



The ST1-5 and 10A is are light seeking tracker controls designed for DC motor systems. In unobstructed sunlight it typically tracks within one degree of actual sun position.

Input voltage range: 10-56VDC

Output current:

- | | |
|---------|--------------------|
| ST1-5A | 5 Amps continuous |
| ST1-10A | 10 Amps continuous |

After the power up, the ambient light level will determine the operating mode.

The following "normal" operating modes apply:

- 1) Useable sun—the unit points toward highest illumination, which is usually the sun's disk but may be toward the horizon if there is substantial reflection from the ground.
- 2) Partially obscured sun (e.g. cumulous clouds with breaks)—unit pauses at last "valid" control point to wait for conditions to change.
- 3) Heavy overcast or night—unit moves to "park" position to await light level recovery.

The PARK position is determined by S1-2 OFF = Park at East limit; S1-2 ON = Park at West limit.

Overload Protect—typically, motor failure or mechanical system jam (from ice build up) or heavy wind load: Tracker will attempt to move the array for 1 second. If motor overcurrent condition is sensed, tracker will terminate Drive and flash the PAUSE LED (at a half second rate) for 1 hour before attempting another move.

Indicators on the control PCB: PWR, PRK, PAUSE, TRACK, E/W DRIVE, E/W LIMIT.

Notes on initial installation, power up and adjustments.

The remote sensor needs to be attached to the array frame such that the mounting surface of the sensor is parallel with the plane of the array—where on the array is not critical as long as the sensor receives unobstructed sun during the hours when the array is expected to track.

When power is applied, if the ambient light level is above the track threshold, it will then commence tracking.

Position trimpot RT1 setting is to halt movement of the array under conditions of obscured sun where pause is not invoked (e.g. if the control commands west move with obscured sun, rotate RT1 counterclockwise to halt movement and vice versa).

RT3 (Light Sensitivity) is to adjust the light level at which the tracker control changes from track to pause-- Clockwise for greater sensitivity (tracks at lower light levels).

S1-1 (DLY) on the PCB controls the delay function. The idea here is that, during the initial installation, this is in the OFF position. In this state, the direction detect is instantaneous—a useful condition when tweaking the track trimpots and setting the PAUSE threshold. When the DLY switch is in the ON position (for normal, unattended operation) , the following delays are added to the system operation:

A ten second delay is added to tracking corrections so that a requirement for a position change must remain constant for 10 seconds to be considered valid. This is to reject transient events such as something flying over the sensor and, in cases where the sensor is shaded by moving vegetation during part of the tracking day, to hold off and/or reduce movement during back and forth shading events which aren't representative of true sun position and are not dark enough to invoke the PAUSE function. During this delay, the PAUSE LED will flash 3 times per second.

A ten minute delay is added to the change from PAUSE to PARK. This is for conditions of changing cloud cover (where the sun occasionally pokes through) to keep the tracker from sending the array back and forth between PARK and TRACK positions. Light conditions must remain below PARK threshold for 10 minutes or more before the controller will allow movement. (There is only a 10 second delay when changing from PARK to TRACK.)

S1-4 OFF: highest tracking accuracy. S1-4 ON: degraded accuracy to reduce oscillation in systems with fast mechanical drives.

The limit switches can be magnetically actuated reed switches or mechanically actuated type. They are "normally open" and close when drive system nears limit of non-destructive travel.

Limit switch inputs do not need to be used for normal operation.

The tracker control PCB needs to be housed indoors or in a weatherproof enclosure.

DO NOT use the light sensor cable strain relief nut to mount the light sensor, as this can compromise the mechanical and hermetic integrity of the unit and cause failure.

Revisions

2010-03-09: "limit" wording added to park description. RT1 function description changed.

