RL8873 Locator/Receiver Quick Guide

When you unpack your RL8873 Locator/Receiver, make sure there is no shipping damage. Notify us right away if you see anything.

▶ **IMPORTANT – TEST the Locator before every job.** Insert the camera or sonde just a few feet inside the cleanout and locate the signal.

- The first time you use the Locator, a test will help you get to know how to operate it and become familiar with the signals quickly.
- Tests alert you to any mis-communications between the sonde and Locator, low batteries or other problems that could cause difficulties on the actual locating job. **It's WORTH your time to do a quick test.**

▶ The RL8873 is factory programmed to 512Hz SONDE Mode. If you switch to LINE mode these presets will be lost. Read page 4 before switching to LINE mode.

Electric Shock Hazard

- This tool is designed to detect electromagnetic field emitted from Sondes and buried metallic utilities. There are buried cables, pipes, and utilities this instrument CANNOT detect.
- LOCATING is not an exact science. The only certain way to be sure of the existence, location, or depth of buried utilities is to carefully expose (dig up) the utility.
- De-energize any circuits in or around the work area.
- Do not expose tool to rain or moisture.
- Use tool only for intended purpose as described in this manual. Failure to observe these warnings could result in severe injury or death.

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Receiver Controls and Indicators

Pipe Alignment Indicator

Signal Strength Meter

Signal Strength Readout

or **Current Frequency**
Locator is factory preset to 512Hz frequency *(see pg 3 to change)*

Depth Display
Estimates the depth automatically and up to 30'. Locator must be in proper mode and properly aligned to pipe.

or **Pre-Programmed Frequency Set #** *(see pg 4)*

Mode Panel will display either:

Line Trace
(for use with separate RT8872 transmitter box)

Camera Head/ Sonde Mode
(factory default – see pg 4 if you need to switch)

Low Battery Indicator

The RL8873 is powered by six "C" batteries. Unit ships with batteries already installed.

To replace, the battery compartment is located on the back of the "head" of the Receiver.

ON/OFF Button

Powers the Receiver on/off.

It will load and display the frequency settings from the previous usage.

Unit will automatically shut off if no keys are pressed within a 10 minute period.

FREQUENCY Button
Has 3 functions:

1. FREQUENCY – Used to change frequencies, should you need to change from factory 512Hz preset *(see pg 4)*
2. MEASUREMENT PREFERENCE – Hold for 10 seconds to change depth display from feet/inches to metric
3. BACKLIGHT – Press together with the ON/OFF button for 5 seconds for the display to be backlit

GAIN Buttons (Up or Down)

Used to adjust the gain level as you are locating. Continually adjust up or down so the volume can be heard, and the meter bars are generally in the middle.

Also used to select SONDE or LINE mode *(see pg 4)*

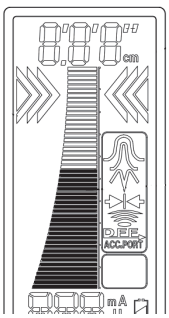
Locating a Sonde or Camera Head

STARTING OUT

Keeping the RL8873 Receiver in a vertical position, move the Receiver left to right (don't swing) as you walk across the suspected area of the pipe. Pay attention to the audio/Signal Strength meter and the Depth reading.

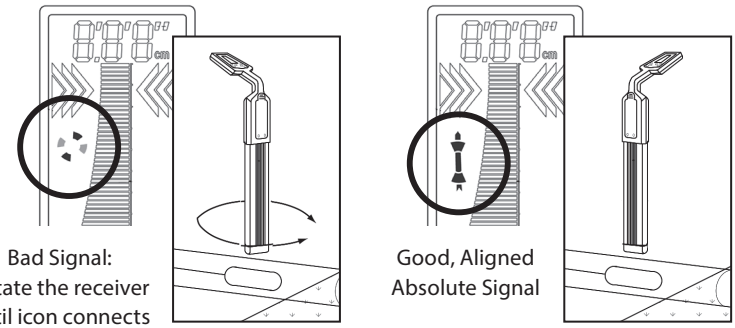
If the Receiver detects transmitter's signal, the audio signal will rise, and the meter bars will turn black. If you move away, the meter reading and audio will drop off.

If the audio is very high pitched and the meter bars are in the upper half of the display, adjust the Gain down to bring meter bars back to the middle.



NEARING THE TRANSMITTER AND PIPE ALIGNMENT

As you near the transmitter – as indicated by lower depth readings and increasing signal strength – rotate the Receiver until the PIPE ALIGNMENT INDICATOR connects. When aligned, the signal strength will be strongest and depth readings will be more accurate.



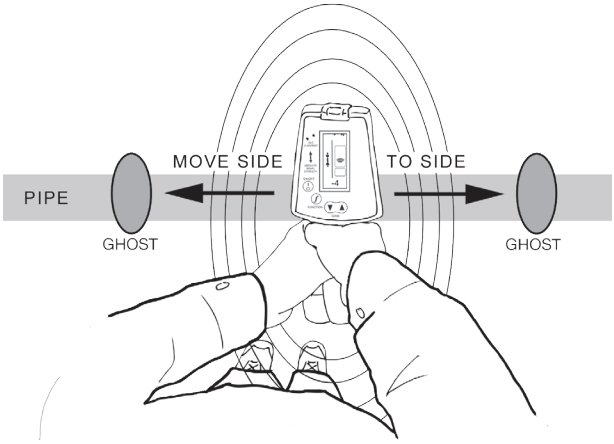
The base of the Receiver must be parallel to the pipe —the head will be perpendicular.

GHOST SIGNALS

When you are very close to the Transmitter, be aware of false peak meter spikes which indicate ghost signals generated by the radiation pattern of the sonde.

Ghost signals are generally a few feet to left and right of the transmitter, and can also be a few feet forward and back as you are in correct alignment with the pipe.

These false signals are weaker than the true signal from the sonde, and can be confusing. However, they can be helpful if you use them to pinpoint and verify the location of the sonde. Mark suspected ghost signals that you find, the true signal will be found in the middle.



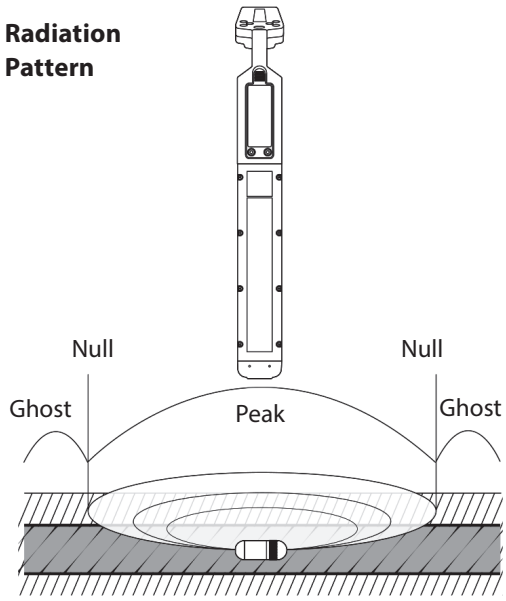
PEAK SIGNAL

The peak signal occurs when the receiver is held directly over the transmitter and IN LINE with the pipe as verfied by the Pipe Alignment Indicator see right.

Null (signal drops) and Ghost areas occur in 4 points around the transmitter, forward-back-left-right.

Verify the peak signal using the location of ghost signals, and **that the Depth reading is the lowest you can detect while the signal strength is the highest.**

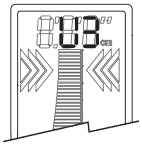
Your goal is to get the smallest Depth reading at the highest Signal Strength reading.



Changing Operating Frequency and Frequency Sets

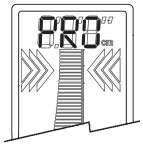
▶ **MyTana ships the RL8873 programmed to 512Hz sonde mode. Passive 60Hz, 8kHz and 82kHz frequencies are also preset.**
— If you wish to change frequencies, or store (pre-program) multiple frequencies for easy future access, follow the steps below. **NOTE**: presets cannont be added to or edited. You will need to re-program your desired frequencies any time you need to make a change.
— **If you wish to switch to Line Mode**, you will need pre-program the Line frequencies you will use in order to be able to return to Sonde mode.

1 Press, and hold depressed, the POWER ON Button.



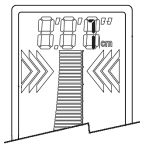
2 Short press the GAIN DOWN ▼ Button to toggle through the receiver's configurations

Toggle to **U3** mode.



3 Once in **U3**, release the POWER ON Button. "**PRO**" (Program) will be displayed at the top of the LCD.

4 Short press the FREQUENCY *f* Button to toggle to the desired frequency. See table below



5 When you see your desired frequency, you can switch to it or program it by holding down the FREQUENCY *f* Button for 2+ seconds.

The top of the LCD will display the preset/program number (1, 2, 3...) for the frequency you just selected, and will increase by one each time a new frequency is selected.

If you do not want to preset more frequencies, skip to #7.

6 Short press the FREQUENCY *f* Button to toggle to the next desired frequency, and repeat #5.

7 Pressing the POWER ON Button will exit the program menu and save the selected frequencies for availability during normal operation.

Change from Sonde mode to Line mode

First pre-program freqencies you will use –following instructions to left.

Then hold FREQUENCY button 3 seconds until the Line mode indicator shows.

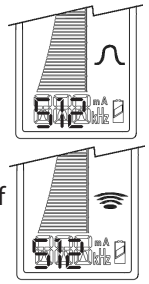
Change from Line mode to Sonde mode

Press and hold the POWER button

Short press the GAIN DOWN ▼ button to toggle to 512

Release buttons.

While Programming:



If the displayed frequency supports both LINE and SONDE modes (see chart bottom left), the GAIN UP ▲ button will switch the mode of a frequency.

RT8872 Transmitter Box is needed for any LINE mode frequency.

Available Frequencies (Note: LINE frequencies are available only if using transmitter box--available separately)

MODE	LINE	SONDE
Passive 60Hz	•	
512Hz	•	•
640Hz	•	•
815Hz		
8kHz	•	•
8-9Hz		
9kHz	•	

MODE	LINE	SONDE
33kHz	•	•
65kHz	•	
82kHz	•	
116Hz		
200kHz	•	
478kHz	•	
Passive RF	•	
Passive 50Hz	•	

Factory Service

If your RL8873 Locator is not working properly, call MyTana Support at 651-222-1738 for assistance.
If the locator is in need of repair, MyTana will provide instructions for returning the Locator for service.

Send it prepaid to:

MYTANA
Attn: Repair
746 Selby Ave
St. Paul, MN 55104

Note: There is a minimum charge for repair and handling.