

# **Cloudburst Squawker**

#### As some of these tests are done in close proximity to you, and the Cloudburst Squawker is very loud, so place a finger over the piezo outlet to quiet it down.

## 1/ Power (Switch position 1 or \*)

a/ With the controller wiring cover removed, touch the probes on each of the two terminals simultaneously from the transformer (Often marked AC in). This is only 24 volt so it cannot hurt you. With some brands of controller, you may have a display, but this could be running on battery power alone therefore that is not enough to power the reticulation system.

#### Do not remove any cover that is marked as 240v!

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Squawk=power OK
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No Squawk= no power. Check power is turned on, or the transformer maybe burnt out.

= Check the mains fusebox that all circuit breakers are on.

b/ Fuse. Some older or basic controllers are equipped with the familiar fuse. Touch the test leads simultaneously on the metal part of either side of the fuse while it is still fitted.

Squawk= Fuse blown. Further investigation is required as to why this is happening.

No Squawk= fuse OK.

#### 2/ Controller

Turn on controller to manual station 1.

If nothing happens in the field (garden), then

Place a test lead on the common terminal (Com) and the other on the Pump/ Master terminal.

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Squawk= OK
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No Squawk= no power is going to the Master valve, or the pump relay in the case of a bore, from the controller. Probably there is a fault with the controller itself, or, in some controllers, a programming error.

Leave the test lead on the common terminal. Touch the other test lead to station 1.

Squawk =OK

No Squawk= Again no power from the controller to station 1. Possible faulty controller.

# While station 1 says on the display that it is running but nothing is happening, keep one test lead on the common terminal and touch the other test lead on station 2 through to however many other stations you have. If any of these other terminals squawk loudly, then you probably have a broken common field wire in the garden.

### 3/ Checking Master Valve / Pump Active wire

Turn system to off. Remove the lead from the Master/pump terminal at the controller. Connect the Squawker between the terminal and the lead of the Master/pump. Turn on.

**Mains Water** Squawk= circuit OK. Most likely the Master solenoid is jammed or corroded. Find the solenoid valve that is usually close to the main tap. The valve can usually be manually opened by twisting the solenoid anticlockwise one turn. Turn the system on at the controller. If water runs, then it is this valve that is the problem. Disconnect and bare the two wires that go into the solenoid at the solenoid itself then attach the test leads to each wire. Reinstall the Master lead at the controller and turn the system on to run. If water is running and the Squawker is squawking, then the Master solenoid it at fault and needs replacing. It's best to replace all the components of the whole valve.

**Bore Water** Squawk= circuit OK. Usually you can hear a thump or click when the system is turned on. This is from the relay that is in a separate box usually close to the controller. If there is no click or thump, then it is probably this relay (Contactor) that is faulty.

Do not attempt to repair or replace this yourself! 240 or 440 volts inside! This must be repaired by a licenced electrician or bore specialist!

#### 4/ One Station Doesn't Run

As per checking the mains water Master circuit, this is very similar. If Station 3 isn't working, disconnect the active wire (3) from the terminal block at the controller and attach the lead to the terminal and the lead you have just disconnected to the other test lead. Run the station (3). It is best to leave the Master/ Pump lead disconnected during this test and turn off the mains water.

Squawk= circuit OK, but solenoid probably faulty.

No Squawk= circuit or solenoid faulty.

Find and test at the solenoid as in mains solenoid water test.

# 5/ Battery Test

Disconnect the battery and attach test leads to each battery terminal.

Squawk= OK. Tone will be quieter and steady as it is 9vDC.

No Squawk= Swap the leads to the battery terminals. Still no squawk.... Battery dead.

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If one station is not working, and you have completed the controller tests as far as possible, then it's time to check out the solenoid valves. If you don't know where they are, then it's time to use the Rattler function.

If station 3, for example, is not operating correctly, attach the leads between the common terminal of the controller and the common wire.

# On some controllers it may be difficult to attach the alligator clips to the controller terminal. Use a short length of wire from the terminal to the alligator clip!

#### Turn off the water mains and <u>disconnect the master/pump wire -especially in the case of</u> <u>a bore</u> so there is no water pressure in the system and the bore relay won't rattle.

Turn on station 3 at the controller. You can keep the switch set to squawker to test. Hopefully you get a strong squawk. If not check the wiring and settings you have just done. It doesn't matter which way the wires are around. Check the controller is on station 3 and should be running. If there is no squawk, and you have checked the controller functions as previously outlined, then there is a wiring problem like a bad join, or the solenoid is burnt out therefore the Rattler will not operate the valve.

If there is a strong squawk, then switch the unit to Rattler. **Press down on the right side of the switch to enable the Rattler function.** 

This opens and closes the valve at 25 times every second producing a rattle from the solenoid that you need to find in the field. It can take a while listening carefully in the yard so take a beer with you. These can be hard to find as they may now be buried deep from years of gardening and revamps.

You can continue selecting other stations to find out where they are for future reference!

If there is no rattle or sound and the system is very old, the solenoid may have seized therefore won't move producing the desired rattling sound.

Time to grab the shovel or call in the experts with wire tracking technology! You have done all you can but at least you have now done everything they would have, and saved a lot of time and money!

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