



CORROSION MITIGATION INSTRUMENTATION  
2828 FM 758, NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78130 TEL: (830) 253-5621

## MODEL CI-50

### CURRENT INTERRUPTER (2010 RELEASE)

#### **Contents of the shipping package:**

Instrument Kit Includes:

- Model CI-50 Instrument in tan case
- (4) AA Batteries (installed)
- Cable, 6' length with clamps
- Instruction manual
- Warranty Card

**Inspection** of the instrument should be performed upon receipt. If damage has occurred in shipment, file a claim with the carrier immediately. If it is necessary to contact your supplier or Tinker & Rasor, be sure to include all information such as serial number, purchase order number and invoice number.

#### **Important Note Regarding Rectifier Spikes**

Most rectifiers experience a voltage spike when opening and closing, due to a capacitance effect in the system that can be quite large and very fast. Depending upon the magnitude and duration of the spike, the solid state circuitry of the CI-50, and most other current interrupters made today, can become significantly damaged. It is recommended that an oscilloscope be connected to a rectifier and the rectifier be manually cycled to see what type of spike may be present, prior to using an interrupter. This step is suggested for all rectifiers, but is a recommendation if the DC output of the rectifier is 50% or more of the maximum current the interrupter can handle. To better understand this issue, please see Technical Appendix A (attached to this document).

#### **General Information**

The Model CI-50 Current Interrupter is designed to interrupt cathodic protection systems. The instrument using solid state switching (no mercury relay) capable of interrupting up to 50 Amps of current at up to 120 volts (6000 WATT). The Model CI-50 can be used to interrupt the connection between:

- Rectifier and Structure (DC)
- Rectifier and Anode(s) (DC)
- AC Source and Rectifier (120v, single phase)

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**NOTE:** Do not connect the interrupter to the AC output side of rectifiers that have an efficiency transformer. Always interrupt the DC (output) leg (not the taps) of the circuit in that case.

### Common Uses of the Model CI-50 include:

- Close Interval Surveys (CIS)
- On / Off Potential Surveys
- Stray Current / Interference Testing
- Fall of Potential
- DCVG

The Model CI-50 is easily programmed with Closed (Seconds On) and Open (Seconds Off) cycles of between 0.1 sec and 99.9 sec, in 0.1 sec increments. The instrument is microprocessor controlled for accurate timing and uses electronic switching instead of mechanical relays. The CI-50 is not a GPS synchronizing instrument.

**NOTE:** The CI-50 is designed to be used by trained individuals. Many jurisdictions have laws or recommendations for the type of training necessary in order to handle high voltage connections. Consult your company or jurisdiction for guidance in the type of training necessary to use this instrument properly.

### **Programming the CI - 50:**

The Model CI-50 is capable of interrupt cycles of 0.1 sec Closed (Seconds On) and Open (Seconds Off). To program the CI-50, it is necessary to follow these simple steps:

- (1) Turn the instrument on by moving the toggle switch UP. Note that the OPEN LED turns on. (If Low Batt LED is flashing, it is recommended that the batteries be changed)
- (2) Wait for the instrument to initialize. This is indicated by the display quickly counting up numbers, Left to Right, then returning to blank.
- (3) Press the Program button.
- (4) The first digit (Left side) begins to blink.
- (5) Press the appropriate Adjust Digit button (Up or Down) to change the display to the desired digit.
- (6) When the Left most number is the correct digit for your programming, press Program button again, and the next digit begins to blink. This digit may now be adjusted using the Adjust Digit buttons.
- (7) Repeat steps 3 through 6 until all six (6) digits have been programmed.
- (8) Press Program button again and the display will turn off.



The Model CI-50 is now programmed and ready for operation.

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**NOTE:** When the Display is shown by pressing the View Program button, the instrument cannot be programmed. The Program button will not work until the Display is turned off by again pressing the View Program button, or by automatically shutting off. Once the Display is off, the Program button can be used.

To begin an interruption program, the Model CI-50 is first turned On by moving the Power toggle switch to On (Up). Note the OPEN LED is lit.

**NOTE:** If the Low Batt LED is flashing, this is an indication that the batteries are low. It is recommended that the batteries be changed. (See the Batteries section below for more information.)

After initialization (display shows numbers quickly counting up, Left to Right), press the Start / Stop button. The programmed timing sequence will begin. The On (Closed) and Off (Open) cycles are shown by the LED indicators above each timing display.

**NOTE:** The LED indicators for Closed and Open stay lit for the duration of that part of the cycle.

### Connections

The Model CI-50 should always be turned Off (Power toggle switch to Off (down) when making or breaking connections.

Connecting the Model CI-50 is done using the supplied cable. A single plug in –type connector on the end of the cable is pushed into the connector on the Right side of the case, just below the text, “MODEL CI-50” in the upper Right hand corner of the panel.

This is a secure, locking connection. To release the plug, the release tab must be pushed in as the cable connector is pulled away from the case. The release tab is the silver colored tab on the cable connector. This tab should be facing the user and easily recognized. Do not attempt to force the removal of the cable connector as this may damage the connector(s) and render the instrument non functional.



The cable splits into two with clamps on the opposite end of the cable from the case connector. These clamps are used to break the connection of the circuit to be interrupted.

The clamps have a maximum jaw opening of 0.75” (19mm). Each clamp is covered with a vinyl insulator.

The CI-50 may be connected to either the input or output side of the cathodic protection circuit. Always be careful to observe rating limits shown in the **Specifications** section, below. It is not necessary to observe polarity with output terminals.



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**NOTE:** The CI-50 is designed to be used by trained individuals. Many jurisdictions have laws or recommendations for the type of training necessary in order to handle high voltage connections. Consult your company or jurisdiction for guidance in the type of training necessary to use this instrument properly.

### Operation

Once connections are made to the circuit to be interrupted, the instrument is ready for operation. Turn the instrument Power toggle switch to On (Up). Verify programming by the pressing View Program button. If changed to programming are necessary, turn the Display off (if on) by again pressing the View Program button. Press the Program button and proceed as described in the **Programming** section above.

The instrument begins operation once the Start / Stop button is pressed. To end operation, press the Start / Stop button once more, or turn the Power toggle switch to Off (Down).

The Model CI-50 is a normally Open (Off) instrument. This means that when not in operation or when the power is turned off, the circuit through the instrument is Open (Off). When a program begins, the program always starts in the Open (Off) position.

### Batteries

The Model CI-50 is battery operated. The instrument uses four (4) "AA" size alkaline batteries. It is not recommended that rechargeable batteries be used in this instrument. The CI-50 has a Low Battery indication. The Low Batt LED to the Right of the Power toggle switch will begin to flash when a low battery condition is detected. When the Low Batt LED is flashing, it is recommended that the batteries be replaced.



Battery life for the Model CI-50 is expected to be approximately 50 hours. Program timing and ambient temperature will have an effect on the battery life.

When replacing the battery, observe polarity. The "AA" batteries are placed with two (2) positive (+) up and two (2) positive (+) down. Reversed polarity will cause the instrument to be non-functional. The CI-50 will not be harmed by such a connection, but it will not operate. It is useful to carry extra batteries when working in remote field locations.



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### View Programming

To conserve battery life, the Model CI-50 has an automatic shutoff of the Display. To View the program in the instrument, press the View Program button. The Display will come on for a few seconds, showing the programmed timing. To turn off the Display, press the View Program button again. If the View Program button is not used to turn off the Display, the Display will be automatically be turned off in ten (10) seconds.



**NOTE:** When the Display is shown by pressing the View Program button, the instrument cannot be programmed. The Program button will not work until the Display is turned off by again pressing the View Program button, or by automatically shutting off. Once the Display is off, the Program button can be used.

### Stopping / Ending Operation

To stop the operation of the Model CI-50, press the Start / Stop button. The instrument can also be stopped by moving the Power toggle switch to Off (down).



### Maintenance

The Current Interrupter does not require maintenance other than occasional battery replacement. Normal care in use and storage will give many years of trouble-free service. However, should the Current Interrupter require factory service, ship (freight prepaid) to:

Tinker & Rasor  
ATTN: Repair  
2828 FM 758  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
USA

106-185



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### Specifications of the Model CI-50

|                     |                                                                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Maximum Current:    | 50 Amps                                                                  |
| Maximum Voltage:    | 120 Volts                                                                |
| Maximum Wattage:    | 6000 Watt                                                                |
| Switching:          | Solid state (no mercury relays)                                          |
| ON (Closed) Cycles: | 0.1 sec to 99.9 sec (Programmable)                                       |
| OFF (Open) Cycles:  | 0.1 sec to 99.9 sec (Programmable)                                       |
| Battery Size:       | AA size                                                                  |
| Battery Type:       | Alkaline                                                                 |
| Battery Volts:      | (4) 1.5v AA                                                              |
| Cable Size:         | 10 AWG (6.0 mm <sup>2</sup> )                                            |
| Cable Type:         | Stranded copper, PVC jacketed (Black)                                    |
| Cable Length:       | 6' (1.83m)                                                               |
| Cable Clamp:        | (2) Copper, 75A rated, 0.75" (19 mm) Jaw Opening, 3.00" (76.2 mm) length |
| Case Dimension:     | 9.25" x 7.12" x 4.12" (23.5 x 18.1 x 10.5 cm)                            |
| Case Type:          | Tough, thermo-resin plastic (Pelican® type)                              |
| Case Info:          | Closing and locking lid, with carrying handle                            |
| Weight:             | 4 lbs (1.81kg)                                                           |

## MODEL CI-50

### TECHNICAL APPENDIX A

#### **Important Note Regarding Rectifier Spikes**

Most rectifiers experience a voltage spike when opening and closing, due to a capacitance effect in the system that can be quite large and very fast. Depending upon the magnitude and duration of the spike, the CI-50, and most other current interrupters made today, can become significantly damaged.

It is recommended that an oscilloscope be connected to a rectifier and the rectifier be manually cycled to see what type of spike may be present, prior to using an interrupter.

This step becomes especially important when the DC output of the rectifier is  $\geq 50\%$  or more of the maximum current the interrupter can handle. In the case of the CI-50, which is a 50 Amp max instrument, a rectifier with an output greater than 24 amps should be investigated with an oscilloscope.

The magnitude and duration of the voltage spike is expressed in the graph below. The green area of the graph is 0 – 750 volts and 0 – 2 milliseconds (0.002s) of time. The red area shows higher voltages and longer durations which can damage the instrument.

If a rectifier is found to have a voltage spike in the red area of the graph, it is not suggested that the current interrupter be used if the current to be interrupted is greater than or equal to 50% of the max specified current of the instrument.

