

D A T A C O M **TEXTRON**

**MicrOTDR™**  
**Optical Fault Locator**

*User Manual*

**Datacom Textron**

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**Warranty**

The MicrOTDR™ Optical Fault Locator is warranted against defects in materials and workmanship within a period of two (2) years following the date of purchase of the tester. Any instrument claimed to be defective during the warranty period should be returned to Datacom Textron's Factory Service Center. (Call Datacom Textron for an RMA number prior to shipment.)

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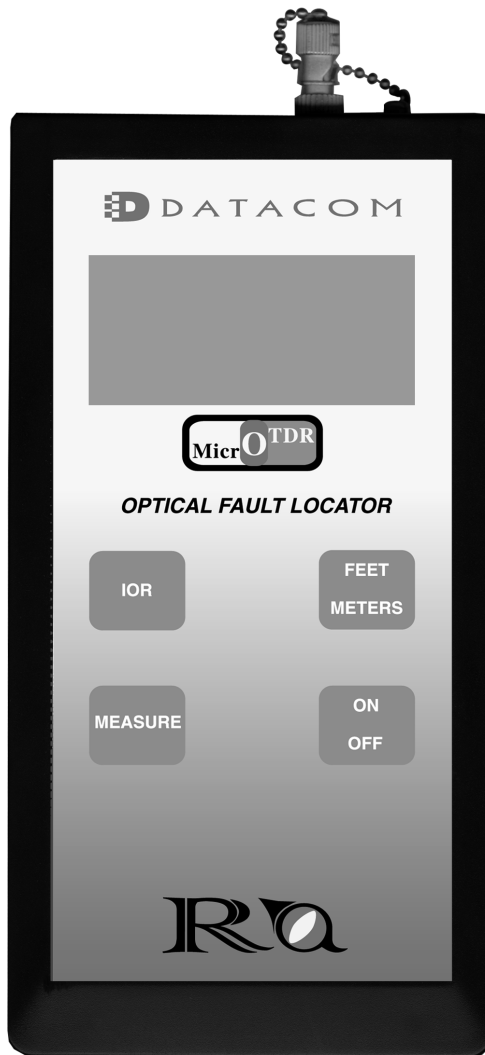
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## GENERAL

The MicrOTDR Optical Fault Locator is a rugged, lightweight, hand-held test instrument for locating faults in multimode and singlemode optical fiber cable. MicrOTDR utilizes patent pending OTDR (Optical Time Domain Reflectometer) technology to make fault location measurements to distances up to 20 kilometers, with pinpoint accuracy. The unit operates at the industry standard wavelength of 1310 nm, and displays the distance to a fault in meters or feet.

The MicrOTDR is designed to measure the distance to fiber events along fiber cables in optical fiber systems. Useful applications for the MicrOTDR include testing: Wide Area Networks (WANs), telecommunication spans of up to 20 kilometers, Fiber-to-the-Curb applications, installation of multimode and singlemode fiber cabling, and military systems. The unit is an excellent tool for locating faulty connectors, damaged components, bad splices and breaks in singlemode and multimode cable sections. It is also much easier to use than an OTDR for checking reels of fiber optic cable for length and defects.

The MicrOTDR has been designed with the technician in mind with many easy to use features. It has a large LCD display for viewing ease, and can be used on multimode or singlemode cables. Its' easy "one button" operation is used for activating the unit's measure function, and the Index of Refraction (IOR) setting can be field selected with the use of a single button. The MicrOTDR is designed to record up to seven events, displaying the distance to each event.

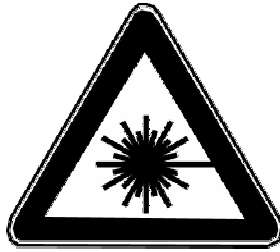
The MicrOTDR is powered by four AA Alkaline batteries that can provide greater than 13,000 operations. An advanced power supply circuit ensures maximum battery life. Sensing circuitry alerts the operator of "low battery" conditions. The auto power-off circuit turns the unit off 5 minutes after the last reading to preserve battery power.

## SAFETY

The MicroOTDR Optical Fault Locator is a Class I laser product under the requirements of both the U.S. Center for Devices and Radiological Health, and the American National Standards Institute<sup>1</sup>. As such, it presents no hazard to users who view the output when using proper operating procedures. However, it is recommended that users should not stare directly into the beam.

Use of controls or adjustments of procedures other than those specified herein may result in hazardous LASER light exposure.

It is important to keep all optical connections and surfaces free from oils, dirt, and other contaminants to ensure proper operation. Proper cleaning procedures must be performed on fiber connectors, connector adapters, etc., before conducting any measurement tests outlined in this manual.



<sup>1</sup> *American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers*, Publication: ANSI Z136.1-1993, American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 110036.

## PRECAUTIONS

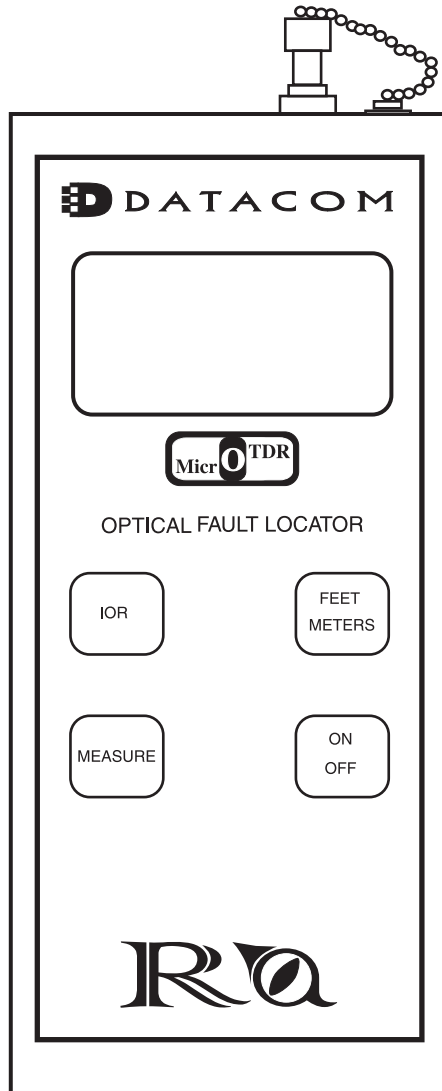
Use care when working with any optical transmission equipment. It is good practice to avoid looking directly at any optical fibers or optical sources. The MicrOTDR emits a pulsed laser light for a short period of time, and the user should not look directly into the connector port. It is best to refer to your company's safety procedures when working with optical fibers or laser based systems.

It is important to keep all optical connections and surfaces free from dirt, oils or other contamination to ensure proper operation. This applies to all connectors that are connected to the optical port on the MicrOTDR, as well as the optical port on the MicrOTDR itself. Scratched or contaminated connectors can reduce system performance. Refer to your company practices for cleaning optical connectors. Always replace the protective dust cap on the MicrOTDR after use.

*Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.*



## FRONT PANEL OPERATING CONTROLS



## OPERATING CONTROLS

**Optical Port Connector** - The port is equipped with an ST style connector. The wavelength for this port is 1310nm and can be used for multimode or singlemode applications.

**Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)** - When the MicroOTDR is first powered **ON**, the unit goes through a self-test, and all display segments, and annunciators are illuminated on power up.

*NOTE: Some of the annunciators illuminated (LINK, and VFL) on power up are currently not a function used in the MicroOTDR.*

**IOR Button** - This button selects the Index of Refraction (IOR) of the optical fiber cable under test. Its range can be selected from 1.40 to 1.69.

**Measure Button** - This button when pressed activates the MicroOTDR's laser, and digital measuring circuits.

**Feet/Meter Button** - This button will select either feet or meters as the unit of measure.

**ON Button** - This button when depressed turns the MicroOTDR ON and OFF.

## OPERATION

Cable length measurement with the MicrOTDR is simple; just plug your optical fiber or cable into the MicrOTDR's optical port connector on top of the unit, press and hold the **MEASURE** button, and read the distance in feet or meters.

### Power On

To turn the MicrOTDR on, press the **ON/OFF** button once. The unit will go through a display test while displaying all segments and annunciators, after which the MicrOTDR's software version will display. Figure 2 is the MicrOTDR's display after the self-test has been completed, and the MicrOTDR is ready to be used for measurement.

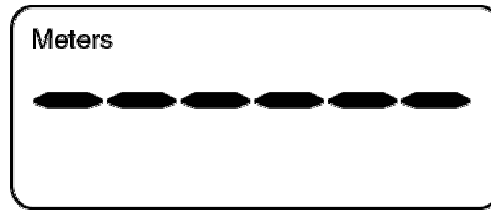


Figure 2

### SELECTING UNIT OF MEASURE

Feet or Meters can be selected as the unit of measure. This must be done before an actual distance measurement is made. Press the **FEET METERS** button to select the desired unit.

**IOR**

The Index of Refraction of the optical cable under test can be selected on the MicrOTDR. Refer to Figure 3. Momentarily depressing the **IOR** button will display the existing setting.

Depressing and holding the **IOR** button will cause the setting to increment. When the desired setting is reached, release the **IOR** button, and the setting will remain.

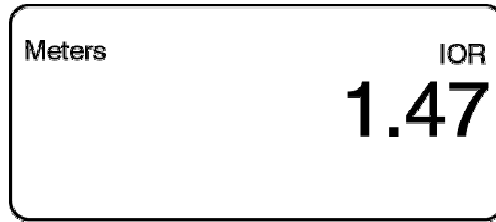


Figure 3

Select the IOR for the fiber optic cable you will be testing for a wavelength of 1300 nm (multimode) or 1310 nm (singlemode).

**Measurements**

Attach the fiber optic cable to the MicrOTDR's connector port. Depress and hold the **MEASURE** button until the *Laser Active* annunciator displays (typically 1.5 seconds), and then release the **MEASURE** button. Refer to the Figure 4 below.

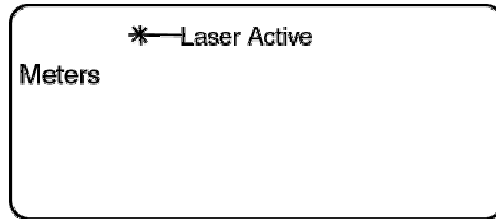


Figure 4

**Measurements (cont.)**

The resulting measurement for a *single* event will be displayed as shown in Figure 5. This example shows that the distance to the EVENT is 31 meters.

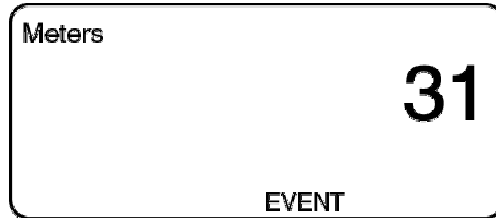


Figure 5

When the MicrOTDR detects multiple events, event number (1) will flash, and the MULTIPLE EVENT annunciator will be displayed. The distance to event number (1) will then be displayed, and the event number (1) will extinguish. Refer to figure 6 below. This example shows that the distance to event number (1) is 31 meters.

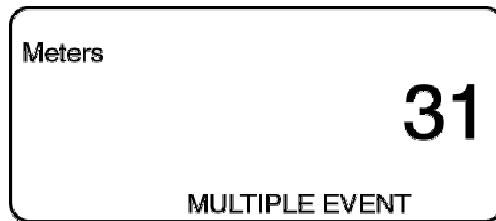


Figure 6

**Measurements (cont.)**

By depressing the **MEASURE** button again momentarily, the next event number (2) will flash, and then extinguish. The distance to event number (2) will then be displayed. Refer to Figure 7 below. This example shows that the distance to event (2) is 72 meters.

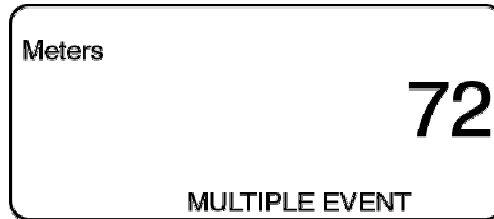


Figure 7

Depressing the **MEASURE** button again momentarily will show if there is another event. If event number (3) flashes, the distance to event (3) would be displayed. If event number (1) flashes, this means that the MicrOTDR has measured only two events, and the distance to event number (1) will be displayed again.

If it is desired to initiate a new measurement, for instance, to verify cable lengths prior to installation, connect the fiber cable in question to the MicrOTDR's optical connector port. Depress and hold the **MEASURE** button until the *Active Laser* annunciator is displayed, and then release the **MEASURE** button.

**Measurements (cont.)**

The MicrOTDR will measure the distance to the event. Refer to Figure 8 below. In this case, the distance to the end of the fiber cable (event) is 2242 meters.

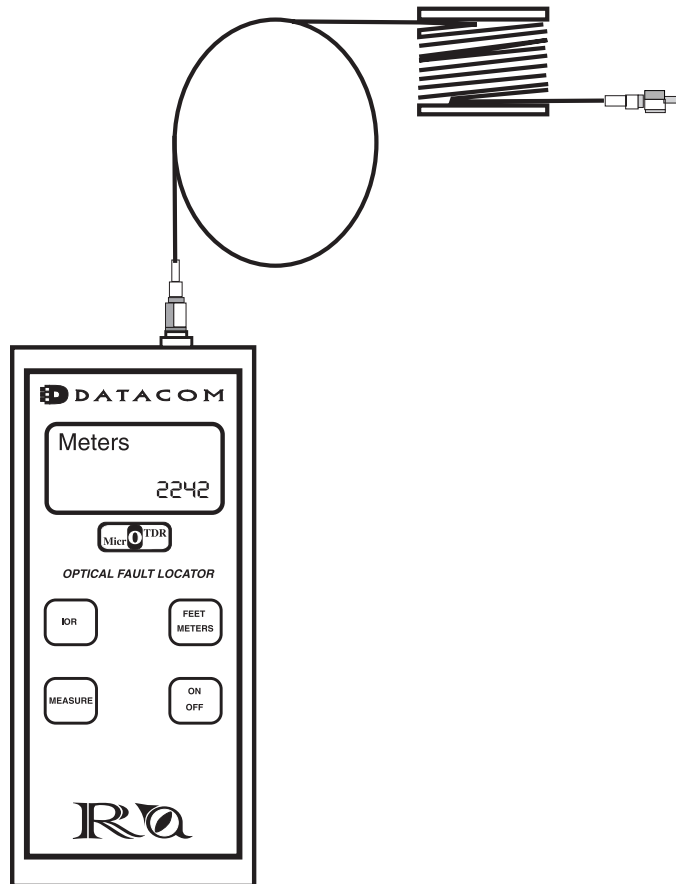


Figure 8

## MAINTENANCE

### Repair and Calibration

Repair of the MicrOTDR in the field is NOT recommended. If the unit is not working, make sure the batteries are good, and that all connectors, and connector port are clean. If the unit still will not operate, contact the Customer Service Department at Datacom Textron at 800/468-5557 or 425/355-0590.

### Battery Replacement

The MicrOTDR Optical Fault Locator requires no periodic maintenance other than cleaning the optical connector port, and replacing the batteries. Battery life is approximately 13,000 operations. The MicrOTDR will display the **Low Battery** annunciator as shown in Figure 9 below when the batteries require replacement. The battery compartment, located on the back of the unit, holds four ( 4 ) AA Alkaline batteries. Four Phillips screws hold the battery compartment cover in place.

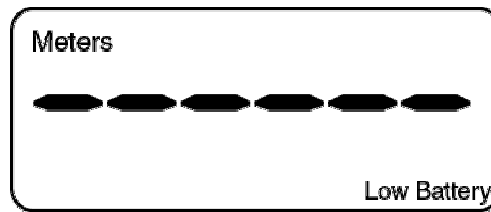


Figure 9



**Optical Connector Port Maintenance**

All optical connections should be kept thoroughly cleaned. Do not force any connectors together. Scratches on the optical connector port will severely affect the performance of the MicrOTDR. A supply of industry approved optical cleaning pads, and adapter cleaning wands would be helpful in maintaining optical connectors, and the MicrOTDR optical connector port. Also, a can of filtered compressed air is useful for blowing out any contaminants in the MicrOTDR's optical connector port, and any connector adapters being used.

The following procedure is recommended to clean the MicrOTDR's ST optical connector port:

1. Blow out any contaminants in the optical connector port using a can of filtered compressed air.
2. Carefully clean the optical connector port using a 2.5mm swab (Datacom Textron Adapter Cleaning Wands).
3. Always replace the dust cap.

**Optical Connector Maintenance**

It is very important to clean any fiber optic cable connector that is connected to the MicroOTDR's optical connector port.

The following procedure is recommended to clean the fiber optic connector:

1. Carefully wipe ferrule with lint-free tissue (Datacom Textron ReelCleaner™ Connector Cleaning System)
2. Always replace the dust cap.

### HELPFUL HINTS

NOTE: The distance to the first event and between events must be at least 30 meters. If any event is less than 30 meters, the MicrOTDR will not recognize that event. Refer to the example in Figure 10. In this example, there are four (4) events that the MicrOTDR will recognize and display. Event (1) will be displayed as 30 meters, event (2) will be displayed as 130 meters, event (3) will be displayed as 630 meters, and event (4) will be displayed as 1630 meters.

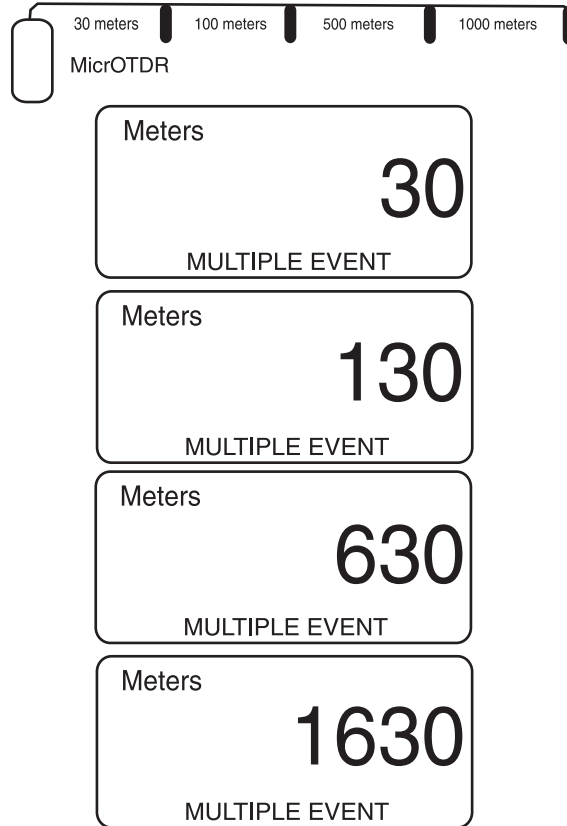


Figure 10

**Helpful Hints (cont.)**

In the following example, there is an event that is *less* than 30 meters. The MicrOTDR will not recognize this particular event however; the MicrOTDR will recognize the subsequent events. Refer to Figure 11. In this example there will be three ( 3 ) events displayed. Event ( 1 ) will be display as 120 meters, event ( 2 ) will be displayed as 620 meters, and event ( 3 ) will be displayed as 1620 meters.

In order to detect faults in the first 30 meters of a fiber optic cable, it may be useful to use a launch cable at least 30 meters between the MicrOTDR and the cable under test.

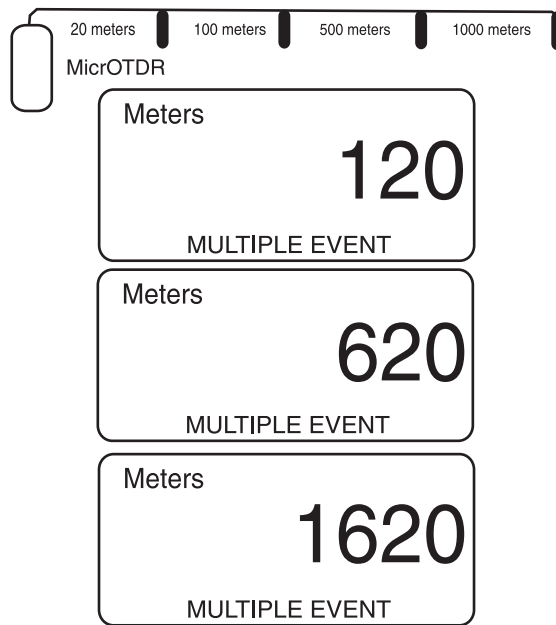


Figure 11

## CUSTOMER SUPPORT

### Repair

If repairs for your Datacom Textron Model MicrOTDR are necessary, contact Datacom Textron Technical Support at:

Datacom Textron  
11001 31st Place West  
Everett, WA 98204  
TEL **(800) 468-5557** or (425) 355-0590  
FAX (425) 290-1600  
WEB: [www.datacom.textron.com](http://www.datacom.textron.com)

### Technical Assistance

Should you need technical assistance with the Model MicrOTDR, contact Datacom Technical Support at the following numbers:

**(800) 468-5557** or  
**(425) 355-0590**

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Optical:**

Optical Connection	Single Port
Emitter type	Laser
Emitter Classification	Class I
Wavelength	1310 nm
Pulse Width	200 ns Typical.
Pulse Rate	500 kHz.
Emitter Fiber Type	Multimode & Singlemode
Index of Refraction	1.40 - 1.69
End Measurement Accuracy	± 2m + IOR Variation (IOR Variation = 0.67 m/Km per .001 IOR error)
Minimum Distance Measured	30m
Dead Zone	30m
Maximum Distance Measured	20 Km
Minimum detectable signal @ 10Km	-49 dB
Number of events detected	7
Operating temp	-10 to +50°C
Storage temp	-20 to +60°C

**Power:**

Internal	4 AA Alkaline batteries, auto power off after 5 minutes
Battery life (Alkaline)	>13,000 operations

**Physical:**

Dimension	7.7 x 4.0 x 1.7 in. (195 x 100 x 45 mm)
Weight (w/ battery)	0.9 lbs, (440 g)
Connector Type	ST



Patent Pending