

Alpha XD

PRO SHOT

Laser Operations Guide



Laser
excellence
since 1991

Introduction

You now own the Pro Shot Alpha XD, a high accuracy, ultra rugged servo leveled automatic laser for your most demanding leveling or grading operations.

Please take a moment to read this manual, it contains vital information on safely operating and getting the best results from your new laser.

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Getting Started

1

Case contents (will vary depending on package ordered)

Instruction packet

Receiver

Batteries

Laser



Always follow recycling directives for electronic waste



CHARGE ONLY
RECHARGEABLE
BATTERIES

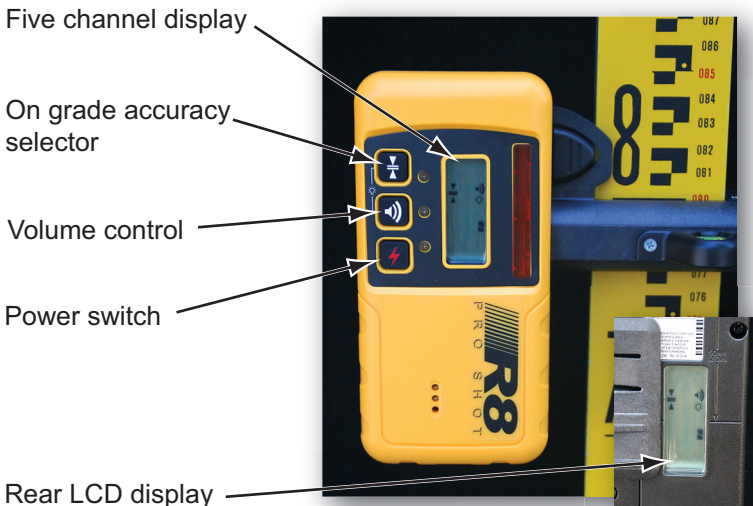
Battery installation

Pull on tab at base of door to remove.

Install 4 C-cell (alkaline, or NiMH rechargeable) according to instructions molded on battery holder. Carbon batteries are not recommended.

Replace battery door by hooking cover into slots at the top of the housing and pressing the tab closed. **Do not plug a charger into the laser unless NiMH batteries are installed!**

NiMH batteries should be fully charged (about 12 hours) before first use.



Laser Controls

- Alignment Sights are used to align the slope axis of the laser.
- Power Switch turns the laser on and off.
- X axis Leveling LEDs: green LED lights when unit is leveling, both red LEDs (X & Y axis) flash if a leveling limit is reached.
- Y axis Leveling LEDs: green LED lights when unit is leveling, both red LEDs (Y & X axis) flash if a leveling limit is reached.
- Y Axis Manual LEDs: amber LED lights when in Slope Matching mode, red LED flashes (with X red LED) if leveling limit is reached.
- Power LED is lit green when unit is on. When the laser finishes leveling, the LED will flash 5 times, indicating that the Height Alert is active.
- Battery Life Indicator flashes amber when battery power is low.
- Rotation Speed Button toggles between high and low speeds. Rotation speed LED is lit when unit is set to high speed.
- Manual Slope Switch, a deliberate (1/2 second) press and release will set the laser into manual grade matching mode.
- Manual Slope Control Switches are used to tilt the laser plane to the desired slope.

Receiver Controls & Display

- Power Switch turns receiver on & off
- Volume Switch toggles sound from high to low to off.
- On Grade Accuracy Switch toggles from standard to fine to coarse.

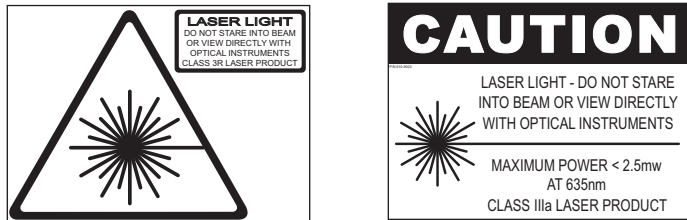
Precautions to follow when using any laser.

- Don't stare into the laser beam or view it directly with optical instruments.
- Don't disassemble the laser or attempt to service it.
- Don't use the laser until you have read the instruction manual and you are familiar with how to operate the laser properly.

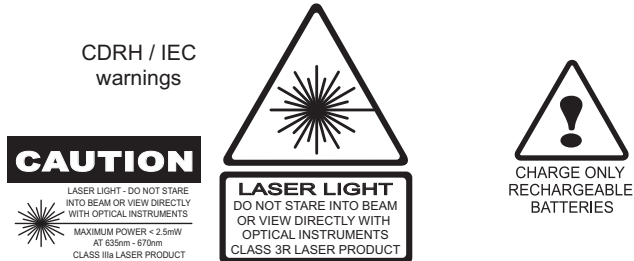
U.S. OSHA requirements for operating visible lasers.

- Only qualified, trained employees may install, adjust and operate the laser.
- Laser operators must carry proof of qualification.
- The area of a job site where a laser is being used must be posted with a laser warning placard.
- The laser should be set up above or below eye level and never intentionally aimed at anyone.
- Turn the laser off when it is not being used, such as during lunch hour, at the end of the day, or during other long breaks in the work.

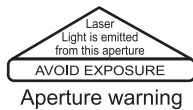
Warning placard



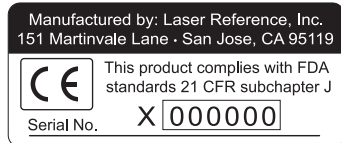
CDRH / IEC warnings



Safety labels



Serial / CDRH / EC compliance



Note: The Alpha XD is a CDRH class IIIa laser and an IEC 60825 class 3R laser. It conforms to applicable EC directives regarding RFI and EMI, and to FDA performance standards 21 CFR subchapter J.

Calibration

Although the Alpha XD transmitter is calibrated at the factory and is an exceptionally rugged laser, it is worthwhile to check calibration before you first use your laser. To ensure the best possible results with your laser, check calibration periodically, or if it has been shipped or handled roughly.

Check your setup

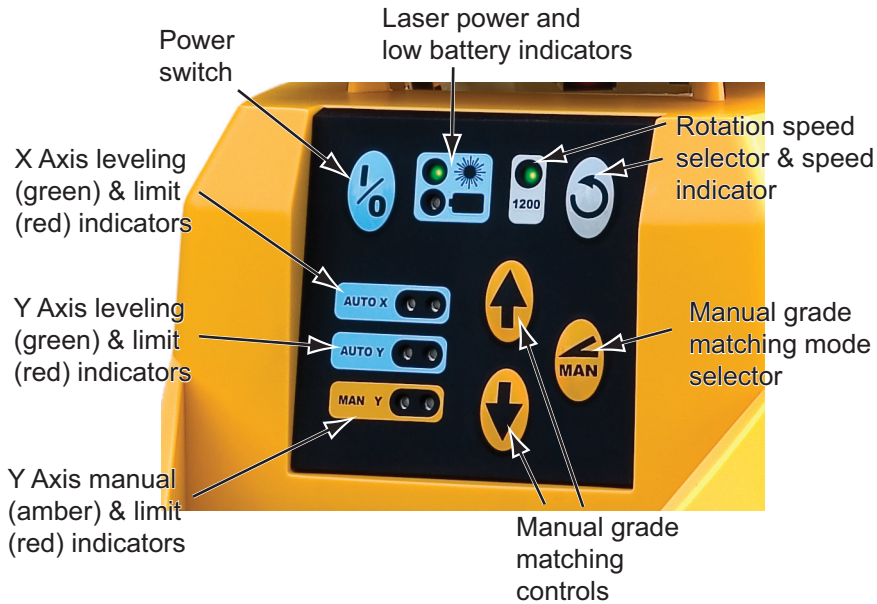
Set the tripod in a location away from vehicular and foot traffic. Choose the location to provide line of sight coverage to the jobsite. The warning placard should be displayed on the job, and the operator should have an operator's certificate card. These are included in the instruction packet. It is a good jobsite practice to check your setup from time to time. Use engineered benchmarks to assure that your setup is correct and matches job specifications. On large sites or where accuracy is critical, verifying the elevation benchmarks you will be working off should be standard procedure. If there are no suitable benchmarks on the site, you can set your own by driving stakes and recording their elevations, or by marking the laser beam height on stable objects such as telephone poles, concrete walls, etc. The benchmarks should be 90° apart for greatest accuracy.

Work as close to the laser as possible

You can work up to 1650 feet (500M) from the Alpha laser utilizing the R8 receiver. As with all lasers and optical instruments, the farther you go, the more error can add up. Set the laser in a safe place, as close as possible to your work.

Maintain your equipment

Make sure your tripod and mounting hardware are tight, and that your grade rods are in good condition. This can prevent errors and performance problems.



Automatic Leveling

Press the power switch to turn the laser on. The green LEDs in the “Auto X” and “Auto Y” axis windows come on solid or flash to indicate motor drive signals while the laser is auto-leveling. When leveling is completed, height alert will become active, signaled by the Laser Power LED flashing five times. When level is reached in both axes, the laser beam and green power LED will light, and the rotor will spin. The Height Alert is activated about 5 seconds after the laser finishes leveling. Height alert flashes warning LEDs and turns off the laser if the instrument is disturbed to the extent that accuracy could be affected. If the Height Alert turns the laser off, power the laser down and turn it on again, allow it to relevel, and reset your receiver against your benchmarks. If a leveling limit is reached, (the leveling drive reaches the end of its travel), the green LED for the affected axis turns off and the both red X & Y limit LEDs flash. Adjust the laser so that it is within its leveling limit and restart the laser.

Disabling Height Alert Caution!

To disable the height alert, when turning the laser on, press and hold the rotation speed button, press and release the power button, and then release the rotation speed button. ***The height alert prevents the laser from releveling at a different height of instrument. Disabling the alert could compromise working accuracy.***

Slope Matching Mode, Y axis manually adjusted, X axis auto levels.

- Use the sights on top of the laser to align it with the slope direction axis.
- Press the power switch to turn the laser on.
- Press the “Man” button for about 1/2 second. The “Man Y” axis amber LED flashes quickly, (indicating the Y axis is in manual mode). Both “Auto Y” LED’s become inactive while the “Auto X” LED’s continue to operate in automatic mode.
- Use the arrow up and down buttons to move the laser plane to the desired slope in the Y axis. When facing the control panel, the Up button moves the far plane down and the Down button moves the near plane down. The X axis will continue to auto level.
- Note: Any press of the “Man” or arrow buttons restarts the Height Alert.
- If a Y axis leveling limit is reached while manually setting slope, the red LED in the “Man Y” axis window and the X axis red limit LED will flash. The laser must be turned off to return to automatic mode.
- The green power LED and the laser beam will turn on once the X axis reaches level.

In this mode, the Y axis does not self level. The X axis continues to self level. The user should set benchmarks and periodically check the laser set up to ensure accurate work.

- To exit this mode, press the “MAN” button (a deliberate ~1/2 second press). The laser will switch to full automatic leveling mode. If the laser is powered down, when it is restarted, it will always start in full automatic leveling mode.

High Speed Rotation

- In either leveling mode, the laser rotation speed can be increased from 600 to 1200 rpm. The increased speed allows more frequent update of information at the laser receiver when using automatic machine control systems on mobile construction equipment such as scrapers, dozers, or graders. With hand held laser receivers, there is no need to use the faster rotation speed. Increased rotation speed draws more power and battery life will be shorter, so the faster setting should only be used when necessary.
- Press the rotation speed button to toggle back and forth between high and low speeds. The laser will always power on in the 600 rpm mode. When the high speed mode is entered, the green LED in the “1200” window will illuminate.

Calibration is your responsibility, check it often.

It is well worth the effort to check calibration before you first use your laser, and then periodically to ensure that you are doing the highest quality work. Always check calibration if the laser has been handled roughly.

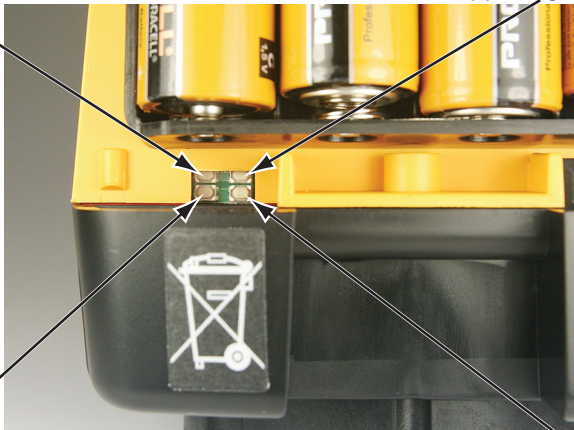
Follow the steps below to check the calibration of the laser and make adjustments if necessary.

1. Attach the laser to a flat head tripod approximately 100 feet from a wall or other stable vertical surface, (at telephone pole or building wall will work). The tripod head must be level enough to allow you to turn the laser 360 degrees with minimal re-leveling needed. Use the tripod leg adjustments to level the tripod head. Position the laser so that either direction of the cross (X) axis is pointed at the target.
2. Turn the laser on and allow it to level.
3. Take the receiver to the target and move it up or down until you get a on grade display in the LCD, or a steady tone. Make an on grade mark using the receiver's beam center notch.
4. Return to the laser, rotate it 180 degrees, and allow it to re-level. The opposite cross axis direction is now aimed at the target. Use the receiver to make another on grade mark at the target.
5. If there is a difference between the two marks, make another mark half way between them. This third mark represents true level. If the distance between the outer marks and the center mark is within the accuracy specification of the laser, go to step 9. If not, continue with the next step.
6. Remove the battery door and the rubber plug on the lower left side of the battery holder. The four buttons switches control calibration of the laser. A label shows the axis and direction of travel that each button controls. Each push of a button moves the calibration by approximately 3 arc seconds, (1/64" @ 100') / .4mm @ 30m). Use a small screwdriver or dull pencil to press the plus or minus X axis button to bring the beam to the true level mark. Go to the target and check the beam elevation. If the elevation is correct, continue to the next step, if not, repeat this step until the beam reaches the correct height.
7. Check the cross axis adjustment by rotating the laser 180 degrees to the first position, let it re-level, and check that the beam is on the true level mark.
8. Rotate the laser 90 degrees so that either direction of the Y axis is aimed at the target. Allow the laser to re-level and make an elevation mark at the target. If the distance between this mark and the true level mark is within the laser's accuracy specification, calibration is complete. If not, continue to the next step.
9. Use the Y axis push buttons to move the beam until it coincides with the true level mark. Calibration is complete.



Upper left controls +X

Upper right controls +Y



Lower left controls -X

Lower right controls -Y

The R8 senses the plane of laser light projected by the Alpha and indicates a height position relative to the plane (high, low, or on grade). The R8 uses front and rear five channel LCD's to display elevation information. Along with the visual displays, an audio tone also indicates when the receiver is high, low, or on grade. When the R8 is centered at the beam height, an on grade bar indication is displayed and a steady tone can be heard. If the R8 is too high, an arrow shows the direction to move the receiver and a fast beep is heard. If the R8 is too low, an arrow shows the way to move the receiver and a slow beep is heard.

The R8 has three control switches, power on/off, tone high/low/off, and on grade accuracy selection. Pressing the power switch activates the R8. The audio tone will sound and the LCD display will show the tone and accuracy icons.

The R8 is ready to operate in standard accuracy with loud tone. Pressing the volume switch once turns the volume off, twice changes to a quieter tone. When the volume is off, there will still be a single tone the first time the R8 senses a laser signal. Pressing the accuracy switch once changes to the coarse setting, twice changes to fine. The R8 automatically turns off if no laser beam strikes are received for 30 minutes. When the battery is nearly used up, the low battery indicator will be displayed. To replace the battery, locate the door on the back of the housing and open it. Remove the batteries (you may need to tap the R8 on your palm to free to battery). Replace the batteries following the diagram molded on the battery door.



R8 Specifications

Reception Height	2 inches (50mm)
Reception Angle	90 degrees
On Grade Accuracies	±1/16" std, ±1/8" coarse, ±1/32" fine
Power Supply	2 AA alkaline, 70 hours run time
Automatic Shut Off	After 30 min. (no laser strikes)
Environmental	Sealed against dust & water
Mount Clamping Range	5/8" to 2-1/2" (16 –65mm)

Rechargeable battery option

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The optional NiMH rechargeable battery kit is an environmentally friendly and economical alternative to alkaline batteries. NiMH batteries can be charged up to 500 times under optimum conditions and contain no hazardous materials.

To use the NiMH batteries, install a set into the laser and charge them fully prior to initial use (12 hours).

DO NOT PLUG THE CHARGER INTO THE LASER UNLESS NIMH RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES ARE INSTALLED!

It is recommended that new NiMH batteries be conditioned by charging them fully, and running them until fully discharged for two or three cycles. After that, the batteries may be charged before they are fully discharged without running into “memory” problems. A fully charged set of NiMH batteries should provide about 65 hours of run time.



Note: Do Not Charge Alkaline or Carbon batteries. To do so could cause them to rupture and damage your instrument.

If the laser is to be run while connected to the charger, the rechargeable NiMH batteries must be installed. The laser may not function properly if it is run off the charger when the NiMH batteries are not installed. The laser should never be run off the charger when alkaline or carbon batteries are installed.

Use only a factory prescribed charger with NiMH batteries. Use of a non-authorized charger may result in damage to the batteries, or to the laser's electronics.

Calibration: Calibration should be checked periodically or if the laser has been handled roughly or shipped.

Batteries: Occasionally remove the batteries and check the contacts for corrosion. Remove the batteries if the laser is to be stored for an extended period.

Laser Output Windows: Check the output windows regularly for dust and dirt, and clean with a camera brush or compressed air if necessary.

Control panel and exterior: Clean the control panel and other exterior surfaces of the laser with a soft, damp cloth.

Moisture: Never store the laser in a carrying case that is wet inside. If moisture gets inside the laser, place it in a warm area with the battery cover off until it is completely dry.

Troubleshooting

If the laser will not operate and there is no obvious damage, check to see if the low battery light is on and replace the batteries. Check the battery contacts and make sure they are clean.

The receiver shows an on-grade at two different heights— Check for windows or mirrors that could reflect the laser light, or for other lasers on the jobsite that could cause the second reading.

Laser knocked over— Inspect the optics and housing for damage. Use the receiver to make sure the laser is transmitting. Check the calibration and adjust if necessary.

Laser works only at short distances— Check the output windows for dust or moisture. Remove dust with a camera brush or with clean compressed air.

Receiver will not give on grade display at long distance— You may be at the edge of the laser's specified working radius or there may be dust or moisture in the optical path that is reducing beam power.

A single flashing (blinking) red LED for either the X or Y axis indicates the laser's internal diagnostics have detected a problem and a service center should be consulted.

There are no user serviceable components inside the laser!

The Pro Shot Alpha XD laser transmitter is warranted for twenty four (24) months (basic warranty) from the date of new equipment purchase from an authorized dealer. During the warranty period, Laser Reference or its authorized service center will repair or replace, at Laser Reference's sole discretion, laser transmitters (except for transportation costs), if the product is found to be defective in workmanship or materials. Maintaining the calibration of the laser is not the responsibility of Laser Reference or its authorized service centers. If service is needed, the product must be sent FREIGHT PREPAID to the nearest authorized service center, or to the Laser Reference factory.

Specifications

Range with R8 or R9 receiver	3300' diameter (1000m)
Leveling Accuracy	±10 arc sec. (.060"@100') (1.5mm@30m)
Leveling Technology	Servo motor
Self-Leveling Range	±5 degrees
Slope Matching Range	Single axis, X axis self levels, 8%
Height Alert	Normally active, can be disabled
Rotation Coverage, Speed	360°, 600 or 1200 rpm
Machine Control Compatible	Yes
Warranty	24 months against defects (basic)
Power Supply	4 C alkaline or NiMH rechargeable
Run Time	115 hours (alkaline), 65 hours (NiMH)
Automatic Shut-off	After 12 minutes out of level
Environmental	Dust & water resistant (IP56)
Laser Rating	CDRH class IIIa, IEC class 3R
Laser beam type / power	Visible 650 to 670nm / <2.5mW
Operating Temperature	-20°C to +60°C (-4°F to +140°F)



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Customer information

Laser Serial number _____

Receiver S/N _____

Date of purchase _____