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USER MANUAL: JCI 140 Static Monitor

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USER MANUAL - JCI 140 STATIC MONITOR

A compact instrument for easy, sensitive and reliable measurement and monitoring of electrostatic conditions

1. INTRODUCTION

Static electricity causes problems in many areas of industry:

- ignition of flammable gases
- shocks to personnel
- attraction of airborne dust and debris
- cling of thin films and light fabrics
- damage to semiconductor devices
- upset of operation of microelectronic system operation

Static electricity arises when materials in contact are separated and the speed of charge movement on either surface and away to earth is long compared to the time for the surfaces to move apart.

Many operations in industry and normal life involve the contact and separation of materials that are poor or bad conductors of electricity - plastics are notable examples. Common examples are the occurrence of sparks when combing the hair or taking off an acrylic jumper, shocks when getting out of a car and shocks after walking across a nylon carpet and touching earthed conductors. The separation of such surfaces is often associated with retention of static charge. Voltages of several thousand volts (and up to 20kV) can be generated on our bodies as we go about normal daily activities. When we touch a metal object and feel a shock or, for example, when we hear a crackle as we take off an acrylic jumper we create an electrical discharge. This may give us a shock, damage a microelectronic circuit or couple into the computer and upset computer operation.

Manufacturing operations may involve the handling of thin sheet materials - for instance in the printing and packaging industries. Static can cause sheets to stick together or be attracted to nearby surfaces. This attraction is a particular problem with lingerie that may tend to cling to the body. It will cause attraction of dust and debris from the air - so packages become 'dirty' when left on the Supermarket shelf. With powders (for instance in the pharmaceutical industry) material flow may be restricted. In flammable atmospheres static build up leading to the occurrence of sparks can cause explosions and fires - with the risk of loss of life and damage to plant and people.

Controlling static: The secret is to prevent any major build-up of static on people, on industrial plant or on materials. This requires effective linking to 'earth'. With metal plant and equipment this means good and reliable earth bonding - links you can see and check. With many materials it is not so easy. Most plastics are bad conductors of electricity - i.e. charge does not move easily over or through the material. To enable such materials to dissipate static fairly quickly they need to have additives included in their manufacture or have surface treatment. Static charge needs to be able to leak away to earth over and through materials within a fraction of a second.

Role of measurements: How do you know if you have problems with static, how do you find the source and cause of problems, how do you know if remedial actions are effective and how do you choose appropriate material? The answer is measurements. JCI manufactures a number of instruments to measure static conditions in practical situations and to assess the suitability of materials for particular applications and to avoid risks and problems (the JCI 155v5 Charge Decay Test Unit).

2. THE JCI 140 STATIC MONITOR

The JCI 140 is a compact sensitive 'field mill' instrument to measure the voltage of surfaces at a distance. The voltage sensitivity can be switched between 2000 and 20,000 volts full scale for 100mm (4") separation. Measurements are shown on a 3½ digit liquid crystal display with decimal point and low battery indication. An audio alarm gives warning of any voltages above a user set threshold level. The electric field sensitivity is 23V m^{-1} for a reading of .001 on the 2kV range. The response of new version instruments (after August 2006) enables measurements to be made of voltages and electric fields created by mains frequency sources.

As a 'field mill' instrument there is no need to switch-on in a 'static free' environment, no need for measurements to be made within a limited time and no need to worry about the influence of air ionisation – all worries with simple 'induction probe' type instruments. The novel mode of operation of the JCI 140, with no earthing of the rotor, provides quiet, stable operation with fast response and long operational life.

Interpretation of the readings obtained with the JCI 140 needs to be approached with care. For instance, a charged plastic film lying on an earthed surface may show only a low surface voltage - but this (and the associated electrostatic energy) can increase dramatically when it is lifted up. The significance of readings depends very much on the practical situation and the type of risk or problem involved. The user needs to be aware of the need to assess the significance of readings appropriately. If in doubt it will be helpful to consult some of the Codes of Practice or Standards available, for example *'The control of undesirable static electricity'* BS 5958: Part 1: 1991 and/or *'Methods for measurements in electrostatics'* BS 7506: Part 1: 1995 and Part 2: 1996. There are also the Notes from the 'Introductory Workshop in Electrostatics' on the JCI Website (www.jci.co.uk/Electrostatics/Wshop-00.html).

3. USE OF INSTRUMENT

3.1 Getting started:

By the time you read this User Manual you will already have opened the JCI 140 carrying case. Now take out the instrument. Hold the instrument in the hand with the liquid crystal display upwards and the gold plated sensing aperture away from the body. Take the earth bonding lead (yellow) out of the case and connect it to the 'earth bonding point' on the right hand side of the back of the instrument. Connect the other end of the lead to an earth point - using either the 'Durable Dot' connector or the crocodile clip.

Now switch on the instrument. The ON/OFF switch (with the black slider) is towards the top right hand side of the back plate. The switch has 3 positions: left is off, middle is ON for a sensitivity of 2000V full scale and fully to the right is for a sensitivity of 20,000V full scale. When the instrument is switched on you should hear the motor inside start and see the LCD start to show numbers. A piece of plastic (polythene bag, biro) rubbed and held in front of the sensing aperture will make the displayed numbers change - and give larger readings when closer.

3.2 Aspects of operational use:

Earth bonding: The instrument needs to be bonded to earth via the bonding point on the back if the readings are to be meaningful.

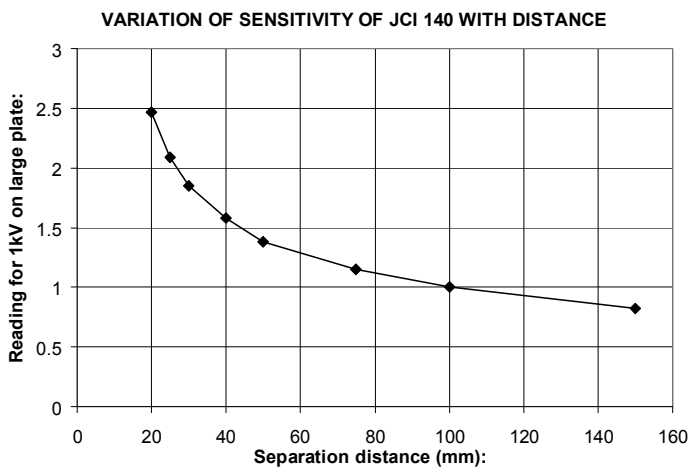
Handheld operation: The instrument can be held by the side grooves with the display uppermost facing towards the operator. The hand should be towards the rear of the instrument to minimise the influence on sensitivity.

Switch-on: The instrument is switched on by the slide switch at the right side of the back surface. The switch positions are marked 0 for 'off', 1 for the ± 2 kV range of sensitivity and 2 for the ± 20 kV range ($\pm 20\text{kV}$ and $\pm 200\text{kV}$ on low sensitivity instruments).

Static conditions at switch-on: No special precautions need be taken about electric fields around the instrument at switch-on.

Zeroing: It is best to use a clean metal cup over the sensing aperture (either touching the front of the instrument or earthed) for checking the zero reading and during zero adjustment. (A hand over the sensing aperture is convenient but not as good). The zero setting is adjusted through hole 'Z' in the back plate. The zero may take several seconds to fully stabilise after switch-on or adjustment.

Sensitivity: The analogue output signal may be used for remote display and for recording on a paper chart recorder or using a digital storage oscilloscope (e.g. a Picoscope). While the operating sensitivity is manually set by the on/off switch it can also be controlled remotely by holding the range output line high (+5V) to select the 2kV range – or low (0V) for the 20kV range. The sensitivity varies with separation distance from surfaces as shown:



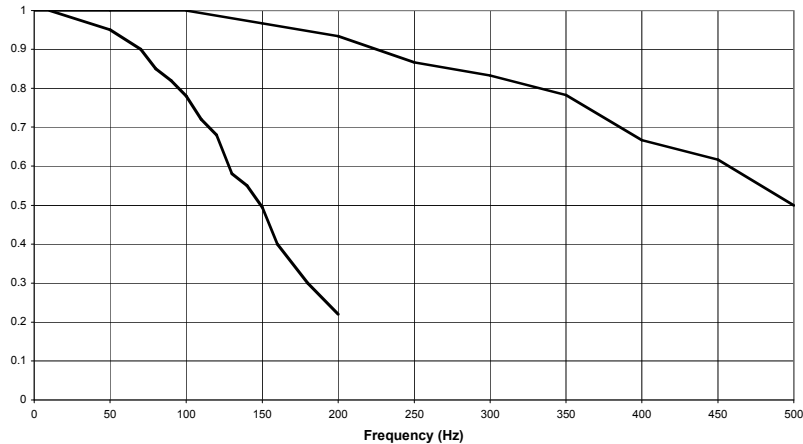
Lower readings will be seen with small targets and where the target is against an earthed backing surface - as shown below:



The electric field sensitivity of JCI 140 instruments is about 23V m^{-1} at the sensing aperture for a reading of 1V or 1mV analogue output.

Frequency response: The analogue output has a frequency response on standard instruments of -3dB at 120Hz and -3dB at 400Hz on the fast response instruments. Both instruments may therefore be used for monitoring 50/60Hz alternating voltages and electric fields using an external multimeter on a.c. Observations may be displayed and recorded using a paper chart recorder or a digital storage oscilloscope (e.g. a Picoscope).

Variation of sensitivity with frequency for JCI 140 and JCI 140F



Calibration: The JCI 140 can be formally calibrated at JCI using measurements whose accuracies are traceable to National Standards. Calibration procedure is as described in the British Standard *'Methods for measurements in electrostatics'* BS 7506: Part 2: 1996. Calibration only remains valid for 12 months so long as there has been no unauthorised access inside of the instrument.

Alarm setting: The threshold for triggering the audio alarm may be set between zero and full scale of the LCD using a 2 mm diameter screwdriver through the hole to the left of the zero setting hole in the back plate. The threshold may be set using a piece of charged plastic to create the desired reading. The threshold level as supplied is set at a LCD reading around full scale. The setting may be reduced by turning the 20 turn setting potentiometer clockwise until the alarm sounds at the desired LCD reading. The reading of the JCI 140 can be varied around the desired threshold level by changing the distance from the piece of charged plastic.

Flammable atmospheres: The JCI 140 and JCI 140F instruments are not Certified for use in areas where flammable gases are or may be present. Only BASEEFA or similarly Certified instruments should be used in such atmospheres.

Care of instrument: JCI 140 instruments are designed to be easy to use in normal work areas. They will withstand normal handling but may be damaged if knocked or dropped. Care should be taken in use and storage to avoid dust, dirt or fluff entering the sensing apertures. This will impair operation - as shown by unstable readings and/or an appreciable shift of zero setting. It may be possible to remove dust or dirt with a fine brush or by blowing or using an aerosol spray cleaner. If the problem persists the instrument should be returned to JCI for servicing.

Signal outputs: The 8w miniature DIN connector in the back cover provides the following signal outputs. It also provides opportunity for power supply input for long term continuous monitoring operation:

8 pin miniature DIN:

earth		cable sheath	
	1	black	
earth	2	white	cable screen
range/alarm	3	red	HI and LO level and pulsed alarm signal
	4	yellow	
signal	5	violet	$\pm 2.0V$ signal FSD of LCD
+ve supply	6	blue	
	7	green	
-ve supply	8	brown	

The signal cable supplied with the instrument should be used to ensure conformance to EMC requirements.

The analogue output signal may be used for remote display and for recording on a paper chart recorder or using a digital storage oscilloscope (e.g. a Picoscope). The operating sensitivity of the instrument can be selected remotely by setting for low sensitivity at the on/off switch when application of +5V to pin 3 (red lead) will select the 2kV range.

Low Battery: LO BATT indication on the display will start to flash when the battery voltage has fallen to about 7.3V. Performance will remain satisfactory for a time after this but the battery should be renewed for reliable operation.

Effect of ionized air: Operation is generally immune to the presence of ionized air. This is because air ionization currents are in quadrature to electric field signals and so are removed by phase sensitive detection.

Batteries: JCI 140 and JCI 140F instruments are operated by a 9V PP3 battery. Access to the battery compartment is achieved by turning the instrument over and sliding the battery compartment cover forward. Take the battery out and carefully remove the connector. The snap-on connector should be securely connected to the new battery before the battery is replaced and the cover slid closed. Batteries should not be left in the instrument for extended periods as any fluid leakage from an old battery could cause corrosion and damage. Over 4 hours continuous operation can be expected from a new PP3 battery.

External power supply: JCI 140 and JCI 140F instruments may be used with an external power supply for long term continuous monitoring observations. The power supply required is 12V isolated from earth. Power may be supplied to the instrument either via the 8w mini DIN connector or via the 2.1mm d.c. power connector in the back cover. A 12V 250mA regulated supply e.g. from an isolated supply 'wall cube' (with center positive) will be suitable.

Attachments: JCI 140 instruments can be used in conjunction with proprietary attachments for the measurement of charge (JCI 147), for assessing the performance of air ionisation equipment (JCI 145) and for the zero current drain measurement of electrostatic voltages (JCI 148).

4. CE CONFORMANCE

Chilworth Technology Ltd of Beta House, Southampton Science Park, Southampton, SO16 7NS, UK, declares as manufacturer of the JCI 140 range of Static Monitor instruments that the design and construction of these instruments (JCI 140 and JCI 140F) conform to the requirements of the EC Directive on Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) 89/336/EEC to Standards EN 5008 1:1992 and EN 50082-1: 1992. These instruments also conform to the requirements of the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994 (S.I.1994/3260)

Signed on behalf of Chilworth Technology Ltd:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Holland'.

Phil Holland – Managing Director

5. RoHS and WEEE Directives

JCI electrostatic measuring instruments are not required to conform to the RoHS Directive because they come within Category 9 exemption.

To comply with the requirements of the EC WEEE (Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment) Directive all JCI instruments at the end of their useful life should be returned to JCI for disposal or recycling in an environmentally appropriate way.

6. SPECIFICATION FEATURES:

- Sensitivity:* 2000V & 20,000V full scale.
1V and 10V resolution at 100mm.
- Response:* -3dB at 120Hz for standard JCI 140
-3dB at about 400Hz for JCI 140F
- Noise:* within 2mV pk-pk on analogue output (equivalent to 2V pk-pk at 100mm on 2000V range). Within 10mV pk-pk for fast response instruments.
- Zero stability:* within ± 10 volts on 2000V range
- Accuracy:* within $\pm 2\%$ FSD
- Linearity:* within $\pm 1\%$ FSD
- Display:* 3½ digit liquid crystal display of surface voltage in kilovolts at 100mm with polarity and 'LO BATT' indication
- Audio alarm:* pulsing audio output when reading above user set level or over-range
- Controls:* on/off slide switch: OFF, ON (range 1), ON (range 2)
screwdriver zero adjustment (hole Z in back cover)
screwdriver alarm threshold setting (hole adjacent to Z hole)
remote range selection via 'red' analogue output lead
- Power supply:* PP3 replaceable battery
External power supply unit (12V 250mA floating from earth) via 2.1mm d.c. connector or via 8w mini DIN (+ve blue (6), -ve brown (8))
- Signal outputs:* via 8 pin miniature DIN socket:
- signal output: $\pm 2.0V$ for full scale of LCD
- sensitivity range (0/2V) with alarm state indication by superimposed pulse signal. Provides facility for remote range setting control by over-riding sensitivity indication signal.
- analogue earth connection
- Earth bonding:* combination 10mm 'Durable Dot' and 4mm bayonet pin socket earth bonding point. Supplied with earthing cord.
- Dimensions:* 34 x 66 x 149.5mm overall. Weight: 320g
- Calibration:* JCI 140 instruments are set up in manufacture with measurements whose accuracy is traceable to NPL standards. Formal Calibration to BS 7506: Part 2: 1996 and Calibration Certificate extra.