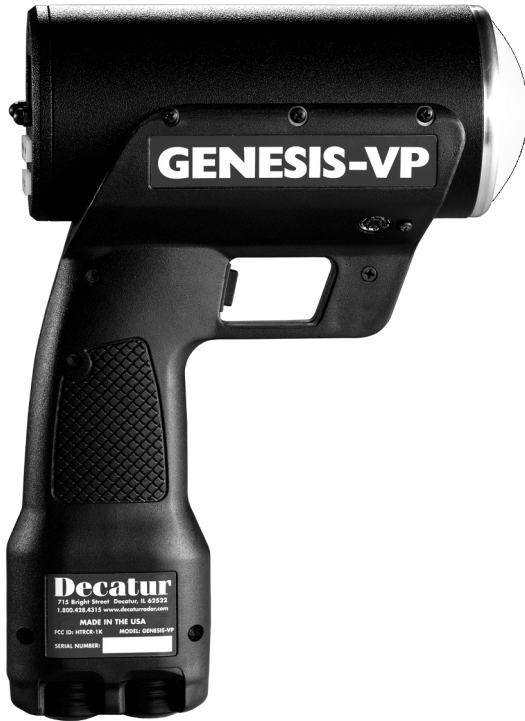


Decatur Electronics, Inc.



GENESIS-VP™

User's Manual



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Genesis-VP

Instructions for use of the target direction tracking mode.

Your Genesis-VP speed radar pistol may have had target direction tracking mode added to its program software during product configuration. The following explanations and instructions apply to target direction tracking mode with the Genesis-VP.

You can determine whether or not target direction tracking mode is on or off by going into the secondary menu and toggling to the “dir” window. If it says “on” then, of course, target direction tracking mode is on. If it says “off” then, of course, it is off and the unit will function as a standard Genesis-VP.

When operating the Genesis-VP in target direction tracking mode:

1. The Genesis-VP will lock onto the target that has the strongest return signal and also attempt to determine that target’s direction of travel. The target’s speed will be displayed in the left window and, if successful in determining target direction, the target direction will be displayed in the right window. A “t” for “towards” will be displayed for a target moving toward the Genesis-VP and an “A” for “away” will be displayed for a target moving away from the Genesis-VP. If the Genesis-VP is not successful in determining the target’s direction of travel then neither a “t” or an “A” will be displayed.
2. When you lock a target the locked target speed will be displayed in the right window. The right display will alternately flash this locked speed and the direction of the locked target (if the direction was determined).
3. If you use the faster target mode in conjunction with the target direction tracking mode then this rule of thumb applies... When the right window is not being used by another function then a “t” for “toward” or an “A” for “away” will be displayed in the right window to indicate the target’s direction of travel.

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1. Quick Start Instructions

1.1 Insert VersaPak™ batteries

Remove VersaPak™ batteries from their package and charge them (please refer to VersaPak™ instruction sheet). When the VersaPak™ batteries are charged, insert them into the base of the handle grip as shown until you hear them snap into place.



Figure 1:
Inserting Batteries

1.2 Turn on the power

Push the power button. The Genesis-VP™ will do a display test and beep and then blank the speed windows.

1.3 Set Menu Options

Primary menu

You may use the factory default settings listed below or you may select your own settings. To select your own settings, press and hold the **MENU** button. You will see “bL” (for back light) in the left window and “OFF” in the right window. If you wish to change this to “ON,” then simply press the **SEL** (select) button. (The **SEL** button is used to toggle/cycle through all available values for a given parameter.) Release and press the **MENU** button again to move to the next category and repeat the process. When finished, release the buttons and your new settings will be in effect. The unit will “remember” the last settings when turned off and will power up with the last set values in each category. See section 2.3 on Menus for other settings.

Factory default settings:

- bL (back light) = on
- Aud (audio volume) = 3
- SEN (sensitivity) = 5
- SLh (squelch) = on



Figure 2:
Primary Menu

Secondary menu

You may use the factory default settings listed below or you may select your own settings. To select your own settings, press and hold the **SEL** (select) button and then press the **MENU** button. You will see “Prt” (for communication port) in the left window and a “0” (for none) in the right window. If you wish to change this to an other mode of serial port communication, then simply release and press the **SEL** (select) button. (The **SEL** button is used to toggle/cycle through all available values for a given parameter.) Press the **MENU** button again to move to the next category and repeat the process. When finished, release the buttons and your new settings will be in effect. See section 2.3 on Menus for other settings.

Factory default settings:

Prt (communication port) 0 = No serial communication
FSt (fastest vehicle style) 1 = Fastest-toggle
tSt (test) off

You are now ready to measure the speed of targets.

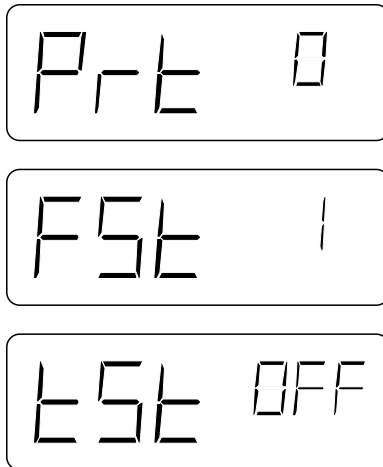


Figure 3:
Secondary Menu

Master Reset

To reset all parameters (except the “tSt” setting) to their default values, press and hold the **SEL** (select) button while pressing the **PWR** (power) button when turning the unit ON. The unit will generate a long tone, reset all parameters to the default values (see lists above), and continue powering up.

1.4 Measuring the speed of a target

Measuring the speed of a target in strongest signal mode.

Point the Genesis-VP™ at a moving vehicle; pull and hold the trigger. While the trigger is being held, the Genesis-VP™ is transmitting a signal and measuring speeds. You should see a speed in the left window. This is the speed of the vehicle returning the strongest signal. To lock the speed, simply release the trigger and pull (and hold) it again quickly (within a half of a second) and the current speed will be locked in the right window while the left window continues to track the vehicle's speed. To clear the locked speed, either lock another speed in the same manner or release the trigger for more than half a second and pull the trigger again.

Measuring the speed of a target in fastest vehicle mode.

The Genesis-VP™ can operate in one of two "fastest vehicle" modes, selected in the secondary menu, fast-hold and fast-toggle. See section 2.3 on Menus for changing to the other fastest vehicle mode.

Fast-hold style.

Point the Genesis-VP™ at two or more moving vehicles; pull and hold the trigger. While the trigger is being held, the Genesis-VP™ is transmitting a signal and measuring speeds. You should see the speed of the vehicle with the strongest return signal displayed in the left window. To switch to fastest vehicle mode press and hold the **FAST** button. You should now see the speed of the strongest of the faster vehicles in the left window. You will remain in fastest mode until you release the **FAST** button. To lock the speed, release the trigger and pull it again quickly (within a half of a second) and the speed in the left window will be locked in the right window while the left window continues to track the fastest vehicle's speed. To clear the locked speed, either lock another speed in the same manner or release the trigger for more than half a second and pull the trigger again. See sections 2.3 and 4.2.

Fast-toggle style.

Point the Genesis-VP™ at two or more moving vehicles; pull and hold the trigger. While the trigger is being held, the Genesis-VP™ is transmitting a signal and measuring speeds. You should see the speed of the vehicle with the strongest return signal displayed in the left window. To switch to fastest vehicle mode, press and release the **FAST** button. You should see the speed of the vehicle returning the strongest signal in the left window and the speed of the strongest of the faster vehicles in the right window. You will remain in fastest mode until you either press the **FAST** button again (button toggles between strongest signal mode and fastest target mode) or until you lock a speed (which automatically switches you back to strongest signal mode). To lock the speed, release the trigger and pull it again quickly (within a half of a second) and the speed in the left window (the strongest signal in this case) will be locked into the right window while the left window will continue to track the speed of the vehicle with the strongest return signal. Note that in the fast-toggle style of fastest vehicle mode you are actually locking strongest signal speeds. To clear the locked speed, either lock another speed in the same manner or release the trigger for more than half a second and pull the trigger again. See sections 2.3 and 4.3.

2. Controls

2.1 Faceplate

When pressing the button of a valid function on the front panel, the computer acknowledges the command with a beep.

MENU

The **MENU** button allows you to view the user programmable categories. To change the menu category, press the **MENU** button.

SEL

The **SEL** (select) button allows you to choose values (settings) in each of the menu categories. To change the menu category value, press the **SEL** (select) button.

TEST

When the **TEST** button is pressed the Genesis-VP™ will complete a self-test. See section 6.1.

FAST

When the **FAST** button is pressed the Genesis-VP™ will enter fastest target mode.

PWR

Turns Genesis-VP™ on and off

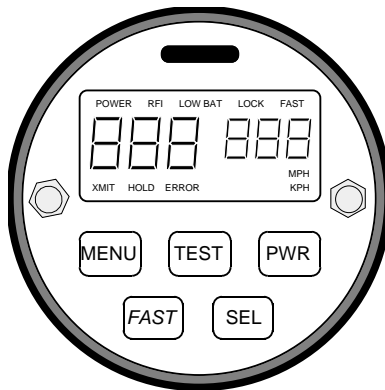


Figure 4:
Faceplate

2.2 Other Controls and Features

Trigger

When the trigger is pulled, the Genesis-VP™ will transmit and receive information. If the trigger is released and pulled again within half a second then the speed displayed in the left window will be locked into the right window. The lock will be cleared when the trigger is released for more than half a second and pulled again.

Backlighting (controlled through primary menu)

Turns backlighting on and off.

Audio (controlled through primary menu)

Doppler tone volume control.

Sensitivity (controlled through primary menu)

Controls the maximum acquisition distance in five levels. Start with maximum sensitivity and decrease until attaining the desired performance.

Squelch (controlled through primary menu)

Determines the type of Doppler audio heard. In squelched mode (SLh = ON), the only sound heard is the Doppler tone for the displayed target. When unsquelched (SLh = OFF), the operator hears all of the Doppler tones - vehicles, interference, and noises - received by the antenna.

Communications port (controlled through the secondary menu)

Determines which communications port configuration is used.

Fastest vehicle mode style (controlled through secondary menu)

Determines whether the fastest vehicle mode will be fastest-hold or fastest-toggle.

Test (controlled through secondary menu)

Determines whether the unit automatically performs a “mini” self-test at regular intervals (required in some states).

2.3 Menus

The **MENU** button allows you to view the user programmable categories. There are two menus; the Primary and the Secondary.

Primary

Press the **MENU** button to enter the first category of the primary menu. To advance to the next menu category, press the **MENU** button again.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Range</u>
bL	Back light	on / off
Aud	Audio volume	0 - 6
SEN	Sensitivity	0 - 5
SLh	Squelch	on / off

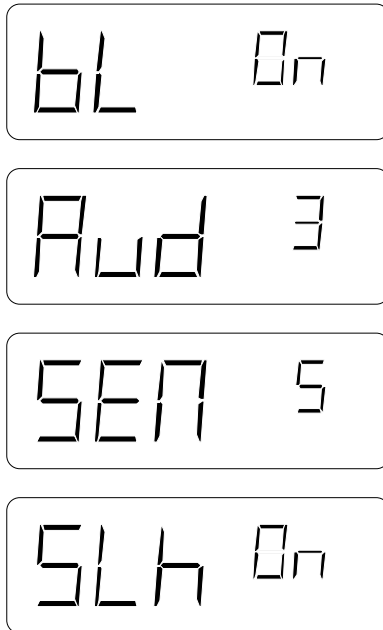
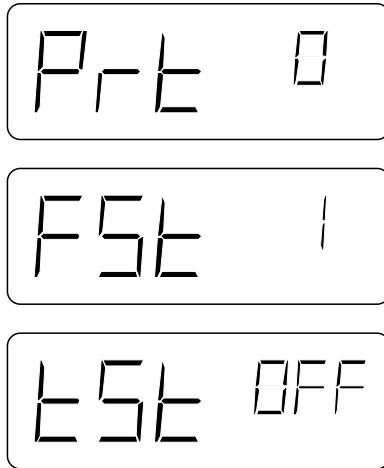


Figure 5:
Primary Menu

Secondary

To enter the secondary menu, press the **SEL** (select) button and hold it. While holding the **SEL** button, press the **MENU** button. To advance to the next menu category value, press the **MENU** button again.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Range</u>
Prt	Communication port	0 = None 1 = VISIMAX sign/video 2 = ATV sign/video 3 = Reserved 4 = Reserved 5 = Reserved 6 = Speed Tracker™ software 7 = STAR™ software 8 = Reserved 9 = Reserved 10 = Reserved
FSt	Fastest vehicle	0 = Fast-hold 1 = Fast-toggle
tSt	Mini-test	on / off



**Figure 6:
Secondary Menu**

NOTES:

1. The Genesis-VP™ will exit menu mode if neither the **MENU** or **SEL** buttons are pressed for two seconds. If either the **MENU** or **SEL** buttons are held, the Genesis-VP™ will stay in menu mode.
2. The primary menu functions in real time. The Genesis-VP™ will continue to transmit accurate audio and serial communications while in menu mode. A system reset will always occur when exiting the secondary menu.
3. The unit will “remember” the last settings when turned off and will power up with the last set values in each category.

3. Displays

3.1 Number Segments

Left side: Three large digits (888) display speeds and menu categories.

Right side: Three small digits (888) display speeds and “select” values.

Displayed speed will be the strongest signal, or, in fastest mode, the next strongest signal that is also going faster than the strongest signal.

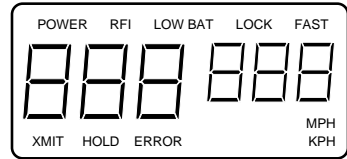


Figure 7:
Number Segments and
Status Indicators

3.2 Status indicators (icons)

POWER

Indicates that power is on.

RFI

Indicates that there is radio frequency interference inhibiting the proper operation of the unit. No new speeds will be displayed or transmitted via the serial port while this icon is active. Locked speed will remain. Once the condition no longer exists, the unit will operate properly. Possible causes of this condition are patrol vehicle FM communications, proximity to radio stations and other broadcast equipment.

LOW BAT

Indicates that the batteries need to be recharged. No new speeds will be displayed or transmitted via the serial port while this icon is active. Locked speed will remain.

LOCK

Indicates that the speed displayed in the secondary window is a stored value that was previously displayed in the primary display window.

FAST

Indicates that the Genesis-VP™ is in fast mode. When not in fast mode, the Genesis-VP™ is assumed to be in strongest signal mode (the default mode). The Genesis-VP™ is capable of internally tracking multiple speeds simultaneously. Each vehicle return signal is ranked by its strength and speed.

XMIT

Indicates that the Genesis-VP™ is transmitting.

HOLD

Indicates that the Genesis-VP™ is not transmitting.

ERROR

Indicates that the Genesis-VP™ has suffered an internal hardware error which could affect the operation of the unit. Please contact Decatur Electronics, Inc. for instructions. 1.800.428.4315.

MPH

The MPH icon is not used. The Genesis-VP™ is assumed to be displaying speeds in miles per hour.

KPH

Indicates that the Genesis-VP™ is displaying speeds in kilometers per hour.

4. Modes of Operation

4.1 Strongest signal mode

The Genesis-VP™ sets itself to strongest signal tracking mode when you turn it on (it will stay in this mode unless you press the “Fast” button). In strongest signal tracking mode, the Genesis-VP™ will display the speed of the vehicle with the strongest return signal in its field of view. This speed will appear in the left window.

Strongest / fastest.

The Genesis-VP™ internally tracks multiple speeds simultaneously. In fast (fastest target) mode the Genesis-VP™ takes the strongest vehicle return signal present and uses it as a reference point to determine a faster vehicle. The Genesis-VP™ looks at all other vehicle speeds and compares them to the reference point. It determines which vehicles are going faster than the reference point, and then, of those vehicles, which one has the strongest signal. The speed of this vehicle will be displayed. This method of fastest vehicle identification is used to add certainty to vehicle identification. There are two styles of fastest mode operation available on the Genesis-VP™. The unit can operate in only one method at a time (selected in the secondary menu).

4.2 Fastest-hold

If your Genesis-VP™ uses the “fastest-hold” mode of operation and you want to see the fastest vehicle speed, then you must press and continue to hold the **FAST** button. When you hold the **FAST** button while measuring speeds, the fastest vehicle speed (if one is present) will be displayed in the left window. Removing your finger from the **FAST** button will cause the Genesis-VP™ to return to strongest signal mode. You will know you are in fastest target mode when the “FAST” icon is illuminated. If you lock a speed by quickly releasing and pressing (and holding) the trigger while in this style of fastest vehicle mode, the speed which is displayed in the left window (fastest vehicle in this case) will be locked and displayed in the right window. The Genesis-VP™ will remain in fastest vehicle mode as long as the **FAST** button is pressed.

Note that the vehicle returning the strongest signal may also be the fastest vehicle. In this case this vehicle's speed will be displayed in the left window whether you are in strongest signal mode for fastest vehicle mode. See section 2.3 on Menus for changing to the other fastest vehicle mode.

4.3 Fastest-toggle

If your Genesis-VP™ uses the “fastest-toggle” mode of operation, then you may toggle between fastest vehicle mode and strongest signal mode by pressing the **FAST** button. Each time you press the **FAST** button, you switch from one mode to the other. When you are measuring speeds in fastest mode using the fastest-toggle style of operation, the strongest of the faster vehicles speed will be displayed in the right window, and the speeds of the vehicle with the strongest return signal will be displayed in the left window. You will know you are in fastest vehicle mode when the “FAST” icon is illuminated.

In the “fastest-toggle” mode, only the strongest vehicle speed can be locked. When the speed is locked the Genesis-VP™ will revert to strongest signal only mode. See section 2.3 on Menus for changing to the other fastest vehicle mode.

If the strongest signal is also the fastest signal, no display will appear in the right window.

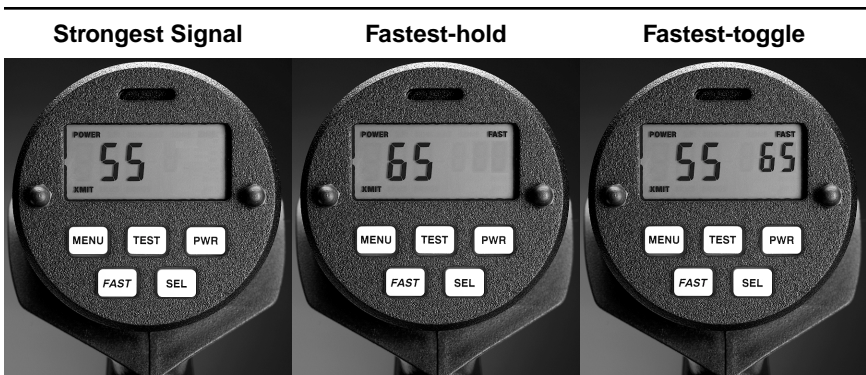
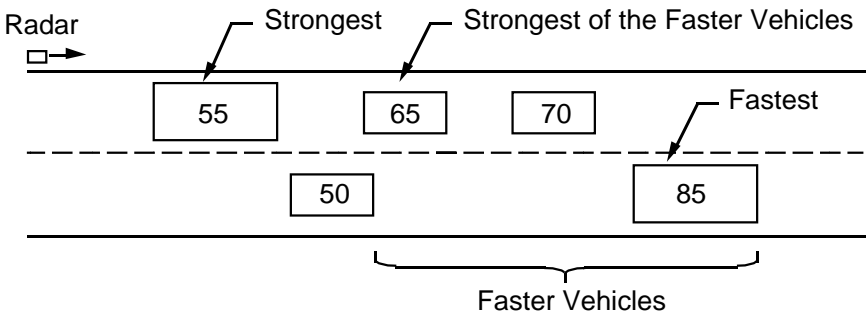


Figure 8
Modes of Operation

5. Serial Communications Option

If your Genesis-VP™ has a communications connector on the side, you may connect it to Decatur's large display signs, in-car video, or a Personal Computer which is running Decatur Electronics' software. If connecting to a Personal Computer, plug the 9-pin end (DB-9 connector) of the computer cable into the serial communications port on your computer. Use the cable(s) that come with the sign or software (if purchased). Make sure you select the correct value under "port" on the secondary menu.

6. Field Tests

There are two field tests to verify the accuracy of the GENESIS-VP™.

6.1 Self test

Pressing the TEST button on the display initiates a system self-test. This test checks the left and right numeric displays and runs a simulation of the target speeds. The Genesis-VP™ will not power down while a self-test is in process.

Display (LCD) test

The segments in the left and right displays will be illuminated in a circular pattern to test for faulty Liquid Crystal segments.

Circuitry (DSP) test

The Digital Signal Processor will be tested. "PASS" or "FAIL" will appear on the display when test is completed.

Speed simulation

The Genesis-VP™ verifies vehicle speed acquisition using synthesized Doppler frequencies corresponding to the series of four speeds listed below. "PASS" or "FAIL" will appear on the display when test is completed.

The speeds are:

MPH	15, 30, 45, 60	(if your Genesis-VP™ is in MPH)
KPH	25, 50, 75, 100	(if your Genesis-VP™ is in KPH)

6.2 Tuning Fork Test

NOTE: Keep Trigger pressed during entire test.

In addition to the system test, the operator can verify the overall system accuracy by using a tuning fork.

After tapping one of the tines of a tuning fork, the fork vibrates at the frequency stamped on the handle. When the operator places the tuning fork in front of the antenna, the system detects the fork and displays a speed. Compare the speed displayed to the speed stamped on the fork. The displayed speed must be within one (1) mph (or kph if testing a kph unit) of the speed stamped on the fork.

Tapping the tines against surfaces like metal and concrete may damage the tines and invalidate the fork for future tests. Tap the tines against hard plastics or wood to avoid unnecessary damage. Using the fork at temperature extremes may also affect the readings.

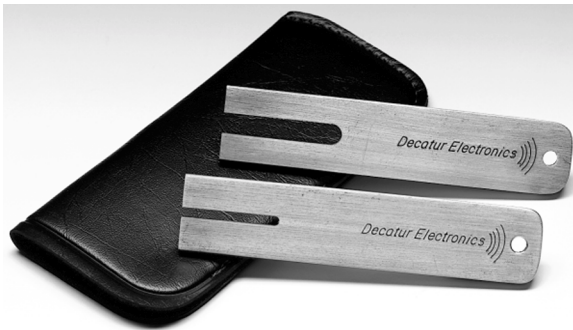


Figure 11:
Tuning Fork

The tuning fork test consists of the following steps:

- Grasp the tuning fork by the handle and tap one of the tines against a firm surface.
- Hold the vibrating tuning fork approximately three (3) inches from the front of the antenna.
- Verify that the displayed speed and speed marked on the tuning fork are within one (1) mph of each other. If there is a large difference between the displayed speed and the fork, check the tuning fork for damage. Repeat the procedure with another, certified tuning fork. If the error is still greater than one (1) mph, remove the unit from service.
- Verify that the Doppler audio is correct for the speed displayed and not corrupted by noise. (Tone can be compared to the tones generated during a test initiated with the TEST button.)
- The display should blank when the fork is not in front of the antenna or the vibrations have ceased.



**Figure 12:
Tuning Fork Placement**

7. Care, Cleaning, and Storage

Do not spill food, beverages or other liquids and substances on the Genesis-VP™. When the Genesis-VP™ is not in use or when it is being transported, store it in its original packaging. To clean the Genesis-VP™, dust it lightly with a soft clean cloth. The cloth should be free from any cleaning solutions.

8. Limitations to Doppler RADAR

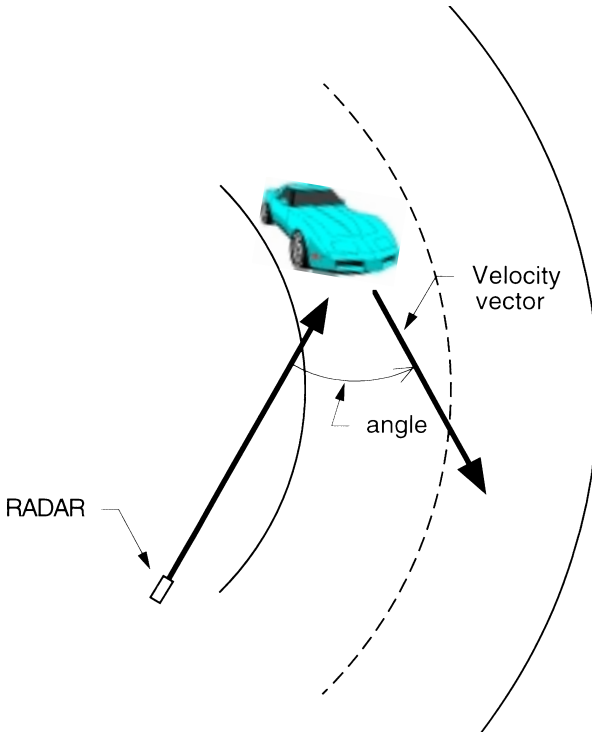
When properly used, the Doppler radar system is extremely accurate and reliable. However, the variations in the environment can cause situations and circumstances which may create speeds that appear incorrect.

8.1 Cosine Effect

The cosine effect causes the system to display a speed that is lower than actual vehicle speed. This condition exists whenever the target vehicle's path is not parallel to the antenna, including curves and hills. In all uses of police radar, there is always a slight angle between the patrol and target vehicle to avoid collisions.

Whenever the angle between the beam of the antenna and the target vehicle increases, the displayed speed decreases. Ideally, an angle of zero (0) degrees is preferable, since the displayed speed will be the actual target vehicle speed. The following table shows the effects that an increasing angle can have on the speed displayed.

At angles less than 10°, there is not much difference between the target and actual speed. As the angle increases, the error increases. At 90°, the TARGET speed is zero mph - grossly incorrect.



**Figure 13:
Possible Cosine Effect on Curve**

Actual Speed	Angle, in degrees										
	0	1	3	5	10	15	20	30	45	60	90
30 mph	30	29	29	29	29	28	28	26	21	15	0
40 mph	40	39	39	39	39	38	37	34	28	20	0
50 mph	50	49	49	49	49	48	46	43	35	25	0
60 mph	60	59	59	59	59	57	56	51	31	30	0
70 mph	70	69	69	69	68	67	65	60	49	35	0
80 mph	80	79	79	79	78	77	75	69	57	40	0

Table 1: Actual and Displayed Speeds at Different Antenna-to-Target Angles

8.2 Interference

Radar systems, like any other radio system, are subject to external interference. The two most common kinds are radio frequency interference and undesired moving objects.

Radio Frequency

The system may inadvertently process radio frequency energy from airport radar, streetlights, high-tension power lines, microwave transmission towers, CB radio transmitters, and AM/FM transmission towers as Doppler speeds. The Genesis-VP™ unit has a radio frequency interference (RFI) detection circuit, designed to detect excess radio frequency energy. When stray radio frequency energy reaches an excessive level, the system will illuminate the “RFI” icon in the display. Once the source of radio interference ends, the system will resume normal operation. Also, any locked speeds will return to the lock window.

Moving Objects

The system may also detect other moving objects in the antenna's beam. Fan blades, in the patrol vehicle, can generate undesired Doppler signals.

Since these signals can be similar to moving cars, the operator needs to discern between a valid target and a source of interference. Usually, a source of moving interference exhibits the following characteristics:

- A reading when there is not a target vehicle in the operational range of the antenna.
- A target vehicle, upon entering the operational range, will override the interference signal-causing the displayed speed to change suddenly.
- The Doppler audio will be corrupted with noise, unlike a good, clear Doppler tone.
- Interference is irregular and does not provide a valid tracking history.

8.3 Multi-path Beam Cancellation

When multi-path beam cancellation occurs, the target vehicle speed display will sporadically blank and reappear. This occurs when the radar loses track of a target vehicle at semi-random intervals. The target vehicle is reflecting two signals that are interfering with one another. When the phase of the two signals is 180° , maximum interference occurs and the signals cancel, causing the system to ignore the target vehicle. When there is only one target vehicle, the system will reacquire the speed of the vehicle. However, when more target vehicles are present, the system could lock onto another vehicle. The operator can minimize the confusion of multi-path beam cancellation with an accurate tracking history of the original target vehicle.

8.4 Scanning

All radar antennas, for police applications, are designed to be operated from a fixed mounting, or to be hand-held in a steady position. Moving or “scanning” the antenna past stationary objects can cause the system to detect the motion. A speed-reading obtained from scanning requires deliberate misuse.

9. Warranty

TWO YEAR RADAR WARRANTY

Decatur Electronics, Inc. guarantees the Genesis-VP™ to be free from defects in workmanship and material, and to operate within specifications for a period of two years. During this period, Decatur Electronics, Inc. will repair or replace, at its option, any component, except batteries or chargers, found to be defective, without cost to the owner, provided the unit is returned to the factory.

The full warranty on parts and workmanship does not include normal wear and tear, crushing, dropping, fire, impact, immersion, or damage from attempted repair or modifications by unauthorized service agents.

Simply return the unit (transportation prepaid) directly to the factory or to an Authorized Decatur Electronics Warranty Service Center near you.

If you have any questions, or want a quick problem diagnosis, please call our customer service hot-line and ask for the service department:

phone: 1.800.428.4315

fax: 1.217.428.5302

TWO YEAR WARRANTY EXCEPTION

If the unit was purchased under a special buying program (state purchase contract, etc.), then the above warranty may not apply. Please refer to the buying program contract for the appropriate warranty terms, or contact Decatur Electronics, Inc. at the above phone number.

EXTENDED WARRANTY OPTIONS

If you are interested in an extended warranty, contact your sales representative to discuss extended warranty options.

10. Service Return Procedure

If it becomes necessary to return the Genesis-VP™ to the factory, please follow the procedure below:

- Return ALL pieces of the Genesis-VP™ in the original packaging
- Include a note describing the malfunction of the system, or the incident that resulted in a malfunction. Failure to do so may delay the return of the system.
- Telephone the Customer Service Department, at Decatur Electronics: 1-800-428-4315, to obtain a return authorization (RA) number. Write the RA number on the note and shipping label.
- Return the system to:

Decatur Electronics, Inc.
715 Bright Street
Decatur, IL 62522 USA
RA#: xxxxxx

The shipping charges, for sending the system to Decatur Electronics, Inc., are the responsibility of the customer.

If a system, still under warranty, is received COD from a customer, the customer will be charged for the amount of the COD freight charges plus an additional 10% for handling, after the system is repaired. The COD and 10% handling fee will be added to the repair bill as out-of-warranty repairs.

Decatur Electronics, Inc. will pay the freight (up to \$10.00 US) for shipment of the system from the repair facility to the customer, provided that the system is still under warranty. Any shipping charges, above the initial \$10.00, will be charged to the customer. If Express or Next Day Air is desired, the customer will be invoiced for the freight charges, even if the system is still under warranty.

An estimate can be furnished for repairs that are out-of-warranty, at the customer's request, for \$50.00 US. Even if the customer decides to not have the repairs completed, they will be invoiced for the \$50.00, plus return freight. If Decatur Electronics proceeds with the repairs, there will be no charge for the estimate.

Appendix 1, Specifications

Antenna Parameters

K-Band

IACP Type	III
Nominal Transmission Frequency	24.150 ±50 MHz
Nominal Horizontal Beamwidth	12°
Polarization	Circular
Nominal Microwave Power Output	10 mW
Maximum Aperture Power Density	≤1 mW/cm ²

Environment

Ambient Operating Temperatures	-30°C to +70°C -22°F to +158°F
Maximum Humidity	90% relative humidity at 37°C (non-condensing)
Water Resistance	Meets International Robustness Standard IEC 529:1989 and European Community Standard EN 60529 Classification IP55. These set international standards for immunity from damage by solid protrusions and water.

Voltages

Supply Voltage	5.5 VDC — 8 VDC Power supplied from replacable Ni-Cad batteries
Low Voltage Threshold	5.5 VDC

Speed Range Parameters

<u>Speed Display Ranges</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Target: mph Option	5	200
kph Option	8	320

Appendix 2, FDA Notice



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

Update on Possible Hazards of Traffic Radar Devices

July 20, 1992

TO: CITY, COUNTY, STATE, AT FEDERAL POLICE OFFICIALS

Recent stories in the news media have focused attention on the possibility that the traffic radar devices used by police officers might increase their risk of cancer, particularly testicular cancer. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has prepared the following information to inform police officers about what is known -- and what remains unknown -- about this question. **We urge you to make this Update available to the officers under your jurisdiction. Feel free to photocopy this Update as needed.**

What kind of radiation is emitted by traffic radar units?

These devices emit microwave radiation similar to the type produced inside microwave ovens, but at a power level more than 10,000 times lower. The radiation travels from the front of the radar device in a narrow, cone-shaped beam, although some of it may be reflected back from hard surfaces such as metal and glass. The amount of radiation decreases rapidly with distance from the source, so that the farther the devices are kept from the body the lower the exposure

Is there any experimental evidence that the levels of microwave radiation from a traffic radar device can be dangerous?

Although it is known that very high levels of microwave radiation can be harmful, there is no firm experimental evidence at present that the much lower levels of radiation emitted by traffic radar devices can be hazardous. There are some animal studies that suggest that low levels of radar can cause biological changes, but it is not known whether these results apply to humans. Also, most of these studies were done with a different type of microwave radiation than that produced by traffic radar devices.

What about the cancers that have occurred in police officers who used traffic radar devices for long periods of time?

It is true that some officers who have used these devices have experienced cancer. But it is important to understand that these types of cancers also occur among people who **haven't** used radar devices. That's why it is not possible to tell whether any individual officer's cancer arose because of the radar, or whether it would have happened anyway. **The key question is whether the risk of getting a particular form of cancer is greater among people who work with the radar devices than among the rest of the population.** And the only way to answer that question is to compare the cancer rates among radar using police officers with people who don't work with radar, or with the cancer rates that would be expected in the general population

FDA has made a preliminary comparison between the number of cancers reported in police officers who use traffic radar devices and cancer rates in the general population. Based on case reports we have so far, the comparison does not appear to show a greater cancer rate among the police, but it is too soon to conclude that there is no risk.



What's FDA doing to address the question of cancer risk?

FDA will continue to evaluate the research performed by microwave scientists around the world to see if their results apply to traffic radar devices. In addition, FDA will work with police organizations to collect more data about the cancer experience of police officers, to see whether they are developing more than the expected number of cancers. To assist us in this effort, any known cases of cancer in police officers using radar should be reported to FDA by calling 1-800-638-6725. Be sure to provide as more information as possible, including the type of radar unit used, how long the individual worked with radar devices, and the specific type of cancer.

In the meantime, what can be done to reduce the risk, if there is one?

Although it is not known for sure whether traffic radar devices can produce health problems, police officers can take some simple steps which will sharply reduce their exposure to the low-level microwave radiation which these devices emit.

1. Always point the device away from your body, or your partner's body, while it is turned on.
2. Mount fixed radar antennas so that the beam is not pointed at any occupant of the patrol car.
3. Whenever possible, turn off a hand-held unit when it is not in use. If your unit has a "standby" mode, always use it when not measuring the speed of a vehicle. Never rest the unit against your body.
4. When it is on, try to avoid pointing the device toward metal surfaces inside your car, such as the floor or a door, to avoid microwave reflection. (Measurements have shown that the radiation reflected from nonmetallic surfaces, such as glass in the car's windows, is much less intense than that reflected from metal surfaces.)

Again, there is no proof at this point that traffic radar devices can be harmful to the police officers who use them. Future information may reveal that these devices are indeed harmless. But until the question is settled, taking the simple precautions outlined above should reduce any possible risk. In the meantime, FDA will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

Appendix 3, FCC/ISC Documents

This page reserved for Grant of Equipment Authorization.

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits of a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit that is different from that which the receiver is connected
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Appendix 4, Case Law

Judicial notice is an elementary principal of law. The principal applies to facts that are common knowledge and states that it is necessary to introduce evidence to prove what is common knowledge.

The following landmark rulings have made it simpler to introduce RADAR SPEED MEASUREMENTS as evidence.

1. State v. Dantonio in June 1995, State of New Jersey.

The New Jersey Supreme Court took judicial notice of the Doppler Principle. Other States quickly followed.

2. State v. Tomanelli in 1966.

The court pointed out that while the tuning fork method is acceptable, the result of the test is only as good as the tuning fork used.

3. Honeycutt v. Commonwealth in 1966.

The court ruled that it is sufficient for an officer to have enough knowledge and training to properly:

- Setup RADAR.
- Test its accuracy.
- Read the instrument to obtain the speed measurement.

4. State v. Hanson in 1978.

The court decreed that the officer must be able to testify:

- To having had adequate training and experience in the operation of the moving RADAR.
- That the moving RADAR instrument was in proper working order and that its testing had followed suggested methods.
- That the instrument was used in an area where road conditions presented only the minimum possibility of distortion.
- That the patrol car's speed was verified.
- That the instrument was expertly tested soon after the arrest and that the testing did not rely on the instruments own internal circuit testing.

Notes

