TRACKER3™

Owner's Manual

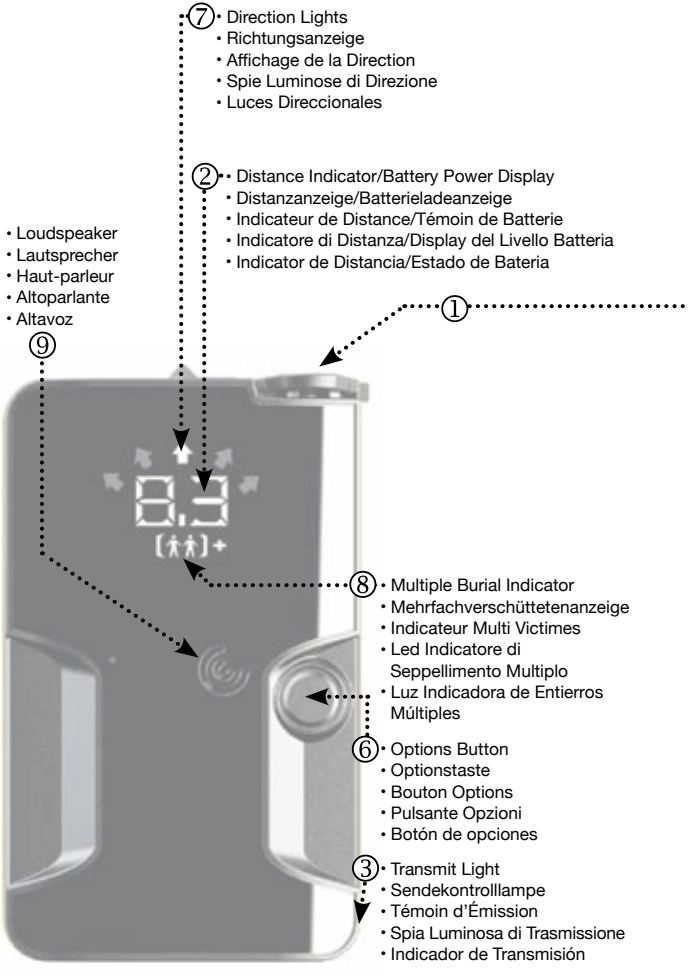
Bedienungsanleitung

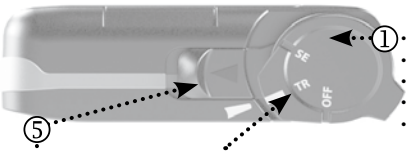
Manuel D'Utilisation

Manuale Di Istruzioni

Manual De Instruccions

Figure A


⑦ • Direction Lights
• Richtungsanzeige
• Affichage de la Direction
• Spie Luminose di Direzione
• Luces Direccionales
② • Distance Indicator/Battery Power Display
• Distanzanzeige/Batterieladeanzeige
• Indicateur de Distance/Témoin de Batterie
• Indicatore di Distanza/Display del Livello Batteria
• Indicator de Distancia/Estado de Bateria
• Loudspeaker
• Lautsprecher
• Haut-parleur
• Altoparlante
• Altavoz
⑨
①
8.3
⑧ • Multiple Burial Indicator
• Mehrfachverschüttetenanzeige
• Indicateur Multi Victimes
• Led Indicatore di Seppellimento Multiplo
• Luz Indicadora de Entierros Múltiples
⑥ • Options Button
• Optionstaste
• Bouton Options
• Pulsante Opzioni
• Botón de opciones
③ • Transmit Light
• Sendekontrolllampe
• Témoin d'Émission
• Spia Luminosa di Trasmissione
• Indicador de Transmisión



1 • Dial Switch
• Drehschalter
• Composer Passer
• Pulsante di Accensione
• Interruptor

5
• Sliding Lock
• Schiebeverriegelung
• Curseur de Verrouillage
• Blocco Scorrimento
• Pestaña Deslizante de Bloqueo

• Transmit Mode
• Sendemodus
• Mode Émission
• Modalità Trasmissione
• Modo de Transmisión

• Search Mode
• Suchmodus
• Mode Recherche
• Modalità Ricerca
• Modo de Búsqueda

5

1 • Dial Switch
• Drehschalter
• Composer Passer
• Pulsante di Accensione
• Interruptor

• Battery Door 4
• Batteriefach
• Logement des Piles
• Sportello Batterie
• Compartmento de Bateria

Disclaimer:

No avalanche beacon can save lives without a fully trained user. Practice frequently with your Tracker3 before going into the backcountry. Learn and understand the inherent dangers of backcountry travel. Become educated in avalanche hazard evaluation, route selection, and self-rescue. In addition to your beacon, always carry a probe and shovel—and always travel with a partner. We also recommend the use of avalanche airbags and group communication devices, such as two-way radios.

Make sure all rescue equipment is functioning properly before venturing into the backcountry. Perform a beacon trailhead test every time you use your Tracker3. Check that all transceivers transmit and receive properly—and that all receive a signal at a minimum distance of 20 meters.

Do not place cellular phones, communication radios, GPS devices, digital cameras, or any other electronic equipment within 16" (40 cm) of Tracker3 while performing a transceiver search. In receive mode, irregular readings, decreased range and multiple burial indications can be caused by these and other sources of electrical interference, such as power lines, electrical storms, and electrical generating equipment. In transmit mode, keep Tracker3 at least 1" (2.5 cm) from other electronic equipment. Use only alkaline batteries of identical age and brand. Do not use rechargeable, lithium, Oxyride, PowerPix, or any other non-alkaline battery.

This owner's manual covers the basic techniques required to use Tracker3 effectively. To increase your efficiency, order our training DVD's and refer to the Advanced Tracker3 Manual on our website: www.backcountryaccess.com. Here you will also find important resources for obtaining avalanche education and updates on regional avalanche conditions.

To ensure warranty protection and to be notified of software updates, please complete an online warranty registration at: www.backcountryaccess.com/warranty.

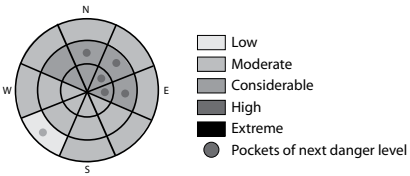
Conforms to the R&TTE harmonized version of the EN 300 718 and meets or exceeds the requirements of Articles 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3.

This is a basic introduction to avalanche safety and awareness. We encourage you to read this manual thoroughly. On our website, you will also find a list of avalanche instructors. We strongly suggest taking an avalanche course in your area before venturing into the backcountry.

Before leaving, call your local avalanche forecast center and determine the danger level in the area you intend to visit.

U.S.	www.avalanche.org
Canada	www.avalanche.ca
Europe	www.lawinen.org

Figure B **Avalanche Forecasts**



Bulletins from your local avalanche forecast center will enable you to identify the avalanche problems to avoid when planning your route.

Avalanche Awareness

At the trailhead, check that each person has a working beacon, probe and shovel—and knows how to use them. We also recommend the use of avalanche airbags and group communication devices, such as two-way radios.

Learn to recognize avalanche terrain:

- Does this slope have a history of sliding?
- What is the angle and aspect of the slope?
- Will recent weather impact snow stability?

Learn to avoid avalanche terrain:

- Is there any evidence of recent avalanche activity?
- Is the slope angle between 30 and 45 degrees?
- Does the slope you plan to use have dangerous terrain traps (rocks, trees, gullies, cliffs, etc.)?

Avalanche Awareness

Travel with considerate partners:
- Cross potentially dangerous terrain one at a time.
- Identify and practice stopping in safe zones.
- Have an escape route in mind if the slope does avalanche.
- Communicate with your partners before moving on to the slope.

When traveling in a group, be aware of the errors groups typically make:
- Recreating at an area that's been visited without incident before and feeling confident in its stability.
- Not speaking out or communicating concerns about a path or slope, fearing conflict.
- Being overconfident in the groups' abilities.
- Determination to reach a destination without re-evaluating terrain and conditions.

If in doubt, it is always best to avoid questionable terrain and return when the snow is stable.

If you are caught in an avalanche:
- Yell "avalanche" and wave your arms to alert your group.
- Deploy your avalanche airbag if you have one.
- Try to escape the slide by grabbing trees or rocks or "swimming" to the side.
- Try to keep your airway clear of snow.
- When you feel the slide slowing, thrust a hand upward in hopes of it being seen.
- Place your other hand in front of your face to increase the air space.
- Remain calm, breathe slowly and conserve your air.

Searching for victims:
- Do not go for help! You are the victim's only chance of survival!
- Establish a last seen point.
- Confirm you are not in danger of a second avalanche occurring.
- Look for visual clues to the victim's location.
- Begin your signal search for the victim using your avalanche beacon.

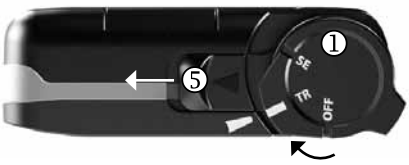
Thank you for choosing Tracker3, featuring Tracker2's famous ease-of-use in a smaller, lighter package.

Remember, beacon searches are only part of the avalanche rescue process. It is equally important to practice the probing and shoveling techniques found later in this section. For training videos on beacon searching, probing, and strategic shoveling techniques, please visit www.backcountryaccess.com/education.

Transmit mode: From the 'Off' position, pull the sliding lock ⑤ in the direction of the arrow and turn the dial switch ① on top of Tracker3 to the transmit ("TR") position (see Figure C).

Figure C

Top view of Tracker3.



The battery life is then shown in the distance/battery power display ② in Figure A.

After displaying battery power, Tracker3 flashes "TR" and enters transmit mode. The transmit light ③ flashes with every other transmit pulse. This light will not flash if the battery power is below 20 percent.

In addition to being displayed at startup, the battery power level can also be checked in transmit mode by pressing the Options button ⑥.

Note: the battery percentage is approximate. Replace batteries ④ well before reaching 20 percent.

When in transmit mode, the Tracker3 cannot be turned to off or search without pulling back the sliding lock.

Search mode: Pull the sliding lock ⑤ and rotate the dial switch to the search ("SE") position. In search mode, the display will periodically flash "SE"until a signal is detected. Upon detecting a transmitting signal, Tracker3 will begin to display distance and directional readings.

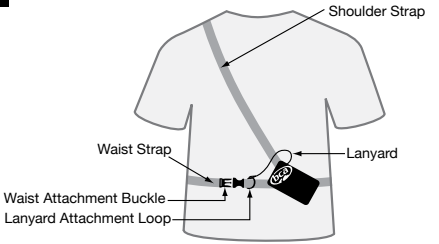
Return to transmit: When in search mode, the sliding lock does not need to be moved in order to return to transmit mode. Simply rotate the switch back to the transmit position.The display will flash "TR" and beep for five seconds before it begins to transmit.

After 30 minutes in search mode, Tracker3 will beep every ten minutes. After 12 hours in transmit mode, it will beep every two minutes. These beeps are reminders that there has been no user input and Tracker3 is still on.

Adjustment/Fitting

Tracker3 can be worn with or without its harness. When used with a harness, Tracker3 should be worn underneath your outer garments, as shown in Figure D.

Figure D



Distance/directional display should be against your body and transmit light should be exposed and visible.

To search, remove Tracker3 from its pouch, but keep the harness on and lanyard attached. If using without a harness, keep Tracker3 in a secure pocket, preferably in your pants or other garment that won't be removed while traveling in the backcountry. Attach the lanyard clip to a zipper or other solid fixture. If the lanyard is removed from harness or clothing for searching, keep it attached to your wrist with the loop provided.

Power Supply

Tracker3 operates with three AAA alkaline batteries. Use only high-quality alkaline batteries of identical age and brand. Do not use rechargeable, lithium, Oxyride, PowerPix or any other non-alkaline battery. Replace with fresh batteries at the beginning of every season.

If Tracker3 is exposed to excessive moisture, open the battery door ④ to help allow the unit to dry. To prevent corrosion of contacts, remove batteries during extended periods of inactivity. The manufacturer does not warranty damage caused by battery corrosion.

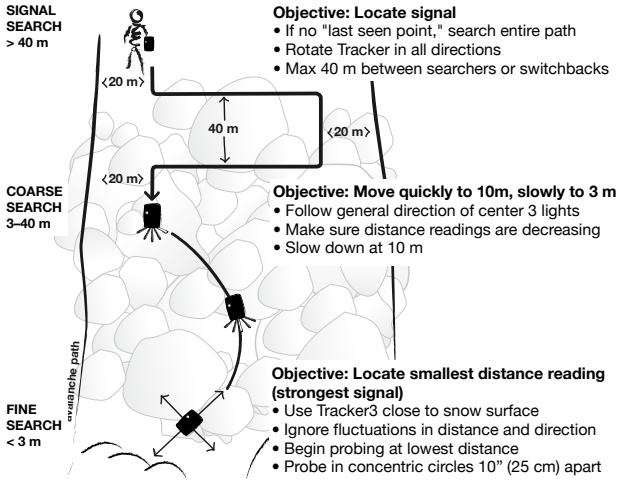
Searching

Tracker3 operates using the 457 kHz international standard frequency. It is fully compatible with all avalanche transceivers adhering to this standard. Do not use with 457 kHz transceivers designed for firefighter rescue.

When searching, keep Tracker3 at least 16" (40 cm) away from electrical equipment, including cell phones and video cameras. Turn all electrical equipment off if possible.

The search process includes four phases: the signal search, the coarse search, the fine search, and the pinpointing/probing phase (See Figure E).

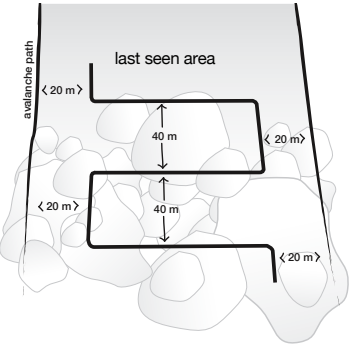
Figure E



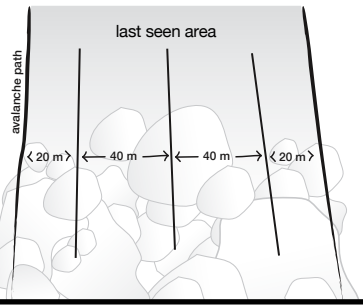
Signal Search: The signal search refers to the process of establishing a search pattern and looking for a signal. The search pattern will be defined by the victim's last seen area, the size of the slide, and the number of searchers. Refer to Figure F to establish a signal search pattern. If the slide is less than 40 meters wide, the signal search path will be directly up or down the center. If the victim's last seen area is well defined, the signal search will follow a direct path along the fall line (up or down) from this point.

Figure F

Signal search path with one searcher (slide wider than 40 meters).



Signal search path with multiple searchers (slide wider than 40 meters).



If the slide is wider than 40 meters and there is no last seen point, cover the entire slide area by using switchbacks in the search pattern (Figure F). If multiple rescuers are available, establish a search pattern where the space between searchers is no more than 40 meters and the distance to the edges is no more than 20 meters.

Prior to the signal search, be sure that all transceivers are turned to search mode. Rotate Tracker3 slowly in all directions (Figure G) while moving along your signal search pattern. While searching, be aware of other physical clues, such as equipment or extremities protruding from the snow surface. When no signal is detected, “SE” will flash in the distance indicator. Once a signal is detected consistently, mark this spot and begin the coarse search.

Figure G

Slowly rotate the Tracker horizontally and vertically in your hand, but move rapidly during the signal search. Do not abandon your search path until you have captured a strong, steady signal. Ignore irregular signals, which can sometimes be caused by electrical interference.

Coarse Search: The coarse search is the portion of the search from where you have detected a steady signal to where you are close to the victim.

Once the signal is consistently detected, rotate Tracker3 slowly on a horizontal plane until the center direction light ⑦ is blinking.

Tracker3 is now pointed in the direction of the strongest signal. The four lights on either side of center tell you which way to rotate Tracker3 to engage the center light. The distance indicator ② tells you, in approximate meters, how far you must travel (1 meter = 1.1 yards or 3.3 feet). If the number on the distance indicator is increasing, you are on the same axis as the victim's signal, but moving in the opposite direction. Turn 180 degrees, engage the center search light again, and continue your search in the direction Tracker3 is pointing. If you are stationary, but the distance is significantly changing, you are probably detecting the signal of another rescuer. Make sure all rescuers are in search mode before continuing.

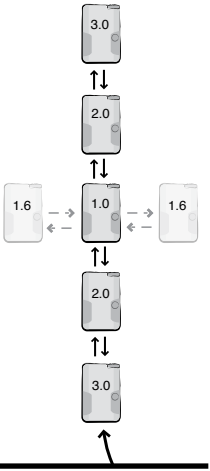
You may find that, while following the directional lights, your route follows an arc. This is because Tracker3 follows the shape of the electromagnetic signal coming from the transmitting beacon's antenna. The distance displayed is the distance to be traveled along that signal, not the straight-line distance from you to the victim.

Fine Search: The fine search is the final part of the beacon search, which is performed on foot with the beacon positioned at or near the snow surface. The objective of the fine search is to locate where the signal is strongest (distance reading is lowest) and to reduce the area to be probed.

Move Tracker3 slowly in a straight line along the surface of the snow during the final three meters of the fine search. The directional lights do not illuminate in the final two meters, so only pay attention to the distance readings. From the point where you have located the smallest reading, "bracket" at 90-degree angles to the left and then to the right in search of a lower reading (Figure H). Repeat if necessary along both axes. Begin probing at the lowest distance reading.

Figure H

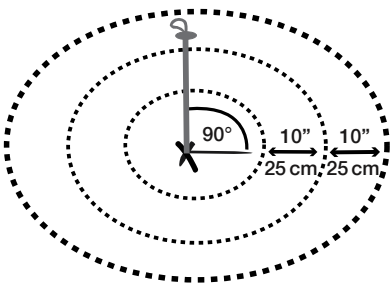
Bracketing: Make sure you go well past the low reading to confirm it is the lowest. When bracketing, ignore the directional lights, which no longer illuminate at less than two meters. Do not rotate the beacon during this process, as it can change the distance readings.



Pinpointing/Probing

At your lowest distance reading, probe in concentric circles, with each probe hole about 10 inches (25 cm) apart (Figure I). Your probe should enter the snow perpendicular to the slope. Once you have confirmed the victim's location, leave the probe in the snow.

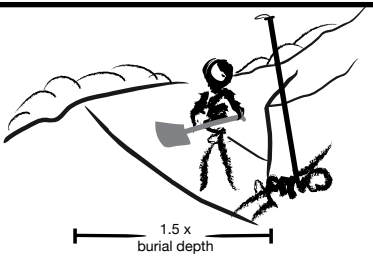
Figure I



Shoveling

Shoveling is difficult and consumes the majority of time during an avalanche rescue. For best results, start shoveling just downhill of the probe (Figure J). Make sure your hole is at least one "wingspan" wide. In burials deeper than one meter, excavate downhill about 1.5 times the burial depth.

Figure J



Multiple Burials

Complex multiple burials are rare in recreational settings and usually can be treated as a series of single burials. When more than one transmitting victim is within the receiving range of Tracker3, the multiple burial icon ⑧ will illuminate and stay solid. (Note: this icon can occasionally illuminate irregularly in the presence of electromagnetic noise or when detecting older analog transceivers). If there are more than two transmitting victims within range, then the "+" icon will illuminate.

If the multiple burial icon is illuminated and/or Tracker3 displays more than one distance and direction, then there are probably several victims within range. Stay in search mode and focus on the closest distance reading, attempting to engage that signal in the center search light.

Once you are significantly closer to one signal than the other, Tracker3 will "lock" onto that signal and mask out the others. Once this signal is isolated, Tracker3 will behave very similar to how it does in a single beacon search. Once you have located and excavated the first victim, turn his or her beacon off if you determine the conditions are safe. If you have a clear signal, then begin searching for the next victim.

If the close proximity icon "[ ]" is illuminated around the multiple burial icon, then there are at least two victims in close proximity, both within approximately five meters of the searcher. If the searcher is moving fast and not paying attention, it is possible to move past a signal without seeing it displayed. In complicated, close-proximity multiple burial situations where it is not possible to turn off the found victims' beacons, it can be helpful to use one or more of the advanced search techniques found in the Advanced Tracker3 Manual.

Advanced Options

For detailed descriptions and operating instructions for the following Tracker3 features, please read the Advanced Tracker3 Manual at www.backcountryaccess.com.

- Isolating multiple victims
- Special techniques for close-proximity multiple burials
- Automatic revert from search to transmit mode
- Muting the sound
- Downloading software updates
- Tracker3 diagnostics and fleet testing

Warranty Information

Limited Warranty
The manufacturer, Backcountry Access, Inc. (BCA), expressly warrants the workmanship and components of the Tracker3 for five years after the date of retail purchase. All parts will be either repaired or replaced free of charge, including labor, by the manufacturer. This warranty does not cover damage to the product caused by improper use or excessive wear and tear. Direct all warranty claims to BCA or your retailer. All claims must include proof of purchase and a return authorization number. To ensure warranty protection, please return the enclosed warranty registration card.

Garantiebeschränkung
Der Hersteller Backcountry Access, Inc. (BCA), garantiert während fünf Jahren ab Kaufdatum für Verarbeitungs und Materialfehler. Alle Teile werden repariert oder durch den Hersteller gratis ersetzt. Die Garantie erstreckt sich nicht auf Schäden durch Abnützung oder fehlerhafte Bedienung. Alle Garantieansprüche sind zu richten an die Verkaufstelle oder an die jeweilige Landesvertretung.

Garantie
Le fabricant, Backcountry Access, Inc. (BCA), garantit le Tracker3 cinq ans pièces et main d'oeuvre à partir de la date d'achat. Toute pièce sera réparée ou remplacée gratuitement, main d'oeuvre comprise, par le fabricant. Cette garantie ne couvre pas les dégâts résultants d'une mauvaise utilisation. Toute réclamation devra être adressée à votre détaillant ou distributeur. Toute réclamation devra être accompagnée de la preuve d'achat et d'un numéro de SAV.

Limitazioni della Garanzia
Il costruttore, Backcountry Access, Inc. (BCA), garantisce espressamente la corretta costruzione ed i componenti del Tracker3 per cinque anni dalla data di acquisto presso il dettagliante. Le parti saranno riparate o sostituite gratuitamente - ore di manodopera incluse - presso il costruttore. La presente garanzia non copre i danni al prodotto derivanti da uso improprio, usura eccessiva o squarcio. Inviate qualsiasi richiesta di intervento in garanzia al vostro dettagliante o distributore. Tutte le richieste devono comprendere una prova di acquisto e lo specifico numero di autorizzazione.

Garantía Limitada
El fabricante, Backcountry Access, Inc. (BCA), garantia la fabricanción y los componentes del Tracker3 por un período de cinco años a partir de la fecha de compra. El fabricante se compromete a reparar o cambiar todas las piezas sin costo, incluyendo la mano de obra. Esta garantia no cubre los daños causados por el uso inadecusdo o desgaste excesivo. Todas las reclamaciones deberán incluir la prueba de compra así como el número de autorización de devolución.

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