TDR - Canoga Perkins 1401E

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Canoga Perkins 1401E Time Domain Reflectometer (TDR)

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Fast, accurate and easy to use, the Canoga Perkins Model 1401e Time Domain Reflectometer (TDR) will locate and identify faults and problems in telephone cables and DSL lines. The faults and problems identified by the 1401e include shorts, crosses, opens, high resistance opens, splits, load coils, repeaters, wet splices, wet sections, bridge taps and unbalances.

Because the 1401e is designed with the OSP Technician in mind, the top menus contain the most frequently used features and parameters. The 1401e's menu structure is especially fast and easy to use. It minimizes operator keystrokes, quickly executes commands and uses common industry nomenclature.

The 1401e offers several significant features:

Back-lit Supertwist LCD Screen - rugged and easy to read

Thirty two Memory Locations for trace storage

Dual Trace Storage - allows storage of reference and trouble pairs

Parallel and Serial Printer Interfaces - supports IBM/Epson-compatible dot matrix and HP Laserjet II compatible printers

Traces downloadable to PC or laptop computer

The Accumulate Test allows for capture and storage of intermittent troubles

Additional features include Crosstalk Testing, Multiple Trace Comparisons, Single and Dual Pair Testing, Eight Measuring Ranges from 250 to 40,000 feet, Adjustable Propagation Velocity and a Waterproof User's Manual. Rechargeable Battery operation provides six to eight hours of continuous use with automatic shut down if not used for ten minutes. Both Serial and Parallel printer interfaces provide the capability of outputting to a printer or exporting to a computer through the serial port for historical storage of traces or future comparisons and analysis.

The 1401e is available in a soft pack case. Durable and lightweight, the 1401e is designed to stand up to the rigors of continual field use.

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Stores up to 32 traces
Export traces to your computer
Accumulate and Difference Modes
Dual Trace and Crosstalk Tests
DSL Line Testing
Serial and Parallel Printer Ports
Propagation Velocity Tables in Memory
User-friendly Menu
Continuous Scan Mode
Configurable in Metric or Imperial
Audible "Beep" when a Key is Depressed
Back-lit LCD

The 1401 TDR or "radar cable test set" can be used not only to isolate the location of line impairments, but also to provide indications as to the nature of the fault.

- Single and Dual Trace capability with Crosstalk Testing
- Eight Memeory Locations for saving Single and Dual Traces
- Propagation Tables stored in memory for quick access
- Serial Printer Port with "Print All" Memories feature
- SuperTwist Liquid Crystal Display for high contrast and ruggedness
- Multiple Trace Comparison
- Measures in either Feet or Meters

Like many TDRs, the 1401e was intended for use by telephone service technicians. It is battery-powered and designed for outdoor use. It uses an LCD display to show test results. Two cables or pairs can be tested simultaneously and the unit comes with two pairs of test leads. The 1401e also has a serial output that allows you to capture traces and test information to electronic files on your laptop or other computer. This unit performs pretty well and I use it on a regular basis.

This is the unit I carry in my car, though the batteries are getting a bit weak and I usually have to charge it for 30 minutes or so or connect it to a battery when I need to use it.

QUALITY: Well-made and intended for rough use.

PERFORMANCE: This unit is a bit clumsy to use until you get used to it, but it seems to be accurate.

PROS: Weather-resistant, battery operated, can compare two circuits or pairs, has serial data output to computer, accurate.

CONS: Battery life is only OK, getting velocity of propagation values set is clumsy, limited to TDR functions.

VALUE: These are dirt-cheap on the used equipment market.

OVERALL OPINION: I use this unit frequently if only because of the serial data port. I always make sure to charge the battery before I take it out. If you have never used a TDR before, this probably isn't the unit for you.