feet away from other functioning transmitters to test yours as the Signal Finder works for all transmitters on all bands from 150 – 450 MHz.

We all pay the price of growing old and this small item played a trick on me the whole season. My hearing is not what one would brag about, and I could not hear the beep even with modern digital hearing aids. As the season rolled by, I demonstrated the Signal Finder to a number of friends while we were hunting and never asked if they could hear the beep. At the end of the season, I requested a replacement because I assumed my finder was not beeping. When the shiny new one arrived, I found it silent also. Imagine my surprise when I took both to a friend who could hear the beep from both of them loud and clear! This made me appreciate the tester's double feature of having both light and sound as indicators.

The tester operated with absolute reliability throughout the entire quail season and did not require battery replacement. It is weather resistant and continued to function in rainy weather. It comes with a lanyard and is easily attached to a clip. One can also attach it to a vest or falconry bag where it will be especially convenient, eliminating fiddling with the receiver.

I recommend the Signal Finder without reservation.

Harry McElroy
www.deserthawking.com



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1 (888) FLY-HAWK 24/7
www.westernsporting.com