

POLARIS™

NARROW BAND AM RECEIVER

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS



THE NOVAK POLARIS AM RECEIVER

The Polaris AM is a compact AM receiver designed for use in R/C surface models. Features include narrow-band operation, three channels, an external battery slot, reverse voltage protection, surface-mount components, and excellent low-voltage operation. Plug plastics are included for compatibility with Futaba J, KO, JR and Airtronics (Sanwa) radios.

The Polaris AM receiver already exceeds the stringent 1999 FCC specifications, and offers unmatched performance on the AM band.

Congratulations on choosing the Novak Polaris AM receiver to guide you to the winner's circle!

SPECIFICATIONS

Case Size	..... 1.39" x 1.42" x 0.57" (3.53 X 3.61 X 1.45 cm)
Weight	..... 0.58 oz. (16.44 g)
Modulation	..... AM
Number of Channels	..... 3
Antenna Length	..... 18" (45.7 cm)
Usable Sensitivity	..... 3.0 microvolts
Selectivity	..... 6 dB at ± 3 KHz
Adjacent Channel Rejection	..... >80 dB at ± 8.5 KHz
Voltage Range	..... 3.5 volts DC to 12.0 volts DC
Current Consumption	..... 5.0 mA over full voltage range
3OIP (Third Order Intercept Point)	..... +4 dBm

STEP 1

RADIO CRYSTALS: SELECTION, CARE & INSTALLATION

The Polaris AM receiver has been factory tuned and does not need further tuning. Crystals are not included with the receiver.

1. Only use single conversion AM band crystals.
2. The color of the antenna wire indicates the frequency band of the receiver.
 Black..... 27 MHz *Yellow 40 MHz *Not available in the U.S.
 *Red 29 MHz *Yel/White ... 41 MHz
 *Orange ... 35 MHz Green 75 MHz
3. The transmitter and receiver crystals MUST be made by the transmitter manufacturer, and be on the same radio band and frequency (e.g. Airtronics 27 MHz transmitter crystal must be used with an Airtronics 27 MHz receiver crystal). Receiver crystals are usually marked "RX".
4. Since crystals are sensitive to vibration, they should not be dropped. Receiver crystals can be damaged by a hard crash.
5. To install, carefully insert the receiver crystal into the receiver by guiding the two prongs into the crystal socket holes. Crystals are non-polarized and can be inserted in either direction.

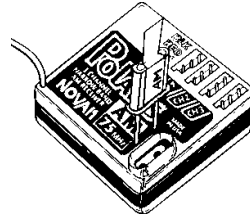


FIGURE 1 Proper crystal installation

STEP 2

CHANGING THE INPUT PLUGS

Instructions are listed below based upon the plug type of your radio system (servo, speed control, external battery pack).

Futaba J Plugs: The Polaris' signal harness comes with the Futaba J Plug pre-installed. *Proceed to STEP 3.*

JR, Hitec, new style KO, and new style blue Airtronics "Z" Plugs: These style plugs will fit into the slots of the Polaris AM without modification. *The brown wire of the JR, and the black wire of the Hitec, new KO and new Airtronics "Z" harness should be closest to the outside of the case. Proceed to STEP 3.*

Old style KO and Airtronics (Sanwa) Plugs: The plug plastics must be changed to the Futaba J style by using the included Novak Futaba J style plug plastics. *Refer to Figures 2-5 to change plug.*

FIGURE 2 With a small flat blade screwdriver, press on each of the three metal prongs until the wires are easy to remove. Remove wires.

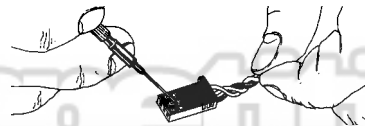
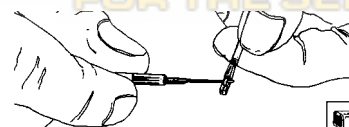


FIGURE 3 With the screwdriver, carefully lift each of the metal locking tabs to the angle shown below.



STEP 2: Changing the Input Plugs (continued)

Insert each pin into the correct plug slot. Each pin should "click" into place. Locking tab must not extend outside the plastic plug housing.

FIGURE 4 For Old-Style KO Harness: Black wire inserts into the BLK terminal. Red wire inserts into the middle terminal. Blue wire inserts into the WHT terminal.



FIGURE 5 For Old-Style Airtronics/Sanwa Harness: Middle black wire inserts into the BLK terminal. Outside black wire inserts into the WHT terminal. Red wire inserts into the middle terminal.



CAUTION: Improper installation of these wires may cause damage to the receiver, servo and speed control.

STEP 3

MOUNTING THE POLARIS AM RECEIVER

Proper mounting of the Polaris AM Receiver will improve its performance and reliability. Sudden jolts (e.g. when the car hits a board, lands after a jump, or crashes) send vibrations throughout the vehicle and components mounted in it. If vibrations reach the receiver, they can cause the crystal or an internal ceramic filter to shift frequency and lose reception. This leads to glitching and, in some cases, failure of these components. The following guidelines for mounting the Polaris should be adhered to in order to ensure the receiver is working at its maximum efficiency.

1. **For Electric Cars & Boats:** To reduce vibrations received, mount the Polaris with the included double-sided tape. After mounting, you should be able to move the receiver with a rubber-type action. If using thinner mounting tape than what is provided, we recommend using several pieces.

For Gas Cars & Boats: The Polaris should be mounted in foam rubber and protected from fuel and water.

NOTE: Do not use glue to mount the receiver!

2. Mount the Polaris receiver and antenna as far as possible from the speed control, motor, servo, power wires and battery. These components all emit radio noise.

3. Make sure the case edges do not come in contact with the chassis or battery box, as this will transmit vibrations directly into the electronics.

If for any reason you experience a range problem, try mounting the receiver on its side with the crystal and antenna away from the chassis. Use extra pieces of tape if necessary.

4. Mount the antenna as close to the receiver as possible.

For Off-Road Cars: Run the antenna up a plastic antenna tube and let the excess trail out the top of the tube.

For On-Road Cars: Attach the antenna to a fiberglass antenna mast with several pieces of 1/4" heat-shrink tubing and let the excess trail off the top.

Do not cut or coil excess wire, or range will be reduced.

STEP 4

HOOK-UP INSTRUCTIONS

MOTOR CAPACITOR & DIODE INSTALLATION

Refer to Figure 6

1. To prevent radio interference, capacitors **MUST** be installed on EVERY motor. Solder the three included 0.1 μ F (50 V), non-polarized, ceramic capacitors between:

- POSITIVE (+) motor tab & NEGATIVE (-) motor tab.
- POSITIVE (+) motor tab & GROUND tab*.
- NEGATIVE (-) motor tab & GROUND tab*.

Extra 0.1 μ F motor capacitors available in Novak Kit #5620.

2. An external Schottky diode must be used if the speed control's instructions indicate that one is needed. Never use a Schottky diode with a reversible speed control. See the speed control's instructions for proper Schottky diode information and installation.

Schottky diodes available in Novak Kit #5640.

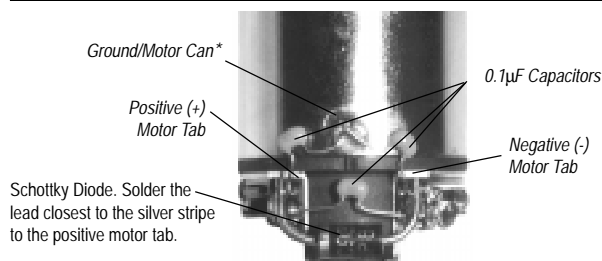


FIGURE 6 Capacitor and Schottky diode installation. Install Schottky diode if speed control instructions indicate that one is needed.

**If your motor does not have a ground tab, solder the capacitor leads to the can of the motor, as shown above. The plating may have to be removed with a file.*

SERVO & SPEED CONTROL CONNECTION

1. Plug the steering servo into channel one (CH 1).
2. Plug the electronic speed control into channel two (CH 2). When using a mechanical speed control or for gas models, plug the throttle servo into channel two.
3. If you are using an external receiver battery pack, proceed to **STEP 5**. Otherwise, put tape or a decal over the BATT slot.

FCC APPROVAL NOTE

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with this instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try correcting the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiver's antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

STEP 5

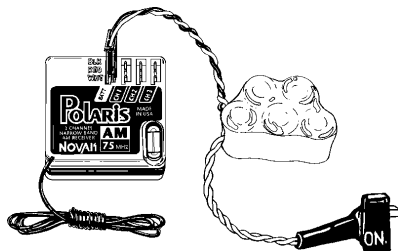
USING AN EXTERNAL RECEIVER BATTERY PACK

A 5-cell external receiver battery pack is recommended if erratic radio operation is experienced during hard acceleration.

There are a few methods of using an external receiver battery pack. Because the speed control may be damaged by using an external receiver battery pack, we recommend you refer to your speed control's instruction manual for proper installation.

If you will be using an external receiver battery pack, plug it into the BATT slot as shown in Figure 7.

FIGURE 7 External receiver battery pack plugs into BATT slot.



TROUBLE-SHOOTING GUIDE

This section describes possible receiver problems, causes and solutions. For additional help, call for technical assistance.

RECEIVER GLITCHES AND/OR CAR STUTTERS

- Motor capacitors not installed or have broken.
- Receiver and/or antenna not mounted properly. See **STEP 3**
- Bad connections. Check power plugs or solder joints.
- Bad transmitter and/or receiver crystal. Try a new set.
- Voltage to the receiver is too low. Try using an external receiver battery pack.
- Motor brushes need to be replaced if they are worn or damaged. Motor may be noisy—rebuild or replace.
- Narrow band ceramic filter has been damaged from a hard impact. Refer to *Service Procedures*

RECEIVER WILL NOT OPERATE

- Bad transmitter and/or receiver crystal. Try a new set.
- Moisture might have settled inside of the receiver. Open receiver case and dry the case and electronics.

SERVO AND/OR SPEED CONTROL DOES NOT FUNCTION

- Input harness not wired properly. See **STEP 2**
- Input plug is plugged into wrong channel.
- Speed control not plugged into battery pack.

PRODUCT WARRANTY



Novak Electronics, Inc. guarantees the Polaris AM receiver to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of 120 days from original date of purchase (verified by dated, itemized sales receipt). Warranty does not cover incorrect installation, components worn by use, altering the antenna, exceeding the recommended input voltage, using the wrong crystal(s), improper use of external receiver battery pack, using the receiver without its case, tampering with the electronics, allowing water, moisture, or any foreign material to enter receiver or come in contact with the PC board, component damage due to excessive force, incorrect installation of alternate input plug plastic, or any damage caused by a crash.

In no case shall our liability exceed product's original cost. We reserve the right to modify warranty provisions without notice.

Because Novak Electronics, Inc. has no control over the connection and use of the receiver, no liability may be assumed nor will be accepted for any damage resulting from use of this product. Every receiver is thoroughly tested and tuned before leaving our facility, and is therefore considered operational. By the act of connecting and/or operating this receiver, the user accepts all resulting liability.

SERVICE PROCEDURES

Before sending your Polaris in for service, review the Trouble-Shooting Guide and Instructions. The receiver may appear to need service when other problems exist in the system (such as a problematic transmitter, servo, speed control, battery, connectors or motor).

PLEASE NOTE: Receivers that operate normally when received will be charged a minimum service fee and return shipping costs.

WHAT TO SEND: Fill out all of the requested information on the enclosed *RECEIVER SERVICE CARD* and return it with your receiver. Service cards can also be downloaded from our website at www.teamnovak.com.

WARRANTY WORK: For warranty service work, you **MUST CLAIM WARRANTY** on the *RECEIVER SERVICE CARD* and include a valid, dated, cash register receipt, or an invoice from previous service work. If any warranty provisions have been voided there will be a service charge.

SERVICE COSTS: Customer is responsible for service costs (parts, labor and shipping/handling charges). Receivers are returned UPS/COD CASH ONLY. See *RECEIVER SERVICE CARD* for other payment and shipping options.

FOR SERVICE, SEND RECEIVERS TO:

Novak Electronics, Inc.
Attn: Service Department
18910 Teller Ave., Irvine, CA. 92612 USA

CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS (PST):

M-Th: 8am-5pm; F: 8am-4pm (Closed every other Friday)
(714)* 833-8873 • FAX (714)* 833-1631

*Effective 4/18/98, area code will change to 949

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Printed in the USA 11/97

#IM-2227-2

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