INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Serial No.__________________

World Precision Instruments, Inc.
Contents

Introduction ......................................................... 1

Operation .............................................................. 2

Amplifying Mode ..................................................... 2

Filter Settings ........................................................ 2

Low Filter .................................................................. 2

High Filter .............................................................. 3

Output ...................................................................... 3

Output Limits ........................................................... 3

Modes of Amplification .............................................. 4

Single-Ended Amplification ....................................... 4

Interference Effects .................................................. 5

Differential Amplification ......................................... 5

Measuring Electrode Impedance: the Z Mode .......... 6

Generating Marker Current: the Marker Mode ........ 7

Using The Iso-80 Internal Current Generator .......... 8

Using The Iso-80 External Current Control Input .... 8

Maximum Current Level .......................................... 8

Power Supplies ........................................................ 9

Specifications ......................................................... 10

Packing List ........................................................... 11

Warranty ............................................................... 12

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing WPI's popular ISO-80 amplifier. Although some users will be very experienced in the use of such amplifiers, it is nevertheless strongly recommended that all users familiarize themselves with the various operations of the ISO-80 by taking the time to read this manual.

The ISO-80 is a high performance isolated differential amplifier designed for extracellular recording of nerve/muscle cell action potentials in vitro and in vivo. Other functions include the ability to measure electrode impedance and to generate current for applications such as; tissue marking, stimulation and electrode cleaning. Similar to WPI's model DAM80, from which it has evolved, it is basically a battery-powered low noise differential amplifier, with the advantages of having complete electrical isolation from Mains power and Ground lines.
Operation

The ISO-80 has three basic modes of operation, which are selected using the MODE switch on the upper left-hand side of the instrument:

- **AMP**—voltage amplification;
- **Z**—electrode impedance measurement;
- **MARKER**—tissue marking.

The POWER switch, located on the lower right of the instrument must first be in the ON position.

In the AMP mode, the amplified voltage is made available for external recording or data acquisition at the OUTPUT socket on the right-hand side of the instrument. The operation in both Z and MARKER modes can be monitored on the liquid crystal display (LCD). OUTPUT is disabled in the Z and MARKER modes.

A very high impedance probe is provided and is plugged into the PROBE INPUT socket. Electrodes for connection to the preparation/subject under test are inserted into two sockets—one red, one black—on the probe.

Amplifying Mode

The standard amplify mode is set by switching the MODE switch to AMP and the POWER switch to ON. The MODE switch should initially be left at AMP. The level of amplification is set using the VOLTAGE GAIN knob. This selects gains of 100, 1000, or 10,000. The user is advised to start with this set to 100.

Filter Settings

The amplifier can amplify voltages which vary at frequencies extending from 5 Hz up to 10 kHz. To set the frequency band of measurement, the LOW FILTER and HIGH FILTER control knobs are used.

Low Filter

This sets the lowest frequency signal that will be amplified. It would for example be typically 5 Hz for ECG and EEG measurements. For nerve-action voltage amplification, the 10 Hz setting would normally be used, whereas for brain in vivo recordings the 300 Hz would be suitable. It is advisable always to set the LOW
**FILTER** to a frequency no lower than is really necessary. This will reduce the risk of interference by low frequency noise signals. Note also that it is important that the recording instrument be able to handle signal frequencies at least as low as that set by the **LOW FILTER**—an oscilloscope, for example, would be set to its DC mode.

**High Filter**

This is used to set the highest frequency signal that will be amplified—the higher the rate of variation of the signal being measured the faster the response required of the amplifier. The amplifier’s fastest response is at the 10KHz setting. Note also that the recording instrument must be able to handle signal frequencies at least as high as that set by the **HIGH FILTER** control.

**Important:** Intrinsic electronic noise in all circuits is greater the wider the frequency band used. This band is set by the **LOW** and **HIGH FILTER** controls. Accordingly, the user should always use the minimum band that produces acceptable quality recordings. For ECG and EEG setting the **LOW FILTER** to 5 Hz and the **HIGH FILTER** to 0.1 kHz would for example be adequate. Having an unnecessarily greater bandwidth will only increase the amount of intrinsic noise on the recordings and also increase the risk of interference by external signals.

**Output**

The amplified signal is available at the **OUTPUT** jack on the instrument side. A recorder, oscilloscope or data acquisition system may be connected to this jack using a cable provided in the accessories pack. The polarity of the output can be set using the **OUTPUT POLARITY SELECT** toggle. In normal operational mode (*i.e.*, amplification) this would be set to “+”

**Output Limits**

The maximum output available depends on the frequency of the voltage signal being amplified. For signals of frequency above 30 Hz the full range of output voltage is available: ±10 volts or 20 volts peak to peak (P-P) for an AC signal. Below 30 Hz the
maximum output available decreases as the frequency decreases. The relationship is shown in Fig 1.

To avoid error when measuring very low frequency signals the amplification must be set so that the maximum available output level is not exceeded. For example, the maximum available output at a frequency 10 Hz is 12 volts P-P. Hence, with an input signal of 10 mV P-P at 10 Hz, the maximum setting of the **VOLTAGE GAIN** control would be 1000, which would give an output of 10 Volts P-P. If the voltage gain were set to 10,000, the output would not be 100 Volts P-P, but would be limited to 12 Volts P-P.

If extra gain is required at very low frequencies, this can usually be obtained using the controls on the recording device (e.g., data acquisition) connected to the ISO-80.

**Modes of Amplification**

Voltages from specimens may be amplified in either of two ways—single ended or differentially. The latter is to be recommended where there is a risk of external electrical interference. In either mode, the risk of interference is reduced if electrode leads are kept to an absolute minimum length. Screened leads would also reduce susceptibility to electrical noise/mains-pickup.

**Single-Ended Amplification**

Amplifying single-ended is illustrated in Fig 2. Here one electrode (the working electrode) is plugged into the red socket on the probe and connected to the test
specimen. To complete the electrical circuit and to provide a return path for electrical current, a second electrode (the reference electrode) is connected to the Black probe socket, which in turn is connected to the probe handle. The probe handle is the ground of the amplifier circuits—CIRCUIT GROUND. A short lead and a clip for the probe handle are provided for making this connection.

**Interference Effects**

In all laboratories supplied with Mains power there is a finite risk of interference from signals flowing in the power lines. The interfering signals are usually at a frequency of 50 Hz or 60 Hz and are picked up by any electrical equipment in the area, by a process of electromagnetic induction. Such signals that are picked up on the measuring electrodes will be amplified together with true input voltages and then appear on the recordings. Whether this is significant or not depends upon the level of activity in the Mains power lines, the length of the input wires to the equipment, and on the sensitivity of the measuring equipment. Should it be a problem at the test site, it might be necessary to set up the specimen and electrodes in a shielded enclosure—a Faraday cage, for example, connected to Circuit ground. Alternatively, the differential mode of amplification should be used.

**Differential Amplification**

Fig. 3a illustrates the set-up for differential amplification. Here, electrodes from both the red and black sockets on the probe are connected to the specimen. Again, it is necessary to connect the specimen site to Circuit Ground via the probe.

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*These parts are included with the Iso-80.
handle. Fig. 3b shows an alternate setup in which the second microelectrode is separately secured, allowing independent placement of the two electrodes. In either set-up, the difference between the voltages at the two electrodes is amplified. Local interference will again be picked up on both electrodes, but in roughly similar amounts on each. By amplifying the voltage difference at the electrodes, these signals will be largely cancelled out. If the interference in the area is particularly strong so that its effect even after differential amplification is a problem, again a shielded enclosure should be used.

**Measuring Electrode Impedance: the Z Mode**

Electrode impedances in the range 100 K to 20 Mohms may be checked with the ISO-80 **MODE** switch set to **Z**. The ISO-80 achieves this measurement internally by supplying a small (20 nA peak-to-peak) current, alternating at 300 Hz, to the electrode connected to the red (non-inverting) input socket of the probe. A reference electrode is used to complete the current path back to the CIRCUIT GROUND of the ISO-80. While the instrument is delivering current into the probe, an audible tone is emitted. Electrode impedance is displayed on the ISO-80 liquid
crystal display (LCD). The amplifier output is disabled in the Z mode, and no signal will be seen.

Electrode impedance may be measured in situ, that is, with the electrode and probe connected to the preparation or in a special test set-up. Measurement in-situ is made in the normal recording set-ups, as shown in Figures 2 and 3. Note that in the differential amplification configuration, only the electrode in the red socket can be measured. To make the measurement, check that the POWER switch is at ON then set the MODE switch to Z. Electrode impedance is then shown on the LCD. The audible tone will cease when the MODE switch is set to AMP.

The test set-up is shown in Fig 4. To connect up, the test electrode is inserted into the red socket on the probe. The black socket is connected to CIRCUIT GROUND (clip on the probe handle or the GND jack socket on the instrument panel). The electrode under test is inserted in a 150 mM NaCl solution. A silver wire reference electrode (provided in the accessories pack) is inserted in the same solution and is also joined to CIRCUIT GROUND. To make the measurement, check that the POWER switch is at ON then set the MODE switch to Z. Electrode impedance is then shown on the LCD. The audible tone will cease when the MODE switch is set to AMP.

**Generating Marker Current: the Marker Mode**

Marker current is passed through the red (non-inverting) input socket of the probe, then to the recording electrode in situ, that is, with the electrode and probe connected to the preparation. Either the single-ended (Figure 2) or differential (Figure 3) configuration may be used. Note that, in the differential amplification configuration, marker current only passes through the electrode in the red socket.
There are two ways to generate a Marker current. The first way uses the internal **MARKER** current generator facility built into the ISO-80 circuit design. The second way is to use an external voltage source via the **EXTERNAL CURRENT CONTROL INPUT**. Note: The current generated using the internal source is a DC current. That generated using an external source can be either AC or DC, depending on the source used.

**Using the ISO-80 Internal Current Generator**

Marker currents up to 20 μA are available with the **MODE** switch set to **MARKER**. The magnitude of the current delivered is adjustable using the **MARKER AMPLITUDE** knob and is displayed on the LCD. An audible tone is emitted during the time that the instrument is delivering current.

To initiate current, confirm first that the **POWER** is set to **ON**, that the **MODE** switch is set to **MARKER** and that the **MARKER AMPLITUDE** control knob is set to 0. Adjust the **MARKER AMPLITUDE** control to achieve the required current as displayed on the LCD.

**Using the ISO-80 External Current Control Input**

Current may be controlled by an external voltage source via the **EXTERNAL CURRENT CONTROL INPUT** socket on the side of the instrument. The actual current generated depends on the magnitude of the voltage applied. The scale factor used is 100 mV = 1 μA. Note the voltage applied must be within the range 0 volts to +/- 2 volts. The voltage may be either D.C. or an A.C. pulse, sine wave, or other wave form. Again, as when using the internal current source, the **POWER** switch must be **ON** and the **MODE** switch set to **MARKER**.

**NOTE:** when using the External Input there is no electrical isolation.

**Maximum Current Level**

In either the internal current source or external current control modes, the maximum current that is available is dependent on the impedance of the electrode used. The greater the impedance of the electrode, the lower the available current. With an electrode impedance of Z megohms the relationship is:
\[ I_{\text{max}} = \frac{10}{Z} \text{ microamps} \]

For example, with a 1 Mohm electrode, the maximum current (MARKER AMPLITUDE control turned to maximum) is 10 microamps.

**Power Supplies**

Power is provided by two 9-volt rechargeable batteries. With the ISO-80 in full continuous operation, the batteries should last for 20 to 24 hours before recharging is necessary. A **LOW BAT** indication on the LCD will show this. A charging time of typically 6 hours will restore the batteries to full charge, though if the batteries have been totally discharged (e.g., after several months of shelf storage without use), about 10 hours charging time may be necessary.

When recharging is necessary, the charger is plugged into the **CHARGER** INPUT socket on the side of the instrument and the POWER switch is set to **OFF/CHARGE**

The batteries are located in the base of the instrument. To gain access, remove the two screws securing the 8 x 6 cm battery hold cover on the underside of the ISO-80 case.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INPUT IMPEDANCE</td>
<td>&gt;10¹¹ Ohms // 8 pico-farads (typical)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INPUT LEAKAGE CURRENT</td>
<td>50 pico-amperes maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAIN</td>
<td>100, 1000, 10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMON MODE REJECTION</td>
<td>100 dB typical; 5 Hz to 100 Hz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOISE, REFERRED TO INPUT</td>
<td>2 micro-volts RMS, 5 Hz – 10 KHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILTER SETTINGS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Pass</td>
<td>100 Hz, 1 KHz, 3 KHz, 10 KHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-Pass</td>
<td>5, 10, 100, 300 Hz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAXIMUM OUTPUT VOLTAGE</td>
<td>30 Hz to 10 KHz: 20 Volts peak-to-peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELECTRODE IMPEDANCE</td>
<td>5 Hz: 3 Volts peak-to-peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEASUREMENT RANGE</td>
<td>100K to 20 Megohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT INJECTION RANGE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elect. Impedance ≤0.5 Megohm</td>
<td>0 to ± 20 microamperes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elect. Impedance = 1 Megohm</td>
<td>0 to ± 10 microamperes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elect. Impedance = 2 Megohms</td>
<td>0 to ± 5 microamperes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTERNAL CURRENT INJECTION CONTROL INPUT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Factor</td>
<td>10 microamperes per volt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency Range</td>
<td>DC to 10 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltage Range</td>
<td>-2.0 to +2.0 volts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTPUT IMPEDANCE</td>
<td>600 Ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISPLAY</td>
<td>3½ Digit LCD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POWER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPECTED BATTERY LIFE</td>
<td>20 hours with fully charged batteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INPUT PROBE (Provided)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold plated housing, 1.13&quot; x 0.88&quot; x 0.38&quot; (30 x 23 x 10 mm) with 3.5&quot; (L) x 0.25&quot; diam. (88 x 6.35 mm) shaft. 5-ft (1.5 m) connecting cable. Input connectors are “mini-banana” spaced 0.50&quot; (12.7 mm).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Packing List

Your ISO-80 shipping box will contain the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WPI Part #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO80</td>
<td>Amplifier</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO-80P</td>
<td>Probe</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3545</td>
<td>Charger, 120VAC, U.S. Plug</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3546</td>
<td>Charger, 240VAC, CEE Plug</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3547</td>
<td>Charger, 240VAC, British Plug</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBL102</td>
<td>Cable, BNC to 3.5mm Plug</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5469</td>
<td>Adapter, Electrode, .031 inch</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13388</td>
<td>Adapter, Mini-Banana to 2 mm</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3294</td>
<td>Wire, Ground</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2033</td>
<td>Connector, Mini-Banana, Black</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2034</td>
<td>Connector, Mini-Banana, Red</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>Connector, Mini-Banana, Turret</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3301EH</td>
<td>Electrode Holder</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5470</td>
<td>Adapter, Electrode, .031 to wire</td>
<td>1 pkg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP1</td>
<td>Electrode, Ag/AgCl, 1 mm.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Shipped with appropriate part.*
Warranty

WPI (World Precision Instruments, Inc.) warrants to the original purchaser that this equipment, including its components and parts, shall be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of one year* from the date of receipt. WPI’s obligation under this warranty shall be limited to repair or replacement, at WPI’s option, of the equipment or defective components or parts upon receipt thereof f.o.b. WPI, Sarasota, Florida U.S.A. Return of a repaired instrument shall be f.o.b. Sarasota.

The above warranty is contingent upon normal usage and does not cover products which have been modified without WPI’s approval or which have been subjected to unusual physical or electrical stress or on which the original identification marks have been removed or altered. The above warranty will not apply if adjustment, repair or parts replacement is required because of accident, neglect, misuse, failure of electric power, air conditioning, humidity control, or causes other than normal and ordinary usage.

To the extent that any of its equipment is furnished by a manufacturer other than WPI, the foregoing warranty shall be applicable only to the extent of the warranty furnished by such other manufacturer. This warranty will not apply to appearance terms, such as knobs, handles, dials or the like.

The foregoing obligations set forth in this paragraph are in lieu of all obligations and liabilities, including all warranties of merchantability or otherwise, expressed or implied or statutory, and state WPI’s entire and exclusive liability and purchaser’s exclusive remedy for any claim of damages in connection with the sale or furnishing of all equipment, including design, suitability for use, operation, or installation. There are no warranties which extend beyond the description of the face hereof. In no event shall WPI be liable for any special or consequential damages.

Warning: This equipment is not designed or intended for use on humans.

* Electrodes, batteries and other consumable parts are warranted for 30 days only from the date on which the customer receives these items.

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DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

We: World Precision Instruments, Inc.
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USA

as the manufacturers of the apparatus listed, declare under sole responsibility that the product(s):

Title: ISO 80 System

to which this declaration relates is/are in conformity with the following standards or other normative documents:

EMC: EN 50082-1:1992

and therefore conform(s) with the protection requirements of Council Directive 89/336/EEC relating to electromagnetic compatibility.

Issued on: July 13, 2001

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