The Cobra line of quality products includes:

- CB Radios
- Dash Cams
- Radar Detectors
- Marine VHF Radios
- Power Inverters
- Accessories

For more information or to order any of our products, please visit our website: www.cobra.com

Operating Instructions

RADAR/LASER PROTECTION

RAD250

Important Information

Federal Laws Governing the Use of Radar Detectors
It is not against federal law to receive radar transmissions with your Cobra radar/laser detector. The Communications Act of 1924 guarantees your right to receive radio transmissions on any frequency. Local laws that contravene this Act, while illegal, may be enforced by your local law enforcement officials until and unless they are prohibited from doing so by federal court action.

Safe Driving
Motorists, as well as operators of emergency or service vehicles, are expected to exercise all due caution while using this product, and to obey all applicable traffic laws. Do not attempt to change settings of the unit while in motion.

Security of Your Vehicle
Before leaving your vehicle, always remember to conceal your radar detector in order to reduce the possibility of break-in and theft.

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6500 West Cortland Street
Chicago, Illinois 60707 USA

www.cobra.com
**Controls Indicators and Connections**

- LaserEye: For detection of laser signals.
- Windshield Bracket Mount: For manual mute or auto mute of audio alerts.
- SEN Button: Adjust sensitivity to City or Highway modes to reduce false alerts.
- Dim Button: For adjusting the display brightness.
- Mute Button: For manual mute or auto mute of audio alerts.

**Notes:**
- FCC NOTICE: This device complies with part 15 of 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.
- AVIS FCC: Ce produit est conforme à la partie 15 des règles de la FCC. Son fonctionnement est soumis aux deux conditions suivantes: (1) Ce dispositif ne peut causer des interférences nuisibles, et (2) Ce produit doit accepter toute interférence reçue, y compris les interférences qui peuvent causer un mauvais fonctionnement.

**Introduction**

Congratulations! You’ve made a smart choice by purchasing a radar/laser detector from Cobra. Just look at some of the sophisticated features and capabilities your new unit includes:

- Radar/Laser Protection: Detects all radar and laser guns.
- LaserEye: Detects laser signals from both front and rear.
- Anti-Faking Circuitry: Automatically reduces false alerts from erroneous sources including automatic door openers, fixed position traffic flow monitoring systems and collision avoidance systems.
- City & Highway Modes: Selectable modes reduces falsing in densely populated areas.
- Auto Mute: Automatically mutes audio for sustained alerts.

This booklet describes the simple steps for mounting and setting up your detector. It also provides helpful information about how radar and laser guns are used and how you can interpret the alerts you receive.

**Product Features**

- Radar/Laser Protection
- LaserEye
- Auto Mute

**Trademark Acknowledgement**

Cobra®, DigiProw®, EasySight®, Extra Sensing Detection®, IntelliMute®, IntelliMute® Pro, IntelliFlash®, LaserEye®, Nothing Comes Close to a Cobra®, VG-2 Alert®, X/Ka L V/S®, and the snake design are registered trademarks of Cobra Electronics Corporation, USA.

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# Introduction

- Important Information ........................................... A1
- Controls, Indicators and Connections .................. A2
- Display ................................................................. A3
- Product Features .................................................... A3

## Your Detector

- Installation ............................................................. 2
- Getting Started ...................................................... 5
- Settings ................................................................. 6
  - Highway/City Mode ................................................. 6
  - Anti-Falsing Circuitry ............................................. 7
  - Muting an Alert ................................................... 7
  - Auto Mute Mode ................................................... 7
  - Display Brightness ................................................. 8
  - Tone Setting ........................................................ 8
  - VG-2 Alert Settings ............................................... 9
  - Radar Alert Settings ............................................. 10
- Detection ............................................................... 11
  - Signals Detected .................................................. 11
  - Audio Alerts ....................................................... 11
  - Visual Display ..................................................... 11
  - Instant-On Detection ............................................. 13
  - Responding to Alerts .......................................... 14
- Understanding Radar and Laser .......................... 15
- Understanding LIDAR ............................................... 16

## Customer Information

- Maintenance .......................................................... 16
- Specifications ......................................................... 17
- Limited 1-Year Warranty ....................................... 18
- Product Service & Optional Accessories ............... 19
- Trademark Acknowledgement ............................... 20
Installation

Where to Mount Your Unit

You will get optimum performance from your detector if you Mount it at a point approximately in the center of the vehicle, as low as possible on the front windshield without obstructing the unit's view of the road either to the front or rear. You can also mount it directly on the dashboard.

Windshield Mounting

Dashboard Mounting

The unit’s lens must not be blocked and the LaserEye should have a clear view out the back window to allow maximum detection.

Windshield Mounting

Dashboard Mounting

The LaserEye Should Have a Clear View

Radar and laser signals pass through glass but not through other materials and objects. Objects that can block or weaken incoming signals include:

- Windshield wiper blades
- Mirrored sun screens
- Dark tinting at the top of the windshield
- Heated windshields currently available on some vehicles (Instaclear for Ford, Electriclear for GM). Consult your dealer to see if you have this option.

Windshield Mounting

1. Attach the rubber cups to the bracket.

2. Make sure the rubber cups and your windshield are clean.

3. Push the bracket firmly onto the windshield.

4. Attach the detector to the bracket. Check that the unit is parallel to the road’s surface.

5. To adjust the angle if necessary, gently push or pull on the bracket to bend it. DO NOT use the detector to bend the bracket.

6. Plug the power cord into the detector.

7. Plug the cigarette lighter adapter on the power cord into your vehicle’s cigarette lighter.

Dashboard Mounting

1. Attach the rubber cups to the bracket.

2. Make sure the rubber cups and your windshield are clean.

3. Push the bracket firmly onto the windshield.

4. Attach the detector to the bracket. Check that the unit is parallel to the road’s surface.

5. To adjust the angle if necessary, gently push or pull on the bracket to bend it. DO NOT use the detector to bend the bracket.

6. Plug the power cord into the detector.

7. Plug the cigarette lighter adapter on the power cord into your vehicle’s cigarette lighter.
Installation

Dashboard Mounting

1. Place the detector on the dashboard to find a location where the unit has a clear, level view of the road and is parallel to the road's surface. The angle CANNOT be adjusted after mounting.

2. Remove the paper backing from one side of the hook-and-loop fastener.

3. Attach the pad to the dashboard at your chosen location and remove the other paper backing.

4. Attach the detector to the hook-and-loop fastener. You can remove and reattach the unit as often as you like.

5. Plug the power cord into the detector.

6. Plug the cigarette lighter adapter on the power cord into your vehicle's cigarette lighter.

Getting Started

To Turn On The Unit And Adjust The Audio Volume

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audible Tone</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three beeps</td>
<td>The LED in the lower left corner of the screen will light to indicate that the power is On.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To Operate Your Detector

NOTE

In some vehicles, power is supplied to the cigarette lighter even while the ignition is Off. If this is the case with your vehicle, you should turn Off or unplug your detector when parking for lengthy periods.
Settings

Highway/City Mode

Setting your detector to City mode sensitivity delays all X band audio alerts at lower signal strength levels. (A single beep will sound when the signal is first detected.) This will reduce false alerts while you are driving in, or near, urban areas where there are many sources for conflicting X band signals such as microwave towers and automatic door openers.

To change settings, follow the procedure listed below, which indicates what you will see and hear as you complete each step. The factory setting is Highway mode.

Highway Mode

City Mode

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To Change From Highway Mode To City Mode</th>
<th>Audible Tone</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Press and release the SEN button.</td>
<td>One beep</td>
<td>C LED Lights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To Change From City Mode To Highway Mode</th>
<th>Audible Tone</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Press and release the SEN button again.</td>
<td>Two beeps</td>
<td>C LED Turns Off</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anti-Falsing Circuitry

Your RAD 250 is designed to provide you the truest alerts and minimize the distraction of erroneous signals from radar-based fixed-position and moving sources.

- **Adjustable Sensitivity**: City / Highway modes allow driver to adjust sensitivity to driving environment, reducing false alarms from fixed position sources such as automatic door openers.
- **IVT Filter**: system automatically reduces false alerts from moving In-Vehicle Technology sources such as collision avoidance systems and adaptive cruise control.

Manual Mute

Your detector allows you to quickly turn Off an audio Alert by momentarily pressing the Mute button. If you press the Mute button a second time during the Alert, the audio Alert will be turned back On.

Auto Mute will automatically reduce the audio volume of all alerts after four seconds for as long as the signal is detected. The factory setting for Auto Mute is On.

To Turn Auto Mute Off

Press and release the Mute button while no alert is occurring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audible Tone</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One beep</td>
<td>Audio Only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To Turn Auto Mute On

Press and release the Mute button again while no alert is occurring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audible Tone</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two beeps</td>
<td>Audio Only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Display Brightness
You can choose from three settings for Brightness of the display. Repeatedly push the Dim button to cycle through the settings. The factory setting is Bright.

VG-2 Alert Settings
Police use radar detector detectors (RDDs) to spot users of radar detectors. Your detector is able to identify signals from VG-2 RDDs and can provide alerts when any of these or similar devices are in use near your vehicle.

Your detector is invisible to VG-2 RDDs. You can choose whether you want to be alerted to VG-2 RDD signals. The factory setting for VG-2 alert is Off.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audible Tone</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On = One beep</td>
<td>V LED Flashes Once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off = Two beeps</td>
<td>V LED Flashes Twice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To Turn VG-2 Alerts On and Off
While no signal is being detected, press and hold the Dim button for four seconds.
Radar Alert Settings
The detector allows you to choose whether it will show alerts on the X, K and Ka Bands. The factory settings are: X, K, and Ka On.

### To Turn X Band On and Off

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audible Tone</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X On = Two beeps</td>
<td>X/K LED Flashes Twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Off = One beep</td>
<td>X/K LED Flashes Once</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### To Turn K Band On and Off

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audible Tone</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K On = Two beeps</td>
<td>X/K LED Flashes Twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Off = One beep</td>
<td>X/K LED Flashes Once</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### To Turn Ka Band On and Off

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audible Tone</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ka On = Two beeps</td>
<td>Ka LED Flashes Twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ka Off = One beep</td>
<td>Ka LED Flashes Once</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signals Detected
The tables on the following pages show you the types of Signals your detector will detect, as well as the visual alerts it provides for each of them.

Audio Alerts
A distinctly different Alert tone is used for each type of signal detected (including separate tones for each laser signal). For X, K and Ka band radar signals, the tones will repeat faster as you approach the signal source. The repeat rate of the tones gives you useful information about the signal detected. (See responding to alerts on page 14.)

Visual Display
An indication of the type of signal detected and, for radar signals, the signal strength will appear in the Easy-to-Read Display. Radar signal strength will be indicated by steady, flashing, or a combination of steady and flashing LEDs as shown in the signal strength chart below.

#### Signal Strength Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signal Strength</th>
<th>LED Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (Weakest Signal)</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="LED Display" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="LED Display" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="LED Display" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="LED Display" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (Strongest Signal)</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="LED Display" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: In This Manual
When steady, the display will be shown: ![Steady LED Display](image6)
When flashing, the display will be shown: ![Flashing LED Display](image7)
Detection

Visual Display (continued)

Radar Signals and Visual Displays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Signal</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Band Radar</td>
<td>X/K is Steady &amp; lower LEDs show signal strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Band Radar</td>
<td>K is Steady &amp; lower LEDs show signal strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ka Band Radar</td>
<td>Ka is Steady &amp; lower LEDs show signal strength</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Laser Signals and Visual Displays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Signal</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LTI 20-20*</td>
<td>L is Steady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTI Laser*</td>
<td>L is Steady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kustom Signals Laser 340*</td>
<td>L is Steady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kustom Signals Laser*</td>
<td>L is Steady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stalker LIDAR*</td>
<td>L is Steady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laser Atlanta SpeedLaser/Kustom Signals-ProLaser II*</td>
<td>L is Steady</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Your detector provides 360° detection of these signals.

Instant-On Detection

Your detector is designed to detect Instant-On speed monitoring signals, which can suddenly appear at full strength.

NOTE
You should take appropriate action immediately whenever an Instant-On alert is given.

VG-2 Visual Display

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Signal</th>
<th>Visual Display</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VG-2 RDD</td>
<td>V is Steady</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VG-2 RDD Detected

Laser Atlanta SpeedLaser/Kustom Signals-ProLaser II* detected.
### Understanding Radar and Laser

#### Radar Speed Monitoring Systems

Three band frequencies have been approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for use by speed monitoring radar equipment:

- **X band**: 10.525 GHz
- **K band**: 24.150 GHz
- **Ka band**: 33.400 – 36.00 GHz

Your detector detects signals in all three radar bands, plus Ku band (13.435 GHz), which is an approved frequency used in parts of Europe and Asia.

#### VG-2

VG-2 is a “detector detector” that works by detecting low-level signals emitted by most radar detectors. Your detector does not emit signals that can be detected by VG-2, but does detect VG-2 signals and will alert you when a device is in use near your vehicle.

### Detection

#### Responding to Alerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
<th>Recommended Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tone repeats slowly at first, then speeds up rapidly.</td>
<td>Probably police radar.</td>
<td>FULL ALERT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tone sounds one time only.</td>
<td>Probably a false alarm, but possibly pulsed radar or VG-2 nearby.</td>
<td>Exercise caution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tone instantly begins repeating rapidly.</td>
<td>Radar or VG-2 nearby has been activated suddenly.</td>
<td>FULL ALERT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tone repeats slowly as you approach a hill or bridge, then speeds up sharply as you reach it.</td>
<td>Probably police radar beyond the hill or bridge.</td>
<td>FULL ALERT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tone repeats slowly for a short period.</td>
<td>Probably a false alarm.</td>
<td>Exercise caution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any type of laser alert.</td>
<td>Laser alerts are never false alarms.</td>
<td>FULL ALERT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIDAR (Laser)
The correct name for the technology that most people refer to as laser is actually LIDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging. LIDAR operates much like radar. Its signal spreads out like a radar signal, though not as widely. Unlike radar, LIDAR must have a clear line of sight to its target vehicle throughout the entire measurement interval. Obstructions such as sign posts, utility poles, tree branches, etc., will prevent valid speed measurement. Some common questions about LIDAR include:

- **Does weather have any affect on LIDAR?** Yes. Rain, snow, smoke, fog or airborne dust particles will reduce the effective range of LIDAR and can, if dense enough, prevent its operation.

- **Can LIDAR operate through glass?** Yes. Newer LIDAR guns can obtain readings through most types of glass. However, the laser pulse also can be received through glass to trigger an alarm by your detector.

- **Can LIDAR operate while in motion?** No. Because LIDAR operates by line of sight, the person using it cannot drive the vehicle, aim and operate the gun all at the same time.

- **Is it legal for police to use LIDAR?** Yes, LIDAR is allowed to be used in all 50 States by police. Your detector detects LIDAR (laser).

**Maintenance**

Your detector is designed and built to give you years of trouble-free performance without the need for service. No routine Maintenance is required. If your unit does not appear to be operating properly, please follow these troubleshooting steps:

- Make sure the power cord is properly connected.

- Make sure the socket of your vehicle’s cigarette lighter is clean and free of corrosion.

- Make sure the power cord’s cigarette lighter adapter is firmly seated in your cigarette lighter.

---

**Specifications**

### Band and Frequencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Band</td>
<td>10.525</td>
<td>± 0.050 GHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Band</td>
<td>24.125</td>
<td>± 0.125 GHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ka Band</td>
<td>34.700</td>
<td>± 1.300 GHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laser</td>
<td>910 ± 50 nm</td>
<td>100 PPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VG-2</td>
<td>11.500</td>
<td>± 0.250 GHz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WARNING** Modifications or parts substitutions not approved by Cobra Electronics Corporation may violate FCC Rules and void your authority to operate this equipment.

U.S. Patent Number: 6,078,279
Limited 1-Year Warranty

Cobra Electronics Corporation warrants that this product and the component parts thereof, will be free of defects in workmanship and materials for a period of one year from the date of first consumer purchase. This warranty may be enforced by the first consumer purchaser. If the product is under warranty, it will be repaired or exchanged depending on the model as determined at Cobra’s sole discretion. Such remedy shall be your sole and exclusive remedy for any breach of warranty.

The procedure for obtaining service and support, and the applicability of this warranty, will vary depending on the country or jurisdiction in which you purchased and utilize the product. For the details on obtaining product service, support and warranty please visit www.cobra.com/support

Provided that the product is utilized within the U.S.A.- Cobra will, without charge, repair or replace, at its option, defective products, products or component parts upon delivery to the Cobra Factory Service department, accompanied by proof of the date of first consumer purchase, such as a duplicated copy of a sales receipt. You must pay any initial shipping charges required to ship the product for warranty service, but the return charges, to an address in the U.S.A., will be at Cobra’s expense, if the product is repaired or replaced under warranty.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which may vary from state to state and country to country.

Exclusions: This limited warranty does not apply: 1) To any product damaged by accident; 2) In the event of misuse, ordinary wear, failure to follow directions, or improper maintenance of the product or as a result of unauthorized alterations or repairs; 3) If the serial number has been altered, defaced, or removed; 4) If the product was purchased or is utilized in a jurisdiction not covered by the limited warranty.

All implied warranties, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose are limited in duration to the length of this warranty. Cobra shall not be liable for any incidental, consequential or other damages; including, without limitation, damages resulting from loss of use or cost of installation.

Some states and countries do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and/or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state and country to country.

Product Service and Support

For any questions about operating or installing this new Cobra product, PLEASE CONTACT COBRA FIRST…do not return this product to the retail store. The contact information for Cobra will vary depending on the country in which you purchased and utilize the product. For the latest contact information, please go to www.cobra.com/support

For products purchased in the U.S.A. you may also call 1-773-889-3087.

For Products Purchased in the U.S.A., if your product should require factory service, please go to www.cobra.com/support and follow the instructions for returning your product to the Cobra Factory Service Department for service.

Optional Accessories

You can find quality Cobra products and accessories at your local Cobra dealer, or in the U.S.A., you can order directly from Cobra at www.cobra.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Part Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Windshield Mounting Bracket</td>
<td>Includes suction cups</td>
<td>#545-120-N-001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight 12V DC Power Cord</td>
<td>Includes plug and fuse</td>
<td>#420-030-N-001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coiled 12V DC Power Cord</td>
<td>Includes plug and fuse</td>
<td>#420-026-N-001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Port Power Adapter</td>
<td>Includes adjustable plug (up to 90˚) and fuse</td>
<td>CLP-2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwire Cord for Radar</td>
<td>Includes fuse</td>
<td>RA-PSCB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install Mount</td>
<td>Includes 3M Dual Lock</td>
<td>545-002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>