



AKA: Broadband Detectors, Field Strength Meters, Hound Dogs, Portable Frequency Counters, Squealers, and Diode Receivers.

Theory of Operation:

Pocket Bug Detectors detect wireless microphones, a common electronic eavesdropping device. Actually just low-power radio transmitters, these wireless microphones use radio waves to broadcast conversations. The average radio bug transmits its signal 50 to 2500 feet. It is this radio-frequency energy that pocket bug detectors attempt to detect.

The pocket bug detector is a rudimentary radio receiver which is not tuned to any one frequency or station. It listens to a range of frequencies. Think of it as your ear listening for a whispering bug in a world filled with shouting giants (commercial radio stations, 2-way radios, etc.). In theory, a whispering bug will sound louder to you than a shouting giant, *if* you get very, very close to it. This is what the user of a pocket bug detector hopes for. In this simple example, sound actually means the strength of the radio signal.

Usage:

The detector is first taken to a room where no bugs are *believed* to be planted. It is then adjusted so that it almost detects the giants. Then the detector is taken into the room where a bug may be hiding. *If* the bug is turned on at the time, it will be emitting a small signal. As the detector gets closer to the bug, the bug's signal may begin to sound louder than the giant's signal. The introduction of a signal stronger than the threshold setting is what triggers the detector's alarm (lights, a feedback squeal, a vibrator, etc.). The stronger signal could be a nearby bug, or a new giant signal in the area (from a passing taxi or police car, CB radio, or industrial equipment).

Pros:

- Inexpensive.
- Can be operated covertly.
- Small.

Cons:

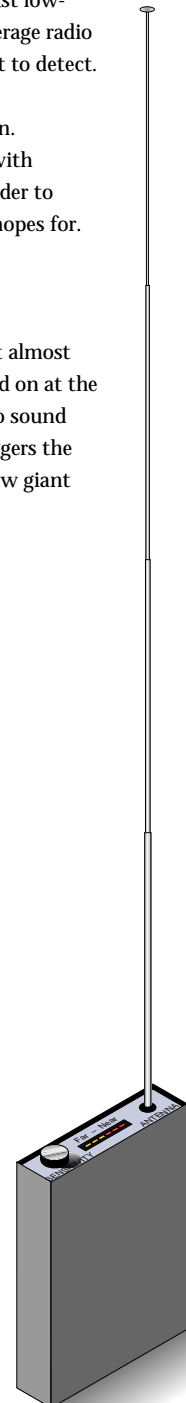
- Only detects one type of bug.
- Many of the cheaper FM wireless microphones emit so little energy that detectors can't hear them.
- Professional surveillance technicians avoid using equipment which can be discovered this way.
- In cities and many suburban environs, *giants* are so loud that *bugs* can rarely be heard over the din.
- Dormant bugs (remotely controlled) or dead bugs cannot be heard with these devices.
- Not all transmitters broadcast radio signals within the frequency range of these detectors.
- Pocket Bug Detectors are very prone to false positive readings. Potentially embarrassing.

Cost: \$100 - \$2000

Recommendation:

Save this method of detection for areas where time limits the types of eavesdropping devices which can be installed and serviced. May also be useful in suburban and rural locations to detect a radio transmitter (but not tape recorder) being carried by another person. Bug Detectors are usually not effective in tall office buildings, cities and many suburban areas.

Generally, this method of electronic surveillance detection is considered to be inadequate and inconclusive. Contrary to advertising claims, Bug Detectors do not *detect all types of bugs*. Transmitters are only one of many types of electronic eavesdropping devices in use today.



For information on professional electronic eavesdropping detection services please contact us directly. Do not call from, or discuss your concerns in, suspected areas.

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