



Solar Installation PV150 Operating Instructions



Bracken Hill
South West Industrial Estate
Peterlee
Co Durham
SR8 2SW
ENGLAND
Tel: +44(0)191 5863511
www.seaward.co.uk
sales@seaward.co.uk
service@seaward.co.uk

Part Number 388A567 Revision 2.0
February 2012
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Limited Warranty & Limitation of Liability

SEAWARD Electronic Limited guarantees this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use and service for a period of 2 year, provided that the instrument is serviced and calibrated by a Seaward approved agent in accordance with the manufactures instructions. The period of warranty will be effective at the day of delivery.

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY

As the manufacturer of the apparatus listed, declare under our sole responsibility that the product:

Solar Installation PV150

To which this declaration relates are in conformity with the relevant clauses of the following standard:

BS EN 61010-1:2010

Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use – Part 1: General requirements.

BS EN 61557-1,2,4:2007 & 10:2001

Electrical safety in low voltage distribution systems up to 1000V a.c. and 1500V d.c. – Equipment for testing, measuring and monitoring of protective measures

BS EN 61326:2006

Electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory user-EMC Requirements

Performance: The instrument operates within specification when used under the conditions in the above standards EMC and Safety Standards.

The product identified above conforms to the requirements of Council Directive 2004/108/EC and 2006/95/EC.

Seaward Electronic Ltd is registered under BS EN ISO9001:2000 Certificate No: Q05356.

Introduction

The Solar Installation PV150 is a hand held, battery powered, multi-function solar photovoltaic installation test instrument capable of performing all of the electrical tests required by IEC 62446, including:

Earth continuity @ 200mA
Open circuit module, string or array voltage
Voltage polarity
Short circuit module, string or array current
Insulation resistance at 250V, 500V and 1000V
AC or DC Operating current

1 User Notes

This instrument and its operating instructions are intended for use by adequately trained personnel.

The following symbols are used in these operating instructions and on the Solar Installation PV150.



Warning of electrical danger!

Indicates instructions must be followed to avoid danger to persons.



Important, follow the documentation! This symbol indicates that the operating instructions must be adhered to in order to avoid danger.

2 Safety Notes

In order to ensure safe operation of this instrument, all notes and warnings in these instructions must be observed at all times.



The PV150 is intended for use in a dry environment only.



The PV150 RED and BLACK 4mm test terminals may be used to make measurements on circuits rated up to CAT III 300 V AC/DC with reference to earth. Do not connect the PV150 to voltages which may exceed this rating.



The PV test terminals maximum rating: 1000V DC open circuit voltage, 10A short circuit current. Do not exceed this rating. The DC supply must be isolated from earth during testing.



High voltages are present at the probe tips of the PV150 during insulation resistance measurement. Always hold test probes behind the hand guards.



Check the PV150 and all associated cables and leads before operating the equipment. Do not use if there are signs of damage.
Only used the test leads supplied with the PV150.



Do not touch any exposed metal parts of the solar PV installation during testing.



Always ensure that the circuit under test is electrically isolated from the mains supply before attempting an earth resistance measurement.



Do not leave the PV150 permanently connected to a PV installation. Always disconnect all test leads immediately after use.

Where safe operation of the PV150 is no longer possible it should be immediately shut down and secured to prevent accidental operation.

It must be assumed that safe operation is no longer possible:

- if the instrument or leads show visible signs of damage or
- the instrument does not function or
- after long periods of storage under adverse environmental conditions.



If the PV150 is being used to determine the presence or absence of hazardous voltages, always prove the operation of voltage measurement function before and after use by means of a known voltage source or proving unit.



If the PV150 is used in a manner not specified by this document then the protection provided by the equipment may be impaired.

3 Accessories

3.1 Standard Contents

The Solar Installation PV150 test kit is supplied with the following items:

- 1 off PV150 unit
- 1 off professional carry case
- 1 set 1.2 M red and black test lead with test probe and alligator clip
- 1 set MC4 PV test lead adaptors
- 1 set Sunclix PV test lead adaptors
- 1 off Quick Reference Guide
- 6 off MN1500 (AA) 1.5v Batteries
- 1 off current clamp adapter
- 1 off Support CD

3.2 Optional Accessories

500mA FA 1000V Fuse



Do not open unit, no other user serviceable parts.

4 Unit Description

The Solar Installation PV150 is a hand held, multi-function electrical installation test instrument, capable of performing all of the required electrical tests.

4.1 Identifying parts of the unit

The numbering below refers to figure 1 and figure 2.

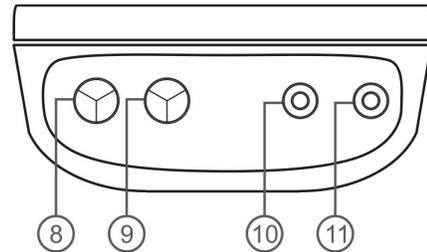
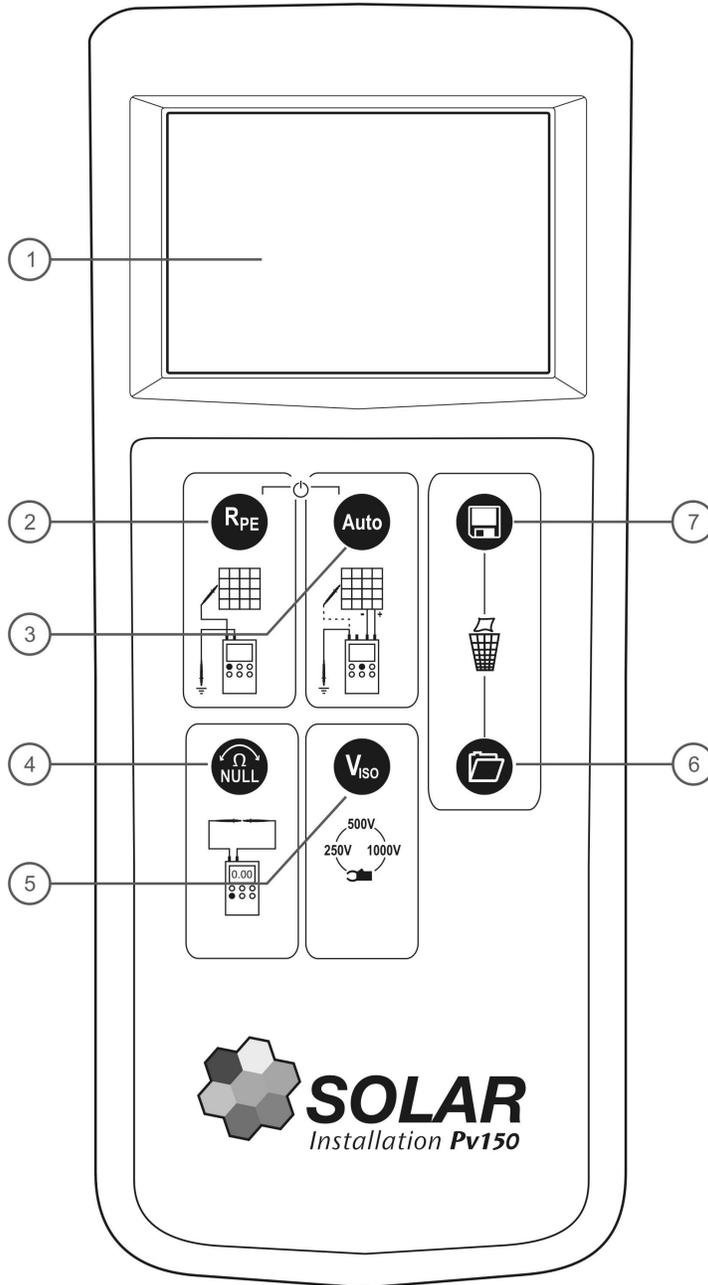


Figure 2 PV150 End view

1. LCD Display
2. Rpe test key
3. Auto test sequence key
4. Test lead resistance null key
5. Insulation test voltage select key
6. Memory recall key
7. Memory store key
8. +ve PV test lead input (RED)
9. -ve PV test lead input (BLACK)
10. +ve 4mm test lead input (BLACK)
11. -ve 4mm test lead input (RED)

Figure 1 PV150 Front view

4.2 LCD display

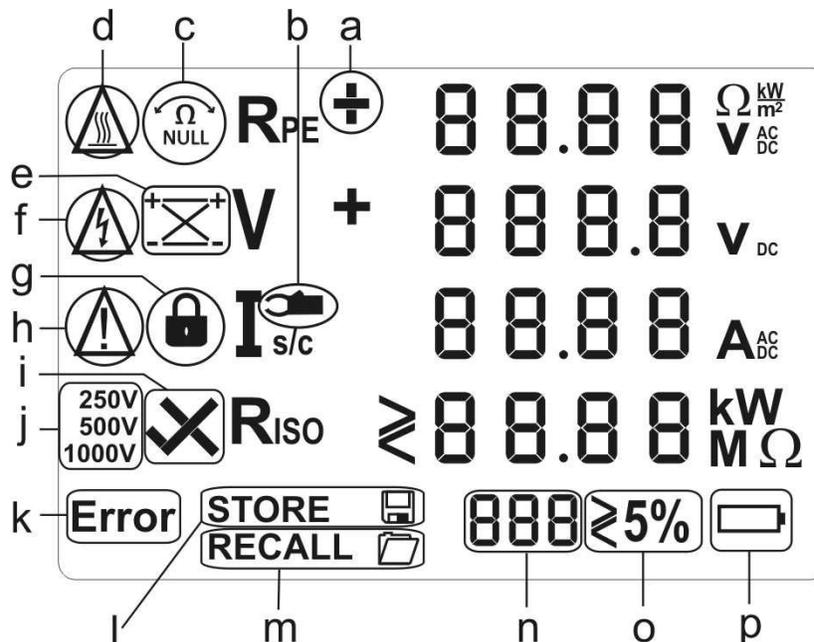


Figure 3 LCD display icons

- a. Rpe voltage polarity. For AC voltages alternating + and – is shown.
- b. Current clamp measurement active.
- c. Rpe Null offset - indicates that test lead resistance offset is active.
- d. Caution – hot surface. If this icon appears, the PV150 must be disconnected immediately from the PV system until the icon is no longer shown on the LCD.
- e. Solar module polarity indicator – indicates the polarity of the DC voltage applied to the PV test terminals e.g. correct or reversed
- f. Caution – hazardous voltage detected.
- g. Rpe test lock – active when continuous Rpe measurement has been enabled.
- h. Caution – refer to operating instruction. When this icon is active, the operating instructions must be followed to avoid risk of danger.
- i. Riso PASS/FAIL – indicates whether the measured insulation resistance is above or below the factory set acceptable value.
- j. Insulation Test Voltage selection – indicates the test voltage selected for insulation resistance measurements.
- k. Error – Refer to the specific error codes for further details.
- l. STORE – LCD data is being stored in the onboard memory
- m. RECALL – the data shown on the LCD has been recalled from the onboard memory.
- n. User Memory display – indicates the memory location of the results stored or recalled on the LCD.
- o. Voltage/current variation – indicates in the measured voltage and current values deviate by more than or less than 5%.
- p. Battery status icon.

5 Using the Solar Installation PV150

5.1 Power On Solar PV150

To turn the PV150 on, press and hold the Rpe and Auto buttons simultaneously.

5.2 Battery Condition Check

The PV150 automatically performs battery condition checks whilst idle and during measurements. When the battery level is low, the battery symbol icon will appear on the PV150 display. The PV150 will continue to function, however the batteries should be replaced.

Note: When the battery symbol icon is flashing all tests will be inhibited and the batteries immediately must be replaced as described in section 8.4.

5.3 Protective Earth Resistance (Rpe) Function

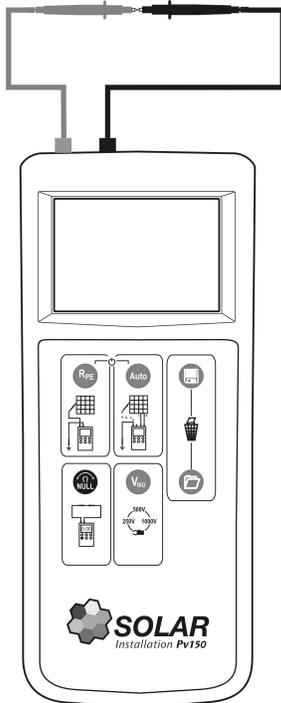


Always ensure that the circuit under test is electrically isolated.



If the test probes are connected to a voltage $>5V$, the measured voltage will be displayed on the LCD. If the voltage exceeds $30V$ the Rpe measurement function is inhibited.

5.3.1 Test lead resistance null



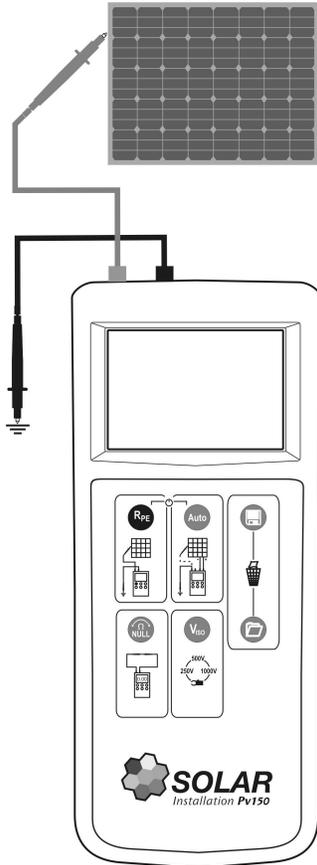
The PV150 can automatically compensate for the resistance of the test leads as follows:

1. Hold the tips of the test probes firmly together as shown, to ensure a good electrical connection.
2. Press and hold the Rpe Null key (4).
3. The measured resistance of the test leads is shown in the primary display until a beep is heard.
4. The Rpe display will now 0.00 and the Null icon is illuminated
5. All subsequent measurements will take into account the test lead resistance compensation until the function is disabled by pressing the Rpe Null key (4)

Note: A maximum test lead resistance of 10Ω ohms can be taken into account. If the test lead resistance is greater than 10Ω an error beep will indicate that the Lead Zero function has failed.

Note: For ease of use, the PV150 will store the lead compensation when switched off and recall this value when next switched on. The stored value is only applicable to the test leads used when the compensation measurement was made. If the test leads are replaced the Rpe null function should be repeated using the replacement test leads.

5.3.2 Resistance measurement



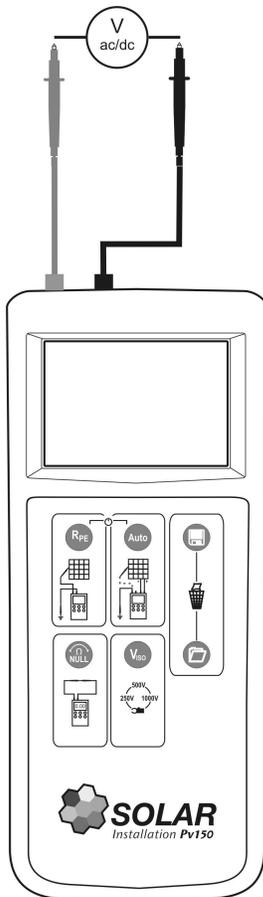
To make a single measurement:

1. Connect the red and black test leads as shown.
2. Press the Rpe key.
3. The resistance between the test probes is displayed.

To make a continuous measurement:

1. Connect the red and black test leads as shown.
2. Press and hold the Rpe key until the lock icon appears on the LCD.
3. The resistance between the test probes is displayed.
4. Press the Rpe key to terminate the continuous measurement mode.

5.3.3 Voltage measurement



1. Connect the red and black test probes to a voltage source
2. The PV150 will automatically measure the voltage between the probes.
3. The polarity of the voltage is shown using the icon next to the Rpe icon
4. If the measured voltage is AC, alternating + and – is shown.

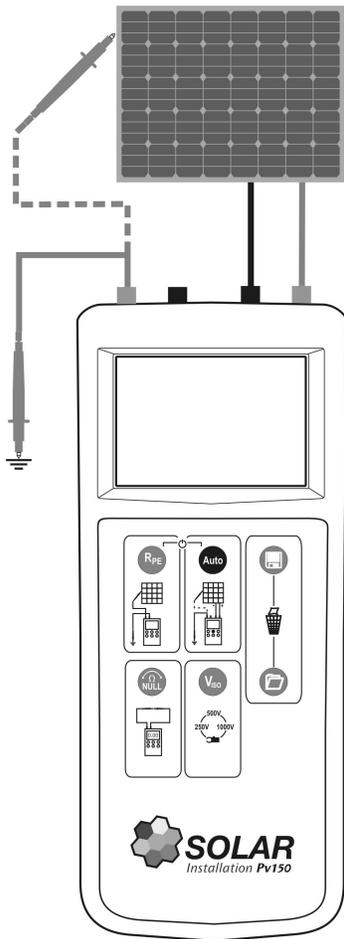
5.4 Auto Sequence Measurement



Always ensure that the circuit under test is electrically isolated from the mains supply.



Due to the high input impedance of the red 4mm test terminal, voltage caused by leakage currents may be detected on the prior to starting a test.



1. Connect the PV150 to the PV module as shown, using the supplied test lead adaptors.
2. The red test probe should be connected to earth. Where the structure/frame is bonded to earth, the earth connection maybe to any suitable earth or to the array frame.
3. Where the array frame is not bonded to earth, a commissioning engineer may choose to do two tests:
 - I. Between array cables and earth
 - II. Between array cables and frame
4. The PV 100 will automatically detect any DC voltage connected to the PV test socket inputs 8 and 9 and display the measured voltage.
5. If the PV voltage polarity is reversed, the polarity indicator will flash a cross next to the voltage icon.
6. If the incoming voltage is >30v then the shock hazard icon will flash.
7. Use the Viso button to select either the 250V, 500V or 1000V insulation test voltage.
8. Press the Auto button and the Solar PV150 will automatically perform the following tests:
 - Open Circuit Voltage
 - Short Circuit Current
 - Insulation Resistance
9. The measurement results will remain on the LCD for 20 seconds or until a key is pressed.
10. A tick or cross will be displayed next to the insulation resistance measurement indicating whether the result is above or below the threshold values shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Viso	Pass / Fail Limit
250v	0.5 M ohms
500v	1.0 M ohms
1000v	1.0 M ohms

Note: During the insulation test, the PV150 applies a short circuit across the PV string. The insulation test voltage is then applied between the RED 4mm test lead and the two PV test terminals.

Note: If the DC voltage polarity is incorrect or the voltage is <5V or >1000V the Auto Test will be inhibited until the problem is corrected.

5.5 Memory Store

The Solar PV150 can store up to 200 complete sets of measurements. Press Memory Store button to store all measured values on the display.

If there is sufficient memory space to store a set of readings, then the Store icon will appear, and the readings will be stored in the next available memory location. If there is insufficient memory space then the buzzer will sound. If there are no valid readings on the display then nothing will be stored.

5.6 Memory Recall

Each press of the Recall button will increment the user memory location indicator and display the measured values stored in that memory location. The location number is shown on the bottom of the LCD display. After the first press of Recall, the Store button can be used to decrement the user memory location indicator to recall previous memory location.

Press and hold the Recall button to download data to a PC via the USB port.

5% Variation warning.

If the recall data has Voc or Isc reading, then the average of all the stored readings is calculated. If the current recalled reading is more than 5% different from the average, then the 5% warning icon will flash.

Average value

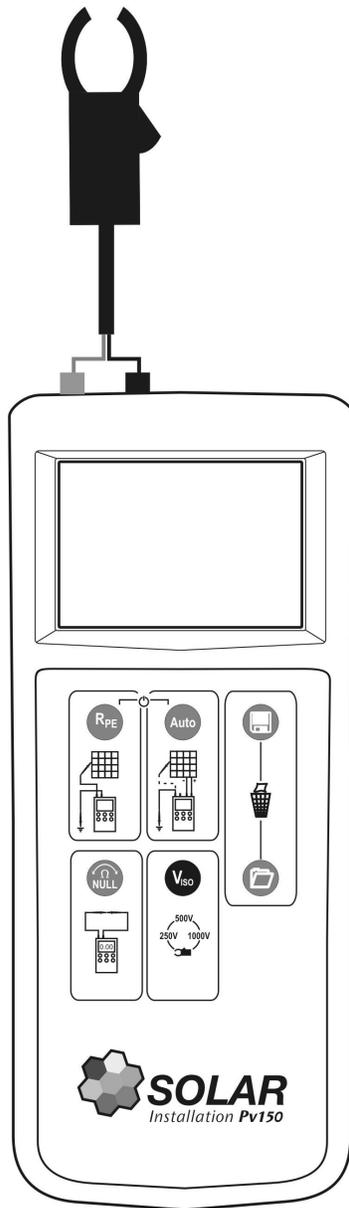
Keep pressing the Memory Recall button until the location number is 0. The display now shows the average Voc and Isc. of all stored results.

5.7 Memory Clear

Press the Store and Recall buttons together to clear all the user memory locations.

5.8 Operating Current

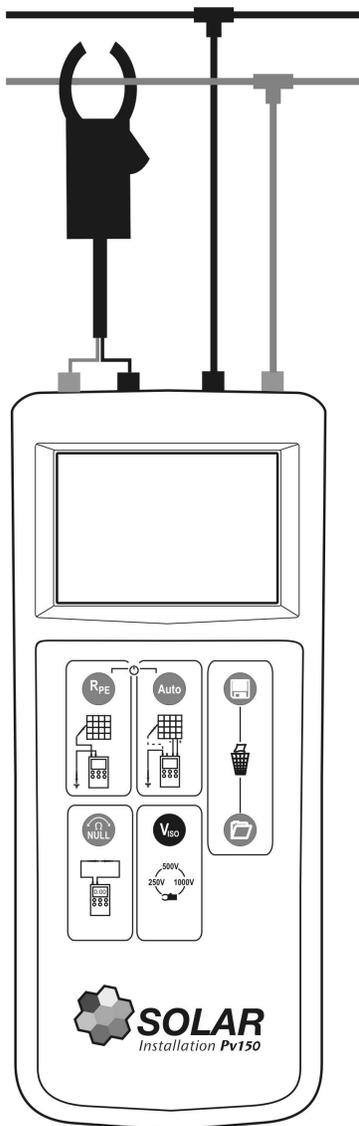
The PV150 can be used to measure the DC operating current of a solar PV installation as shown.



1. Disconnect all cables from the PV test inputs (8 & 9 in figure 2).
2. Connect the current clamp to the red – black 4mm probe inputs.
3. Move the current clamp switch to the 40A position.
4. Press the zero button on the current clamp.
5. Place the clamp around the DC cable of the solar installation.
6. Press the Viso button until the clamp icon (figure 3, icon b) appears on the LCD.
7. The measured current is shown on the LCD next to the clamp icon.

5.9 DC Operating Power

The PV150 can be used to measure the DC operating power of a solar PV installation as shown.



1. Disconnect all cables from the PV test inputs (8 & 9 in figure 2).
2. Connect the current clamp to the red – black 4mm probe inputs.
3. Move the current clamp switch to the 40A position.
4. Press and hold the zero button on the current clamp for a few seconds.
5. Place the clamp around the DC cable of the solar installation.
6. Press the Viso button until the clamp icon (figure 3, icon b) appears on the LCD.
7. The measured DC current is shown on the LCD next to the clamp icon.
8. Connect the PV voltage to the PV inputs. ‘T’ or ‘Y’ test adaptors are required if the DC power is to be measured whilst the PV system is operational.
9. The DC Voltage, current and power will be displayed

Note: *The Auto button is disabled whilst the DC power measurement is in use.*

Under no circumstances should and Auto test sequence be attempted whilst the PV150 is connected to the inverter DC inputs as this may result in damage to the instrument.

5.10 Auto Shutdown

After 1 minute of being idle the PV150 will turn itself off in order to conserve battery power. This auto shutdown period can be extended as follows:

1. Turn the PV150 unit off
2. Press and hold the NULL key, then press both the ON/OFF keys together. Keep holding the NULL key.
3. The display will show "OFF" on line 1, and the turnoff time on line 2 (in minutes)
4. Keep holding the NULL key and press the Viso key. Each press of the Viso key will increment the turnoff time.
5. Increment beyond 10 to set the time back to 1 minute

Note: When displaying DC Operating Power (section 5.9) the Auto Shutdown function is deactivated whilst DC voltage or current are detected. This will allow extended time for monitoring DC power.

5.11 Error Messages

Under certain conditions, the PV150 may indicate an error message.

5.11.1 User serviceable error codes

Error message	Remedy
FUSE	The internal fuse has blown. Refer to section 8.5 in the operating instructions for details on how to replace the fuse.
HOT	The electronics within the PV150 have reached the maximum safe temperature. This can occur after repeated short circuit current measurements at high current levels. Allow the unit to cool down before further use.
HISC	The DC short circuit current has exceeded the maximum rated value of 10A. The measurement sequence has been aborted.

5.11.2 Non user serviceable error codes

Error message	Remedy
CAL	The PV150 is not correctly calibrated. Return the unit to an authorised Service Agent.
Er 1,2 etc	Return the unit to an authorised Service Agent.
HOLF	Return the unit to an authorised Service Agent.
FET	Return the unit to an authorised Service Agent.
rL 1,2,3 or 4	Return the unit to an authorised Service Agent.

6 Use with the Solar Survey 200R

6.1 Pairing with the Survey 200R

Make sure there are no other units operating nearby.

Turn off both the PV150 and Survey 200R unit.

On the Survey 200R, press and hold the On/Off keys, keep both keys pressed.

On the PV150, press and hold the Rpe and Auto keys, keep both buttons pressed.

The Survey 200R will now send its “Pairing” signal. When the PV150 detects this signal, it will remember the serial number of the Survey 200R, and will look for that particular serial number in all future communications.

When the PV150 has successfully paired, it will beep and display the serial number of the Survey 200R. This should normally happen within a couple of seconds.

Note: The top line of the PV150 display will now show the W/m² icon.

6.2 Un-Pairing from the Survey 200R

Make sure there are no other units operating nearby.

Turn the PV150 off.

On the PV150, press and hold the Rpe and Auto keys, keep both buttons pressed. Keep both buttons pressed for about 10 seconds. The PV150 will then beep and clear its screen. The unit is now not paired to any Survey 200R. Note that the top line of the LCD will display Rpe ohms.

6.3 Put the Survey 200R into transmit mode

The Survey 200R can be put in and out of transmit mode by pressing and holding the temperature key, and then momentarily pressing the OK key.

When in transmit mode there will be a flashing icon above the temperature key.

Note: When in transmit mode the auto shut down feature is disabled. You must remember to turn the Survey 200R off in order to save battery power.

6.4 Normal operation

When the PV150 has been paired with a Survey 200R, the top line of the display is used to show the irradiance value measured by the Survey 200R.

The Survey 200R must be put into transmit mode as described above.

When the PV150 is in range of the Survey 200R it will mimic the Survey 200R irradiance value and display it on the top line of the LCD.

When an Auto test is performed, the PV150 captures the irradiance, ambient temperature and module temperature measurements from the Survey 200R. Press Store and all these values will be stored along with any measurements made using by the PV150.

6.5 Downloading data to PC

When the PV150 has been paired with a Survey 200R, the top line of the display is used to show irradiance.

Connect the PV150 to PC using the USB cable. (This will create a COM port on the PC)

Run the Seaward Solar Datalogger application on the PC. Select the correct COM port. (Use the Help menu – Trouble shooting guide, to help finding the correct COM port)

Click the Download button, and then press and hold the Recall key (6) on the PV150. After a few seconds the PV150 will transfer all its stored data to the PC.

By default the Datalogger application will save the data in CSV format. This can be opened using Microsoft Excel. Note that each row of data will have the readings from the Survey 200R where possible.

7 Electrical Specifications

7.1 Open Circuit Voltage Measurement (PV Terminals)

Display Range	0.0VDC – 1000VDC
Measuring Range	5.0VDC – 1000VDC
Resolution	0.1VDC
Accuracy	±(0.5% + 2 digits)

7.2 Short Circuit Current Measurement

Display Range	0.00ADC – 9.99ADC
Measuring Range	0.50ADC – 9.99ADC
Resolution	0.01 ADC
Accuracy	±(1% + 2 digits)

7.3 Earth Continuity

Test Voltage Open Circuit	>4V
Test Current into 2Ω	>200mA
Display Range	0.00Ω - 199Ω
Measuring Range (EN 61557-4)	0.05Ω – 199Ω
Resolution	0.01Ω maximum
Accuracy	±(2% + 2 digits)
Number of repeat tests as per IEC61557-4	Approx 4000

7.4 Insulation Resistance

Test Voltage Specification	-0% +20% (open circuit)
Test Voltage @ 1mA	>1mA into $U_N \times (1000\Omega/V)$
Test Current Short Circuit	<2mA
Display Range	0.05MΩ - 199MΩ
Measuring Range (EN 61557-2)	0.20MΩ – 199MΩ
Resolution	0.01MΩ maximum
Accuracy	0.05MΩ – 100MΩ ±(5% + 5 digits) 101MΩ – 199MΩ ±(10% + 5 digits)
Number of repeat tests as per IEC61557-2	Approx 3000

7.5 Rpe Voltage Measurement (4mm Terminals)

Display Range	30V – 440V
Voltage Measuring Range	30V – 440V DC 30V – 440V AC 50-60Hz
Resolution	1V
Accuracy	±(5% + 2 digits)

7.6 Operating Current (via AC/DC Current Clamp)

Display Range	0.1A – 40.0A
Current Measuring Range	0.1A – 40.0ADC 0.1A – 40.0AAC 50-60Hz
Resolution	0.1A
Accuracy	±(5% + 2 digits)

8 Environmental Conditions

The Solar PV150 has been designed to perform tests and measurements in a dry environment.

Maximum barometric elevation for making measurements is 2000M.

Overvoltage category IEC 60664/IEC 61010, 300V Category III (Red and Black 4mm terminals only).

Pollution degree 2 according to IEC 61010-1.

Protective system IP51 according to IEC 60529.

Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC). Interference immunity and emitted interference conforming to IEC 61326-1.

Operating temperature range of 0°C to 40°C, without moisture condensation.

The Solar PV150 can be stored at any temperature in the range -25°C to +65°C (relative humidity up to 90%). The batteries should be taken out of the instrument for storage.

Operating Altitude 0 to 2000 metres

9 Maintenance



Before removing the PV150 battery cover ensure that all test leads have been disconnected from the instrument. Electric shock danger!
Do not operate the PV150 without the battery cover securely in place.

9.1 Preparing to work on the Solar PV150.

Make sure the Solar PV150 is voltage free as follows, before opening the instrument;

Power the unit off.

Disconnect all of the test leads from the unit

9.2 Securing the Solar PV150

Under certain conditions safe operation of the Solar PV150 can no longer be assumed:

Visible damage of the instrument case.

Incorrect measurement results.

Recognisable abuse to the instrument due to prolonged storage under improper conditions.

Recognisable abuse to the instrument due to extraordinary transportation stress.

Check the battery compartment for signs of battery electrolyte leakage.

In these cases, the PV150 should be immediately switched off, disconnected from any test or measurement function and secured to prevent any further use.

9.3 Cleaning the Solar PV150

Clean the external case of the Solar PV150 with a clean dry cloth.

Avoid using solvents and abrasive scouring agents to clean the external case of the Solar PV150.

Check the battery contacts and compartment are free of electrolytic contamination.

Any contamination of the battery contacts or compartment should be cleaned with a dry cloth.

9.4 Battery Replacement



Before opening the Solar PV150 ensure that it is disconnected from all voltage! Electric shock danger!

Power the unit off.

Disconnect all the test leads from the unit

Position the Solar PV150 face down and release the captive screw in the battery compartment cover.

Remove the battery compartment cover.

Remove the discharged batteries from the compartment.

Fit a new set of alkaline batteries.

Relocate the battery cover over the battery compartment and fasten in position with the battery cover captive screw.

9.5 Replacing the Fuse



Before opening the Solar PV150 ensure that it is disconnected from all voltages!
Electric shock danger!



All replacement fuse types are specified for ratings and size on the battery compartment cover on the rear of the Solar PV150.

Power the unit off.

Disconnect all the test leads from the unit.

Position the Solar PV150 face down and release the captive screw in the battery compartment cover.

Remove the battery compartment cover.

Lift one end of the fuse out of the fuse holder with the help of a flat bladed screwdriver.

Lift the defective fuse completely out of the fuse holder.

Insert a new fuse as described and specified by the text on the battery compartment cover.

Ensure that the new fuse is seated and centred in the fuse holder.

Relocate the battery cover over the battery compartment and fasten in position with the battery cover captive screw.

9.6 Service and Calibration.

To maintain the specified accuracy of the measurement results, the instrument must be recalibrated at regular intervals by either the manufacturer or an authorised Seaward Service Agent. We recommend a recalibration period of one year.

9.7 Spare Parts.

	Seaward Part No.
Test lead set	328A950
Cordless Probe	328A952
Carrying Case	388A951
500mA 1000V 1¼'	27B098

For help or advice on Service and Calibration contact:

Service Department
Seaward Electronic
Bracken Hill
South West Industrial Estate
Peterlee
Co Durham SR8 2SW
England

Tel: 0191 5878739 / 0191 5878737

Email: service@seaward.co.uk

Appendix A

IEC61557-2: Insulation		
Intrinsic error or influence quantity	Reference conditions or specified operating range	Designation code
Intrinsic error	Reference conditions	A
Position	Reference position $\pm 90^\circ$	E ₁
Supply voltage	At the limits stated by the manufacturer	E ₂
Temperature	0°C and 40°C	E ₃
Operating Error	$B = \pm(A/1.15 \sqrt{E_1^2 + E_2^2 + E_3^2})$	

IEC61557-4: Resistance of earth connection and equipotential bonding		
Intrinsic error or influence quantity	Reference conditions or specified operating range	Designation code
Intrinsic error	Reference conditions	A
Position	Reference position $\pm 90^\circ$	E ₁
Supply voltage	At the limits stated by the manufacturer	E ₂
Temperature	0°C and 40°C	E ₃
Operating Error	$B = \pm(A/1.15 \sqrt{E_1^2 + E_2^2 + E_3^2})$	