



# MONARCH INSTRUMENT

## *Instruction Manual*



(Nova-Strobe bbx shown)



## **Nova-Strobe bax and Nova-Strobe bbx Portable Stroboscopes**

Para la traducción en español: [www.monarchinstrument.com](http://www.monarchinstrument.com)  
Pour la traduction en français : [www.monarchinstrument.com](http://www.monarchinstrument.com)

15 Columbia Drive  
Amherst, NH 03031 USA  
Phone: (603) 883-3390  
Fax: (603) 886-3300

E-mail: [support@monarchinstrument.com](mailto:support@monarchinstrument.com)  
Website: [www.monarchinstrument.com](http://www.monarchinstrument.com)



## Safeguards and Precautions



1. Read and follow all instructions in this manual carefully, and retain this manual for future reference.
2. Do not use this instrument in any manner inconsistent with these operating instructions or under any conditions that exceed the environmental specifications stated.
3. Certain strobe frequencies can trigger epileptic seizures in those prone to that type of attack.
4. Users should not stare directly at the light source.
5. Prolonged exposure to the light can cause headaches in some people.
6. Objects viewed with this product may appear to be stationary when in fact they are moving at high speeds. Always keep a safe distance from moving machinery and do not touch the target.
7. There are lethal voltages present inside this product. Refer to the section on Lamp Replacement before attempting to open this product.



AC Stroboscopes that have three wire mains cable must have the earth wire connected to a suitable Earth point.

8. Do not allow liquids or metallic objects to enter the ventilation holes on the stroboscope as this may cause permanent damage and void the warranty.
9. Do not allow cables extending from unit to come into contact with rotating machinery, as serious damage to the equipment, or severe personal injury or death may occur as a result.

10. This instrument may not be safe for use in certain hazardous environments, and serious personal injury or death could occur as a result of improper use. Please refer to your facility's safety program for proper precautions.
11. The Nova-Strobe bbx contains Nickel Metal Hydride batteries which must be disposed of in accordance with Federal, State, & Local Regulations. Do not incinerate. Batteries should be shipped to a reclamation facility for recovery of the metal and plastic components as the proper method of waste management. Contact distributor for appropriate product return procedures.
12. This instrument is not user serviceable. For technical assistance, contact the sales organization from which you purchased the product or Monarch Instrument directly.



**In order to comply with EU Directive 2012/19/EU on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE):** This product may contain material which could be hazardous to human health and the environment. **DO NOT DISPOSE** of this product as unsorted municipal waste. This product needs to be **RECYCLED** in accordance with local regulations, contact your local authorities for more information. This product may be returnable to your distributor for recycling - contact the distributor for details.

**Monarch Instrument's Limited Warranty applies.  
See [www.monarchinstrument.com](http://www.monarchinstrument.com) for details.**

**Warranty Registration and Extended Warranty coverage  
available online at [www.monarchinstrument.com](http://www.monarchinstrument.com).**

Monarch Instrument holds the following US trademarks and registrations, all rights reserved: Track-It™, Nova-Pro®, Nova-Strobe™, Data-Chart™ ©2017

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0</b>	<b>OVERVIEW.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Display Panel / Definition of Buttons .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>PREPARATION FOR USE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Power .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>OPERATION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Power Up Features.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>USING THE STROBOSCOPE TO MEASURE RPM .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>LAMP AND FUSE REPLACEMENT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Lamp Replacement .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Fuse Replacement .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>BATTERY POWERED MODELS ONLY .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Low Battery Indication.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Charging the Batteries.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Battery Disposal.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>SPECIFICATIONS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>ACCESSORIES.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>REPLACEMENT PARTS.....</b>	<b>14</b>

# 1.0 OVERVIEW

All descriptions in this manual apply to both the “basic” battery powered (bbx) and “basic” AC mains powered (bax) digital stroboscopes except where noted.

## 1.1 Display Panel / Definition of Buttons

The display panel consists of a liquid crystal display with six numeric digits on top and five alphanumeric digits on the bottom, which indicate modes, flash rates, etc. (see Figure 1).

Additional information displayed include:

----- Indicates input frequency exceeds the limit of the stroboscope



**(Battery Powered Model Only)** Battery indication, see section 6.0

Below the display are two membrane buttons:



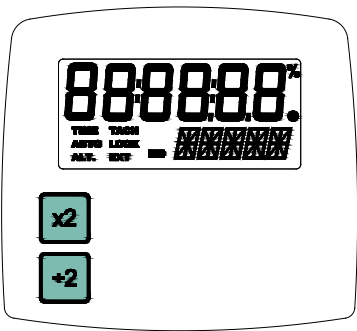
Multiplies flash rate by 2 times

Hold when powering up to show all segments, then Rev # and display test



Divides flash rate by 2

Hold when powering up to reset factory defaults



**Figure 1 Display Panel**

## 2.0 PREPARATION FOR USE

The Strobe may be hand held or mounted on a tripod or other user supplied bracket using the ¼-20 UNC bushing at the base of the handle.

### 2.1 Power

The AC powered strobe must have its power cord plugged into an AC outlet (115Vac or 230Vac).

The battery powered strobe has internal rechargeable batteries. The unit should be charged before use (see section 6.0). The actual operating time of the stroboscope depends on the flash rate and duty cycle of operation. Slower flash rates (below 4,000 FPM) increase the operating time. Note that the strobe will not operate from the recharger supplied with the unit.

## 3.0 OPERATION

To turn on the stroboscope, depress and hold the trigger. The trigger may be locked in position using the side locking button. To lock the stroboscope on, depress the trigger as far as it will go and then press the locking button. Once the locking button is set you may release the trigger and the trigger will be held in place. To unlock the stroboscope, simply depress the trigger and then release.

### **To change the flash rate:**

With the power on, turn the knob counter clockwise to increase the flash rate and clockwise to decrease it. The knob is velocity sensitive. Turn the knob slowly to have each “click” is equal to 1 FPM. Turning the knob more quickly will adjust the FPM by larger steps. When adjusting flash rate,

quickly turn the knob (or use the **x2** or **÷2** buttons) to coarsely change the FPM. Then slowly turn the knob for fine adjustments.

**NOTE:** There are maximum and minimum values in each mode beyond which you cannot adjust. If you are adjusting the rate and you reach a value which on the next increment would exceed the maximum flash rate, the display will not increment. The same is true if you try to adjust the flash rate below the minimum flash rate.

### **To multiply or divide the current flash rate by 2:**

In addition to the knob, there are two buttons on the display panel marked **x2** and **÷2**. This enables the user to instantly double or halve the reading on the display to the maximum or minimum values allowed. This feature is useful for checking harmonics in the internal flashing mode.

## **3.1 Power Up Features**

When the strobe is powered up it will remember the last settings.

Press and hold the **x2** button, then turn on the strobe by depressing the trigger switch. This will turn on all the display segments for two seconds or until you release the button. It will then show the software revision, “REV x.x” and then go through a display diagnostic.

Press and hold the **÷2** button, then turn on the strobe by depressing the trigger switch. This will restore the factory programmed presets.



## 4.0 USING THE STROBOSCOPE TO MEASURE RPM

The primary use for a stroboscope is to stop motion for diagnostic inspection purposes. However the stroboscope can be used to measure speed (in RPM / RPS). In order to do this several factors need to be considered. First, the object being measured should be visible for all  $360^\circ$  of rotation (e.g. The end of a shaft). Second, the object should have some unique part on it, like a bolt, key way or imperfection to use as a reference point. If the object being viewed is perfectly symmetrical, then the user needs to mark the object with a piece of tape or paint in a single location to be used as a reference point.

### **Look only at the reference point.**

If the speed of rotation is within the range of the stroboscope, start at the highest flash rate and adjust the flash rate down. At some point you will stop the motion with only a single reference point of the object in view. Note that at a flash rate twice the actual speed of the image you will see two images (reference points). As you approach the correct speed you may see three, four or more images at harmonics of the actual speed. The first SINGLE image you see is the true speed. To confirm the true speed, note the reading and adjust the stroboscope to exactly half this reading, or just press the  $\div 2$  button. You should again see a single image (which may be phase shifted with respect to the first image seen).

For example, when viewing a shaft with a single key way you will see one stationary image of the key way at the actual speed and at  $1/2, 1/3, 1/4$ , etc, of the actual speed. You will see 2 images of the key way at 2 times the actual speed, 3 key way at 3 times, etc. **The Flashes Per Minute (FPM) equals the shaft's Revolutions Per Minute (RPM) at the highest flash rate that gives only one stationary image of the key way.**



Stopped Image  
Flash Rate (FPM)

1/4 times  
833

1/2 times  
1250

1 time  
2500

2 times  
5000

3 times  
7500

4 times  
10000

### Example: object rotating at 2500 RPM

If the speed is outside the full scale range of the stroboscope (10,000 FPM), it can be measured using the method of harmonics and multipoint calculation. Start at the highest flash rate and adjust the flash rate down. You will encounter multiple images so be aware of these. Note the flash rate of the first SINGLE image you encounter, call this speed “A”. Continue decreasing the flash rate until you encounter a second SINGLE image. Note this speed as “B”. Continue decreasing the speed until you reach a third SINGLE image at speed “C”.

For a two point calculation the actual speed is given by:

$$\text{RPM} = AB/(A-B)$$

For a three point calculation:

$$\text{RPM} = 2XY(X+Y)/(X-Y)^2 \text{ where}$$

X = (A-B) and  
Y = (B-C)

In instances when you can shut down the device and install a piece of reflective tape, then an optical tachometer is easier to use for RPM measurement. **Stroboscopes must be used when you can't shut down the device.** The human eye is not easily tricked into seeing a stopped image by a stroboscope when the flash rate is slower than 300 FPM. Therefore, stroboscopes are just about impossible to use below 300 FPM for inspection or to measure RPM.

## 5.0 LAMP AND FUSE REPLACEMENT

### 5.1 Lamp Replacement

**WARNING:** Before attempting to remove the lamp, make sure the stroboscope is turned off and any mains cord is removed from the AC outlet. Allow the lamp to cool waiting at least 5 minutes.

The stroboscope is designed to discharge the internal high voltages within 30 seconds. However, caution should be exercised when replacing the lamp.

The lamp can be replaced by using just a pocket screwdriver. **It is not necessary to remove any screws to replace the lamp.**

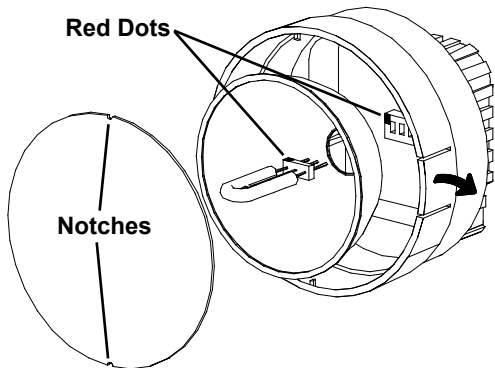
#### **To change the lamp:**

1. Push apart the two tabs on the side of the reflector housing and remove the lens using a small screwdriver to help pry one tab and lift the lens. Take care not to pry the tab any more than is necessary to free the lens. The reflector is held in place by the front lens and will come loose, but it is not necessary to remove the reflector.
2. Hold the lamp with a cloth between your forefinger and thumb and rock it back and forth gently while pulling out. Do not attempt to rotate the lamp. The lamp is socketed and will come out easily when pulled straight out.

**WARNING:** Do NOT touch the new lamp with bare fingers.

3. The lamps are polarized and must be put into the socket matching polarity. **Using a lint free cloth, match up the red dot on the plug with the red dot on the socket** and gently rock the lamp

while pushing it into place (see Figure 4). Make sure the lamp is in straight and centered in the reflector hole.



**Figure 4 Lamp Replacement**

**CAUTION: Do NOT allow the reflector to contact the lamp.**

4. Reinstall the reflector and then position the front lens in place matching up the notches on the lens with the two small tabs on the housing to prevent lens rotation (see Figure 2). Push the tabs on the front rim outward and press the lens into place.

## **5.2 Fuse Replacement**

Under normal operating conditions, the fuse within the stroboscope should never blow. Examples of abnormal operating conditions would be foreign materials entering the strobe, such as water, pulp, ink, etc.

The AC Powered stroboscope has a replaceable fuse inside the unit, which may be accessed by removing the lens and reflector - refer to Figure 2. If the fuse needs to be replaced, replace only with a fuse of the same type and value: Fast Blow - 750mA, 2AG.

**WARNING: Before attempting to replace the fuse, make sure the stroboscope is turned off and any mains cord is removed from the AC outlet. Allow the lamp to cool waiting at least 5 minutes.**

The Battery Powered stroboscope has a resettable fuse, which will reset once conditions are normal again.

## 6.0 BATTERY POWERED MODELS ONLY

The Nova-Strobe bbx is fitted with rechargeable NiMH (Nickel Metal Hydride) batteries. These batteries contain fewer toxic metals than NiCd (Nickel Cadmium) and are currently classified “environmentally friendly”. They also have 30% more capacity than NiCd batteries of the same size.

Like NiCds, NiMH **batteries are prone to self-discharge** - 10 to 15% of charge is lost in the first 24 hours then continues at a rate of 0.5 to 1% per day. For maximum performance, charge the batteries just prior to use.


When not in use, the batteries should be charged at least every three months, otherwise the battery capacity will be reduced or the batteries may become unusable.

**Charge the batteries before use and allow 3-5 cycles of charging and discharging for batteries to reach full capacity.**

The enclosure contains control electronics to properly and safely charge the batteries. Never remove the batteries from the enclosure and attempt to charge externally. **Always use the charger supplied (PSC-2U).**

## 6.1 Low Battery Indication

When the batteries are charged, there will be no battery indication. When the batteries are low, the Low Battery icon will blink in the display. The strobe may still be used for a short time.

Low Battery Icon =  Outline blinking (very little time left)

The strobe has a protection feature that prevents the strobe from operating if the battery voltage is too low. **This condition is indicated by no flash and the display shows “LO BAT”.** At this time the batteries must be recharged. Remember to release the trigger switch.

## 6.2 Charging the Batteries

The unit may be recharged at any time. You do not need to wait until the low battery condition is indicated.

### **To charge the battery powered strobe with the recharger:**

1. Release the trigger so the strobe is off.
2. Plug the recharger cable into the recharger socket (located below the display panel behind the handle).
3. Plug the recharger into an AC mains wall outlet (115/230 Vac).

**CAUTION: Use of rechargers other than the one supplied (PSC-2U) will damage the stroboscope and void the warranty.**

When the recharger plug is inserted into the recharger jack, the strobe will go into the Charging Mode. Make sure the trigger switch is not depressed. The strobe will not do anything else when charging (e.g. it will not flash and the buttons have no function).

When charging, the strobe will indicate *CHARGE* in the bottom right of the display. The recharger will fast charge the batteries for about 4-5 hours and then trickle charge the batteries.

Allow the recharger to charge the batteries until the display shows *DONE* for peak battery life performance. If the batteries are not charged to 100% regularly, the batteries will lose capacity.

### **6.3 Battery Disposal**

Prior to disposing of the battery-powered strobe, the user must remove the Nickel-Metal Hydride batteries. To do this, remove the lens, reflector and lamp as detailed in the Lamp Replacement section. This will expose four (4) screws that must be removed so the reflector housing can be dismantled. There are four (4) additional screws in the case half opposite the input and output jacks that must be removed. The case halves can now be separated, exposing the batteries. Unplug the batteries from the circuit board. The batteries should be sent to a recycling center or returned to the factory. The rest of the parts may now be disposed of.

## 7.0 SPECIFICATIONS

### Internal Mode:

<b>Flash Range</b>	30 - 10,000 FPM (Flashes Per Minute)
<b>Flash Rate Accuracy</b>	±1 FPM
<b>Flash Rate Resolution</b>	1 FPM
<b>Display Update Rate</b>	Instantaneous
<b>Time Base</b>	Ultra Stable Crystal Oscillator
<b>Display</b>	LCD display with 6 numeric 0.506 inch [12.85 mm] high digits and 5 alphanumeric 0.282 inch [7.17 mm] high digits
<b>Indicators</b>	Battery level
<b>Knob Adjustment</b>	Digital Rotary switch with 36 detents per revolution; velocity sensitive
<b>Memory</b>	Last setting before power down is remembered and restored on next power up
<b>Flash Duration</b>	10-25 microseconds (auto adjust with flash rate)
<b>Flash Tube (Lamp) Life</b>	100 million flashes

This product is designed to be safe for indoor use under the following conditions (per IEC61010-1).

**Operating Temperature** 32-104 °F [0-40 °C] (May be operated for short time periods, slightly beyond stated temperature range)

**NOTE: Safety thermal feature will set unit into TACH Mode (stops flashing) in the event of internal overheating. Unit must then be power cycled.**

**Humidity** Maximum relative humidity 80% for temperature up to 88 °F [31 °C] decreasing linearly to 50% relative humidity at 104 °F [40 °C]



**Compliance:** CE compliant. Low Voltage Directive (LVD) 2014/35/EU  
Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMC) 2014/30/EU  
Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive 2011/65/EU

**bbx Specific:**

**Input Power**

**Battery powered:** Internal Rechargeable Batteries 6 Vdc,  
External AC recharger (100 Vac to 240 Vac, 50/60 Hz)

**Light Output**

**Average:** 13 Watts typical > 4000 FPM

**Run Time**

**Instantaneous** (per flash): 230 mJoule typical to 4000 FPM  
2 hours typical at 1800 FPM, and over 1 hour at 6000 FPM with fully charged batteries

**Charge Time**

4-5 hours typical with PSC-2U

**Weight**

1.875 lbs [0.8505 kg] including batteries

**Energy Efficiency**

Nova-Strobe bbx units with Firmware Revision 1.43 and higher are compliant with California Code of Regulations Title 20, 10 CFR Section 430.23(aa) (Appendix Y to Subpart B of Part 430) June 20, 2016.  
Small Battery Charger Systems



**bax Specific:**

**Input Power**

**AC powered:** 115 Vac OR 230 Vac, 35VA (as ordered)

**Light Output**

**Average Power:** 15.5 Watts typical > 4000 FPM

**Run Time**

**Instantaneous** (per flash): 230 mJoule typical to 4000 FPM  
Continuous within temperature limitations. Vents must not be restricted. Unit must be horizontal.

**Weight**

1.55 lbs [0.70 kg]

**Product specifications subject to change without notice.**

Manufactured in an ISO9001 facility.

For troubleshooting information and technical support visit  
[www.monarchinstrument.com](http://www.monarchinstrument.com).

## 8.0 ACCESSORIES

P/N	Model	Description
6280-040	CC-7	Plastic Latching Carrying Case with provision for accessories
6280-041	SPC-1	Splashproof Protective Cover for Nova-Strobe battery-powered Strobe ONLY
6280-048	Protective Rubber Cover	Protective Rubber Cover fits over reflector housing to protect against accidental drops and infiltration of contaminants
6206-xxx-CAL 6207-xxx-CAL	CAL-N.I.S.T.	N.I.S.T. Traceable Certificate of Calibration Include with order or obtain RMA#



P/N: 6280-040



P/N: 6280-041



P/N: 6280-048

## 9.0 REPLACEMENT PARTS

P/N	Model	Description
6280-030	L-1903	Stroboscope replacement lamp
6280-022	PSC-2U	Universal Recharger, 115/230 Vac with USA, U.K., AUS, Euro Adpter Plugs for battery operated Nova-Strobes
6280-046	Internal Battery Pack	Rechargeable NiMH Battery Pack for battery-operated Nova-Strobes



P/N: 6280-030



P/N: 6280-022



P/N: 6280-046

# Check out some of our other product lines...



**Handheld  
Tachometers**



**Panel  
Tachometers**



**Portable  
Stroboscopes**



**Machine Vision  
Stroboscopes**



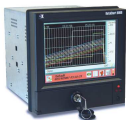
**Speed Sensors**



**Temperature/  
Humidity Sensors**



**Vibration Meters**



**Paperless Recorders**



**Track-It™ Data Loggers**

Printed in the U.S.A.

Copyright 2018 Monarch Instrument, all rights reserved

1071-4206-116 - 0518