

PASSPORT

PASSPORT



DRIVE SMARTER



S55

Designed in the USA  
ESCORT Inc.  
5440 West Chester Road  
West Chester OH 45069  
800.433.3487  
EscortRadar.com

©2015 ESCORT Inc. ESCORT®, PASSPORT®, S55™, Escort Live!™, SpecDisplay™, ExpertMeter™ are trademarks of ESCORT Inc. Manufactured in Canada. Features, specifications, and prices subject to change without notice.

**FCC NOTE:**  
Modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's FCC granted authority to operate the equipment.  
FCC ID: QKLL4  
This device complies with part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received including interference that may cause undesired operation.



Compatible with  
**ESCORT**  
**Live!**

R A D A R • L A S E R • S A F E T Y C A M E R A • D E T E C T O R

Owner's Manual



You've purchased the **all-new PASSPORT S55**, one of the most advanced high-performance radar and laser detectors on the market. The PASSPORT S55 provides long-range warning on all radar and laser bands. And our patented Mute and AutoMute circuits keep the PASSPORT S55 quiet in even the most populated areas.

- Long-range warning on all radar, including POP, X-band, K-band and SuperWide Ka-band.
- Long-range warning on all radar, including POP, X-band, K-band and SuperWide Ka-band.
- Multiple high-performance laser sensors provide maximum laser warning with superior off-axis protection.
- Exclusive AutoSensitivity setting intelligently filters out annoying false alarms.
- Exclusive ExpertMeter tracks and displays up to four radar signals simultaneously.
- Exclusive SpecDisplay provides actual numeric frequency for any radar signal.
- Plus, it's compatible with ESCORT Live, the award-winning ticket protection network that warns you of upcoming alerts received and reported by other users in the area, and gives you access to local speed limit data for over-speed alerts.\*



\*Requires optional SmartCord Live and app subscription.

Compatible with  
**ESCORT**  
**Live!**

<b>Getting Started</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Settings &amp; Preferences</b>	<b>8-9</b>
• What's Included	4	• How to use Preferences	8
• Mounting Tips	4	• Restoring Detector Settings	8
• PASSPORT S55 Mounting Location	4	• Settings	9
• To Begin Using PASSPORT S55	4	<b>Understanding Your Detector</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>Controls &amp; Features</b>	<b>5-7</b>	• Interpreting Alerts	10
• PASSPORT S55	5	• How Radar Works	11
• Using SmartCord	5	• How Pop Works	11
• Power-on Indication	6	• How Laser Works	11
• Volume	6	• How TSR Works	11
• Mute	6	<b>Troubleshooting</b>	<b>12</b>
• AutoMute	6	<b>Service</b>	<b>13</b>
• Display Brightness	6	<b>Parts &amp; Accessories</b>	<b>13</b>
• Radar Sensitivity	6	<b>Warranty</b>	<b>13</b>
• Alert Tones	6		
• Signal-Strength Meter	7		
• ESCORT Live!	7		

## What's Included

- S55 Radar/laser Detector
- Windshield Mount
- SmartCord
- Quick Reference Guide
- Travel Case

## Mounting Tips

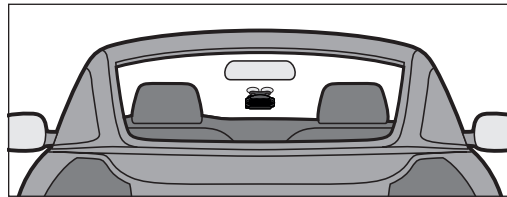
- Center on windshield between driver and passenger.
- Ensure clear view of road ahead.
- Avoid windshield wipers and heavily tinted areas.

## PASSPORT S55 Mounting Location

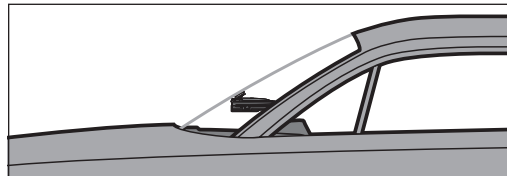
**WARNING:** ESCORT cannot anticipate the many ways PASSPORT S55 can be mounted. It is important that you mount PASSPORT S55 where it will not impair your view nor present a hazard in case of an accident.

For optimum detection performance, we recommend the following:

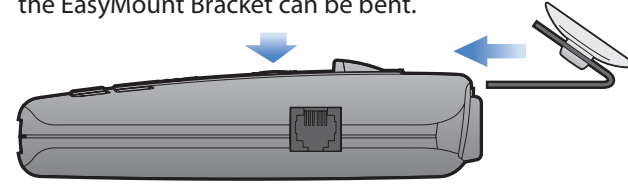
- Using the Windshield Mount, mount your PASSPORT S55 level, and high enough on your front windshield to provide a clear view of the road from the front and rear.



- Mount PASSPORT S55 away from windshield wipers, other solid objects, and heavily tinted areas that might obstruct the radar antenna or laser lens.



**1** Depress the adjustment/release button on the top of PASSPORT S55 (by the logo S55) and slide the EasyMount 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 EasyMount 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 PASSPORT S55 on your windshield, use the EasyMount adjustment button located on the top of the PASSPORT S55, and slide PASSPORT S55 forward or backward to obtain a level position.


When installed and adjusted properly, the back top edge of the PASSPORT S55 should rest solidly against your windshield.

**User's Tip:** You can leave the EasyMount bracket in place on your windshield, and easily remove PASSPORT S55 by pressing the adjustment button and sliding PASSPORT S55 off the mount. Again, be sure to position the bracket where it won't present a hazard in the event of an accident.

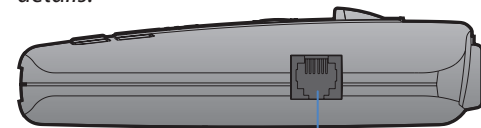
Additional mounts are available at [EscortRadar.com](http://EscortRadar.com)

## To Begin Using PASSPORT S55

**1** Plug small end of SmartCord into modular jack on PASSPORT S55 and large end of SmartCord into your car's lighter/accessory socket.

**2** PASSPORT S55 should power on automatically. If not, press the device's power button. 

**NOTE:** You can easily access and customize all of your Settings and Preferences by pressing and holding the VOL and BRT buttons. See Settings & Preferences for details.



**Modular Jack**  
Connects to SmartCord for powering your device



## Using SmartCord

The SmartCord is a special power cord that has a power-on indicator, a bright alert light that warns of radar or laser, and a convenient MUTE button right on the plug. It's perfect for any car where reaching the detector's MUTE button on the windshield is a stretch. For discreet night driving, put PASSPORT S55 in Full Dark mode and use the SmartCord for your visual alerts. Other drivers won't know you have a detector.

- Mute Button: Press to mute an alert.
- Alert Light: Blinks red when receiving an alert.
- Power Light: Lights green when receiving power.

For descriptions of features and functions available when connected to SmartCord Live with ESCORT Live, visit [EscortRadar.com](http://EscortRadar.com) and download the SmartCord Live user manual for your iOS or Android OS smartphone.



**Power-On Indication**

When you turn PASSPORT S55 on, it will go through a sequence of alerts. If any bands have been disabled, a tone and corresponding display message will alert you that one or more bands have been turned off. After the startup sequence is complete, the display will show Highway, Auto or Auto No X to indicate which sensitivity mode is selected. If you prefer, you may program your device for a faster power-on sequence. See the Settings & Preference section for details.

**Volume**

To adjust PASSPORT S55 to your preferred audio level for alerts, simply press and hold the VOL button. The audio will increase/decrease while it is depressed. Once you reach the desired audio level, simply release the button. PASSPORT S55 will retain this setting in its memory, even if the system is turned off.

**Mute**

The MUTE button allows you to silence the audio during an alert. Simply press the button during the alert. Once the radar encounter has passed, the mute will disengage, and the audio will return to your pre-set level. You can also silence an alert by pressing the SmartCord MUTE button.

**AutoMute**

Your PASSPORT S55 also includes ESCORT’s patented AutoMute feature. Once PASSPORT S55 alerts you to a radar encounter at your selected volume level, it automatically reduces 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 Settings & Preferences section for details.

**Display Brightness**

PASSPORT S55 offers four options for display brightness, as well as a Full Dark mode. Press the BRT button to set a fixed brightness level: Dark, Minimum, Medium, Maximum.

- Dark** Dark mode
- Minimum** Minimum brightness
- Medium** Medium brightness
- Maximum** Maximum brightness

**Full Dark Mode**

Your device also includes a Full Dark mode in which the display will not provide any indication that it is on. Only audible alerts and SmartCord alerts will notify you of detected signals. See Settings & Preferences for details on how to activate Full Dark mode.

**Radar Sensitivity**

The SEN button allows you to select your preferred radar sensitivity: Highway, Auto or Auto No X. In general, ESCORT recommends Auto for everyday driving.

**Highway**

In this setting, PASSPORT S55 will detect all radar signals on all bands at maximum range.

**Auto**

In this setting, PASSPORT S55 will continuously analyze all incoming signals and intelligently adjust the sensitivity circuits, providing long-range warning with minimal false alarms.

**Auto No X**

Auto No X works the same as Auto mode; however, X band is completely turned off.

*WARNING: Do not use PASSPORT S55 in Auto No X unless you are absolutely certain that there are no traffic radar guns using X band in your area.*

**Alert Tones**

PASSPORT S55 uses a Geiger counter-type sound to indicate the signal strength and type of radar signal being encountered. When you encounter radar, a distinct audible alert will sound and will increase as the signal gets stronger. This allows you to judge the distance from the signal source without taking your eyes off of the road. Each band has a distinct tone for easy identification:

- X band = *beep tone*
- K band = *brap tone*
- Ka band = *double-brap tone*
- Laser = *solid brap tone*
- Pop = *solid brap tone*

Since laser signals are a possible threat no matter how weak, PASSPORT S55 alerts you to all laser signals with a full laser alert.

See the Settings & Preferences section for details on switching your alert tones.

**Signal-Strength Meter**

PASSPORT S55 offers three different settings for displaying alerts:



*Standard*

The **Standard** option provides information on a single radar signal. When PASSPORT S55 detects radar, it displays the band of the radar (X, K or Ka) and a bar graph of the signal’s strength. When laser is detected, the display will simply read “Laser.” If there are multiple signals present, PASSPORT S55 will determine which one is the most important threat to display



*SpecDisplay*

The **SpecDisplay** option is an advanced display for experienced detector users. In this mode, it will display the actual numeric radar frequency being received. Even long-time detector users will require some time to get familiar with this new level of information about detected signals. To use PASSPORT S55 in Spec meter mode, you must select it in Preferences.



*ExpertMeter*

ESCORT’s exclusive **ExpertMeter** option is also designed for the advanced detector user. In this mode, PASSPORT S55 simultaneously tracks up to eight radar signals (two Ka-band, two K-band and four X-band) and shows each signal along with a bar graph of its strength. Expert meter mode can help you spot a change in your normal driving environment (e.g., a traffic radar unit being operated in an area where there are normally other signals present). To use PASSPORT S55 in Expert meter mode, you must select it in Preferences..

ExpertMeter simultaneously tracks up to four radar signals: Ka band, X band, K band and X band. It shows each signal along with a bar graph of its strength. ExpertMeter can help you spot a change in your normal driving environment (e.g., a traffic radar unit being operated in an area where there are normally other signals present).

*NOTE: PASSPORT S55’s selectable bands feature allows you to customize which bands are monitored. For details on modifying your band detection, see the Settings & Preferences section. For details on the various radar/laser bands and how they work, see the Understanding Your Detector section.*

**ESCORT Live!**

PASSPORT S55 is fully compatible with the ESCORT Live smartphone application. For comprehensive information on these options and all of ESCORT Live’s features and functions, visit EscortRadar.com.



## How to use Preferences

To enter Preferences press and hold the **VOL** and **BRT** buttons down for 2 seconds. To exit Preferences, simply wait a few seconds without pressing a button. The unit will display **Complete** to confirm your selection(s).

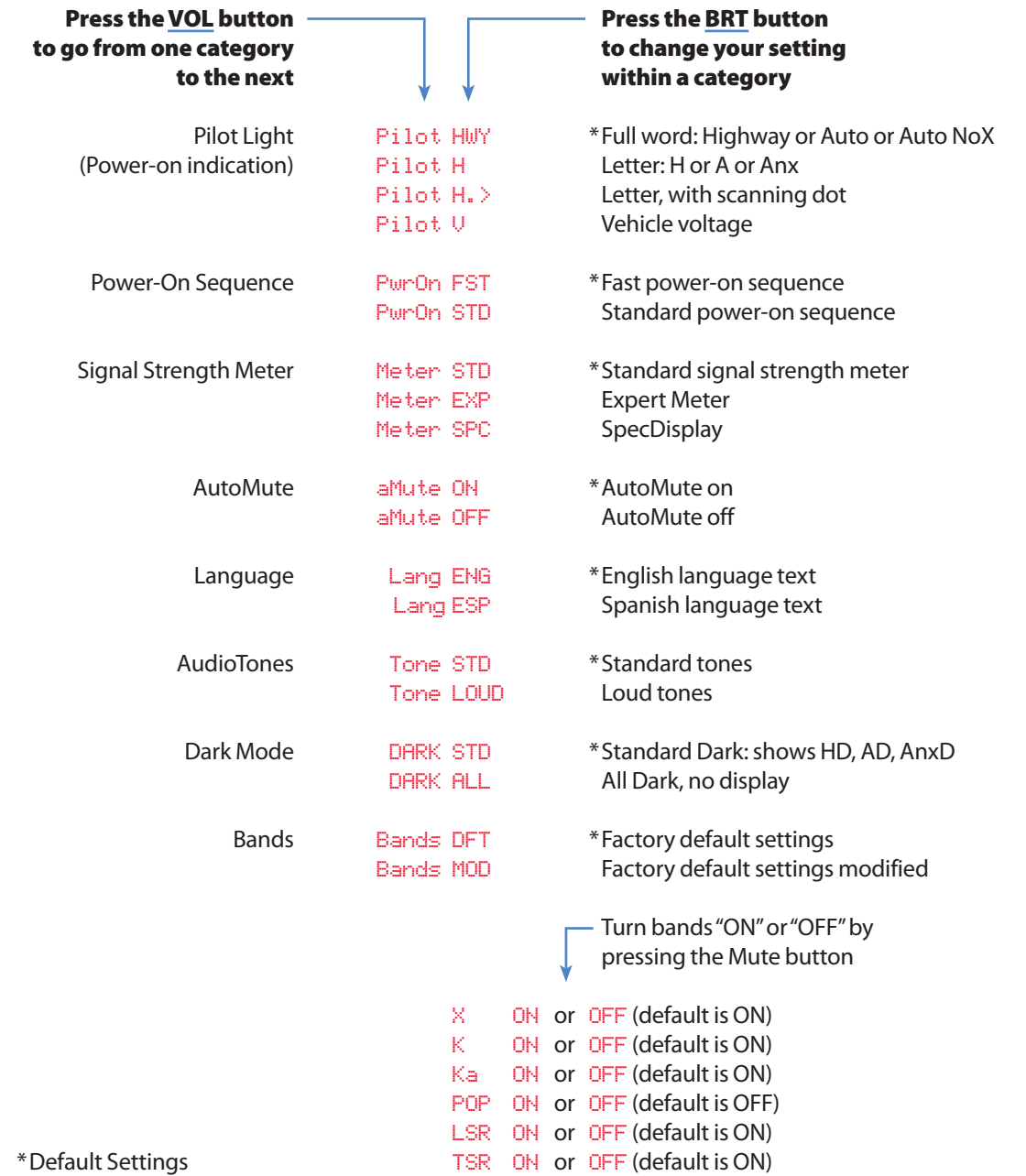
### Example:

Here's how you would turn the AutoMute feature off:

- 1 Enter Preferences by pressing and holding both the VOL and BRT buttons. PASSPORT S55 will display **PROGRAM**.
- 2 Then press the VOL button to scroll through categories to **AutoMute**.
- 3 Since the factory setting is for AutoMute to be on, PASSPORT S55 will show AutoMute as ON.
- 4 Press the BRT button to change from ON to OFF.
- 5 To complete this change simply wait a few seconds without pressing any button. The unit will display **Complete** and return to normal operation.

## Restoring Detector Settings

To restore PASSPORT S55 to its original factory settings, press and hold VOL and BRT while turning the power on. A **RESET** message will display, acknowledging the reset.



## Interpreting Alerts

Although PASSPORT S55 has a comprehensive warning system, only experience will teach you what to expect from your detector 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 alerts you receive. The following examples will give you an introduction to understanding your detector's warning system for radar and laser alerts.

Alert	Explanation
Detector begins to sound slowly; rate of alert increases until it becomes a solid tone. The signal meter ramps accordingly.	You are approaching a continuous radar source aimed in your direction.
Detector emits short alerts for a few seconds then falls silent, only to briefly alert and fall silent again.	An instant-on radar source is being used ahead of you and out of your view.
Detector suddenly sounds a continuous tone for the appropriate band received.	An instant-on radar or laser source is being used nearby. This kind of alert requires immediate attention.
Detector sends a brief laser alert.	Laser is being used in the area. Because laser is inherently difficult to detect, any laser alert may indicate a source very close by.
Detector receives weak signals. Signals may be a little stronger as you pass large, roadside objects. Signals increase in frequency.	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.
Detector alerts slowly for a while then abruptly jumps to a strong alert.	You are approaching a radar unit concealed by a hill or an obstructed curve.
Detector alerts intermittently. Rate and strength of alerts may be consistent or vary widely.	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.
Detector alerts intermittently. Rate and strength of signal increases with each alert.	A patrol car is approaching from the other direction, sampling traffic with instant-on radar. Such alerts should be taken seriously.
Detector gives an X band alert intermittently.	You are driving through an area populated with radar motion sensors (e.g., door openers or burglar alarms). 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:** 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, and 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 and K band radar, your detector 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 the device's radar detection abilities are fully operational.



## How POP Works

POP 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).

*NOTE: According to radar gun manufacturers, tickets should not be issued in pop mode.*

## How Laser Works

Laser speed detection is actually light detection and ranging (LIDAR). Laser guns project a beam of invisible infrared light. The signal is a series of very short infrared light energy pulses that move in a straight line, reflecting off your car and returning to the gun. Laser 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.

Laser is a newer technology whose use is not as widespread as conventional radar; therefore, you may not encounter it on a daily basis. And unlike radar detection, laser is not prone to false alarms. Because laser 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 laser, however. Laser is much more sensitive to weather conditions than radar, and a laser gun's range will be decreased by anything affecting visibility, such as rain, fog or smoke. A laser gun cannot operate through glass, and it must be stationary to get an accurate reading. Because laser must have a clear line of sight and is subject to cosine error (an inaccuracy that increases as the angle between the gun and the vehicle increases), police typically use laser equipment parallel to the road or from an overpass. Laser can be used day or night.

## How TSR Works

PASSPORT S55 includes a new boost in anti-falsing software to eliminate excessive alerts from erroneous X and K band sources, such as traffic flow monitoring systems. These systems, which are becoming more widely used in several countries, generate K band signals to measure the flow of traffic on a given road. Unfortunately, most detectors see this as a real threat and will alert you to it unnecessarily. Our new proprietary software, TSR, intelligently sorts, ranks and rejects these types of false alarms automatically. The result is ultimate protection without excessive false alarms.



Problem	Explanation/Solution
Detector beeps briefly at the same location every day, but no radar source is in sight.	An X band motion sensor or intrusion alarm is located within range of your route.
Detector did not alert when a police car was in view.	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.
Detector's audible alerts become softer after the first few alerts.	Detector is in AutoMute mode. See "AutoMute" in the Settings & Preferences section for details.
The power-on sequence reoccurs while you are driving.	A loose power connection can cause PASSPORT S55 to be briefly disconnected and will retrigger the power-on sequence. Check all connections.
You wish to restore the factory default settings.	Press and hold the VOL and BRT buttons while powering on the detector. A "Reset" message will display, acknowledging the reset.
The device will not turn on.	Check that vehicle ignition is on.  Check all connections.
The display feels warm.	It is normal for the device to feel warm.
The display is blank.	PASSPORT S55 is in Dark mode. Press the BRT button to adjust the brightness.

**Service Procedure**

If your S55 ever needs service, call us at 1-800-543-1608. We may be able to solve your problem over the phone. If the problem requires that you send your S55 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. Ship the product prepaid insured, for your protection.

Properly pack your product and include:

- Your S55 and power cord
- Your Service Order Number
- Your name and complete return address
- Your daytime telephone number
- A description of the problem you are experiencing

ESCORT Inc.  
Customer Service Department  
Return Authorization Number \_\_\_\_\_  
5440 West Chester Road  
West Chester OH 45069

**ESCORT Extended Service Plan**

ESCORT offers an optional extended service plan. Contact ESCORT Sales for details at 800-433-3487.

**Parts & Accessories**

The following accessories and replacement parts are available for PASSPORT S55:

- Coiled SmartCord
- DirectWire SmartCord
- Accessory Kit
- Visor Clip
- Zippered Travel Case

Visit [EscortRadar.com](http://EscortRadar.com) for selection and pricing.

 **800.433.3487**

 **[EscortRadar.com](http://EscortRadar.com)**

**ESCORT One-Year Limited Warranty**

**What this warranty covers:** Escort, Inc. ("Escort") warrants your Product against all defects in materials and workmanship.

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

**What we will do:** If a breach of warranty occurs, Escort, at its discretion, will either repair or replace your Product free of charge.

**What we will not do:** Escort 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 or receipt from an authorized Escort dealer.

**Warranty exclusions:** This 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. 5. You are not the original purchaser of the Product from an authorized dealer or did not receive it as a gift from the original purchaser of the Product from an authorized dealer.

**To obtain service:** 1. Contact Escort (1-800-543-1608) to obtain a Return Authorization Number. 2. Properly pack your Product and include: your name, complete return address, written description of the problem with your Product, daytime telephone number, and a copy of the original proof of purchase or receipt. 3. Label the outside of the package clearly with your Return Authorization Number. Ship the Product pre-paid (insured, for your protection) to: Escort, Inc., 5440 West Chester Rd., West Chester, OH 45069.

**LIMITATION OF WARRANTY:** The obligations set forth above are Escort's sole obligations and your exclusive remedy. Escort makes no other express warranty. Any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose that may be applicable to the Product is limited in duration to the duration of this warranty. Some States do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you. ESCORT 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. Some States do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. Escort is not responsible for products lost in shipment between the owner and our service center.

**Other legal rights:** This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from State to State.