# BENTHAM 200 SERIES

## USERS HANDBOOK

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Includes details on 223, 213, 218, DH-Series, 215, 217, 228M, 228F, 265, 286, 275.

## BENTHAM 223 VOLTAGE INPUT LOCK-IN AMPLIFIER

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The 223 is a complete synchronous detection unit with a high impedance input for use with transducers such as the Golay cell which have essentially an a.c. voltage rather than a current output. Output zero stability and input overload capability are outstanding.

The unit includes a reference channel with a flexible input section and fully frequency independent phase shifting facilities. The reference section itself employs a new integrated circuit, dual phase locked loop technique. Other features include:— switched and continuously variable sensitivity, time constant control, large range a.c. zero offset/zero check facilities and output switching into the 200 series bus line system.

#### 2. INITIAL SETTING UP

# 2.1 External system requirements

The 223 requires a power supply which will provide ±15V, OV at 100mA. This supply is normally provided via the rear flying lead connector by a 217 bin/power supply. The bin also provides facilities for a 216 display module with a bus system to enable the outputs of several modules in a bin to be selected for display without the need for external leads. The 216C, centre zero analogue display or the 216D, 3½ digit display are recommended for use with the 223.

A lock-in amplifier requires both an a.c. signal input and a reference input which is synchronous with the signal. Typical light measurement experimental schematics are shown in figure 223b.

For further details of input requirements see Sections 3.1 and 3.4

#### 2.2 Initial Control Settings

Set switched and variable phase controls to 0°. SENSitivity to 1V SENSitivity FINE to CAL. TIME CONST. to 300 ms OFFSET switch to COARSE OUTPUT bus select switch to A

 $\frac{\text{N.B.}}{\text{M.B.}}$  Check that no other module in the bin has its OUTPUT bus select switch also in the A position.

Select the A bus for display on the 216 module.

2.3 Check the mains voltage setting of the bin on the label on the rear panel. If this is incorrect, change the setting according to the 217 OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS.

Connect the bin to the mains and switch ON the POWER switch (situated on the 216 panel). Check that the POWER indicator is illuminated.

- 2.4 Connect the reference signal to the REFERENCE INPUT, observe that the LOCKED indicator is on. Adjust the OFFSET control to bring the meter reading to zero.
- 2.5 Connect the signal lead to the 223 SIGNAL INPUT.

Adjust the SENsitivity controls to obtain approximately one third full scale output with the reference controls set to 0° or 90°.

If the O'LOAD indicator is illuminated increase the TIME CONST. setting. If the output rise time is excessively long, decrease the TIME CONST. setting.

Each time that the SENsitivity of the 223 is changed, press the ZERO CHECK switch and, if necessary adjust the OFFSET control to bring the output to zero. Always use the F position of the offset range switch unless the offset cannot be zeroed in which case go to the M or C position. Switching to M or to C progressively degrades the stability of the 223.

When the meter indicates one third full scale signal and the OFFSET has been adjusted, use the reference controls to obtain a zero output on the meter. Switch in  $90^{\circ}$  or  $-90^{\circ}$  as necessary to give a positive output on the meter.

The lock-in is now zeroed, in phase with the applied signal and ready for use.

## 3. CONNECTORS, CONTROLS AND INDICATORS

- 3.1 REFERENCE INPUT connector, standard B.N.C.

  Input impedance 10M, a.c. coupled.

  Input requirements 100mV p-p to 20V p-p. Protection is provided against excessive input voltages. The input waveform must cross zero volts twice only in each cycle. Some immunity against missing cycles is provided by the freewheeling action of the reference channel phase-locked loops. The frequency of the reference input must lie in the range 0.5Hz to 10kHz (223LF) or 5Hz to 10kHz (223) or 100Hz to 100kHz (223HF). Acquisition time is less than 2 seconds + 5 cycles.
- 3.2 LOCKED lamp, green l.e.d. When lit, this indicates that the reference channel has successfully locked onto the reference input signal.
- 3.3. REFERENCE phase controls. A four position switch provides 0°, 90°, 180° and 270° phase shifts with an accuracy of better than 0.1°. In addition, a continuously variable fine control provides 0° to 95° shift.

3.4 SIGNAL INPUT connector, standard B.N.C.

Input impedance 10M  $\Omega$  / 30pF.

Input requirements For minimum input noise and maximum immunity to cross-talk, the output impedance of the transducer should be as low as possible.

For input overload capability see figure 223a. Whilst referring to this table, it should be borne in mind that coherent square wave inputs upto an order of magnitude greater than the given overload levels can be backed off at the input by means of the OFFSET control.

Signal channel 3dB frequencies are 1Hz and 10kHz (223LF) or 10Hz and 10kHz (223) or 10Hz and 100kHz (223HF).

Protection is provided on the signal input against excessive input voltages.

3.5 SENSitivity switch and FINE control.

The switch selects full scale (10V) sensitivities from 1V down to 10uV in conventional 1, 3, 10 steps i.e. the most sensitive range is 10uV/10V or 1uV/V.

The FINE control when turned anti-clockwise from the CALibrated position gives up to a five to one reduction in the sensitivity. This provides a "span" adjustment for use with chart recorders or to obtain maximum resolution on the meter.

- 3.6 TIME CONSTant switch.

  Nine position rotary switch giving 6dB/octave time constants between 1ms and 100s.
- 3.7 O'LOAD indicator. Red 1.e.d.

  Positive or negative is sensed in the signal channel and at the output of the amplifier. Possible causes of an overload indication are:-
  - (a) Output overloaded by coherent signal, i.e. too much signal or OFFSET for a given SENSitivity setting. The meter will indicate an over-range output or, in extreme cases will "bounce" against one end of the scale. Reduce the amplifier SENSitivity.
  - (b) Output overloaded by noise. The meter needle will "jitter". Increase the TIME CONST. setting.
  - (c) In very rare situations the signal channel may be overloaded by noise. In this case, the sensitivity must be reduced until the overload indicator is exinguished.
- 3.8 OFFSET control and range switch, ZERO CHECK. Ten-turn, centre zero control with a pseudo-logathrithmic characteristic on each side of zero. That is, the control is finer near zero than it is at the positive end and negative ends of the range. The control adjusts the magnitude and phase of a square wave nulling current which is injected near the input of the amplifier. As a consequence, it is possible to back off signals several orders of magnitude greater than full scale. A further consequence is that a signal which is accurately backed-off on one sensitivity setting will remain backed-off regardless of the sensitivity setting.

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A three position toggle switch is used to select one of three ranges for the OFFSET control.

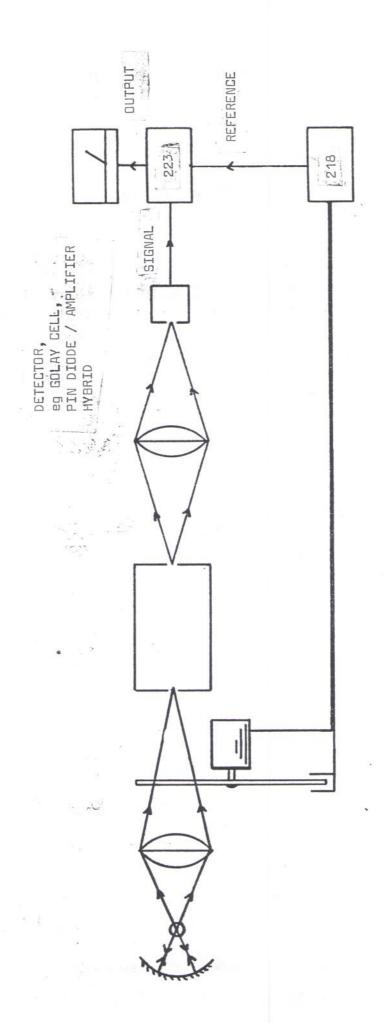
In order to set the output of the lock-in to zero with the input short circuited depress the ZERO CHECK toggle switch. When depressed, this switch open circuits the SIGNAL INPUT and shorts the amplifier input to ground.

3.9 OUTPUT connector and bus selection switch. Standard B.N.C. connector and three position toggle.

The amplifier output is always available at the B.N.C. connector. Full scale output is 10V from  $1k\,\Omega$ . The output is protected against the accidental application of excessive voltages. The bus selection switch is used to route the amplifier output via bus A or via bus B to the 216 display module or to disconnect it from the bus system.

# FIGURE 223a

ivity Output Zero Drift Input Overload Capability (p.p.m./C)	100 V 100 TO	30DmV	100 Jouy	3V 100	10V 100	3mV 30 10V	10 vmOt	30mV 10	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	10V 10V	NUL CV
Sensitivity per 10V output	10uV	30uV	100uV	300uV	1mV	SmV	10mV	30mV	100mV	SOOmV	



TYPICAL (SINGLE CHANNEL) EXPERIMENTAL SCHEMATIC.

FIGURE 223b

