

# IRD Balancing Model 256

## Field Bulletin 050503

There are two areas of concern that have been encountered with the IRD Balancing Model 256, and they are described in this Field Bulletin to avoid possible operations problems in field applications.

Each of these situations may appear to be a potential instrument “lock-up” condition, where additional keyboard button pushing and power off can result in further frustrations with instrument functionality.

Both issues are discussed below, with the “workarounds” that we have found to be successful. It is important to note that both situations will be addressed properly with the next operating system software update, but the availability date has not been decided at this time.

### Print Screen

The Model 256 offers a Print Screen utility (holding ‘0’ as shift and ‘7’) providing 3 printer choices: PCL, PocketJet 200, and Bitmap. (See Menu at the right.) The instrument default is set for the printer that comes with the kit, the Pentax PocketJet 200. If it is desired to use another printer and the optional external print package, then it is necessary to change this setup to PCL. If it is desired to print the image to the PCMCIA memory card, then it is necessary to change the setup to Bitmap.



The problem appears whenever PocketJet 200 is the selection, there is no printer connected, and the print screen command is invoked by hitting “OK” or an “Enter” key. When this event occurs, there is a Printing dialogue box that appears, with the notation “Press a key to abort”. The problem is that no key depression allows an abort, and the time-out takes 46 seconds. If you wait the 46 seconds, another dialogue box appears that allows you to cancel and recover so that setup can be properly made.

If it is desired to print a screen to bitmap, it is very important to make certain that a PCMCIA memory card is installed and that Printer is set to Bitmap. If not, the 46-second time-out begins, and you are best to wait it out for now. **A better solution (with a shorter time-out and key-enabled abort) will be forthcoming in the next operating system release.**

### Enter Keys

The Model 256 uses a standard Microsoft Windows CE operating system. One of the features of this software is the auto-repeat function on the instrument keypad. The large “Enter” keys at the top right and top left of the instrument are also treated as “auto-repeat”. Thus, a push on one of these buttons in excess of 1/2 second allows a stacking of inputs (similar to your pc keyboard) and possibly lets the instrument progress through two or more subsequent menu screens. This can make the instrument’s operator interface appear to jump right past an important setup screen.



For now, in order to avoid this situation, it is important to deliberately hit the “enter” keys with a quick momentary action, and just once. **Again, a better solution will be forthcoming (where these keys will be disabled from auto-repeat) in the next operating system release.**