

## **Congratulations!**

Buying a SAFE SIGNOSCOPE is an excellent decision and a superb choice!

The SIGNOSCOPE shows you watermarks sharply defined and full of contrast. You will discover the watermark not visible with either lighter fluid or any other "dry" Watermark Detector!

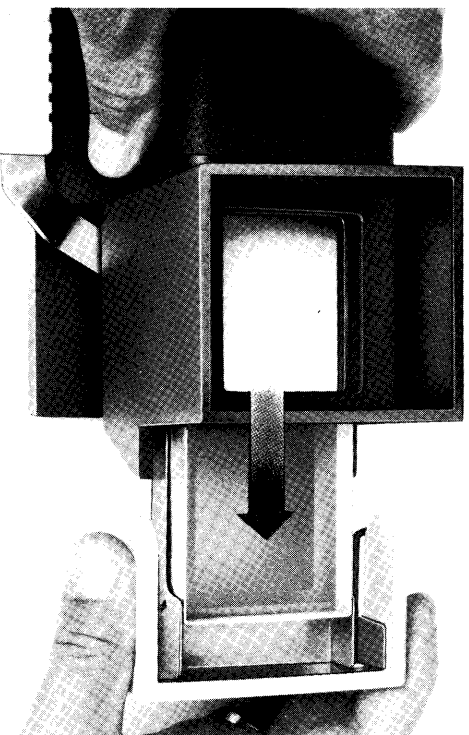
The SIGNOSCOPE is the only instrument which will effectively reveal the exact watermark in postage stamps (up to size approx. 2"x2") without the use of ANY chemical aids, and without endangering your stamps.

But that's not all: Within seconds, the SIGNOSCOPE will show you the difference between two seemingly identical stamps. You can also determine the true condition of the stamp, detect thin places, grills, irregular papers, repairs and forgeries, as well as spot silk threads, granite paper, the fiber of the stamp, and other interesting "finds" in your collection. Especially useful for checking watermarks on yellow or orange stamps. Before starting your search, we recommend reading the following pages. You will then be able to enjoy your SIGNOSCOPE even more.

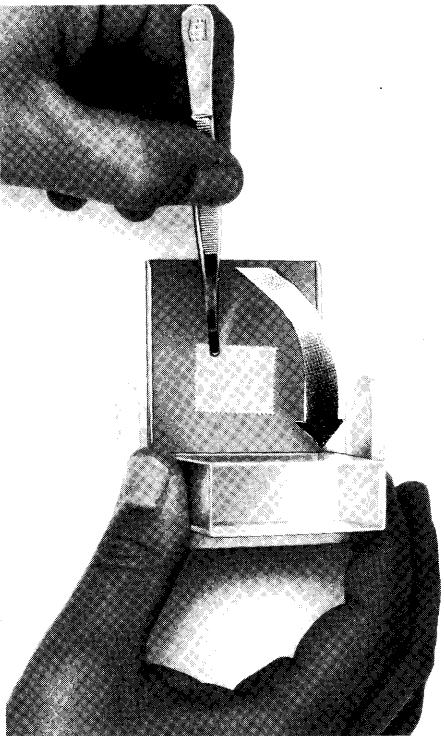
## **Helpful HINTS for the operation of the SIGNOSCOPE**

- 1 Do not check used and mint stamps together. The difference in the paper thickness can affect the result.
- 2 Used stamps should be off the paper. They should be free of all hinge, gum, and paper remnants.
- 3 Freshly washed stamps have to be completely dry before being placed in the SIGNOSCOPE.
- 4 When checking mint stamps with a hinge, we recommend inserting the stamp in such a way as to have the hinge or hinge remnant outside of the projection glass.
- 5 Watermarks will show up "dark" in the SIGNOSCOPE (most catalogs show the watermarks incorrectly as white, which actually is the negative).
- 6 The watermark will not always be visible and full of contrast as shown in a catalog - a stamp may only show part of a watermark. Remember, you will be looking at a watermark and not a print.
- 7 When checking stamps with a very weak watermark, we recommend to examine the stamp in different positions, i.e., turning them 90 or 180 degrees.
- 8 When checking the watermark make sure not to allow too much outside light into the viewing tower.
- 9 Very important is the light intensity. Sometimes you can get a better result with a weaker light.
- 10 The sliding tray (projection glass and metal plate) is to be kept free from dust and dirt at all times. Handle with care! We recommend the Dustcover (supplied as an option).

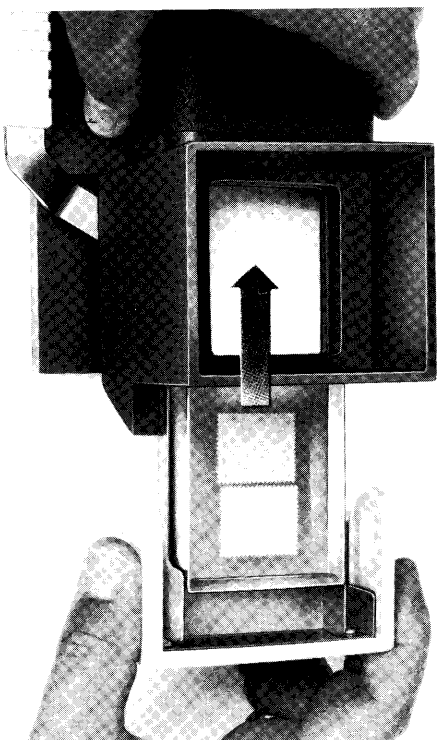
Pull out sliding tray to  
insert stamp.



Lift up projection glass and insert stamps between glass and metal plate. When checking watermark, place stamp face down in the center of the sliding tray. For checking other items you might want to place the stamp face up in the sliding tray.



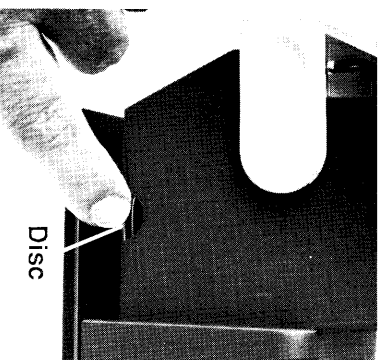
Push sliding tray all the way in.



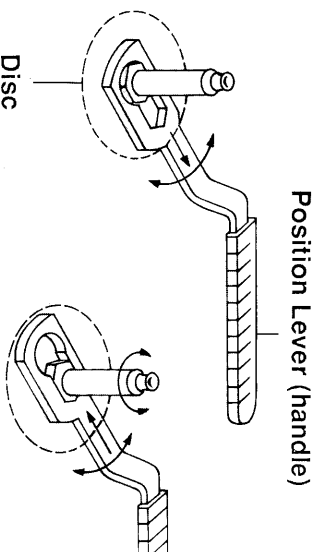
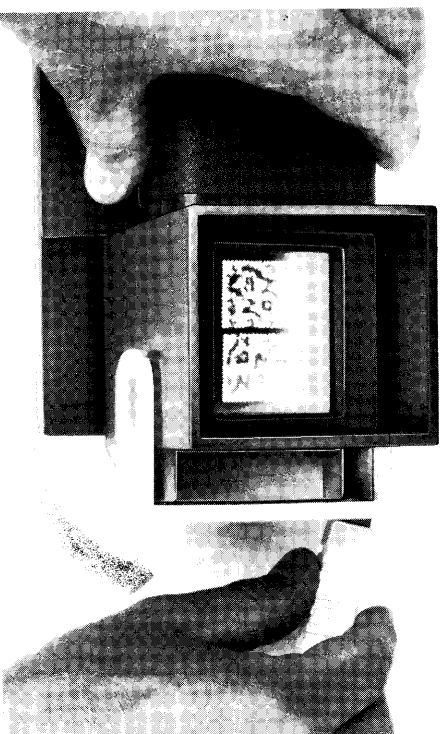
Turn on light.  
(If light does not work, check for loose light bulb; follow instructions on last page or follow instructions for AC Adapter).  
Push position lever (handle) towards back of unit but **ONLY** until the stamp area is fully lighted. The watermark, if present, will now appear. Note: Pushing the handle further back will **NOT** give better results - sometimes just the opposite.  
Adjust the light intensity with the Contrast Adjuster.

When checking stamps with a very weak watermark we recommend placing one of the enclosed vinyl spacers (use the clear VINYL **ONLY**, NOT the PAPER on the back of the stamp (between stamp and projection glass) **shiny side UP**. The watermark will then appear with more contrast.

The SIGNOSCOPE has been adjusted at the factory for a stamp of medium thickness. When examining very thin or very thick stamps, or when using the vinyl spacers, it might be necessary to adjust the position lever (handle) as follows:  
Loosen screw at the bottom of the unit with the wrench supplied. Pull handle forward until disengaged. While holding handle, turn disc in back of viewing tower to the left or to the right, one or two revolutions.



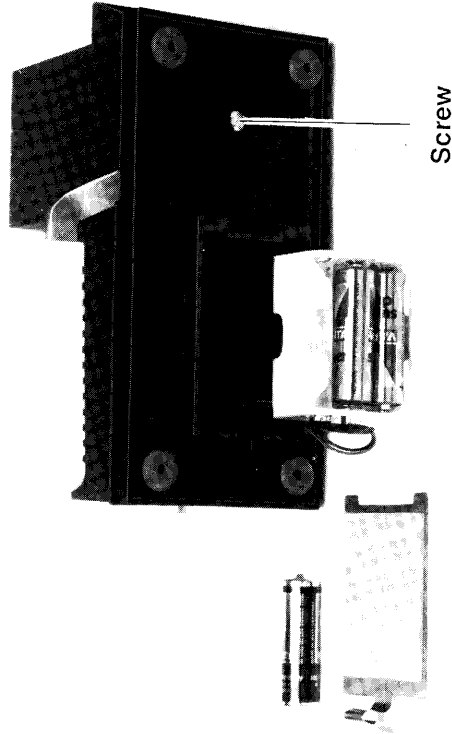
For very thin stamps turn to the right (clockwise). For very thick stamps turn to the left (counterclockwise). Push handle back in, until engaged. Re-tighten screw.



If unit is operated with batteries, use 5 "AA" batteries. Open battery compartment at the bottom of the SIGNOSCOPE. Remove battery case and insert batteries (note polarity as shown).

Replace battery case and close battery compartment.

Please note: When batteries are used the SIGNOSCOPE will only operate properly for as long as the batteries are fully charged. Use Alkaline batteries for long-life operation. It is recommended to turn off the unit immediately after checking for watermarks.



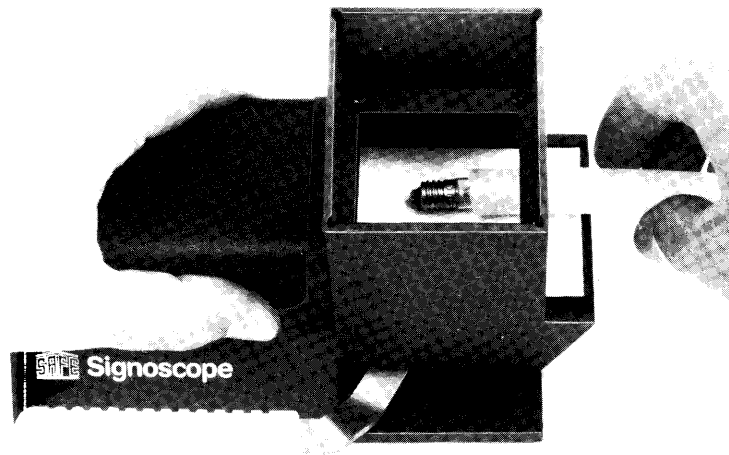
If AC Adapter is used (supplied as an option), place small DC power plug into the 7V outlet of the SIGNOSCOPE (make sure plug is properly engaged) and insert adapter in any household outlet. Please note: The SIGNOSCOPE switches automatically from battery operation to AC operation as soon as the small DC power plug is inserted into the unit. If you do not use the batteries for an extended period of time, we recommend removing the batteries from the SIGNOSCOPE.



The light bulb will last approx. 1000 hours. (Replacement bulbs are available from us). Should the bulb need to be replaced, place the plastic tube supplied with each SIGNOSCOPE over the light bulb and remove the light bulb by turning to the left. Replace the new light bulb the same way by turning to the right.

**Please note:** It is possible that the light bulb does not work because of being loose due to transport vibration. Just follow above steps for tightening the light bulb.

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# IMPORTANT

## VINYL SPACERS for Signoscope

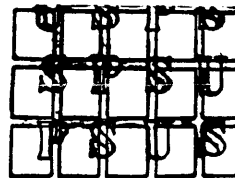
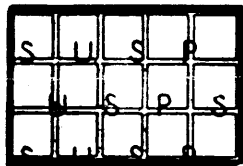
The enclosed transparent vinyl spacers are especially useful when checking Single or Double Line Watermarks of **U.S. Stamps** or any other stamps having a very weak watermark.

**Use as follows:** Place **one** of the enclosed transparent vinyl spacers (use the clear VINYL ONLY, NOT the PAPER) on the back of the stamp (between stamp and projection glass), **shiny side UP**. The watermark will then appear with more contrast. These vinyl spacers act as filters to obscure the fiber of the stamp and to make the watermark of the stamp more clearly visible. Occasionally, with some stamps, the spacer should be used shiny side down instead.

When checking for thins, grills, hinge marks, added margins, repairs, silk threads, granite paper, paper irregularities, or any other condition of the stamp, we recommend using the Signoscope **WITHOUT** the enclosed vinyl spacers.

### Additional helpful hints

Checking U.S. Stamps with Single or Double Line Watermarks:



The SAFE Signoscope is especially useful for finding watermarks which are very hard to see with lighter fluid, especially all European Stamps and British Stamps with their various "crown" and "initial" watermarks. It works very efficiently with engraved stamps, such as the 1950 posthorn stamps of Germany. As to the U.S. Single and Double Line Watermarks, keep in mind that if there is only a little "dash" of the "U, S or P" left at the corner of the stamp or in the perforation of the stamp, this is ALL you are going to see. The Signoscope can ONLY show you what is THERE, not more. Thus, this little "dash" will not be easy to distinguish, because you will also see the fiber of the paper together with any kind of repairs or thins of the stamp. However, if more of the "U, S or P" is on the stamp, the watermark will be clearly visible, especially when using the above transparent vinyl spacers.

For checking any other foreign stamps we recommend first looking up the picture of the watermark in a catalog before putting the stamp in the SAFE Signoscope. This way you know exactly what you are looking for. Just remember, you will be seeing a negative image of the watermark in question.

Keep in mind: You do NOT always see the complete picture of the watermark as shown in a catalog. Sometimes only part of that picture is visible on a stamp. It is very easy to take a photograph of the watermark with the help of the SAFE Signoscope and an instant camera with black/white film. The light sensitivity can be adjusted with the Contrast Adjuster of the SAFE Signoscope (only on the professional model No. 9886, not on model T2).