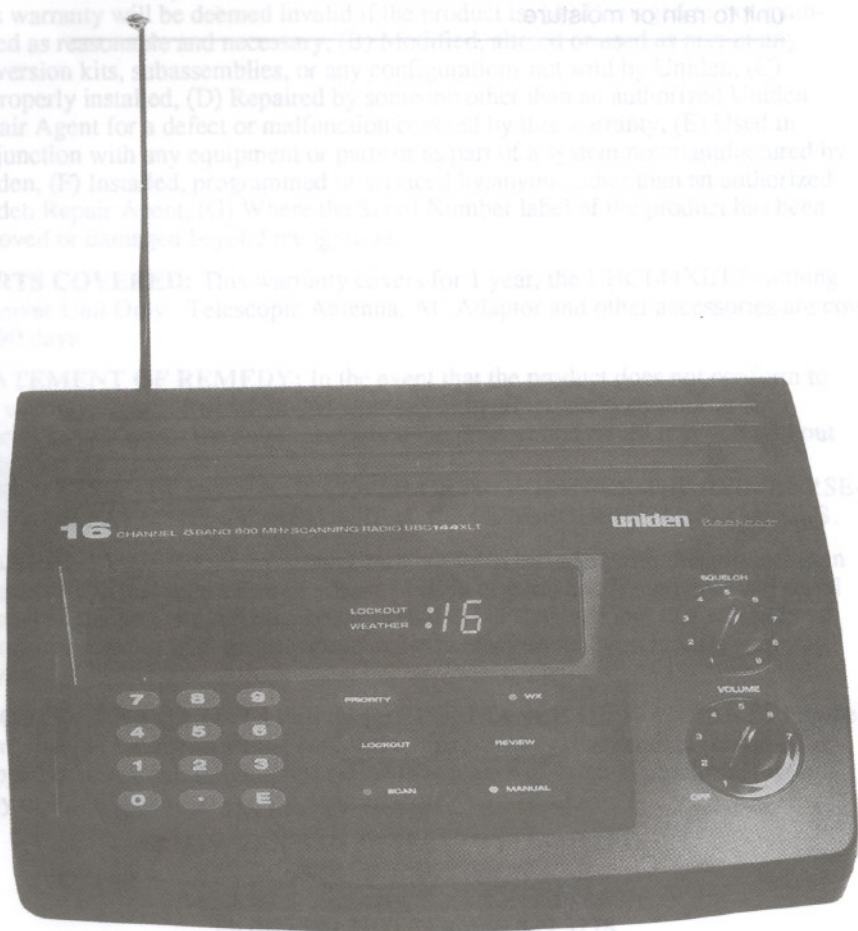


# uniden®

## Beacon®

### UBC144XLT

#### 16-Channel Base Scanner



Customers in other States should ship or deliver the Product

OPERATING GUIDE

Beacon® is a registered trademark of Uniden Corporation.

# PRECAUTIONS

Before you read anything else,  
please observe the following:

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## WARNING!

Uniden **DOES NOT** represent this unit to be waterproof. To reduce the risk of fire or electrical shock, **DO NOT** expose this unit to rain or moisture.

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# Table of Contents

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## Introduction

About Scanning . . . . .	2
Taking Proper Care of Your Scanner . . . . .	3
Unpacking . . . . .	3

## Installation

Installing the <b>UBC144XLT</b> . . . . .	4
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## Operation

Controls and Functions . . . . .	5
Scanning Overview . . . . .	7
Getting Started . . . . .	7
Adjusting the Squelch . . . . .	8
Programming Tips . . . . .	8
Programming Frequencies . . . . .	9
About Memory Back-up . . . . .	9
Scanning . . . . .	10
Direct Channel Access . . . . .	10
Checking the Programmed Frequency . . . . .	11
Weather Channel Scan . . . . .	11
Priority Scanning . . . . .	12
Channel Lockout . . . . .	12

## About the Unit

Helpful Hints . . . . .	14
Troubleshooting . . . . .	15
Technical Specifications . . . . .	16

## Warranty

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## Introduction

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### About Scanning

#### Scanning Options

Scanning is easy and fun with the **UBC144XLT** 16-Channel Base Scanner. You can scan in 2 ways:

- Scan channels you have programmed
- Scan pre-programmed weather channels.

Unlike standard AM or FM radio stations, most 2-way communications (see "Types of Communication" below) do not transmit continuously. The **UBC144XLT** scans programmed channels at the rate of about 15 channels per second until it locates an active frequency. When the scanning stops on an active frequency, it remains on that channel as long as the transmission continues. When the transmission ends, the scanner stays on the channel for 2 more seconds, waiting for a responding transmission. If no responding transmission is detected, the scanning cycle resumes until another transmission is received.

#### Types of Communication

You can to monitor communication such as:

- Police and fire department (including rescue and paramedics)
- Weather broadcasts
- Business/industrial radio
- Motion picture and press relay
- Utility
- Land transportation frequencies such as trucking firms, buses, taxis, tow trucks, and railroads
- Marine and amateur (ham radio) bands
- And many more

## Taking Proper Care of Your Scanner



- Do not use the scanner in high-moisture environments such as the kitchen or bathroom.



- Avoid placing the unit in direct sunlight or near heating elements or vents.

## Unpacking

Carefully check the contents against this list:

- **UBC144XLT** Base Scanner
- Telescopic Antenna
- AC Adaptor (Model AC-144U)
- This Operating Guide

 If any items are missing or damaged, contact your place of purchase immediately.

 Read this Operating Guide thoroughly before operating the scanner.

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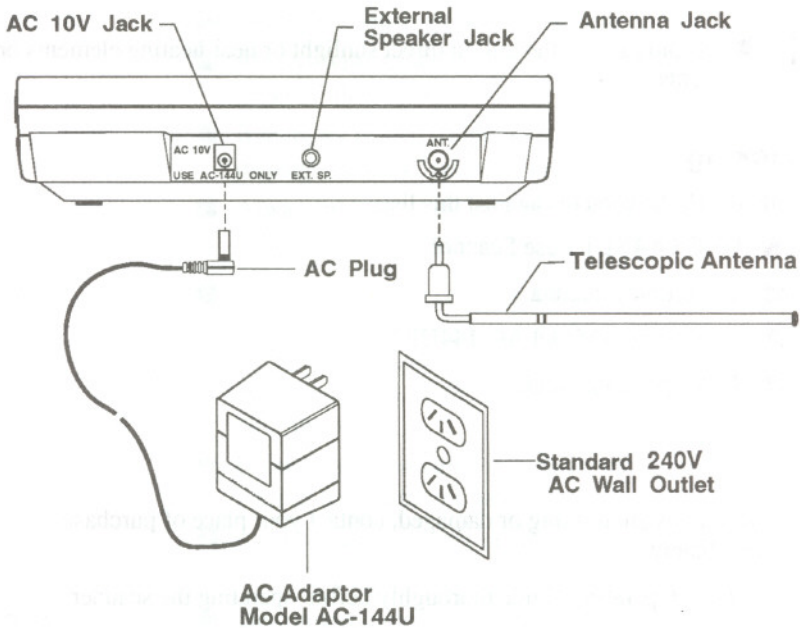
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## Installation

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### Installing the UBC144XLT



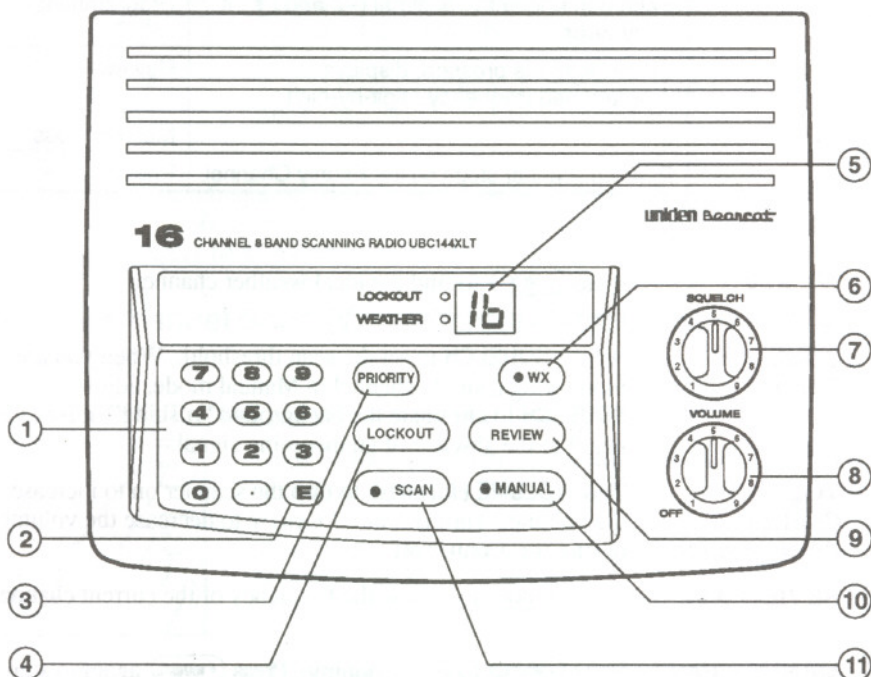
1. Insert the DC plug end of the AC Adaptor into the **AC 10 V** jack on the scanner.
2. Plug the AC Adaptor into any standard 240 VAC wall outlet.
3. Plug the Telescopic Antenna into the **ANT** jack. Extend the antenna to its full height. For UHF frequencies, shortening the antenna may improve the reception.
4. Plug an optional external speaker (8-ohm) into the **EXT.SP.** jack.

### Notes

- If strong interference or electrical noise is received, relocate the scanner or its antenna away from the source.
- If you are operating the scanner in the fringe area or need to improve reception, use an optional antenna designed for multi-band coverage. (You can purchase this type of antenna at a local electronics store.) If the optional antenna has no cable, use 50-70 ohm coaxial cable for lead-in. A mating plug may be necessary for the optional antennas.

# Operation

## Controls and Functions



- 1. Numeric Keys**  
Use to program a frequency into each channel for scanning. Also, use for direct channel access with **MANUAL**.
- 2. Enter Key**  
**E**  
Press **E** to complete the programming of a frequency to the selected channel.
- 3. PRIORITY Key**  
**PRIORITY**  
Press **PRIORITY** to turn Priority mode on or off. In Priority mode, the scanner samples Channel 1 every 2 seconds, regardless of any other mode the scanner is in. If a transmission on Channel 1 is detected, the scanner monitors Channel 1 until no signal is present. Priority mode is cancelled when you turn off the scanner.
- 4. LOCKOUT Key**  
**LOCKOUT**  
Press **LOCKOUT** to prevent scanning of the displayed channel. The **LOCKOUT** LED lights when the current channel is locked out. Lockout is retained in memory. Press **LOCKOUT** again to unlock the channel. The **LOCKOUT** LED turns off. Lockout is active only when the scanner stops on an active channel or a channel selected in Manual mode.

## 5. Channel Display

Display	Mode
Current channel.	Scan or Manual
Channel that was current before <b>WX</b> was pressed.	Weather
Each numeric entry, decimal (-), and <b>E</b> if entry error.	Programming
When <b>REVIEW</b> is pressed, displays programmed frequency, digit-by-digit.	Review
L	Memory Loss
P, when scanner stops on the Priority Channel.	Priority

## 6. WX Key

**WX**

Press **WX** to find the local weather channel.

## 7. SQUELCH Control

Adjust **SQUELCH** to set the scan threshold. When you are monitoring a single channel in Manual mode, adjust **SQUELCH** to eliminate the background "rushing" noise heard in the absence of an incoming signal.

## 8. VOLUME Control / Power Switch

Turn **VOLUME** *clockwise* to turn the scanner on to increase the volume. Turn *counterclockwise* to decrease the volume or turn the scanner off.

## 9. REVIEW Key

**REVIEW**

Press **REVIEW** to review the frequency of the current channel.

## 10. MANUAL Key

**MANUAL**

Press **MANUAL** to stop scanning. Press **MANUAL** again to step to the next channel. Also, use for direct channel access by first entering the channel number and then pressing **MANUAL** to go directly to that channel.

## 11. SCAN Key

**SCAN**

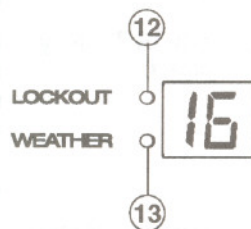
Press **SCAN** to start scanning.

## 12. LOCKOUT LED

Lights when the current channel is locked out.

## 13. Weather LED

Lights when in Weather Search (WX) mode. Flashes when searching for the active weather channel in your area.





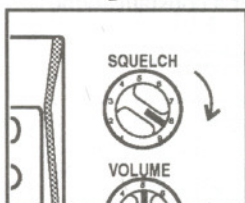
## Scanning Overview

The **UBC144XLT** has 16 memory channels, each of which can be programmed to store 1 frequency within the band of frequency coverage. (For a listing of frequency ranges and bands, see "Technical Specifications" on page 16.)

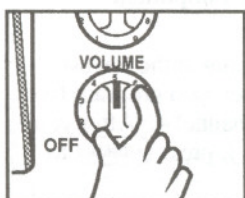
When you press **SCAN**, each of the programmed frequencies is scanned for an active frequency (channels that are locked out are skipped) at the rate of about 15 channels per second.

When the scanning stops on an active frequency, it remains on that channel as long as the transmission continues. When the transmission ends, the scanner will remain on the same channel for 2 more seconds, waiting for a responding transmission. If there is no responding transmission within 2 seconds, the scanning cycle resumes.

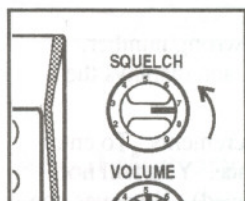
## Getting Started



Turn **SQUELCH** fully *clockwise* to the highest number setting (9).



Turn on the power by turning **VOLUME** *clockwise*. Adjust the volume to where you can hear a steady noise.



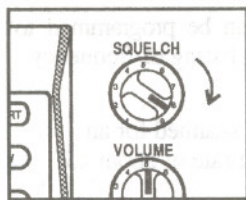
Set the squelch at the scanning threshold by turning **SQUELCH** *counterclockwise* just until the noise disappears.

The scanner automatically starts scanning.

If you have not programmed any channel, press **WX** to hear your local weather broadcast.

Adjust the volume to a comfortable listening level.

## Adjusting the Squelch



Open the squelch by turning **SQUELCH** *clockwise* to position 8 or 9. You should hear a steady sound (scanning stops).

Now turn **SQUELCH** *counterclockwise* slowly until the sound disappears. This is the threshold point at which scanning starts. At the squelch threshold, an incoming signal just slightly stronger than the noise will open the squelch.

When squelch is open, you can hear the broadcast (scanning is stopped). If squelch is set too tight (that is, too far *counterclockwise* from the threshold point), a stronger signal is required to open the squelch.

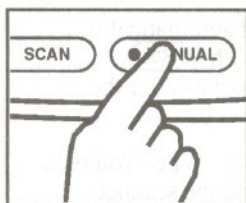
If squelch is set on a point *clockwise* from the threshold, you hear a constant sound (noise, if no signal is present); the scanner does not scan.

## Programming Tips

- You can program 1 frequency per channel.
- Channel 1 is the fixed priority channel. Program the most important frequency, or the one of major interest, into Channel 1.
- To quickly program a series of channels, start programming at the lowest number channel you want to program. For example, when you program five new frequencies into Channels 4 through 8, start with Channel 4. After you complete the programming in 1 channel by pressing (E), press (MANUAL) to step up to the next channel to be programmed.
- If you make an error during programming, or the frequency is out of range, "E" appears on the channel display.
- During numeric entry, if you know that you pressed the wrong number, press (●) twice. This cancels the entire numeric entry, and displays the current channel number.
- Above 406 MHz, the frequency steps are in 12.5 kHz increments. To enter a frequency such as 450.4875, press each key in sequence. You will not see the last digit entered in the display (even when reviewed). However, the correct frequency is stored in the scanner.
- Once you have programmed a channel, you cannot *erase* the frequency in that channel. However, you *can* change the frequency in a specific channel by programming a new frequency over the existing one.
- If you want to manually *erase all* the memory, first turn off the scanner. Then, press and hold (MANUAL), (2), and (9) simultaneously while you turn the scanner back on. The channel display shows "L", and all memory is erased.

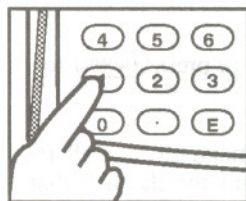
## Programming Frequencies

Before you can use your **UBC144XLT**, you must follow these steps to program the channels, except weather frequencies.



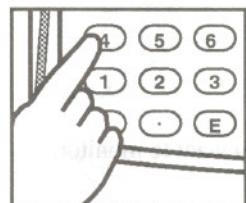
*Example:* Program 420.150 MHz into Channel 12.

Press **MANUAL** to stop scanning.



To select the channel (12), press **1**, then **2** on the numeric keypad.

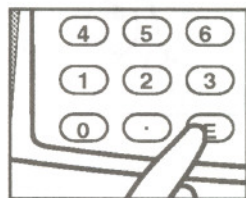
Then press **MANUAL** again.



Type in the frequency numbers, including the decimal point using the numeric keypad:

**4 2 0 . 1 5 0**

The decimal point (**•**) appears as a dash (–) on the channel display.

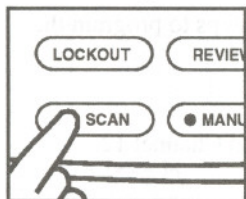


Press **E** to complete the entry.

## About Memory Back-up

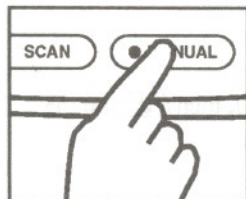
Your **UBC144XLT** has a convenient type of memory back-up system. In the event of a power failure, the scanner provides approximately 7 days of memory retention so you don't immediately lose the frequencies stored in any of the channels.

## Scanning



Turn on the power, or press **• SCAN** to start scanning. (When the scanner is turned on, it is automatically in Scan mode.)

Scanning stops on any active channel automatically, except those channels programmed with **• LOCKOUT**. Scanning resumes automatically 2 seconds after the channel becomes inactive.



Press **• MANU** anytime to stop scanning. When you press **• MANU**, you are out of Scan mode, and the scanner remains on the displayed channel.

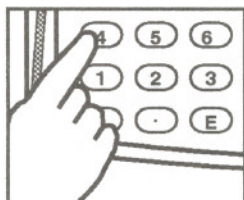
Press **• SCAN** to start scanning again, or press **• MANU** to step up 1 channel.

You can press **• MANU** repeatedly to manually scan all 16 channels, 1 press per channel, including the channels that are locked out.

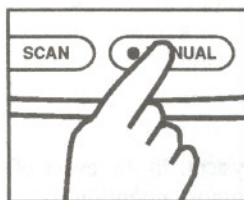
## Direct Channel Access

This feature allows you to instantly access a specific channel you want to monitor.

*Example:* Select Channel 4.



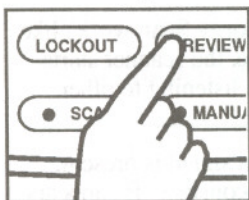
Press **• 4**.



Press **• MANU**.

When you press **• 4**, the display changes to "4", but the scanner still monitors the previous channel displayed. You must press **• MANU** to successfully complete the direct access to Channel 4.

## Checking the Programmed Frequency



Press **REVIEW** to check the frequency programmed in the display channel.

Each digit of the frequency is displayed individually, and then the channel number returns.

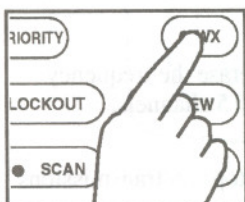
Repeat these steps to review additional frequencies in the other channels.

### Note

- If you enter a frequency that is not an exact step within the range (e.g., 151.056 instead of 151.055), the nearest correct frequency will automatically be stored and displayed when you press **REVIEW**.

## Weather Channel Scan (Weather channels are not used in Australia)

The **UBC144XLT** allows you to search for your local weather channel.



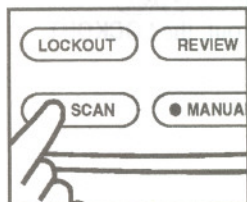
Press **WX** to find the active weather channel in your area from 7 pre-programmed channels.

It is possible that your area is covered by more than 1 weather station.

When you press **WX**, the **UBC144XLT** immediately finds an active broadcast. If the broadcast sounds weak and distant, press **WX** again to look for a closer station.

### Note

- All weather channels transmit continuous broadcasts. Once the Weather scan stops on a transmission, it will remain on that channel. Weather scan will not resume automatically. You must press **WX** again to reactivate scanning.
- In some parts of the country, you may not be able to monitor weather broadcasts, as in low-lying areas. Normally, a higher location improves reception.

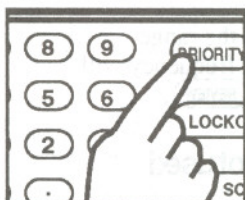


To exit Weather mode, press **SCAN** or **MANUAL**, or turn off the scanner.

## Priority Scanning

Your **UBC144XLT** has fixed Priority Channel, Channel 1. Priority Scan works like a "dual watch" function. When you activate Priority Scan mode, the scanner starts "sampling," or keeping track of the activity on Channel 1 while listening to other channels.

Every 2 seconds, the scanner checks Channel 1 for activity. If a signal is present, Channel 1 will be monitored until the transmission ends, and a constant "P" appears on the channel display. When the signal stops for more than 2 seconds, normal operation resumes.



First program the frequency most important to you into Channel 1.

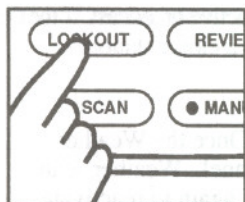
Press **(PRIORITY)** to set the scanner in Priority Scan mode. "P" appears on the display momentarily every 2 seconds to indicate that the Priority scan is on.

To exit Priority scan, press **(PRIORITY)**.

## Channel Lockout

You can lock out a channel so it is not scanned. This *does not* erase the frequency from the channel when it is locked out. You can lock out up to 15 channels, including the Priority channel, but not *all* 16 channels.

*Example:* Suppose you want to lock out Channel 2 because it stops on transmissions you don't want to hear.



Press **(LOCKOUT)** when the scanner stops on Channel 2. The scanner locks out Channel 2 and immediately advances to the next channel to resume scanning.

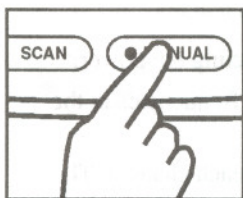
In the Manual mode, press **(LOCKOUT)** to lock out the displayed channel. Pressing **(LOCKOUT)** does not advance to the next channel in Manual mode.

The **LOCKOUT** LED lights to indicate the displayed channel is locked out.

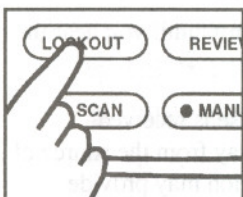
Whenever you want to search for channels that are locked out, press **(MANUAL)** repeatedly to go through all 16 channels. If a channel is locked out, the **LOCKOUT** LED lights.

## Restoring a Locked Out Channel

To unlock a channel so that it can be monitored during scanning:



Use **MANUAL** to find the locked out channel.



Press **LOCKOUT** to unlock the displayed channel.

The **LOCKOUT** LED for the displayed channel turns off.

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## About the Unit

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### Helpful Hints

#### General Use

- Turn the scanner off before disconnecting the power.
- Always write down the programmed frequencies in the event of memory loss.
- If memory is lost, simply reprogram each channel. The display shows "L" when memory is lost.
- Always press each keypad button firmly until you hear the entry tone for that key entry.

#### Location

- If strong interference or electrical noise is received, relocate the scanner or its antenna away from the source of the noise. If possible, a higher elevation may provide better reception. Also, try changing the height or angle of the antenna.
- **Do not** use the scanner in high-moisture environments such as the kitchen or bathroom.
- Avoid placing the unit in direct sunlight or near heating elements or vents.

#### Cleaning

- Disconnect the power to the unit before cleaning.
- Clean the outside of the scanner with a mild detergent. To prevent scratches, **do not** use abrasive cleaners or solvents. Be careful not to rub the LED window.
- **Do not** use excessive amounts of water.

#### Repairs

- **Do not** attempt any repair. The scanner contains no serviceable parts. Contact the Uniden Customer Service Division or take it to a qualified repair technician.

#### Birdies

- All radios are subject to receiving undesired signals or "birdies". If your scanner stops during Scan mode and no sound is heard, it may be receiving a birdie. Birdies are internally-generated signals inherent in the electronics of the receiver. Press **◉ SCAN** to resume scanning.



## Troubleshooting

If your **UBC144XLT** is not performing properly, try the steps listed below.

Problem	Solution
Scanner won't work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check the connections at both ends of the AC Adaptor</li><li>• Turn on the wall switch of your room. You could be using an outlet controlled by the wall switch</li><li>• Move the AC Adaptor to another wall outlet</li></ul>
Improper reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check antenna connection</li><li>• Move or angle the antenna</li><li>• If programmed frequency is higher than 406 MHz, a shorter antenna length may improve the reception</li><li>• Relocate the scanner.</li><li>• You may be in a fringe area. This may require an optional multi-band antenna. Check with your dealer or local electronics store.</li></ul>
Scan won't stop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adjust Squelch to the threshold (see page 8, "Adjusting the Squelch.")</li><li>• Check the antenna connection.</li><li>• Check to see if many of the channels are locked out. If so, the scanner has less chance of finding an active channel.</li><li>• Review each channel's frequency to see if it is correct and no memory has been lost.</li><li>• It is possible that none of the programmed frequencies are active at this time.</li></ul>
Scan won't start.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Press the Scan button again.</li><li>• Adjust the Squelch Control.</li><li>• Check to see if 15 channels are locked out. If so, unlock the channels as needed.</li></ul>
Weather Scan won't work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adjust Squelch to the threshold (see page 8, "Adjusting the Squelch.")</li><li>• Check antenna.</li><li>• No active station within range.</li></ul>

If you still cannot get satisfactory results and want additional information, or to return the unit for service, please call or write the Uniden Customer Service Division. The address and phone number are listed in the Warranty (at the end of this manual).

## Technical Specifications

<b>Band Coverage:</b>	8 bands
<b>Frequency Coverage:</b>	66.0-88.0 MHz VHF Low Band 137-144 MHz Land Mobile 144-148 MHz 2 Meter Amateur Band 148-174 MHz VHF High Band <i>Above bands in 5 kHz steps</i>
	406-420 MHz Land Mobile 420-450 MHz 70cm Amateur Band 450-470 MHz UHF Standard Band 470-512 MHz Land Mobile <i>Above bands in 12.5 kHz steps</i>
<b>Sensitivity (nominal) 12 dB SINAD:</b>	0.5 $\mu$ V 66-88 MHz 0.4 $\mu$ V 137-174 MHz 0.6 $\mu$ V 406-512 MHz
<b>Selectivity (nominal):</b>	-6 dB at 18 kHz (162.4 MHz 20 dB QS) -50 dB at 30 kHz (162.4 MHz 20 dB QS)
<b>Channels:</b>	16
<b>Scan Rate:</b>	Up to 15 channels per second
<b>Scan Delay:</b>	2 seconds
<b>Audio Output (nominal):</b>	0.9 W (max.) 10% THD
<b>Power Requirements:</b>	10 VAC using AC-144U AC Adaptor
<b>Antenna:</b>	Telescopic (included)
<b>External Jacks:</b>	Antenna jack External speaker AC 10V power jack
<b>Size:</b>	245 mm (W) x 200 mm (D) x 59.5 mm (H)
<b>Weight:</b>	585g

*Features, specifications, and availability of optional accessories are all subject to change without notice.*

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# Warranty

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## Uniden UBC144XLT Scanning Receiver Australian 1 Year Warranty

**Note:** Please keep your sales docket as it provides evidence of warranty.

**WARRANTOR:** Uniden Australia Pty. Limited ACN 001 865 498

**ELEMENTS OF WARRANTY:** Uniden warrants to the original retail owner for the duration of this warranty, its UBC144XLT Scanning Receiver (hereinafter referred to as the Product), to be free from defects in materials and craftsmanship with only the limitations of exclusions set out below.

**WARRANTY DURATION:** This warranty to the original retail owner only, shall terminate and be of no further effect ONE (1) Year after the date of original retail sale. This warranty will be deemed invalid if the product is; (A) Damaged or not maintained as reasonable and necessary, (B) Modified, altered or used as part of any conversion kits, subassemblies, or any configurations not sold by Uniden, (C) Improperly installed, (D) Repaired by someone other than an authorized Uniden Repair Agent for a defect or malfunction covered by this warranty, (E) Used in conjunction with any equipment or parts or as part of a system not manufactured by Uniden, (F) Installed, programmed or serviced by anyone other than an authorized Uniden Repair Agent, (G) Where the Serial Number label of the product has been removed or damaged beyond recognition.

**PARTS COVERED:** This warranty covers for 1 year, the UBC144XLT Scanning Receiver Unit Only. Telescopic Antenna, AC Adaptor and other accessories are covered for 90 days.

**STATEMENT OF REMEDY:** In the event that the product does not conform to this warranty at any time while this warranty is in effect, the warrantor at its discretion, will repair the defect or replace the product and return it to you without charge for parts and service.

**THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER OR PROVIDE FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OR PAYMENT OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES.**

**WARRANTY CARD:** If a warranty card has been included with this product then please fill it in and return it to us within 14 days of purchase. Your name and serial number of the product will then be registered in our database and this will help up process your claim with greater speed and efficiency should you require warranty service.

**PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING PERFORMANCE OF WARRANTY:** In the event that the Product does not conform to this warranty, the Product should be shipped or delivered, freight pre-paid, with evidence of original purchase, (eg/ a copy of the sales docket), to the warrantor at:

**UNIDEN AUSTRALIA PTY. LIMITED  
SERVICE DIVISION**

345 Princes Highway, Rockdale, NSW 2216  
Ph (02) 599 3100 FAX (02) 599 3278

Customers in other States should ship or deliver the Product  
freight pre-paid to their nearest Uniden Authorized Repair Centre.  
(Contact Uniden for the nearest Warranty Agent to you)

**uniden**<sup>®</sup>  

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**Beancat**<sup>®</sup>

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