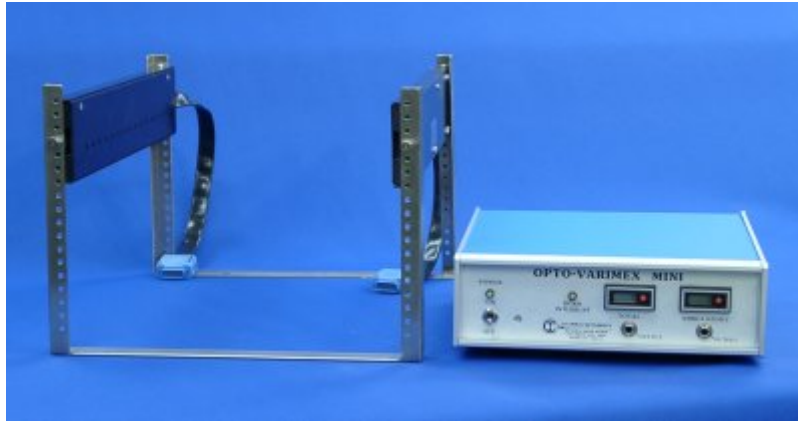




Animal Activity Meter: Opto-Varimex-Mini



The Opto-Varimex-Mini is Columbus Instruments' lowest cost activity monitor based on the traditional infrared photocell principle. The monitor is available in two versions: Model A and Model B. Both monitor beam interruptions along a single axis and score all activity on a 'Total' activity front panel counter. In addition, the Opto-Varimex-Mini Model B incorporates Columbus Instrument's patented capability of separating counts (beam interruptions) associated with ambulatory activity from total activity. This is accomplished by memorizing the location of the last broken beam and blocking additional count information from being scored on an additional "Ambulatory" front panel counter until a different beam is broken. Subtraction of ambulatory counts from total counts provides an index of stereotypic activity.

The sensor array is normally placed at the vertical mid-point of the animal's body for the monitoring of horizontal motion. Location of the sensor array above the subject provides for the monitoring of vertical activity. A second Opto-Varimex-Mini with the sensor at a different height may be added to provide two levels of activity monitoring: one for horizontal activity monitoring, the other for raised head motions or for rearing.

The Opto-Varimex-Mini may be interfaced with Windows compatible computers using Columbus Instruments' Opto-M Computer Counter system to provide automated data collection of activity count information. Please refer to the Opto-M section for more complete details. Alternatively, the Opto-Varimex-Mini may be interfaced using Columbus Instruments' Mini-Counter. This device plugs into the RS-232 port of any Windows compatible computer and provides four or eight event counting inputs.

Options to the Opto-Varimex-Mini include special timing circuitry (Dual Experiment Timer) that allows for rapid screening of animals by automatically performing experiments of short duration. To further reduce cost, the Opto-Varimex-Mini is available in a special configuration that eliminates counters. Without front panel counters, the Opto-Varimex-Mini must be used with some form of data collection system.

Features / Specifications

Lowest Cost Infrared Photocell Activity Monitor

Separates Ambulatory Activity from Total Activity

15 Infrared photocells

Photocells on 1" (2.54cm) centers

Front panel counters display activity scores

Allows 'Stand-Alone' or 'Computerized' operation

Uses standard lab cages up to 17" (43cm) x 17" (43cm)

Open collector transistor output of 'count' information

17" (43cm) x 17" (43cm) observation area

120/220VAC 60/50Hz Operation

1 or 2 Front Panel Counters (Total [model A&B], Ambulatory [model B only])

Ordering Information

0360-A Opto-Varimex-Mini Model "A", 1" [2.54cm] IR Beam Spacing, 16" [40.6cm] Long

0360-B Opto-Varimex-Mini Model "B", 1" [2.54cm] IR Beam Spacing, 16" [40.6cm] Long

0362-A Opto-Varimex-Mini Model "A", 1/2" [1.3cm] IR Beam Spacing, 8" [20.3cm] Long

0362-B Opto-Varimex-Mini Model "B", 1/2" [1.3cm] IR Beam Spacing, 8" [20.3cm] Long

0370 Opto-Varimex-Mini Animal Cage

0390 Opto-Varimex-Mini Mini-Counter Interface & Software (for 8"A" or 4"B")

0395-16 Opto-Varimex-Mini 16 Input Interface & MDI Software

0395-32 Opto-Varimex-Mini 32 Input Interface & MDI Software