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Model: V955

121V955-0

**BELTRONICS™**

Owner's Manual



**D I G I T A L   R A D A R • L A S E R • S A F E T Y   D E T E C T O R**

**VECTOR 955**

## Congratulations

The Bel V955 is the most advanced radar, laser and safety detector ever designed by Beltronics.

The Bel V955 includes full X, K, SuperWide Ka, and Safety Warning System radar capability, front and rear laser detection, varactor-tuned (VTO) microwave receiver, digital signal processing (DSP) for superior range and reduced false alarms, our patented Mute and AutoMute, audible and visual band alerts, and all the performance you'd expect from Beltronics.

In addition, the Bel V955 introduces the follow revolutionary features:

- Varactor-tuned receiver provides long-range protection against all radar threats
- New easy-to-use Programming lets you customize up to 6 features
- New AutoScan mode intelligently reduces unwanted false alarms, plus Highway and City settings
- Ultra-bright text-display provides easy to read information from any angle
- Detects and decodes Safety Warning System messages

If you've used a radar detector before, a review of the Quick Reference Guide on pages 4 and 5, and the Programming information on pages 12 and 13 will briefly explain the new features.

If this is your first detector, please read the manual in detail to get the most out of your V955's outstanding performance and innovative features.

Please drive safely.

### **FCC Note:**

Modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's FCC granted authority to operate the equipment.

## Remove card along perforations

### BEL V955 Quick Reference Card

There are 6 user-selectable options so you can customize your V955 for your own preferences.

The buttons labeled CITY and BRT are also used to enter the Program Mode, REVIEW your current program settings, and to CHANGE any settings as desired. The words PROGRAM, RVW and CHG are located on the top of the detector, and are highlighted in graphics.

#### How to use Programming

**1 To enter Program Mode, press and hold both CITY and BRT buttons down for 2 seconds.** (The unit will beep twice, and will display the word "Program").

**2 Then press the RVW button to review the current settings.** (You can either tap the button to change from item to item, or hold the button to scroll through the items).

**3 Press the CHG button to change any setting.** (You can either tap the button to change from setting to setting, or hold the button to scroll through all the options).

**4 To leave Program Mode, simply wait 8 seconds without pressing any button.** (The unit will display Complete, beep, and return to normal operation).

#### Factory Default Settings

To reset your V955 to its original factory settings, press and hold the "CITY" and "BRT" buttons while turning the power on. The V955's display will provide a "Reset" message, accompanied by an audible alert, acknowledging the reset.

#### An example

Here is how you would turn the V955's AutoMute feature off.

**1** Enter the Program Mode by holding both the CITY and BRT buttons down for 2 seconds. The V955 will *beep twice and display Program*.

**2** Then hold the RVW button down. V955 will scroll through the categories, starting with Display (Pilot), then Voice (Voice), then Power-On sequence (Pwr-On), and then AutoMute (aMute).

**3** Release the RVW button when the V955 shows the AutoMute item. Since the factory setting is for AutoMute to be on, the V955 will display aMute ON.

*(If you accidentally don't release the Review button in time, and the V955 goes to the next category, hold the RVW button down again, and after the V955 scrolls through all categories, it will begin again at the top of the list.)*

**4** Press the CHG button to change from aMute ON to aMute OFF.

**5** To complete the Programming, simply wait 8 seconds without pressing any button. The V955 will display Complete, beep 4 times, and return to normal operation.

Remove card along perforations

# Quick Reference Card

Remove card along perforations

## BEL V955 Quick Reference Card

Press the **RVW** button  
to go from one category  
to the next

PILOT

Pilot HWY

\* Full word: Highway or AutoScan or City

(Power-on indication)

Pilot H

Letter: H or A or C

VOICE

Voice ON

\* Voice alerts on

Voice OFF

Voice alerts off

POWER-ON SEQUENCE

PwrOn STD

\* Standard power-on sequence

PwrOn FST

Fast power-on sequence

AUTOMUTE

aMute ON

\* AutoMute on

aMute OFF

AutoMute off

CITY MODE SENSITIVITY

City STD

\* Standard City mode sensitivity

City LoX

Low X band sensitivity in City Mode

City NoX

No X band sensitivity in City Mode

BANDS

Bands DFT

\* Factory default settings

Bands MOD

Factory default settings modified

Turn bands "ON" or "OFF" by  
pressing the VOLUME/MUTE button

POP ON or OFF (default is off)

SWS ON or OFF (default is off)

Remove card along perforations

\* Factory Default Settings

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## Quick Reference Guide

### To begin using your V955, just follow these simple steps

- 1** Plug the small end of the power cord into the side jack of the detector, and plug the large end of the power cord into your car's lighter socket.
- 2** Mount your V955 on the windshield using the supplied windshield mount.
- 3** Press the PWR button, located top left, to turn the V955 on.
- 4** Press and hold the Volume/Mute button to adjust the volume.

Please read the manual to fully understand your V955's operation and features.

#### **QuickMount Slot**

Insert the V955's adjustable Windshield mount into this slot. *Page 7*

#### **QuickMount Button**

Press the button, and slide the Windshield mount into one of its four locking positions. *Page 7*

#### **City Button**

Switches between AutoScan, City and Highway, settings. In general, we recommend AutoScan. *Page 9*

#### **Power**

Press the PWR button to turn the V955 on or off.

#### **AutoMute**

Your V955's patented AutoMute automatically reduces the volume level of the audio alert after a brief period. *Page 8*. If you prefer, you can turn AutoMute off. *Page 8*

#### **Programming**

Your V955 is ready to go, just plug it in and turn it on. But you can also easily change 6 features for your preferences. *Page 12-14*

### **Radar Antenna and Laser Lens**

The rear panel of your V955 should have a clear view of the road ahead. For best performance, do not mount the V955 directly behind windshield wipers or tinted areas. *Page 6*

### **Rear Laser Port**

Receives laser signals from behind the vehicle.

### **Earphone Jack**

Accepts standard 3.5mm earphone.

### **Brightness Button**

Press to adjust display brightness. There are three brightness settings, plus Dark Mode.

In the Dark Mode, the power-on indication will be changed to a “AD,” “HD,” or “CD” (indicating AutoScan, Dark, Highway Dark, or City Dark). In the Dark Mode, the V955’s meter will not display during an alert, only the audio will alert you. *Page 9*

### **Power Jack**

Plug the power cord into this connector. *Pages 6*

### **Volume and Mute Button**

Press and hold the Volume/Mute button to adjust the alert volume level. *Page 8*

Briefly press this button to silence the audio for a specific alert. (The audio will alert you to the next encounter.) *Page 8*

### **Alphanumeric Matrix Display**

Your V955’s display will show Highway, AutoScan, or City as its power-on indication. If you prefer, you can choose other power-on indications. *Page 12-14*

During an alert, the display will indicate radar band, and a precise bar graph of signal strength. *Page 10*

Note: In the Dark Mode the display will not light during an alert. *Page 9*





## Power Connection

To power your V955, plug the small end of the power cord, (telephone-type connector) into the modular jack on the V955's right side, and plug the lighter plug adapter into your vehicle's lighter socket or accessory socket.

Your V955 operates on 12 volts DC negative ground only. The lighter plug provided is a standard size and will work in most vehicles. However, some vehicles may require the optional European sleeve to ensure a snug fit. If so, simply call our service department to order one. This sleeve slides over the lighter plug. Of course, your lighter socket must be clean and properly connected for proper operation.

Note: Depending on your vehicle, the lighter socket power may either be continuously on, or it may be switched on and off with your ignition switch.

### ***Optional power cords***

See the Accessories section for details on our optional coiled SmartPlug or Direct-wire power cords. *Page 25*

## Mounting Location

WARNING: BELTRONICS cannot anticipate the many ways the V955 can be mounted. It is important that you mount your V955 where it will not impair your view nor present a hazard in case of an accident.

### ***Where to mount your V955***

For optimum detection performance, we recommend the following:

- Using the QuickMount bracket, mount your V955 level, and high enough on your front windshield to provide a clear view of the road from the front and rear.
- Mount the V955 away from windshield wipers, other solid objects, and heavily tinted areas that might obstruct the radar antenna or laser lens.

## Windshield QuickMount

The V955's QuickMount bracket is designed for unobtrusive and hassle-free mounting.

**1** Depress the QuickMount button on the top of the V955 (by the word BELTRONICS) and slide the QuickMount bracket into the slot until it is locked into the position which best fits the angle of your windshield (there are four settings available). For extremely horizontal or extremely sloped windshields, the QuickMount bracket can be bent.

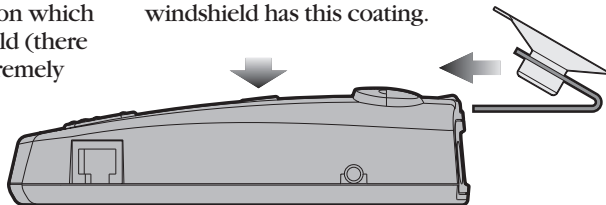
To ensure that the suction cups adhere to the windshield firmly, be sure to keep both your windshield and the suction cups clean.

**2** To adjust the V955 on your windshield, use the QuickMount adjustment button located on the top of the V955, and slide the V955 forward or backward to obtain a level horizontal position.

When installed and adjusted properly, the back top edge of the V955 should rest solidly against your windshield.

### *Caution!*

A few vehicles (including some Porsches) have windshields with a soft anti-lacerative coating on the inside surface. Use of suction cups will permanently mar this coating. Consult your dealership or the vehicle owner's manual to determine if your windshield has this coating.



### *User's Tip*

You can leave the QuickMount bracket in place on your windshield, and easily remove the V955 by pressing the adjustment button and sliding the V955 off the mount. Again, be sure to position the bracket where it won't present a hazard in the event of an accident. Additional mounts are available.

### Power

To turn your V955 on or off, press the PWR button located on the top. When you turn your V955 on, it goes through a sequence of alerts.

If you prefer, you may program your V955 for a shorter power-on sequence. See the Programming section for details.

### Volume

Press and hold the Volume/Mute button located on the top case to adjust the V955's alert volume level. The audio will ramp up and down, accompanied by a bar-graph on the display. Once you've reached your preferred audio level, simply release the button.

### Power-on indication

After the V955's start-up sequence is complete, the alphanumeric display will show Highway, AutoScan, or City to indicate which sensitivity mode is selected.

If you prefer, you can select alternate power-on displays. See the Programming section for details.

### Voice Alerts

The V955 provides digital voice announcements of radar and laser bands detected. If Safety Radar (SWS) is turned on, a safety radar message will also be announced. See the Programming section for details.

If you prefer, you can turn Voice Alerts off. See Programming section for details.

### AutoMute

Your V955 has our patented AutoMute feature. After the V955 alerts you to a radar encounter at the volume you have selected, the AutoMute feature will automatically reduce the volume to a lower level. This keeps you informed without the annoyance of a continuous full-volume alert.

If you prefer, you can turn the AutoMute feature off. See the Programming section for details.

### Mute

The Mute button, located on the V955's top case, allows you to silence the audio alert during a radar encounter.

To mute the audio for a single specific signal, briefly press the Mute button. After that radar encounter has passed, the mute will automatically reset and the audio will alert you to the next encounter.

## **Highway / AutoScan / City Button**

The City button selects the V955's sensitivity mode. We recommend the AutoScan mode for most driving.

Your V955's AutoScan mode provides long-range warning, with minimum false alarms. In this mode, the V955's internal computer continuously analyzes all incoming signals and intelligently filters out false alarms.

You can also select conventional Highway and City modes. When driving in urban areas where annoying X-band intrusion alarms and door openers are common, City mode can be engaged to lower X-band sensitivity and reduce X-band alerts. Full sensitivity is maintained on all other bands. You can also customize your V955's City mode sensitivity, including "No X" mode. See the Programming section for details.

## **Brightness**

The V955's BRT button selects the brightness of your V955's display. There are four settings: Maximum, Medium, Minimum, and Dark. Press the BRT button to select your preferred brightness.

## **Dark Mode**

When you select the Dark mode with the BRT switch, your V955 changes to a very inconspicuous power-on indication: a very Dim AD, HD, or CD. (In this display, the A, H, or C indicates Auto, Highway, or City, and the D indicates Dark.)

When the V955 is in the Dark mode, the display will not show visual alerts when V955 detects signals. Only the audible alert will tell you of detected signals.

## Audible Alerts

### *For Radar signals:*

Your V955 uses a Geiger-counter-like sound to indicate the signal strength and type of radar signal being encountered.

When you encounter radar, a distinct audible alert will sound and occur faster as the signal gets stronger. This allows you to judge the distance from the signal source without taking your eyes from the road.

Each band has a distinct tone for easy identification.

X-band = chirping

K-band = buzzing

Ka-band = double-chirp

POP = full double-chirp

### *For Laser and POP signals:*

Since laser and POP signals (if turned on) are a possible threat no matter how weak, the V955 alerts you to these bands at full strength.

### *For Safety signals:*

Your V955 will alert you to these signals with a double-beep tone, and a corresponding text message. A complete listing of the text messages is on page 21.

## Power Connector

The V955's power jack uses a telephone-type connector. This 4-conductor connector only works with the included power cord, optional direct-wire, or SmartPlug cord.

For more information or to order, call us toll-free at 1-800-341-2288.

## Signal Strength Meter

Your V955's alphanumeric display consists of 280 individual LEDs, to provide an intuitive ultra-bright display of signal strength and text messages.

The V955's standard bar-graph signal strength meter only displays information on a single radar signal. If there are multiple signals present, the V955's internal computer determines which is the most important threat to show on the bar-graph meter.

When your V955 detects radar, it displays the band (X, K, or Ka), and a precise bar-graph of the signal strength. When your V955 detects a laser signal, the display will show "LASER."

NOTE: If you are operating the V955 in the Dark mode, the display will not light when a signal is detected, only the audio will be heard.

There are 6 user-selectable options so you can customize your V955 for your own preferences. The buttons labeled CITY and BRT are also used to enter the Program Mode, REVIEW your current program settings, and to CHANGE any settings as desired. The words PGM, RVW, and CHG are located on the top of the detector, and are highlighted in colored graphics. Pages 13-14 explain each option in more detail.

## How to use Programming

**1 To enter Program Mode, press and hold both the CITY and BRT buttons down for 2 seconds.** (The unit will beep twice, and will display the word Program).

**2 Then press the RVW button to review the current settings.** (You can either tap the button to change from item to item, or hold the button to scroll through the items).

**3 Press the CHG button to change any setting.** (You can either tap the button to change from setting to setting, or hold the button to scroll through all the options).

**4 To leave the Program Mode, simply wait 8 seconds without pressing any button, or press the PWR button.** (The unit will display Complete, beep 4 times, and return to normal operation).

## *An example*

Here is how you would turn your V955's AutoMute feature off.

**1** Enter the Program Mode by holding both the CITY and BRT buttons down for 2 seconds. *The V955 will beep twice and display Program.*

**2** Then hold the RVW button down. *The V955 will scroll through the categories, starting with Pilot (Pilot), Voice (Voice), Power-on sequence (Pwr-On), and then AutoMute (aMute).*

**3** Release the RVW button when the V955 shows the AutoMute item. *Since the factory setting is for AutoMute to be on, the V955 will display aMute ON.*

*(If you accidentally don't release the RVW button in time, and the V955 goes to the next category, hold the the RVW button down again, and after your V955 scrolls through all categories, it will begin again at the top of the list.)*

**4** Press the CHG button to change from aMute ON to aMute OFF.

**5** To complete the Programming, simply wait 8 seconds without pressing any button, or press the PWR button. *The V955 will display Complete, beep 4 times, and return to normal operation.*

# Overview of Programming

Press the **REVIEW** button  
to go from one category  
to the next

PILOT  
(Power-on indication)

VOICE

POWER-ON SEQUENCE

AUTOMUTE

CITY MODE SENSITIVITY

BANDS

Pilot HWY  
Pilot H

Voice ON  
Voice OFF

PwrOn STD  
PwrOn FST

aMute ON  
aMute OFF

City STD  
City LoX  
City NoX

Bands DFT  
Bands MOD

Press the **CHANGE** button  
to change your setting  
within a category

\* Full word: Highway or AutoScan or City  
Letter: H or A or C

\* Voice alerts on  
Voice alerts off

\* Standard power-on sequence  
Fast power-on sequence

\* AutoMute on  
AutoMute off

\* Standard City mode sensitivity  
Low X band sensitivity in City Mode  
No X band sensitivity in City Mode

\* Factory default settings  
Factory default settings modified

## \* Factory Default Settings

To reset your V955 to its original factory settings, press and hold the "CITY" and "BRT" buttons while turning the power on. The V955's display will provide a "Reset" message, accompanied by an audible alert, acknowledging the reset.

Turn bands "ON" or "OFF" by  
pressing the VOLUME/MUTE button

POP ON or OFF (*default is off*)  
SWS ON or OFF (*default is off*)

## Pilot (Power-on indication)

Note: When you are using the Dark mode, the display will only show HD, AD, or CD, (Highway-Dark, AutoScan-Dark, or City-Dark).

### Pilot HWY (Full description)

In this setting, your V955 will display “Highway,” “City,” or “AutoScan” as its power-on indication. (factory default)

### Pilot H (Letter)

In this setting, your V955 will display “H” for Highway, “C” for City, and “A” for AutoScan.

## Voice

### Voice On (Voice announcements on)

In this setting, all radar, laser, and SWS messages (if programmed) will be announced using a digital voice.

### Voice Off (Voice announcements off)

In this setting, only the distinct audio tone will be heard when a radar, Laser, or SWS message is detected.

## Power-on Sequence

### PwrOnSTD (Standard)

In this setting, each time you turn on your V955, it will display “BEL V955,” “Laser,” “Ka-band,” “K-band,” “X-band,” “Safety,” followed by a brief X-band alert. (factory default)

If any bands have been changed from the factory default settings, a double X-band tone and corresponding message (i.e. “SWS ON”), will alert you that one or more bands have been changed.

### PwrOnFST (Fast power-on)

In this setting, your V955 will provide a single X-band tone. If any bands have been changed from the factory default settings, a double X-band tone and corresponding message (i.e. “SWS ON”), will alert you that one or more bands have been changed.

## AutoMute

### aMute ON (AutoMute on)

In this setting, your V955’s audio alerts will initially be at the volume you set, but after a few seconds, the V955 will automatically reduce the volume level, to keep you informed, but not annoyed. (factory default)

### aMuteOFF (AutoMute off)

With AutoMute off, your V955’s audio alerts will remain at the volume you set for the duration of the radar encounter.



# Details of Programming

## City Mode Sensitivity

### City STD (Standard)

In this setting, when you put your V955 in the City mode, X-band sensitivity is significantly reduced, to reduce annoyance from X-band intrusion alarms and motion sensors. (factory default)

### City LoX (Low X band sensitivity)

In this setting, when you put your V955 in the City mode, X-band sensitivity is reduced more than the standard setting. This will reduce X-band alarms from other sources even further, but also significantly reduces range to X-band traffic radar.

### City NoX (No X-band sensitivity)

In this setting, when you put your V955 in the City mode, V955 will not respond to any X-band signals.

**WARNING: Only choose this setting if you are absolutely certain that there are no X-band traffic radar units where you drive.**

**NOTE: These settings only apply when the V955 is operated in City mode. X-band sensitivity is not affected when used in “AutoScan” or “Highway” modes.**

## Bands

### BandsDFT

In this setting, all radar and laser frequencies are monitored. This is the factory setting and it is recommended that you use your V955 in this mode.

### BandsMOD

In this setting, your V955 will warn you with an audible alert, and associated text message stating which band has changed from the original factory setting (i.e. “SWS ON”). This warning is displayed during the start up sequence (standard or fast).

## Features and Specifications

### Operating Bands

- X-band 10.525 GHz  $\pm$  25 MHz
- K-band 24.150 GHz  $\pm$  100 MHz
- Ka-band 34.700 GHz  $\pm$  1300 MHz
- Laser 904nm, 33 MHz bandwidth

### Radar Receiver / Detector Type

- Superheterodyne, VTO
- Scanning Frequency Discriminator
- Digital Signal Processing (DSP)

### Laser Detection

- Quantum Limited Video Receiver
- Multiple Laser Sensor Diodes

### Display Type

- 280 LED Alphanumeric
- Bar Graph
- 3 Levels of Brightness, plus Dark Mode

### Power Requirement

- 12VDC, Negative Ground
- Power cord (included)

### Programmable Features

- Power-On Indication
- Voice Alerts
- Power-On Sequence
- AutoMute
- City Mode Sensitivity
- Bands

### Sensitivity Control

- Highway, AutoScan and City

### Auto Calibration Circuitry

### VG2 Immunity

### Dimensions (Inches)

- 1.25 H x 2.75 W x 4.75 L

### Patented Technology

The V955 is covered by one or more of the following US patents.

6,836,238 6,693,578 6,614,385 6,587,068  
6,400,305 6,249,218 6,069,580 5,668,554  
5,600,132 5,587,916 5,559,508 5,365,055  
5,347,120 5,446,923 5,402,087 5,305,007  
5,206,500 5,164,729 5,134,406 5,111,207  
5,079,553 5,049,885 5,049,884 4,961,074  
4,954,828 4,952,937 4,952,936 4,939,521  
4,896,855 4,887,753 4,862,175 4,750,215  
4,686,499 4,631,542 4,630,054 4,625,210  
4,613,989 4,604,529 4,583,057 4,581,769  
4,571,593 4,313,216 D314,178 D313,365  
D310,167 D308,837 D296,771 D288,418  
D253,752

The V955 is also covered by one or more of the following Canadian patents:

2,330,964 1,295,715 1,295,714 1,187,602  
1,187,586

Other patents pending. Additional patents may be listed inside the product.

### Interpreting Alerts

Although the V955 has a comprehensive warning system and this handbook is as complete as we can make it, only experience will teach you what to expect from your V955 and how to interpret what it tells you. The specific type of radar being

used, the type of transmission (continuous or instant-on) and the location of the radar source affect the radar alerts you receive.

The following examples will give you an introduction to understanding the your V955's warning system for radar, laser and safety alerts.

---

### Alert

The V955 begins to sound slowly, then the rate of alert increases. The Signal Meter ramps accordingly.

The V955 emits short alerts for a few seconds and then falls silent only to briefly alert and fall silent again.

The V955 suddenly sounds a continuous tone for the appropriate band received. All segments in the Signal Strength Meter are lit.

A brief laser alert.

The V955 receives weak signals. These signals may be a little stronger as you pass large, road-side objects. The signals increase in frequency.

### Explanation

You are approaching a continuous radar source aimed in your direction.

An instant-on radar source is being used ahead of you and out of your view.

An instant-on radar source or laser source is being used nearby. This kind of alert requires immediate attention!

Laser is being used in the area. Because laser is inherently difficult to detect, any laser alert may indicate a source very close by.

A moving patrol car with continuous radar is overtaking you from behind. Because these signals are reflected (reflections are increased by large objects), they may or may not eventually melt into a solid point even when the patrol car is directly behind you.

## Alert

The V955 alerts slowly for a while and then abruptly jumps to a strong alert.

The V955 alerts intermittently. Rate and strength of alerts may be consistent or vary wildly.

The V955 alerts intermittently. Rate and strength of signal increases with each alert.

The V955 gives an X-band, or K-band alert intermittently.

## Explanation

You are approaching a radar unit concealed by a hill or an obstructed curve.

A patrol car is traveling in front of you with a radar source aimed forward. Because signals are sometimes reflected off of large objects and sometimes not, the alerts may seem inconsistent.

A patrol car is approaching from the other direction, sampling traffic with instant-on radar. Such alerts should be taken seriously.

You are driving through an area populated with radar motion sensors (door openers, burglar alarms, etc.). Since these transmitters are usually contained inside buildings or aimed toward OR away from you, they are typically not as strong or lasting as a real radar encounter.

**CAUTION:** Since the characteristics of these alerts may be similar to some of the preceding examples, overconfidence in an unfamiliar area can be dangerous. Likewise, if an alert in a commonly traveled area is suddenly stronger or on a different band than usual, speed radar may be set up nearby.

### How Radar Works

Traffic radar, which consists of microwaves, travels in straight lines and is easily reflected by objects such as cars, trucks, even guardrails and overpasses. Radar works by directing its microwave beam down the road. As your vehicle travels into range, the microwave beam bounces off your car, and the radar antenna looks for the reflections. Using the Doppler Principle, the radar equipment then calculates your speed by comparing the frequency of the reflection of your car to the original frequency of the beam sent out.

Traffic radar has limitations, the most significant of these being that it typically can monitor only one target at a time. If there is more than one vehicle within range, it is up to the radar operator to decide which target is producing the strongest reflection. Since the strength of the reflection is affected by both the size of the vehicle and its proximity to the antenna, it is difficult for the radar operator to determine if the signal is from a sports car nearby or a semi-truck several hundred feet away.

Radar range also depends on the power of the radar equipment itself. The strength of the radar unit's beam diminishes with distance. The farther the radar has to travel, the less energy it has for speed detection.

Because intrusion alarms and motion sensors often operate on the same frequency as X-Band radar, your V955 will occasionally receive non-police radar signals. Since these X-Band transmitters are usually contained inside of a building, or aimed toward the ground, they will generally produce much weaker readings than will a true radar encounter. As you become familiar with the sources of these pseudo alarms in your daily driving, they will serve as confirmation that your V955's radar detection abilities are fully operational.

### How "POP" Works

"POP" mode is a relatively new feature for radar gun manufacturers. It works by transmitting an extremely short burst, within the allocated band, to identify speeding vehicles in traffic. Once the target is identified, or "POPPED," the gun is then turned to its normal operating mode to provide a vehicle tracking history, (required by law).

## How Laser (Lidar) Works

Laser speed detection is actually LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). LIDAR guns project a beam of invisible infrared light. The signal is a series of very short infrared light energy pulses, which move, in a straight line, reflecting off your car and returning to the gun. LIDAR uses these light pulses to measure the distance to a vehicle. Speed is then calculated by measuring how quickly these pulses are reflected given the known speed of light.

LIDAR (or laser) is a newer technology and is not as widespread as conventional radar, therefore, you may not encounter laser on a daily basis. And unlike radar detection, laser detection is not prone to false alarms. Because LIDAR transmits a much narrower beam than does radar, it is much more accurate in its ability to distinguish between targets and is also more difficult to detect. **AS A RESULT, EVEN THE BRIEFEST LASER ALERT SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.**

There are limitations to LIDAR equipment. LIDAR is much more sensitive to weather conditions than RADAR, and a LIDAR gun's range will be decreased by anything affecting visibility such as rain, fog, or smoke. A LIDAR gun cannot operate through glass and it must be stationary in order to get an accurate reading. Because LIDAR must have a clear line of sight and is subject to cosine error (an inaccuracy, which increases as the angle between the gun and the vehicle, increases) police typically use LIDAR equipment parallel to the road or from an overpass. LIDAR can be used day or night.

### How Safety Radar Works

Safety Warning Radar System, or SWS, uses a modified K-band radar signal. The SWS safety radar system has 64 possible messages (60 currently allocated). The SWS messages your V955 can display are listed on the facing page.

From the factory, your V955 is programmed with SWS decoding OFF. If SWS is used in your area, your V955 will display the safety messages associated with the signal. If you wish to detect this system, use the Programming feature to turn the V955's SWS decoding ON.

NOTE: Some of the safety messages have been condensed, so that each message can be displayed on one or two screens on the V955's eight-character display.

Since Safety radar technology is relatively new, and the number of transmitters in operation is not yet widespread, you will not receive Safety signals on a daily basis. Do not be surprised if you encounter emergency vehicles, road hazards and railroad crossings that are unequipped with these transmitters. As Safety transmitters become more prevalent (the number of operating transmitters is growing every day), these Safety radar signals will become more common.

## **SWS Text Messages**

### **Highway Construction or Maintenance**

- 1 Work Zone Ahead
- 2 Road Closed Ahead/Follow Detour
- 3 Bridge Closed Ahead/Follow Detour
- 4 Highway Work Crews Ahead
- 5 Utility Work Crews Ahead
- 6 All Traffic Follow Detour Ahead
- 7 All Trucks Follow Detour Ahead
- 8 All Traffic Exit Ahead
- 9 Right Lane Closed Ahead
- 10 Center Lane Closed Ahead
- 11 Left Lane Closed Ahead
- 12 *For future use*

### **Highway Hazard Zone Advisory**

- 13 Stationary Police Vehicle Ahead
- 14 Train Approaching/At Crossing
- 15 Low Overpass Ahead
- 16 Drawbridge Up
- 17 Observe Drawbridge Weight Limit
- 18 Rock Slide Area Ahead
- 19 School Zone Ahead
- 20 Road Narrows Ahead
- 21 Sharp Curve Ahead
- 22 Pedestrian Crossing Ahead
- 23 Deer/Moose Crossing
- 24 Blind/Deaf Child Area
- 25 Steep Grade Ahead/Truck Use Low Gear
- 26 Accident Ahead
- 27 Poor Road Surface Ahead
- 28 School Bus Loading/Unloading
- 29 No Passing Zone
- 30 Dangerous Intersection Ahead
- 31 Stationary Emergency Vehicle Ahead
- 32 *For future use*

### **Weather Related Hazards**

- 33 High Wind Ahead
- 34 Severe Weather Ahead
- 35 Heavy Fog Ahead
- 36 High Water/Flooding Ahead
- 37 Ice On Bridge Ahead
- 38 Ice On Road Ahead
- 39 Blowing Dust Ahead
- 40 Blowing Sand Ahead
- 41 Blinding Snow Whiteout Ahead
- 42 *For future use*

### **Travel Information/Convenience**

- 43 Rest Area Ahead
  - 44 Rest Area With Service Ahead
  - 45 24 Hour Fuel Service Ahead
  - 46 Inspection Station Open
  - 47 Inspection Station Closed
  - 48 Reduced Speed Area Ahead
  - 49 Speed Limit Enforced
  - 50 Hazardous Materials Exit Ahead
  - 51 Congestion Ahead/Expect Delay
  - 52 Expect 10 Minute Delay
  - 53 Expect 20 Minute Delay
  - 54 Expect 30 Minute Delay
  - 55 Expect 1 Hour Delay
  - 56 Traffic Alert/Tune AM Radio
  - 57 Pay Toll Ahead
  - 58 Trucks Exit Right
  - 59 Trucks Exit Left
  - 60 *For future use*
- ### **Fast/Slow Moving Vehicles**
- 61 Emergency Vehicle In Transit
  - 62 Police In Pursuit
  - 63 Oversize Vehicle In Transit
  - 64 Slow Moving Vehicle



## Problem

The V955 beeps briefly at the same location every day, but no radar source is in sight.

The V955 does not seem sensitive to radar or laser.

The V955 did not alert when a police car was in view.

The V955 did not provide a Safety signal while within range of an emergency vehicle.

The V955's display is not working.

The V955's audible alerts are less loud after the first few alerts.

The V955 bounces or sags on windshield.

The V955's power-on sequence reoccurs while you are driving.

Your 14-year old son has changed all 6 of the Programming options.

## Solution

- An X-band motion sensor or intrusion alarm is located within range of your route. With time, you will learn predictable patterns of these signals.

- Make sure that windshield wipers do not block your V955's radar antenna and that the laser lens is not behind tinted areas.
- Determine if your vehicle has an Instaclear®, ElectriClear® or solar reflective windshield which may deflect radar or laser signals.
- Your V955 may be in City Mode.

- VASCAR (Visual Average Speed Computer and Recorder) a stopwatch method of speed detection, may be in use.
- Officer may not have radar or laser unit turned on.

- Safety transmitters may not be commonly used in your area.

- Press the BRT button to deactivate Dark Mode.

- The V955 is in AutoMute Mode. See page 8 for details.

- The V955 is not making contact with the windshield to provide stability. While holding down the V955's QuickMount button, slide the V955 toward the windshield so that the back top edge makes firm contact.

- A loose power connection or dirty lighter socket can cause the V955 to be briefly disconnected.

- You can return all of the programming options to the factory defaults by holding down the CITY and BRT buttons while you turn the V955 on.

## Problem

The V955 will not turn on.

The V955 feels very warm.

## Solution

- Check that the power is ON.
- Check that vehicle ignition is ON.
- Check that vehicle lighter socket is functional.
- Try the V955 in another vehicle.

- It is normal for the V955 to feel warm.

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## Explanation of Displays

AD	Sensitivity control is in AutoScan mode, display is in Dark mode (page 9)
HD	Sensitivity control is in Highway mode, display is in Dark mode (page 9)
CD	Sensitivity control is in City mode, display is in Dark mode (page 9)
<i>No display</i>	The V955 is in the Dark mode (page 9)
PilotHWY	One of the many programming messages (pages 11-14)
WorkZone	One of the many Safety Radar messages (pages 20-21)
Caution	The V955 has detected a Safety Radar Signal, but the signal isn't yet strong enough to decode the specific safety message (page 20-21)
Self Cal	The V955 is running a self-calibration test
Service Required	The V955 has failed the calibration test. Contact Beltronics for repair

## Service Procedure

If your V955 ever needs service, please follow these simple steps:

- 1 Check the troubleshooting section of this manual. It may have a solution to your problem.
- 2 Call us at 1-800-341-2288. We may be able to solve your problem over the phone. If the problem requires that you send your V955 to the factory for repair, we will provide you with a Service Order Number, which must be included on the outside of your shipping box.

Enclose the following information with your V955:

- Your Service Order Number
- Your name and return address
- Your daytime telephone number
- A description of the problem you are experiencing

## Out Of Warranty Repairs

For out of warranty repairs, include prepayment in the amount you were quoted by the Beltronics Customer Service Representative. If the detector has been damaged, abused or modified, the repair cost will be calculated on a parts and labor basis. If it exceeds the basic repair charge, you will be contacted with a quotation.

If the additional payment is not received within 30 days (or if you notify us that you choose not to have your V955 repaired at the price quoted), your V955 will be returned, without repair. Payment can be made by check, money order, or credit card.

Ship your V955 and power cord to:

BELTRONICS  
Customer Service Department  
Service Order Number \_\_\_\_\_  
5442 West Chester Road  
West Chester OH 45069

For your own protection, we recommend that you ship your V955 postpaid and insured. Insist on a proof of delivery, and keep the receipt until the return of your V955.

## Warranty and Accessories

### BELTRONICS One Year Limited Warranty

**What this warranty covers:** BELTRONICS warrants your Product against all defects in materials and workmanship.

**For how long:** One (1) year from the date of the original purchase.

**What we will do:** BELTRONICS, at our discretion, will either repair or replace your Product free of charge.

**What we will not do:** BELTRONICS will not pay shipping charges that you incur for sending your product to us.

**What you must do to maintain this warranty:** Show original proof of purchase from an authorized BELTRONICS dealer.

**Warranty Exclusions:** Warranty does not apply to your product under any of the following conditions: 1. The serial number has been removed or modified. 2. Your product has been subjected to misuse or damage (including water damage, physical abuse, and/or improper installation). 3. Your product has been modified in any way. 4. Your receipt or proof-of-purchase is from a non-authorized dealer or internet auction site including E-bay, U-bid, or other non-authorized resellers.

**LIMITATION OF WARRANTY: EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED HEREIN, YOU ARE ACQUIRING THE PRODUCT "AS IS" AND "WHERE IS", WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY. BELTRONICS SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THOSE CONCERNING THE MERCHANTABILITY AND SUITABILITY OF THE PRODUCT FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. BELTRONICS SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR CONSEQUENTIAL, SPECIAL OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF THE USE, MISUSE OR MOUNTING OF THE PRODUCT PRODUCT.**

The above limitations or exclusions shall be limited to the extent they violate the laws of any particular state. BELTRONICS is not responsible for products lost in shipment between the owner and our service center.

**Other legal rights:** This Warranty gives you specific rights. You may have other legal rights, which vary, from state to state.

### Accessories

The following accessories and replacement parts are available for BEL V955.



**Coiled SmartPlug ▲**  
\$29.95



**Direct-wire SmartPlug ▲**  
\$29.95

**Standard Coiled Power Cord**  
\$14.00

**Direct-wire Power Cord**  
\$10.00



**Accessory Kit ▲**  
\$19.95

**Extra Windshield Mount**  
\$4.00



# **VECTOR 955**

**DIGITAL RADAR • LASER • SAFETY DETECTOR**

**beltronics**  
**.com**

@

www.

Register  
online:

▼ *Remove card along perforations* ▼

## **BELTRONICS PRODUCT REGISTRATION CARD**

# **BELTRONICS™**

- ▶ If you purchased your detector directly from BELTRONICS, you do not need to fill this out.
- ▶ If you did not purchase your detector directly from BELTRONICS, please fill out this section and return to us, or register online at our web address: [www.beltronics.com](http://www.beltronics.com).

1. First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (In case we have a question) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Product Purchased **Vector 955 Radar & Laser Detector** Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

3. Place of Purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Price \_\_\_\_\_

4. Primary reason for purchasing this BELTRONICS product \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

▼ *Remove card along perforations* ▼



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5442 WEST CHESTER RD  
WEST CHESTER OH 45069-9789**

