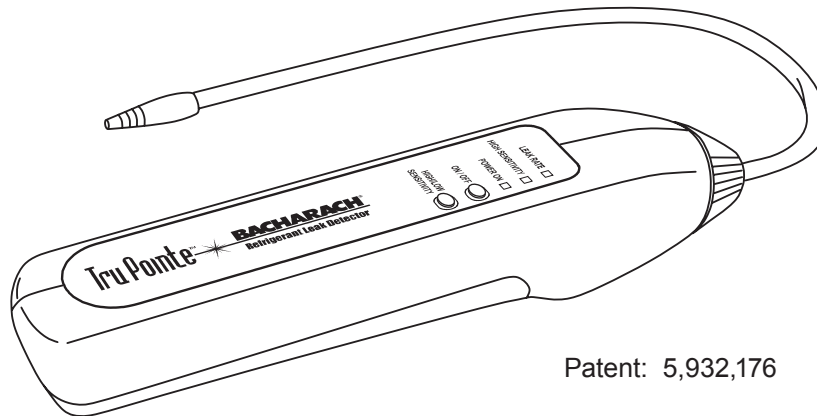




Tru Pointe™ Refrigerant Leak Detector

Instruction 0019-9328
Operation & Maintenance
Rev. 5 – October 2012



Patent: 5,932,176

Product Leadership • Training • Service • Reliability



COMBUSTIBLE REFRIGERANT GAS WARNING: For your safety, DO NOT use the Tru Pointe refrigerant leak detector to detect refrigerants which are rated as combustible/flammable gases (e.g. ASHRAE - A2 or A3 rated refrigerants). Use with combustible/flammable refrigerant gases can cause an explosion resulting in death or severe injury.

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Introduction

The Tru Pointe Refrigerant Leak Detector (Figure 1) is a portable, battery powered instrument designed to pinpoint the location of refrigerant leaks in air conditioning and refrigerant systems, chillers, or cold storage units.

The use of heated-diode sensor technology allows the instrument to be quickly responsive to all refrigerants, even when high background levels of refrigerant vapors are present. No manual sensitivity adjustments are necessary during the inspection process.

The instrument is suitable for HVAC Service Technicians, Refrigerant Service Technicians, Plant Maintenance Departments, Automotive Service Facilities, and Refrigerant & Environmental Chamber Manufacturers who are in need of a small, lightweight and rugged instrument that is capable of detecting and then pinpointing small to large gas leaks in tight spaces such as those found in refrigeration units and automobile engine compartments.

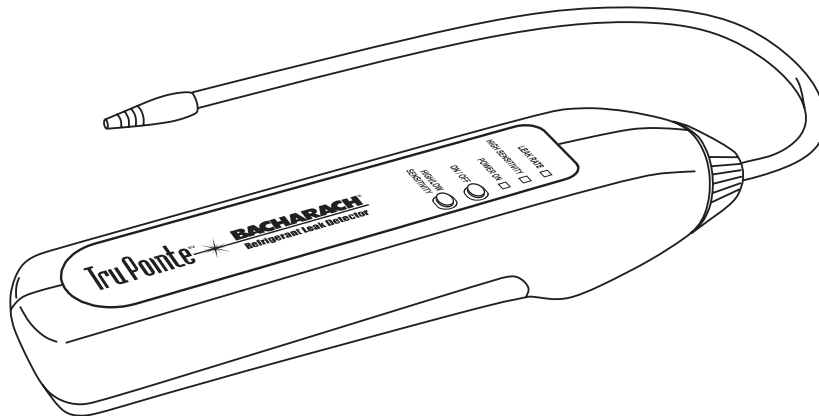


Figure 1. Tru Pointe Refrigerant Leak Detector

Features

- Quickly pinpoints the location of refrigerant leaks
- Patented heated-diode sensor that represents the latest advancements in sensor technology
- Patented microprocessor-controlled circuitry
- High and low-sensitivity modes, push button selectable
- Automatic zero and background compensation that allows a leak to be quickly found in contaminated atmospheres without requiring manual sensitivity adjustments
- Flexible probe 14 inches (356 mm) in length for locating leaks in hard-to-reach areas
- One-handed operation
- No user calibration required
- Long life, DC brushless fan provides positive airflow past sensor resulting in a faster response time
- Batteries included
- One year warranty
- Extended warranty available

Technical Characteristics

Power	Two 'D' Alkaline Batteries
Warm-Up Time	10 seconds
Refrigerants Detected	All CFC, HCFC and HFC refrigerants including: R-12, R-22, R-123, R-134a and blends R-404A, R-408A, R-409A, and R-410A
Sensor:	
Type	Heated Diode, Dispersive Electron, Plug-In
Life Expectancy*	Typically 150 hours or 1 year of normal use
Battery Life	11 hours min. <i>high</i> sensitivity mode, 20 hours min. <i>low</i> sensitivity mode, as tested using Duracell Ultra MX1300 alkaline batteries
Response Time	Instantaneous
Sensitivity.....	The instrument will detect a leak of at least 0.5 oz/year (14 g/yr) as detected by moving probe tip at 2" (50 mm) per second, 0.2" (5 mm) above leak source. A leak rate of less than 0.1 oz/year (3 g/yr) can be detected when probe tip is held steady over leak source for at least 5 seconds.
Sensitivity Adjustment	Automatic
Weight	1.16 lb (0.53 kg) w/ batteries
Size (excluding probe)	2.12W x 9.5L x 2.4H inches (53.8 x 241.3 x 61.0 mm)
Probe Length	14" (356 mm)

*** Caution:** *Exposing the sensor to a steady stream of highly concentrated refrigerant will severely reduce sensor life or damage the sensor. Sensor life is directly proportional to the amount of refrigerant that passes through the sensor.*

Operating Environment:

Position.....Any
Temperature 32 to 122 °F (0 to 50 °C)
Humidity 10 to 90% RH, non-condensing

Approvals.....Certified to SAE J1627
CE Mark: Independently tested in accordance with EMC Directive 2004/108/EC

Operation

Battery Installation

1. Remove battery cover by pressing down on the battery cover tab, and then sliding the cover off the instrument. See Figure 2.
2. Install two 'D' alkaline batteries into the battery compartment, observing the polarity markings that are molded inside of the case.
3. Slide the battery cover back onto the instrument until its tab clicks into place.

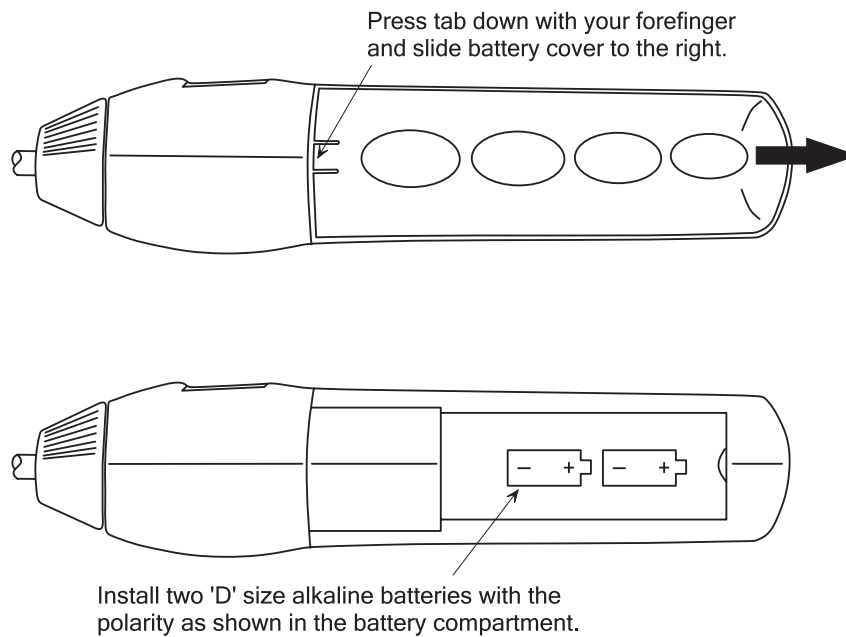


Figure 2. Battery Installation

Turning the Instrument ON / OFF

See Figure 3. The instrument is toggled ON and OFF by pressing the **ON/OFF** button.

When the instrument is first turned ON, observe that the green **POWER ON** LED will glow, and that the red **LEAK RATE** LED flashes rapidly along with the audible indicator producing a rapid ticking sound or constant tone.

The instrument requires a minimum of 10 seconds to warm up. After which time both the **LEAK RATE** LED and audible indicator should slow down to no more than 1 or 2 flashes/ticks per second.

Note that during the warm-up period, the instrument has zeroed out any background concentration of refrigerant vapors that may have been present in the area.

After the instrument is turned ON and allowed to warm up, it is ready to perform leak testing as described in Section *Procedure for Locating a Refrigerant Leak*.

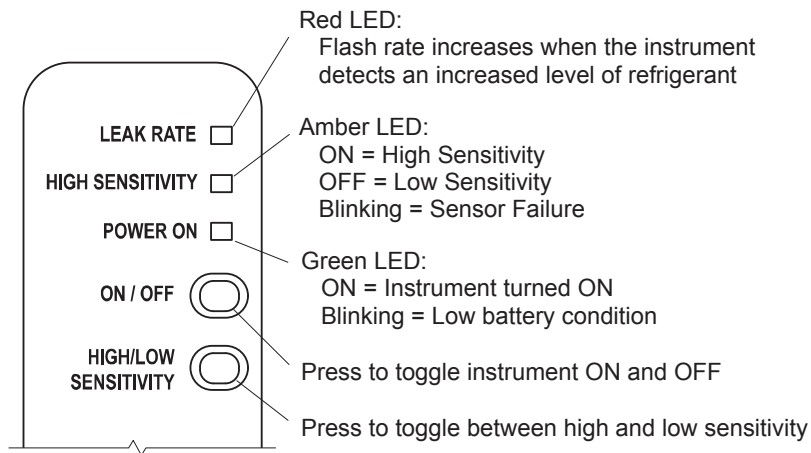


Figure 3. Indicators and Controls

Low Battery Indication

A low-battery condition is indicated when the green **POWER ON** LED begins to flash. Approximately 20 minutes of operation time remains from the time this LED first begins to flash; after which, the instrument's operation will gradually become erratic.

When a low-battery indication occurs, replace the batteries as described under the previous Section *Battery Installation*.

Selecting High / Low Sensitivity Mode

When the Tru Pointe is first turned ON it defaults to its low-sensitivity mode.

Place the instrument into its high-sensitivity mode by pressing the **HIGH/LOW SENSITIVITY** button until the **HIGH SENSITIVITY** LED turns ON (**HIGH SENSITIVITY** amber LED glows).

Tip: Use the low-sensitivity mode to extend battery and sensor life. Use the high-sensitivity mode, if necessary, to pinpoint leaks.

Return the instrument to its low-sensitivity mode by pressing the **HIGH/LOW SENSITIVITY** button until the **HIGH SENSITIVITY** LED turns OFF.

Procedure for Locating a Refrigerant Leak

Important: The instrument's function is to detect a **change** in refrigerant level, and not to make a quantitative measurements. The technique of locating a leak by detecting a change in level allows an operator to quickly locate the source of a leak without making manual sensitivity adjustments, or being concerned about the background refrigerant level in the surrounding area.

Begin by slowly moving the probe tip toward the area of the suspected leak source. If surfaces are dirty or wet, wipe them off with a shop towel. Avoid allowing dirt to clog the probe tip, or allowing water to enter the instrument.

When the instrument first detects an increase in the refrigerant level, the **LEAK RATE** LED begins flashing and the audible indicator begins ticking at a faster rate. If movement of the probe is stopped for more than 10 seconds, the instrument will self-zero and return to its idle state *even though refrigerant is still present*.

Once the presence of refrigerant has been determined and the instrument allowed to self-zero, moving the probe toward the leak source will once again cause the instrument to respond in a positive manner. The instrument's audible and visual indications will fall if the probe is moved away from the leak source.

Caution: *Exposing the sensor to a steady stream of highly concentrated refrigerant will severely reduce sensor life or damage the sensor. Sensor life is directly proportional to the amount of refrigerant that passes through the sensor.*

Use the following general procedure to pinpoint the source of a leak:

1. Move the probe tip along the refrigerant lines and around the fittings until the **LEAK RATE** LED begins flashing and the audible indicator starts ticking at a faster rate.
2. Continue moving the probe tip in a direction that keeps the instrument responding in a positive manner.
3. Once the source of the leak has been passed, the instrument's visual and audible indications will fall. At this point, reverse the direction of probing so that the instrument once again responds in a positive manner.
4. Repeat Step 3 until a small movement of the probe tip over the leak source results in the rapid indication of increasing and decreasing refrigerant levels.

Sensor Failure Indication

A failed sensor is indicated when the **HIGH SENSITIVITY** LED begins to *flash*.

Refer to the *Troubleshooting Guide* Section of this manual for information on how to remedy this condition.

False Refrigerant Indication

False refrigerant indications are usually caused by abnormal changes in sensor temperature. These temperature changes are typically due to a sudden change in air flow past the sensor, or the sensor being heated or cooled by an outside source. To avoid false refrigerant indications, DO NOT . . .

- allow the probe tip to become clogged with dirt,
- allow the probe to suck in hot gases.

SAE Leak Detection Tips

The following was derived from SAE Surface Vehicle Standard J1628, Technician Procedure for Using Electronic Refrigerant Leak Detectors for Service of Mobile Air-Conditioning Systems:

- The electronic leak detector shall be operated in accordance with the equipment manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Leak test with the engine not in operation.
- The air conditioning system shall be charged with sufficient refrigerant to have a gauge pressure of at least 340 kPa (49 psi) when not in operation. At temperatures below 15 °C (59 °F), leaks may not be measurable, since this pressure may not be reached.
- Take care not to contaminate the detector probe tip if the part being tested is contaminated. If the part is particularly dirty, it should be wiped off with a dry shop towel or blown off with shop air. No cleaners or solvents shall be used, since many electronic detectors are sensitive to their ingredients.
- Visually trace the entire refrigerant system, and look for signs of air-conditioning lubricant leakage, damage, and corrosion on all lines, hoses, and components. Each questionable area shall be carefully checked with the detector probe, as well as all fittings, hose-to-line couplings, refrigerant controls, service ports with caps in place, brazed or welded areas, and areas around attachment points and hold-downs on lines and components.

- Always follow the refrigerant system around in a continuous path so that no areas of potential leaks are missed. If a leak is found, always continue to test the remainder of the system.
- At each area checked, the probe shall be moved around the location, at a rate no more than 25 to 50 mm/sec (1 to 2 in./sec), and no more than 5 mm (0.2 inch) from the surface completely around the position. Slower and closer movement of the probe greatly improves the likelihood of finding a leak.
- An apparent leak shall be verified at least once by blowing shop air into the area of the suspected leak, if necessary, and repeating the check of the area. In cases of very large leaks, blowing out the area with shop air often helps locate the exact position of the leak.
- Leak testing of the evaporator core while in the air conditioning module shall be accomplished by turning the air conditioning blower on high for a period of 15 seconds minimum, shutting it off, then waiting an additional 15 seconds minimum for the refrigerant to accumulate in the case, then inserting the leak detector probe into the blower resistor block or condensate drain hole if no water is present, or into the closest opening in the heating/ventilation/air conditioning case to the evaporator, such as the heater duct or a vent duct. If the detector activates, a leak apparently has been found.
- Following any service to the refrigerant system of the vehicle, and any other service which disturbs the refrigerant system, a leak test of the repair and of the service ports of the refrigerant system shall be done.

Maintenance

By following the procedures outlined below, The Tru Pointe will provide many years of trouble-free and dependable operation.

Routine Maintenance

- Replace the batteries per Section *Battery Installation* when the green **POWER ON** LED begins to flash.
- Periodically check the instrument's sensitivity by exposing it to a source of refrigerant gas. DO NOT check sensitivity by cracking open a bottle of refrigerant or Schrader valve and exposing the sensor to a stream of pure refrigerant. This will severely reduce sensor life or damage the sensor.
- Keep the instrument case and probe clean by wiping them with a shop towel. If necessary, moisten the towel with a mild detergent solution. Avoid using any type of solvents that may either attack the instrument's ABS plastic case, or leave behind a hydrocarbon residue that may desensitize the sensor.

Sensor Replacement

Over time the sensor will become less responsive to refrigerant gas as it nears the end of its useful life. A sensor's average life expectancy is approximately 150 hours or 1 year of normal use, but will vary depending on the amount of refrigerant that passes through the sensor.

Replace the sensor as follows (see Figure 4):

Material Required:

- Sensor (refer to Section *Replacement Parts*)

Procedure:

1. Turn OFF instrument.
2. Grasp nose cone of probe assembly and pull probe away from case using a slight twisting motion.
3. **Sensor may be hot!** Pull spent sensor from its socket and discard.
4. Plug in new sensor.
5. Push probe assembly back into case.
6. Turn ON the instrument and check that it responds in a positive manner to a source of refrigerant gas.

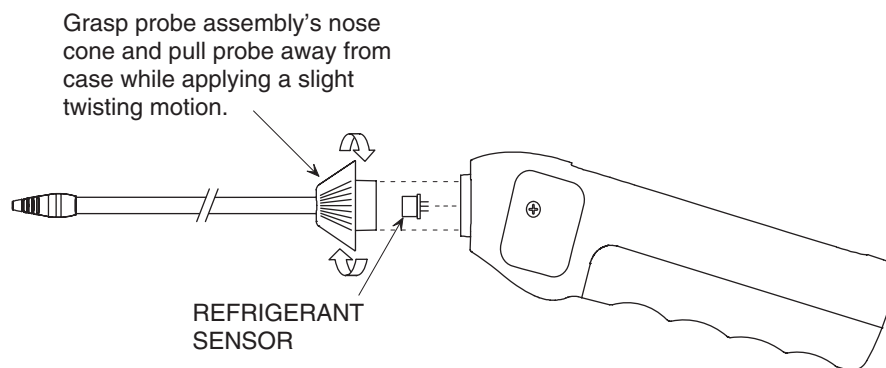


Figure 4. Sensor Replacement

Troubleshooting Guide

The following table lists the causes and remedies for the most common problems that may occur with the instrument.

If the information in Table 1 does not solve the problem, or for help with any problem that is not listed, please contact one of the Bacharach Sales/Service Centers listed in Section *Parts & Service*.

TABLE 1. TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Symptom	Probable Cause & Remedy
Instrument does not turn ON.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Batteries are dead or installed backward. Install two fresh 'D' alkaline batteries per Section <i>Battery Installation</i>. b. Faulty refrigerant sensor. Remove sensor and turn ON instrument. If instrument now operates, replace sensor per Section <i>Sensor Replacement</i>.
The POWER ON LED is flashing.	Low battery indication. Replace batteries per Section <i>Battery Installation</i> .
The HIGH SENSITIVITY LED is flashing in clean air.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sensor depleted or faulty. Replace sensor per Section <i>Sensor Replacement</i>. b. Batteries are nearly depleted. Replace per Section <i>Battery Installation</i>.
The LEAK RATE LED is turned on steady, and the audible indicator is producing a steady tone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. This is normal during warm up. After warm up the flash/tick rate should slow down to less than 1 or 2 times per second. b. Probe tip clogged, not allowing air to flow over sensor. Unclog probe tip.
Instrument does not respond to the presence of refrigerant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sensor nearly depleted or faulty. Replace sensor per Section <i>Sensor Replacement</i>. b. Probe assembly loose. Push nose cone of probe assembly back into instrument. c. Probe tip clogged, not allowing air to flow over sensor. Unclog probe tip. d. Crack in rubber sheathing that covers the probe's flexible tube, allowing air to enter through the crack. Replace probe assembly.

TABLE 1. TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE (Cont.)

Symptom	Probable Cause & Remedy
Short sensor life.	Senor has often been exposed to high levels of refrigerant. Avoid exposing sensor to pure refrigerant for long periods of time.
Erratic refrigerant leak indication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Windy conditions. Shut off surrounding fans; protect probe tip from wind; switch to low-sensitivity mode per Section <i>High/Low Sensitivity Mode</i>. b. Probe assembly loose. Push nose cone of probe assembly back into instrument. c. Low batteries. Replace batteries per Section <i>Battery Installation</i>. d. Loose sensor. Remove probe and ensure that the sensor is being held firmly in its socket (see Figure 4.) e. Sensor faulty. Replace sensor per Section <i>Sensor Replacement</i>.

Parts & Service

Complete Kit: Includes detector, instruction manual,
2 ‘D’ batteries, and a hard carrying case0019-8106

Replacement Parts

Battery Door	0019-0548
Hard Carrying Case.....	0019-0501
Probe Assembly	0019-0553
Screw, Case, #4-20 x 1" Self Tapping	0102-1982
Sensor	0019-0559

Sales/Service Centers



Declaration of Conformity

The Manufacturer of the Products covered by this Declaration

BACHARACH Inc
621 Hunt Valley Circle
New Kensington, Pa 15068

Year in which conformity is declared: 2010

Product: Refrigerant Leak Detector

Model: Tru Pointe

The undersigned hereby declares that the above referenced product is in conformity with the provisions of the following Directives and Standards.

Standard:

EN 61326-1:2006 – Electrical Equipment for measurement, control and Laboratory use – EMC Requirements – Part 1 General requirements

Directive:

In accordance with EMC Directive (2004/108/EC)

Signature:

Name: Doug Keeperts

Title: VP of Product Development

Date: 23 August 2010

The technical documentation file required by this directive is maintained at the corporate headquarters of Bacharach Inc