

Stun Guns

An Independent Report

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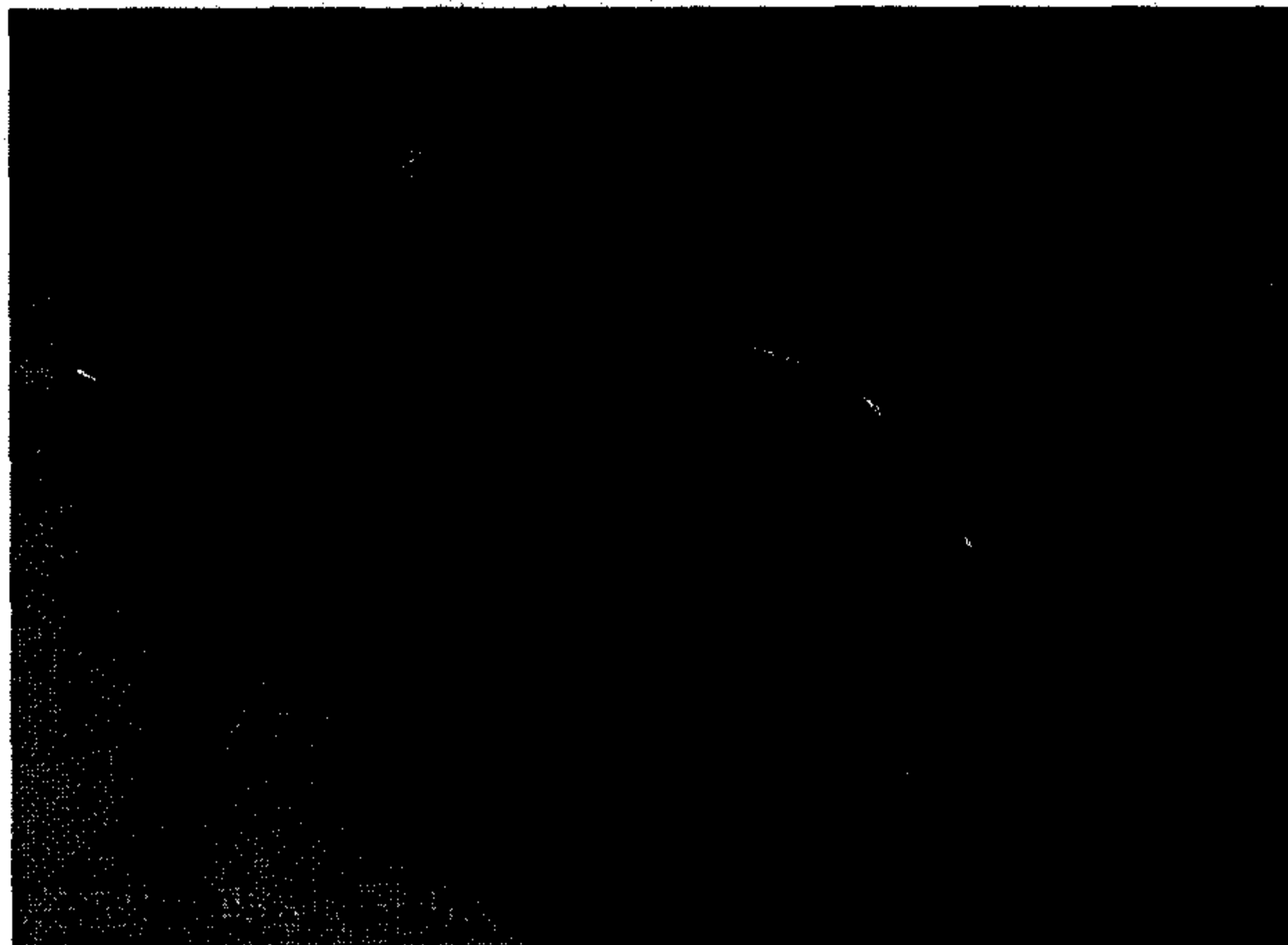
Stun Guns

An Independent Report

Stun guns that are available to the public vary considerably in both their electrical output characteristics as well as their safety¹. This report gives detailed information by brand and model. Electrical information includes power, amount of energy per pulse, peak voltage, average voltage, peak current, average current, and pulse rate. The relative physiological effects of each model were determined by testing on a human subject.

Buying from a reputable retailer may be no guarantee of quality or safety. Because there has been so little information available on the performance of specific models of stun guns, retailers as well as buyers have had few facts on which to base their opinions and purchases. Most buyers do not wish to test the various models on themselves and there is a dearth of volunteer subjects (particularly those who would volunteer to test 15 different models and be shocked repeatedly with each one). Also, while the medical literature offers several proposed mechanisms by which these devices may produce a temporary immobilization effect, there is no sound data proving which of these mechanisms, or combination of mechanisms, is correct.

Typically the only information the buyer has is the price, the output voltage claimed by the



TEST FIRING A STUN GUN produces an arc that is seen between the inner electrodes.

manufacturer, the size of the device and the appearance of a 'demonstration' arc. This study proves that none of these factors alone is an indicator of the performance or safety of the device.

Some stun guns are sold under various brand names and model numbers. The photographs included in this report are useful in identifying a particular device.

The biomedical engineer conducting these tests has 15 years experience in testing the physiological effects of high voltage-high current medical devices as well as designing them to meet FDA standards.

Table 1:

Electrical Parameters

Table 1 gives seven electrical parameters for each model tested. All measurements were taken while the stun gun probes were in direct contact with the target. This is the recommended mode of use. Power can be delivered from the stun gun to the target by arcing to the target, however, this is not as efficient as direct contact.

Power

The power delivered by a stun gun varies with the condition under which it is used. For example, the thickness of clothing worn by the assailant, the area to which the stun gun is applied - whether bony, fatty or muscular - effects

¹ Safety as discussed in this report refers to the safety of the user, not of the assailant on whom the stun gun may be used.

Table 1. Stun Guns - Measured Electrical Parameters.

Model	Power [watt]	Voltage [volts, rms]	Peak Voltage [kv]	Current [mA, rms]	Peak Current [A]	Energy/Pulse [joules]	Pulse Rate [Hz]
O-Mega SS	5	121	16.4	41	5.5	0.35	14.3
Nova Spirit	5.3	164	24.9	33	5	0.28	18.9
Myotron Venus	5.2	161	23.9	32	4.8	0.25	20.8
STN-160	3.5	242	28.7	14	1.7	0.17	20
SK1200; Thunder Power	4.2	171	25	25	3.6	0.19	22.2
SK6900; Thunder 945SP	2.6	136	23	19	3.3	0.13	20
SK7000; Sigma-7 Model C	2.4	143	20.7	17	1.9	0.08	28.6
Super Thunder	2.3	156	19.6	14	1.8	0.11	20
Z-Force-Ultra	2.9	157	25.2	18	3	0.1	28.6
Z-Force III	2.4	184	29.7	13	2.1	0.07	28.6
Z-Force I	1.8	124	20.4	15	2.4	0.06	28.6
STG-1	1.1	138	11	8	0.6	0.07	15.6
Pro-007 Personal Protector (This device is not a stun gun.)	0.14 (assumes 0.67 Hz)	2 (assumes 0.67 Hz)	0.31	71 (assumes 0.67 Hz)	10.8	0.22	Single pulse. (assume 0.67 for comparison)
Defender II	Unit failed during test.						

Table 2. Stun Gun Effects.

Model	Cost	Voltage Claimed by Mfr.	Clothing Penetration	Neuromuscular Stimulation	Comments
O-Mega SS	\$149.95	120,000	Fair	Strongest stimulation.	
Nova Spirit	\$89.95		Good	Moderate	
STN-160	\$94.95	160,000	Excellent	Moderate	Leakage through edge of battery cap.
Myotron Venus	\$149.75		Good	Moderate	
SK1200; Thunder Power	\$64.95	120,000	Good	Weak.	
SK6900; Thunder 945SP	\$69.95	65,000	Good	Weak.	Leakage through pin.
SK7000; Sigma-7 Model C	\$102.37	45,000- 50,000	Good	Weak.	
Super Thunder	\$70.95	75,000	Excellent	Weak.	Leakage from pin.
Z-Force-Ultra	\$50.00	150,000	Good	Weak.	Very strong leakage from both switches
Z-Force III	\$69.95	100,000	Good	Minimal.	Leakage at switch and case joint.
Z-Force I	\$49.95	80,000	Good	Minimal.	Leakage from edge opposite switch.
STG-1	Kit \$79.50	50- 100,000		Minimal.	
Pro-007 Personal Protector	\$34.95	400V 76A	Poor	No muscle stimulation.	Causes a burn on the tissue surface. This device is not a stun gun.
Defender II	\$52.95	90,000		Unit failed during test.	

Network, Incorporated

O-Mega™ Super Stunner

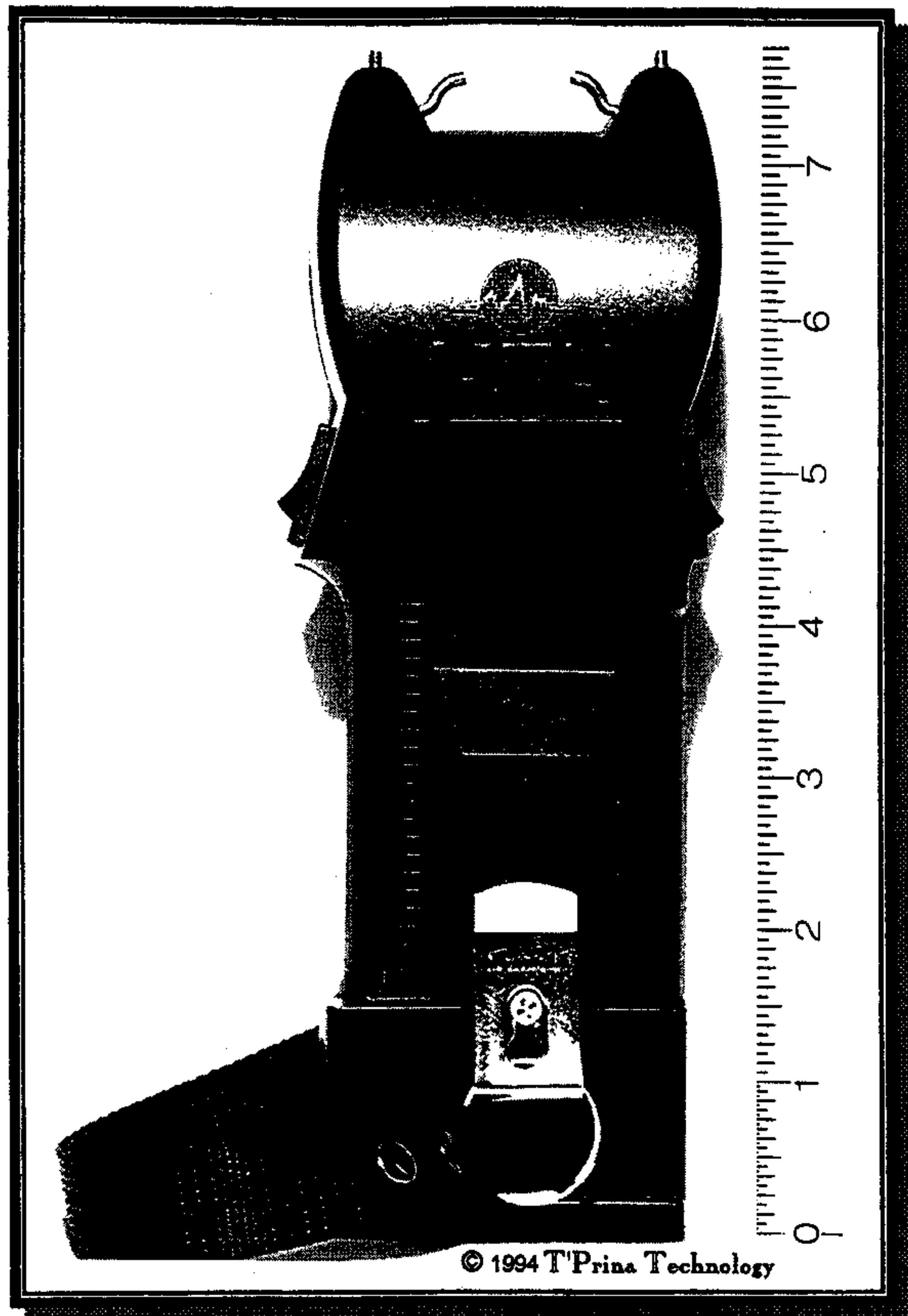
This stun gun clearly has the strongest effect of those tested. Not only did it stand out in effectiveness but it showed no arcing or discernible leakage current to the hand of the user.

The Super Stunner has two switches, an on-off switch and a trigger switch. The on-off switch is useful in that it may prevent the device from being activated accidentally. It has a potential disadvantage in that if it is inadvertently left on for an extended period the battery will be drained. An automatic timeout on this function would be very desirable. The on-off switch, which is not spring loaded, protrudes in such a way that it can easily be pressed to the 'on' position unintentionally while the stun gun is being carried in a purse or pocket.

This is the only model tested to include a battery indicator - a small red LED - that glows when the safety switch is in the 'on' position and the battery ostensibly has sufficient energy remaining.

The other stun guns must be activated and arced in order to verify the battery condition, resulting in significant wear on those units with internal spark gaps.

Unfortunately, the battery condition light does not always operate as intended. If the on-off switch is left in the 'on' position and the battery drained to a low level, the battery condition light may still glow indicating that sufficient



Super Stunner

battery energy remains. But, in fact, there may not be enough energy to cause a single spark, let alone enough to discourage an assailant.

The O-Mega Super Stunner has two other potential drawbacks. Firstly it is a fairly large unit and therefore may be inconvenient to carry; though some may consider its size an advantage in that it is easier to get a good grip on.

Secondly it is not as good as some of the other stun guns at penetrating very thick layers of clothing.

The distributors of the O-Mega state in the literature that accompanies their product. "A very small percentage of people, however, can withstand this amount of electric shock, so O-Mega cannot absolutely guarantee that their

Stun Guns will render everyone unconscious." Some of the other distributors are not so forthright in their claims..

The Super Stunner has a belt clip as well as very sturdy strap.

While the manufacturers of three other devices tested claim higher voltages they did not perform nearly as well as the O-Mega Super Stunner.

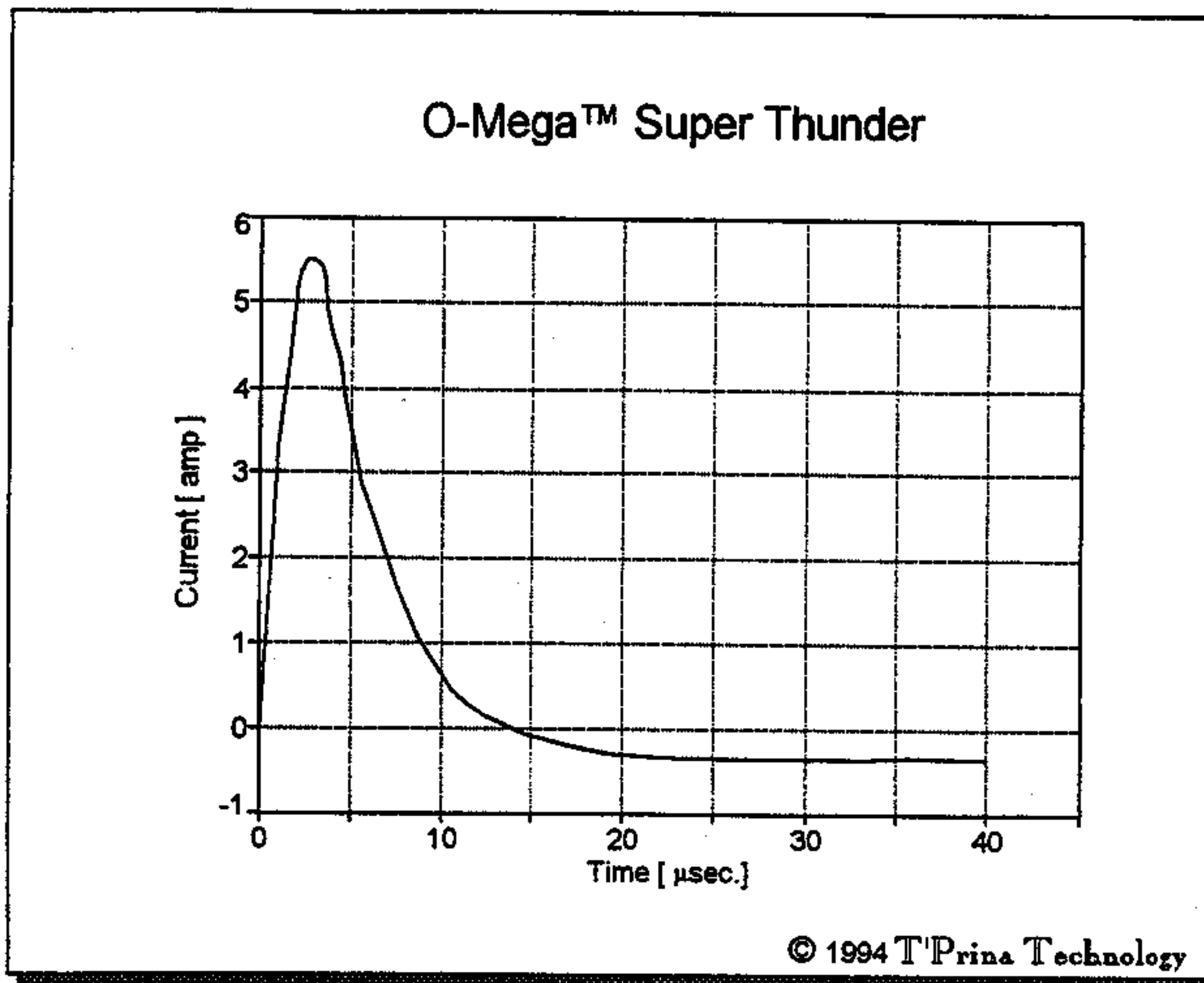
Batteries

This device uses two 9- volt batteries, e.g. Duracell MN1604.

Waveform

The waveform to the right shows a single output pulse of the Super Stunner. The pulse is seen to be very short, delivering most of its power in less than ten millionths of a second. Note in Table 1 that this stun gun has the highest energy per pulse of those tested.

Distributed by O-Mega™, Network Incorporated, 3544 Overland Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034. Made in Taiwan. *No telephone number is given on the packaging or in the enclosed instructions..*



Nova Technologies, Inc.

Nova Spirit

The Nova Owner's Manual does not specify voltage but does claim "an equivalent current of about 3 milliamps" under unspecified conditions. An 'equivalent current' means that the Spirits' output is estimated to be equivalent in current hazard to about 3 milliamps of low frequency (50Hz) sine wave current. The actual output - 33 milliamps measured at maximum power output - is of course not a continuous sine wave but a series of short duration, high voltage pulses.

Batteries

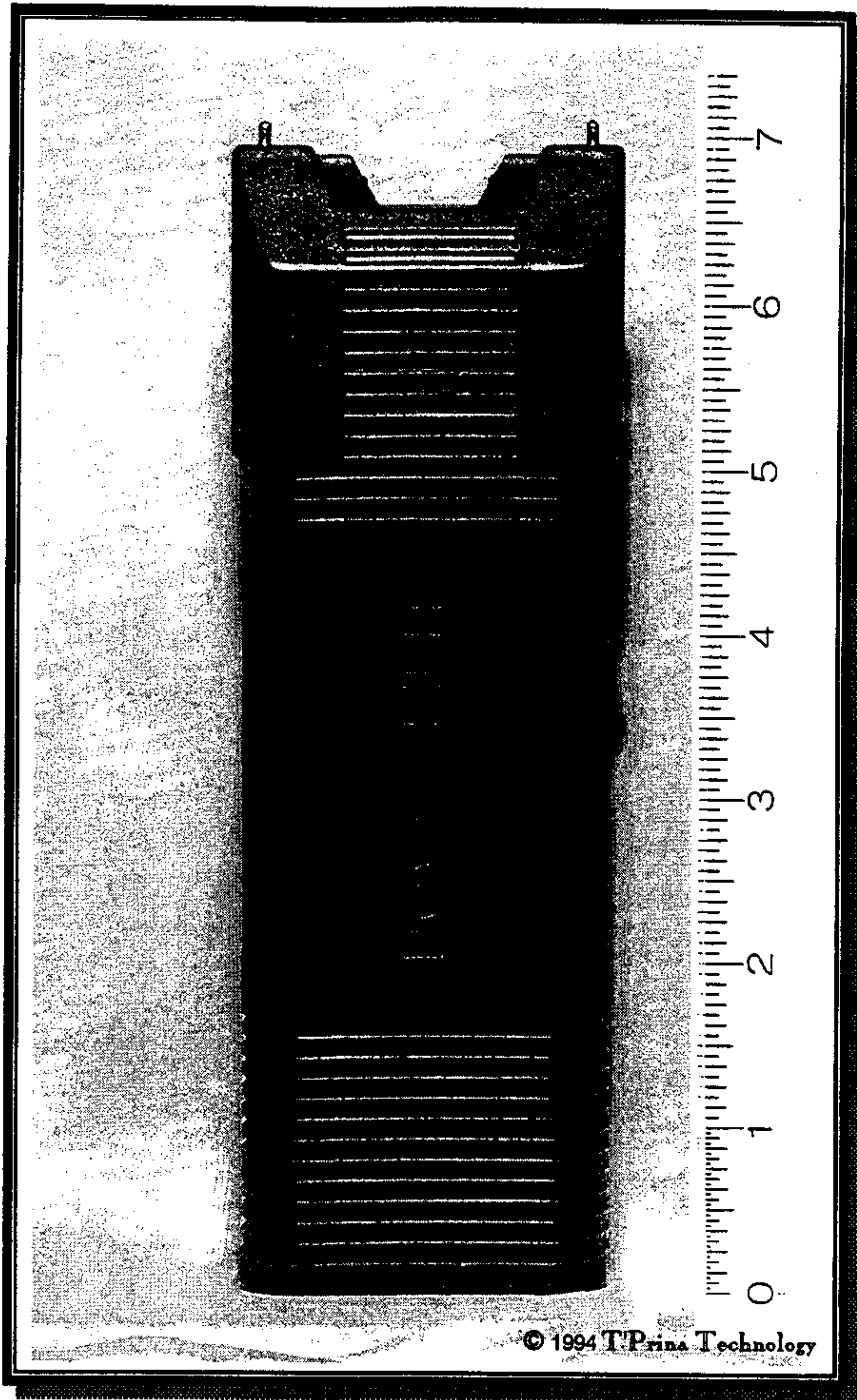
This model requires a special lithium battery pack sold only through Nova Technologies. As with the Myotron Venus, it consists of 3 each 3-volt Duracell Lithium batteries.

Waveform

The waveforms, as well as the electrical and neuromuscular stimulation characteristics, of the Spirit are virtually identical to that of the Myoton Venus. The differences that can be seen in *Table 1* are insignificant in that they might be accounted for by small variances in battery capacity, internal spark gap condition, and production tolerances.

The Nova Spirit produces a moderate level of neuromuscular stimulation.

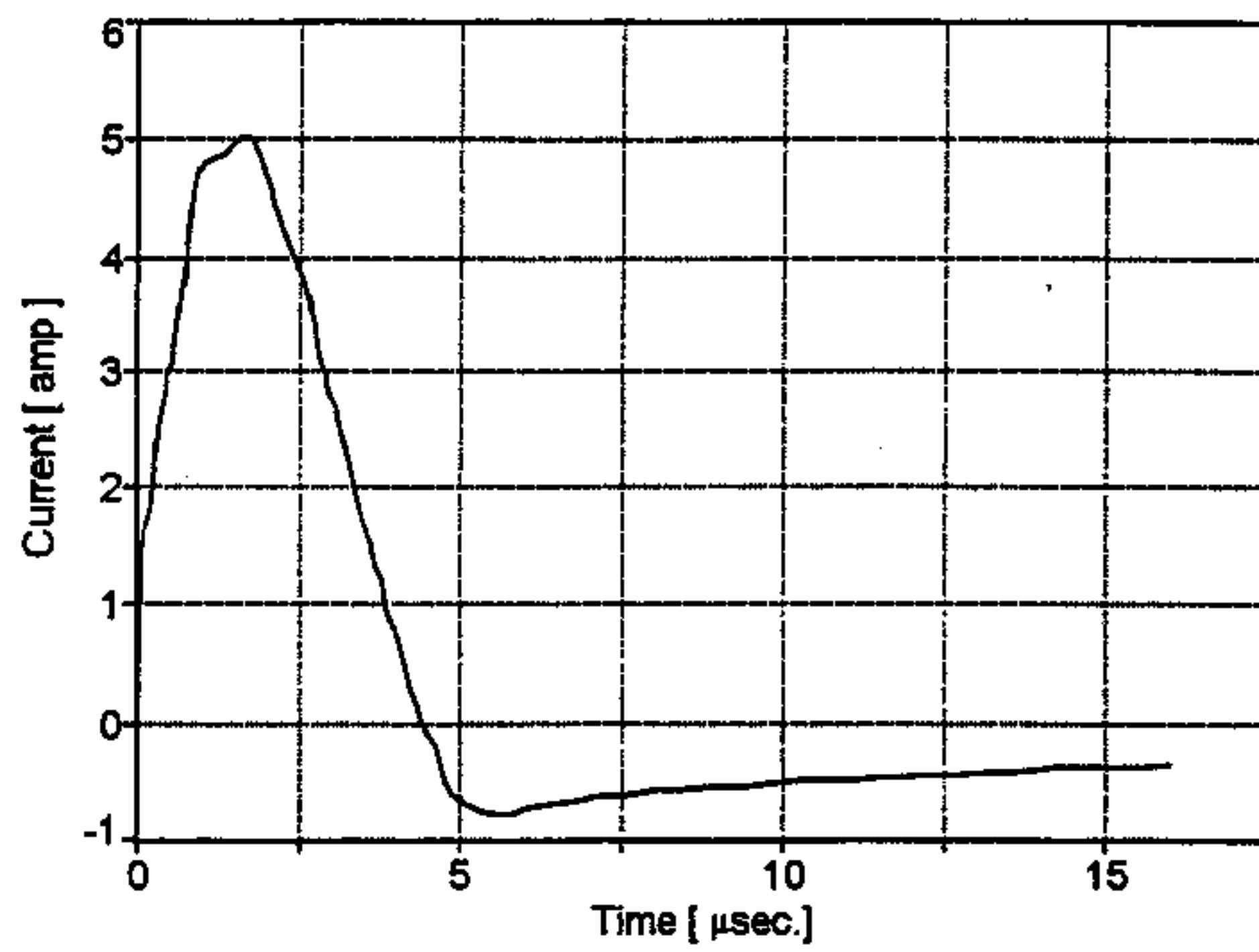
Nova Technologies, Inc., 2120-F West Baker Lane, Austin, TX 78758. *The telephone numbers provided in the literature that*



Nova Spirit

accompanied the Nova Spirit are no longer valid numbers.

Nova Spirit



© 1994 TPrina Technology

Compare the waveform of the Nova Spirit with that of the Myotron Venus on page 11.

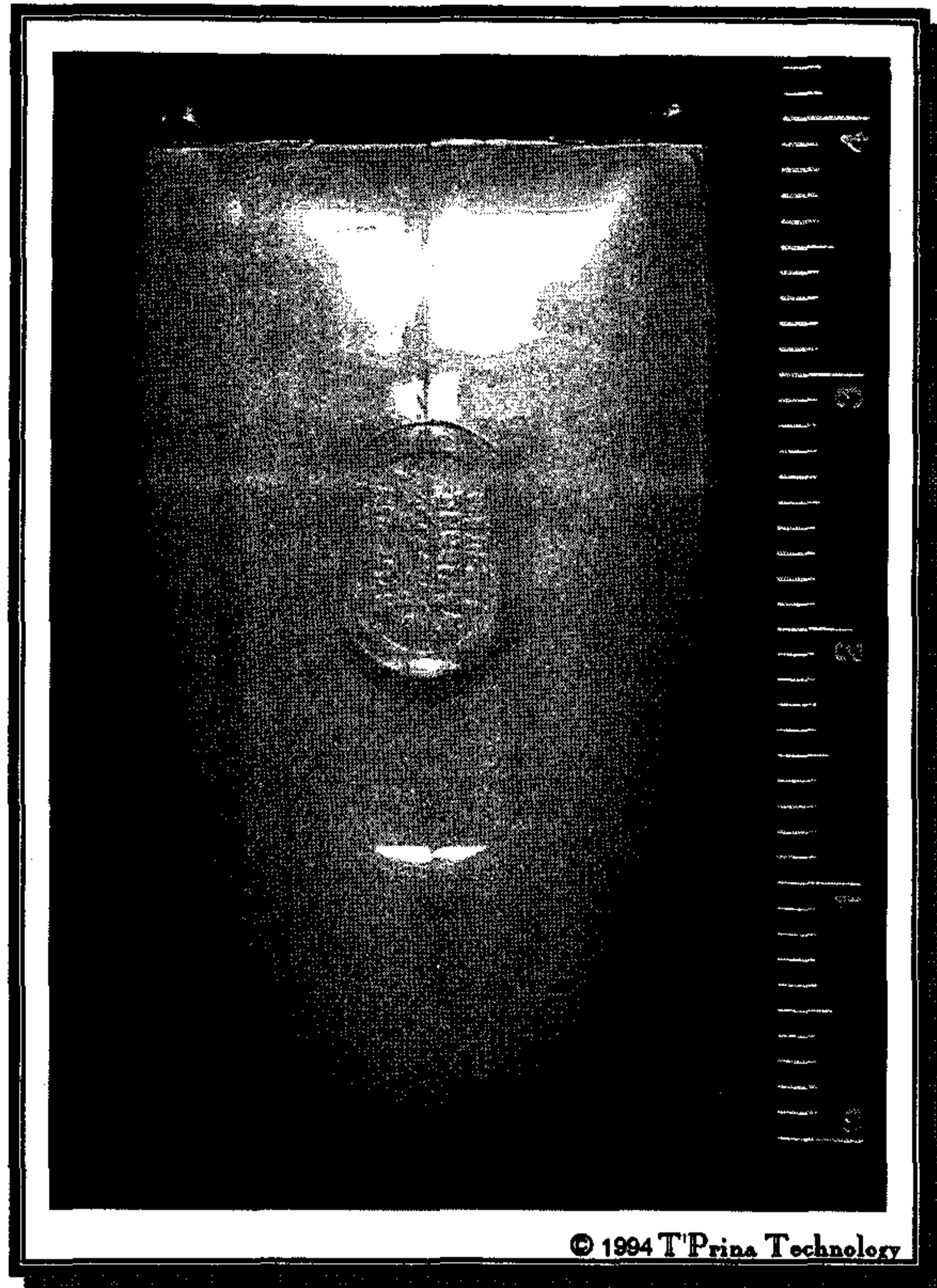
Myotron™ Venus

While the manufacturer claims the Myotron Venus is not a stun gun, extensive testing was not able to distinguish it from a stun gun.

Their argument is simply one of semantics. They argue this is not a stun 'gun' because it does not shoot a projectile - only the Taser™ which actually shoots two dart-like projectiles with wires attached does - however, the term 'stun gun' as it is commonly used in the medical literature and popular press would clearly include the Myotron Venus.

What makes their 'this is not a stun gun' argument even more peculiar is that extensive electrical and physiological testing was not able to clearly distinguish the output of the Myotron Venus from the Nova Spirit, a device which Arienne recommends in their literature to those who intend to purchase a stun gun. In comparison to the Nova Spirit the pearl colored Myotron is a smaller, more convenient to carry package, designed to appeal primarily to women.

The Myotron Venus is virtually indistinguishable in electrical characteristics and neurostimulation from the Nova Spirit. Nova Technologies has been making stun guns for more than 10 years and the Spirit model for at least 7 years. The differences that can be seen in *Table 1* are insignificant in that they could be accounted for by small variances in battery ca-



Myotron™ Venus

capacity, spark gap condition, and production tolerances.

Wrist Strap

The Myotron television commercial, videotape and brochure all make a strong argument for the advantages of a wrist trap. However, the device arrived without the strap; an enclosed note stated that the strap would arrive later. Three months from the order date the strap had not yet arrived.

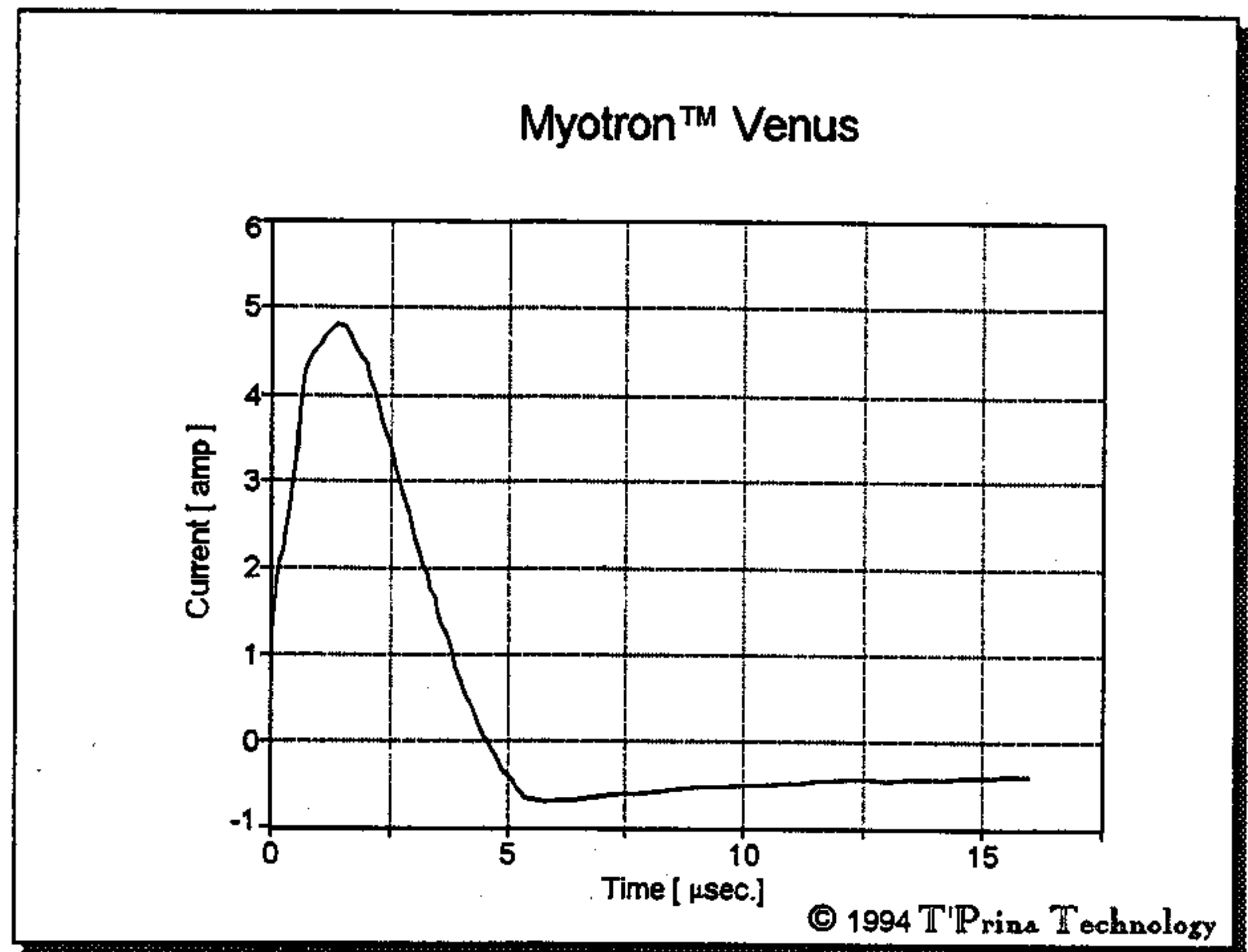
Batteries

The Myotron uses 3 each, 3-volt

Duracell Lithium (as does the Nova Spirit) type DL2/3A batteries grouped into a single package that is not intended to be replaced. The DL2/3A are "For pack assembly and memory use only." This may at first thought seem like a mean-spirited way to prevent the user from replacing the batteries. However, a rationale might be that after the device has been used to the extent that a set of lithium batteries has been expended, other components, such as the internal spark gap, would also likely be nearing the

end of their useful life making it necessary to replace the entire unit..

Ariane International, Box 32112, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 333410. *The only phone number provided, 1-800-348-2900 is a marketing service for placing orders only and is not a source of product information. or access to Ariane International.*



Compare the waveform of the Myotron Venus with that of the Nova Spirit on page 9.

King Hope Enterprises, Ltd.

STN-160

The STN-160 is a large - 16.5 inches long - baton which according to the manufacturer is designed for police and night watchmen. Although the two probes are at the tip, the baton is 'hot' along its full length above the handle as well as at the tip.

The STN-160 has the highest effective voltage of those tested. It is particularly effective at penetrating thick layers of clothing and causes moderate neuromuscular stimulation.

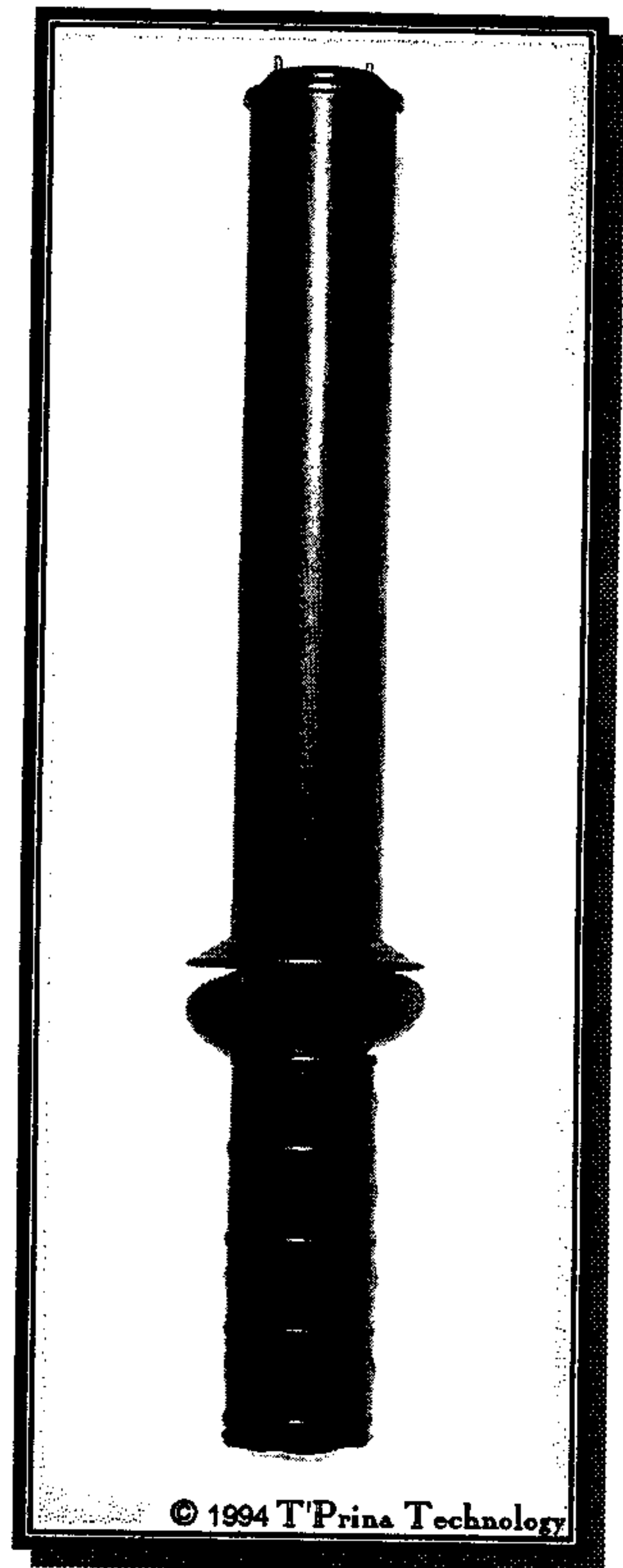
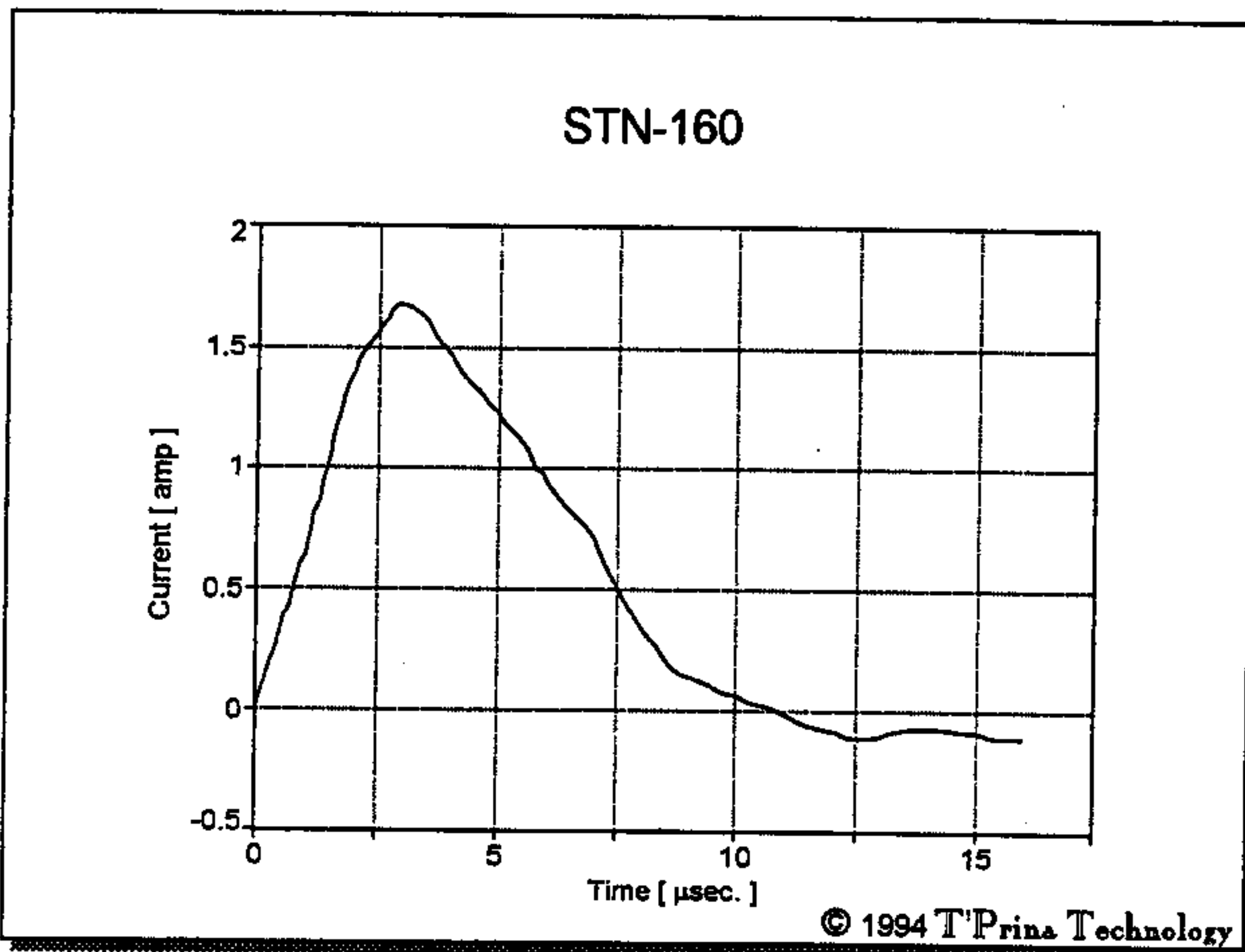
The STN-160 comes with a leather sheath and a wrist strap.

A small amount of leakage current could be felt at the edge of the battery cap which is at the distal end of the handle.

Batteries

The STN-160 uses 8 AA alkaline batteries stored in the handle.

King Hope Enterprises Ltd.,
Hong Kong. Made in China. *No telephone number is given on the packaging or in the enclosed instructions.*



STN-160
(length 16.5 inches)

S.K. Electronic Corp.

SK1200 / Thunder Power

The SK1200 is a convenient size that easily fits into pocket or purse. It includes both a wrist strap and a belt clip.

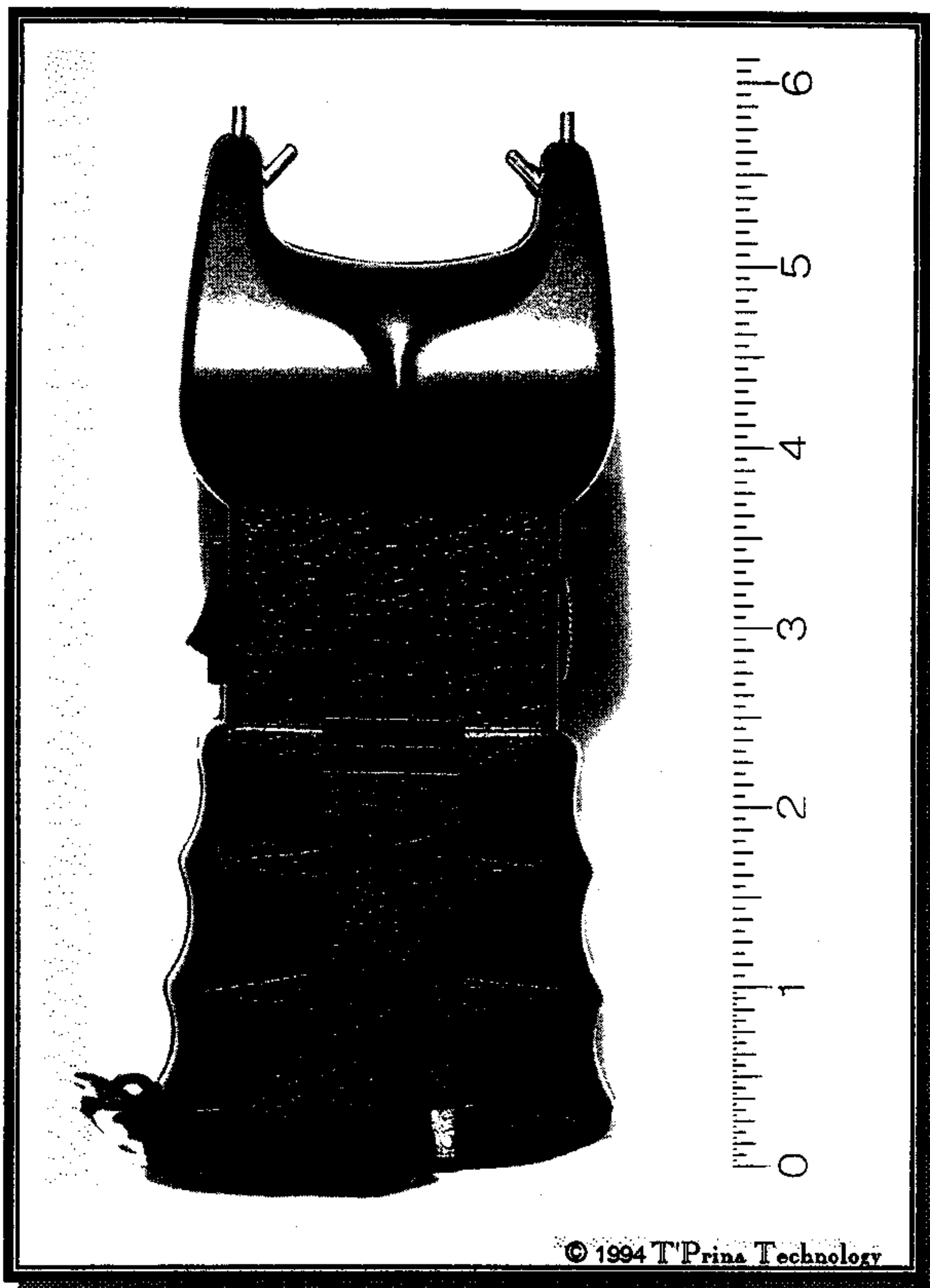
The electrical parameters as well as the waveform at bottom right are seen to be fairly typical with no outstanding characteristics.

Neuromuscular stimulation with this stun gun was weak.

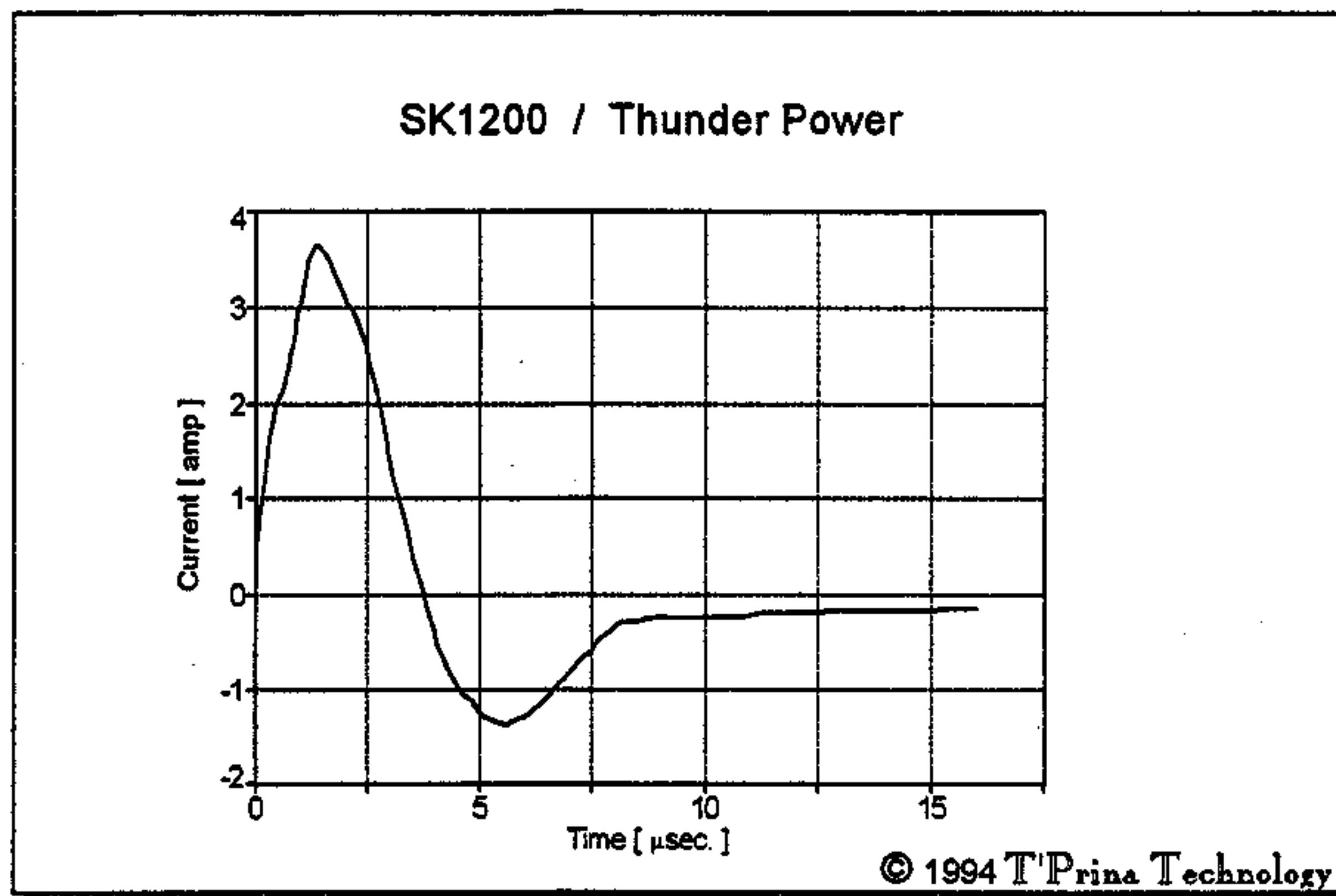
Batteries

The SK1200 uses a single 9-volt alkaline or rechargeable nickel-cadmium battery.

S.K. Electronics Corp., made in Korea. Distributed by PDI, 9608 Van Nuys Blvd. #104, Panorama City, CA 91402. *No phone number was provided in the accompanying literature.*



SK1200 / Thunder Power



Degen
Electro Shield™
P.D.I.™
S.K. Electronics

Thunder 945SP
SK-6900

The SK-6900 has a wrist strap that when pulled out disables the stun gun.

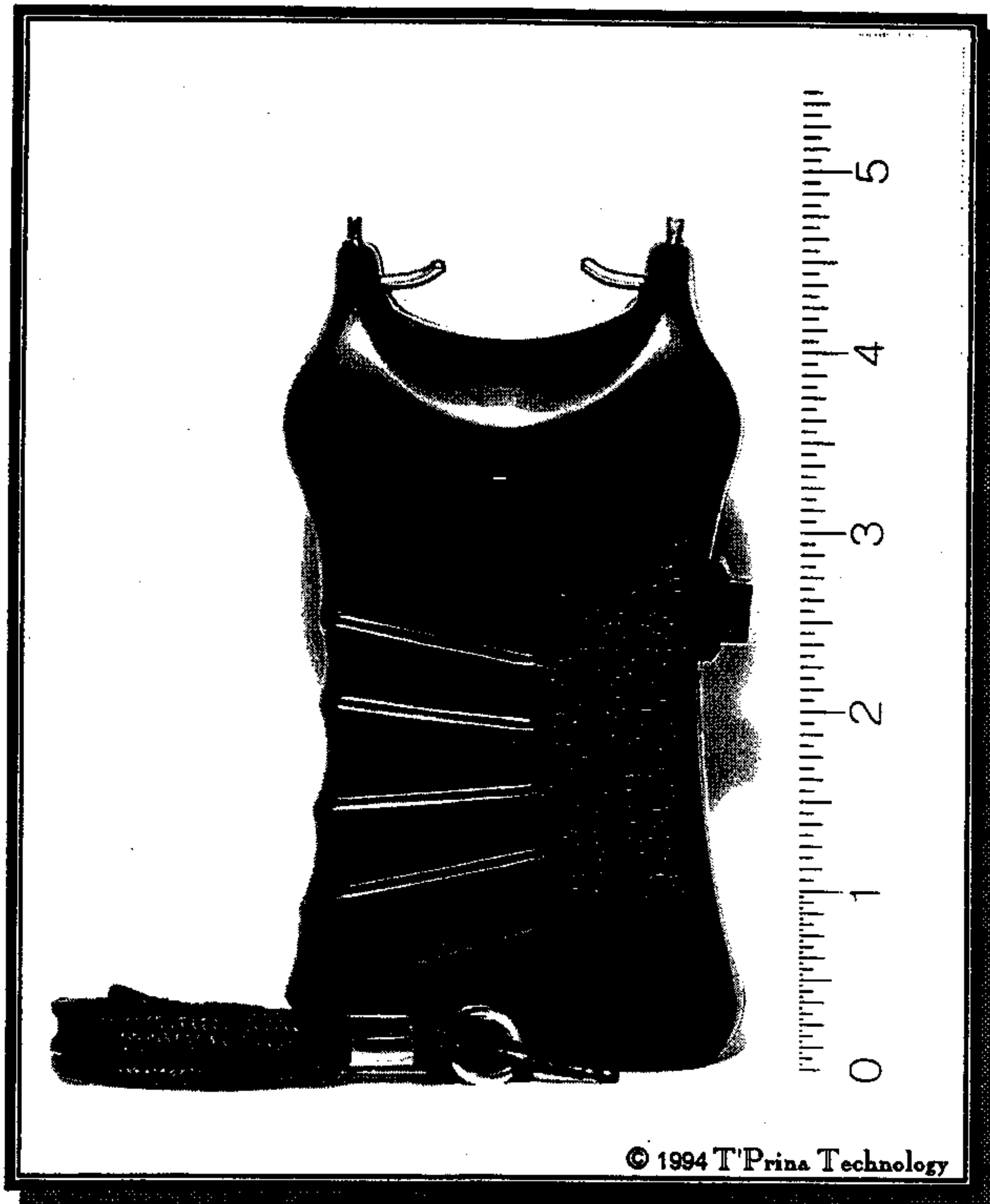
The SK-6900 produces only weak neuromuscular stimulation.

There is some leakage current to the hand of the user in the area of the wrist strap pin.

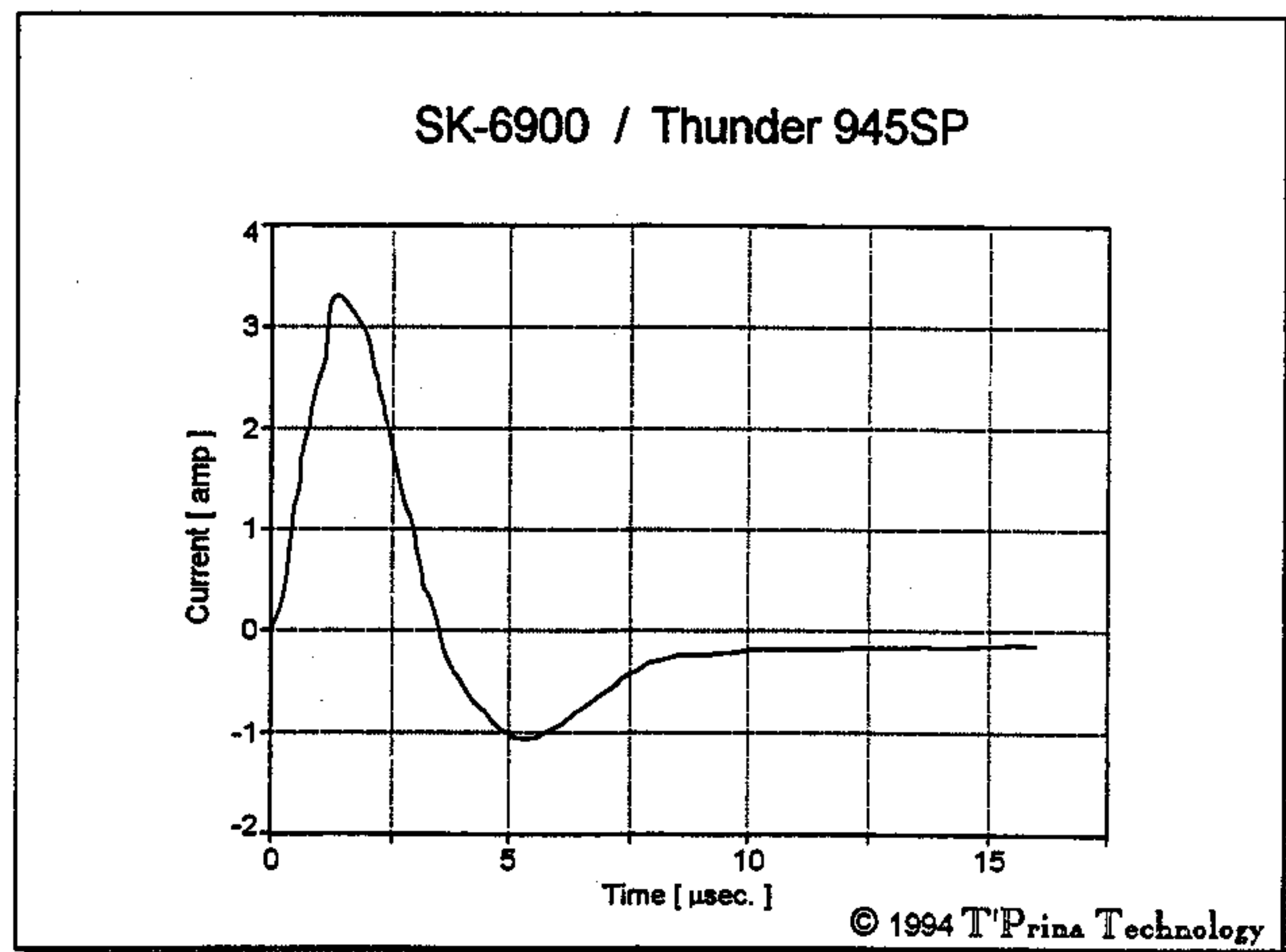
Batteries

This stun device uses a single 9-volt alkaline or nickel cadmium battery.

Degen, 1800 N. Highland Ave.,
#600, Los Angeles, CA 90028.
*No phone number is provided on
the packaging or in the accompa-
nying literature.*



SK-6900 / Thunder 945SP



Sigma-7 products, Inc.
S.K. Electronics

Sigma-7
Model C - SK-7000

The Sigma-7 includes a belt clip, wrist strap, strobe light and siren. A three position alarm control switch allows the user to select among: (1.) stun gun with alarm when the activation switch is pressed (2.) alarm off i.e. stun gun only on pressing the activation switch (3.) the siren is activated immediately on selecting this position and the stun gun is becomes active on pressing the activation switch

The strobe light is always activated with the stun gun.

Operation of the Sigma-7 Model C is excessively complex for a defensive device that may be operated in a surprise situation.

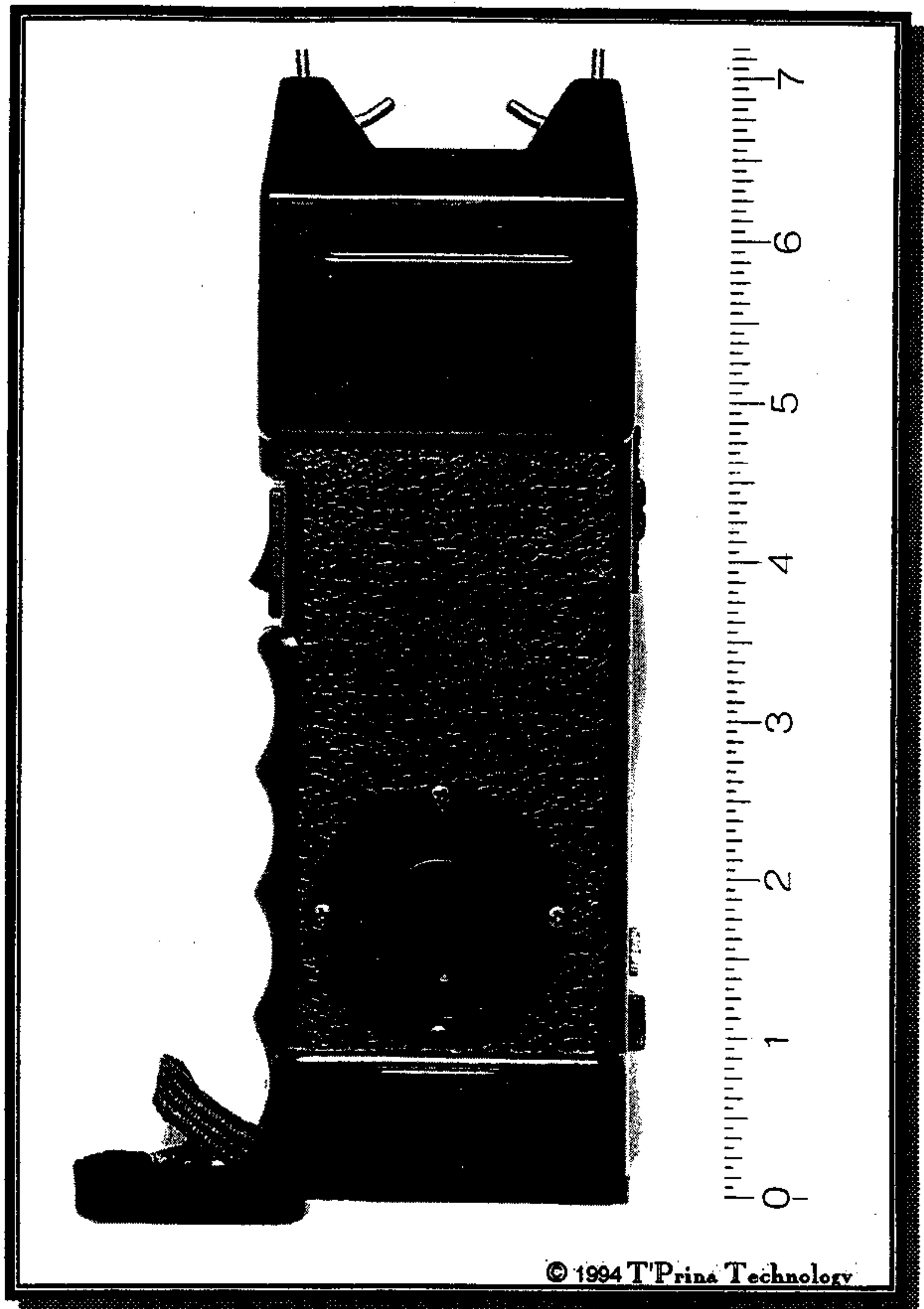
There is an external jack for recharging the battery and a jack for an 'accessory alarm' the use of which was not specified in the owners manual.

As shown in *Table 1*, the energy per pulse is very low. Neuro-muscular stimulation with the Sigma-7 Model C was weak.

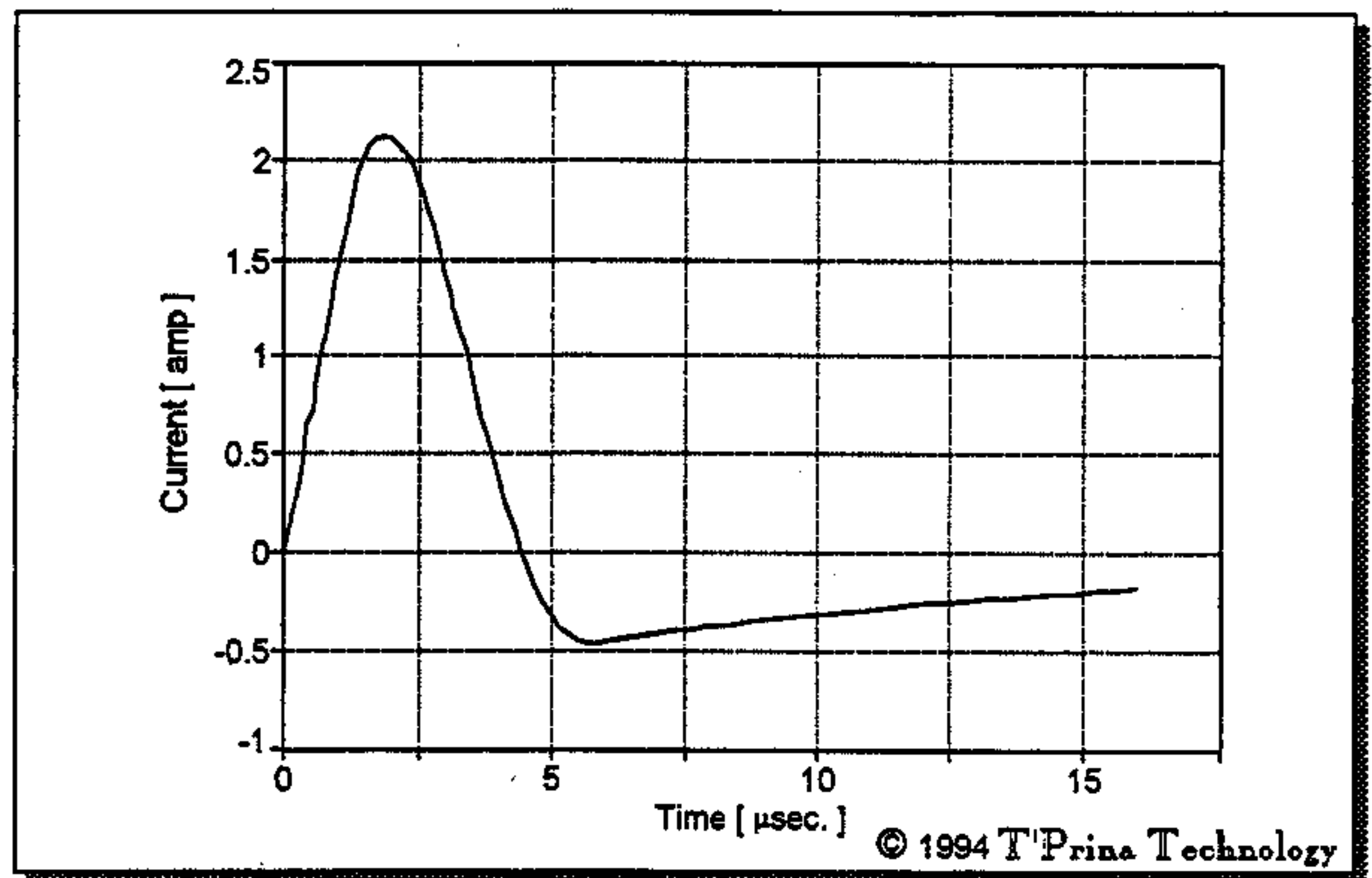
Batteries

This stun device uses a single 9-volt alkaline or rechargeable (Eveready or G.E.) battery.

Sigma-7 Products, Inc., 2888 Bluff Street #174, Boulder, CO 80301, (303) 444-9319. Made in Korea.



Sigma-7 Model C / SK-7000



U.S. Protector, Inc.
Degen
PDI

Super Thunder

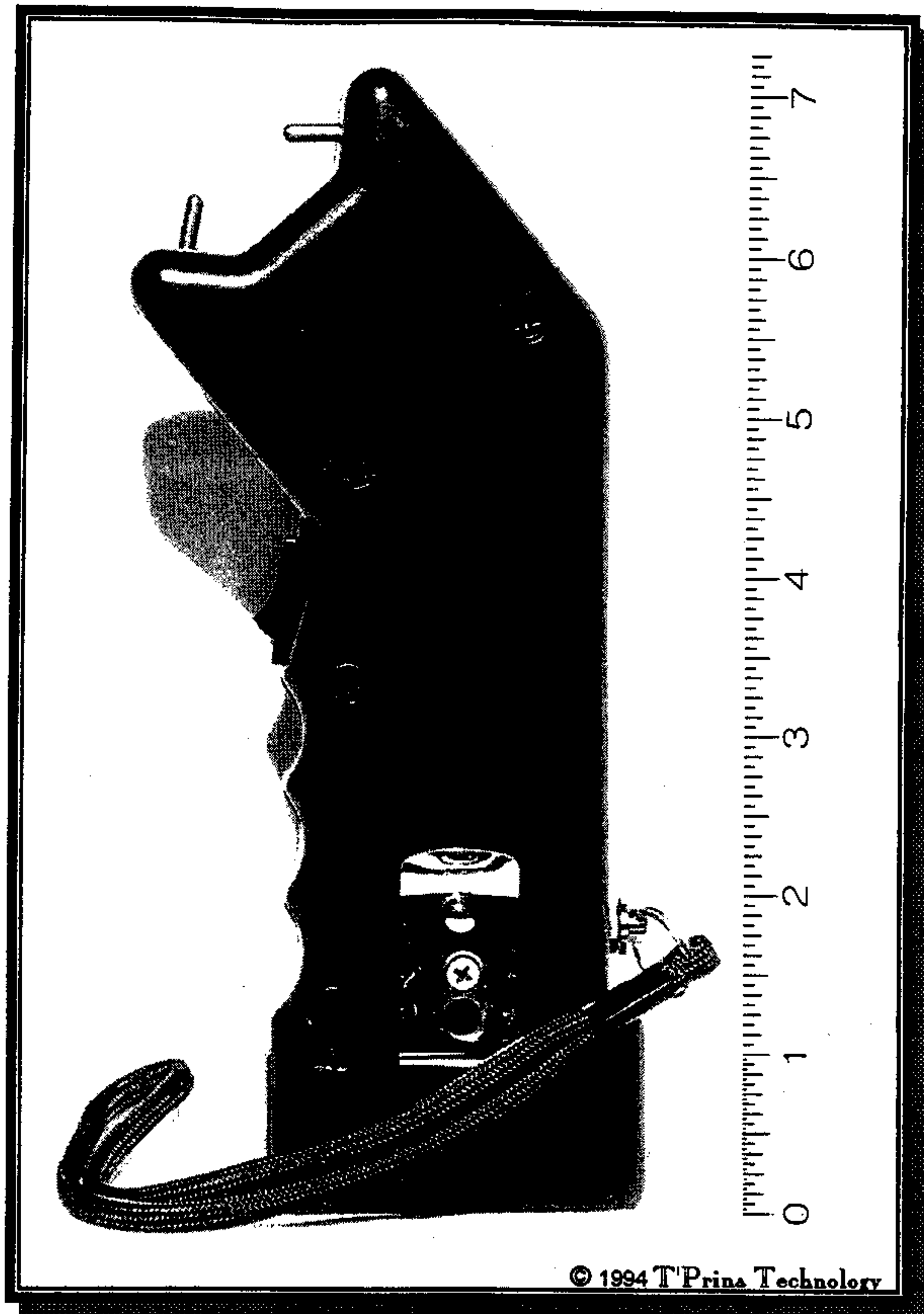
The Super Thunder is an unusually sturdy unit with a metal belt clip and a wrist strap. Removing the wrist strap disables the stun gun.

The Super Thunder is excellent at penetrating clothing but produces only weak neuromuscular stimulation with its' 0.11 joules per pulse.

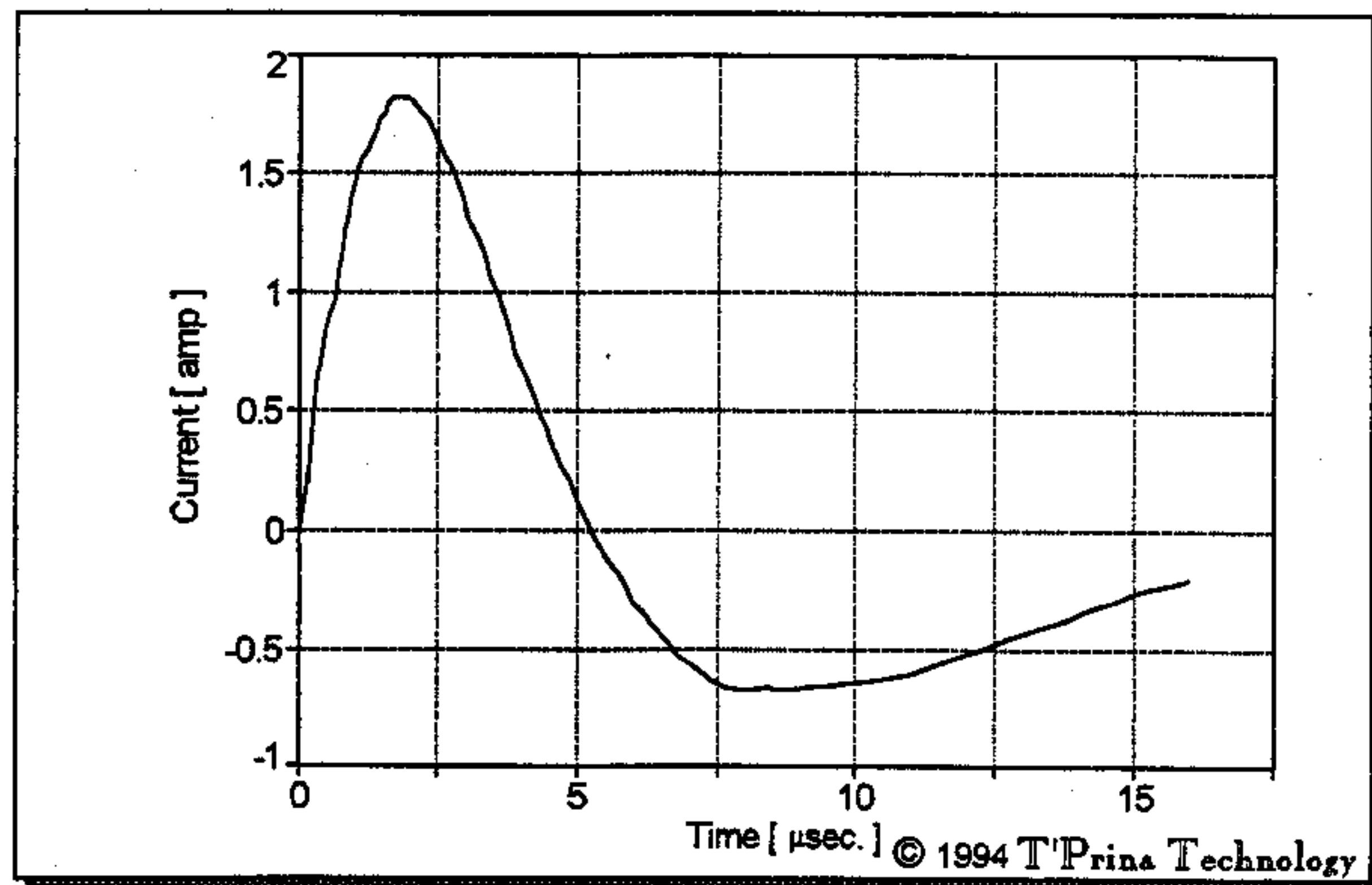
Batteries

The manufacturer specifies use of only a 9 volt rechargeable or a 9 volt Eveready battery. The battery is easier and faster to change than in most stun guns - it is simply slid into its compartment.

U.S. Protector, Inc.; Degen Panorama City CA 91402; PDI 9608 Van Nuys Blvd. #104, Panorama City, CA 91402. Made in U.S.A. *No telephone number is provided on the packaging or in the accompanying literature.*



Super Thunder



Z-Force™ Ultra

The Z-force-Ultra was difficult to test due to excessive current leakage from both switches - on/off and activation - to the operators hand. Arcing was observed between the activation switch and the operators finger causing significant pain. This much leakage current and arcing to the hand could be a serious hazard in that it might startle the user causing the stun gun to be dropped. A rubber glove was worn during the remaining tests.

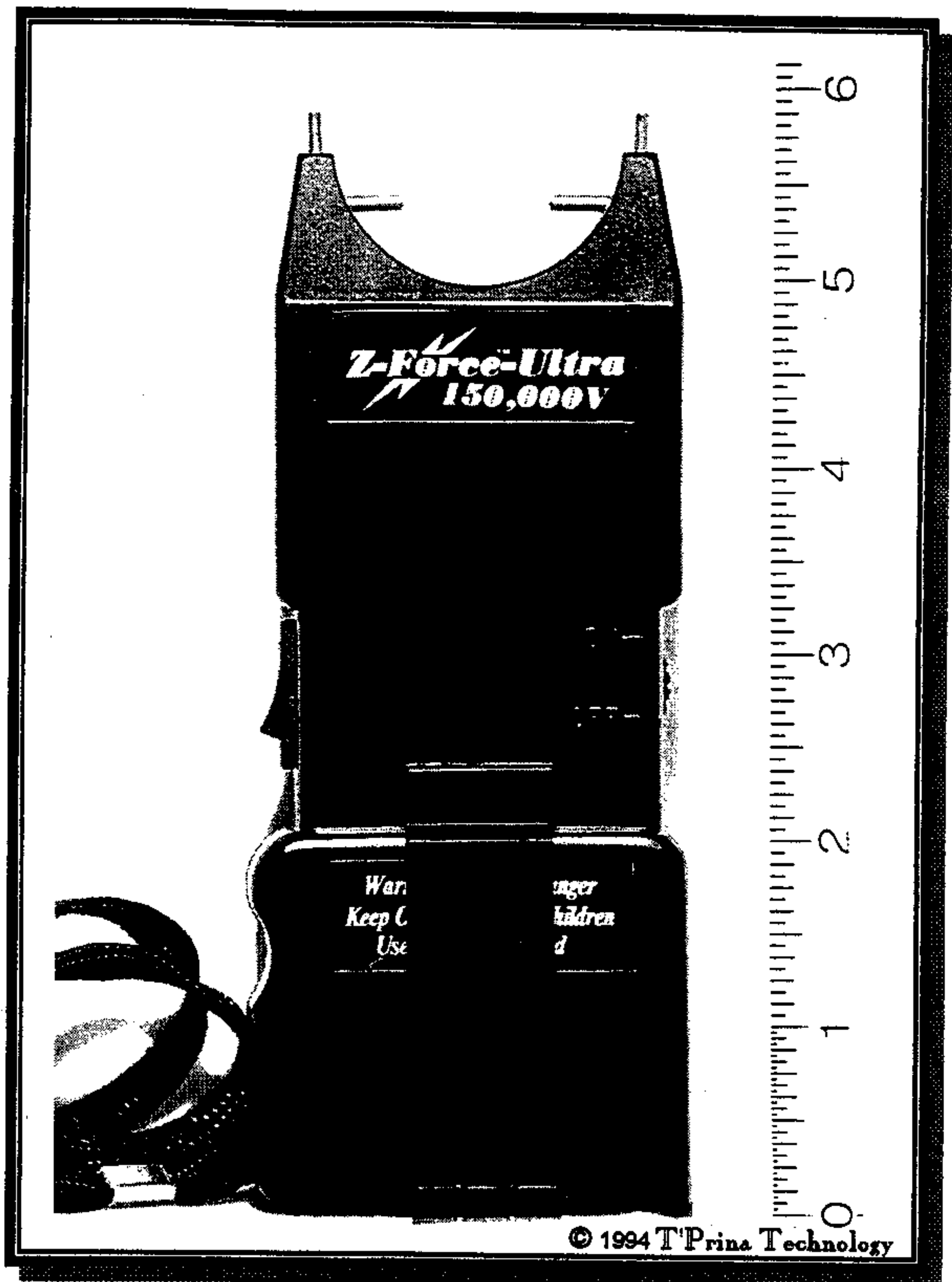
The Ultra has both a belt clip and a wrist strap.

Neuromuscular stimulation with this product was weak.

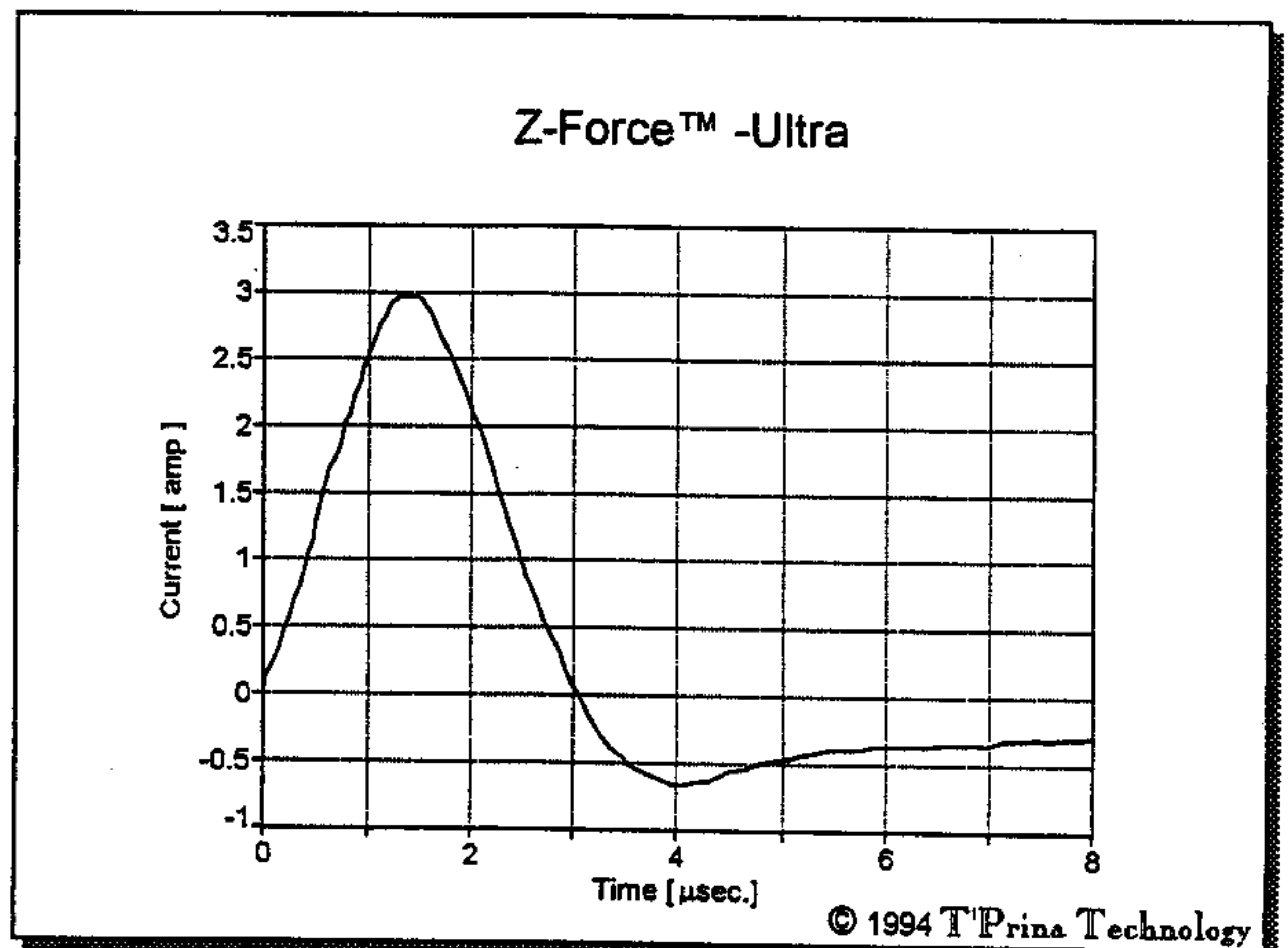
Batteries

The Z-Force-Ultra uses two 9 volt batteries, e.g. Duracell MN1604.

Z-Force™ -Ultra, Assembled in USA. No address or phone number is given on the packaging or in the enclosed instructions.



Z-Force™ Ultra



Z-Force™ III

As with the Ultra model there was excessive current leakage from the stun gun to the user's hand. The leakage from the switch as well as from the case seams was not as strong as with the Ultra model but could be distracting.

Neuromuscular stimulation was minimal.

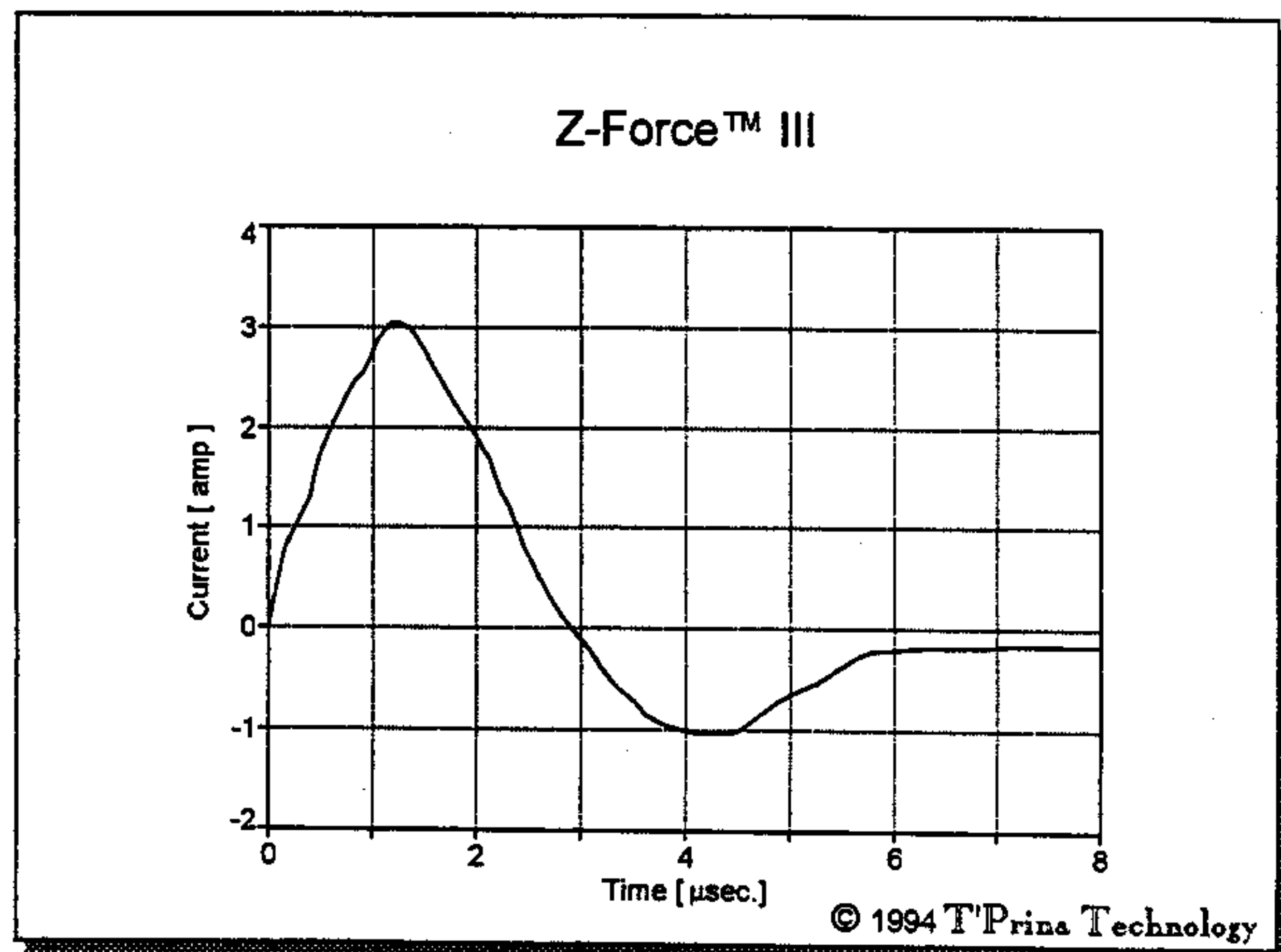
Battery

The Z-Force III uses one 9 volt battery, e.g. Duracell MN1604..

Z-Force™, Assembled in USA.
No address or phone number is given on the packaging or in the enclosed instructions.



Z-Force™ III



Z-Force™ I

The Z-Force I showed a small amount of leakage current from the case seam opposite the switch to the user's hand.

The Z-Force I comes with both a belt clip and a wrist strap.

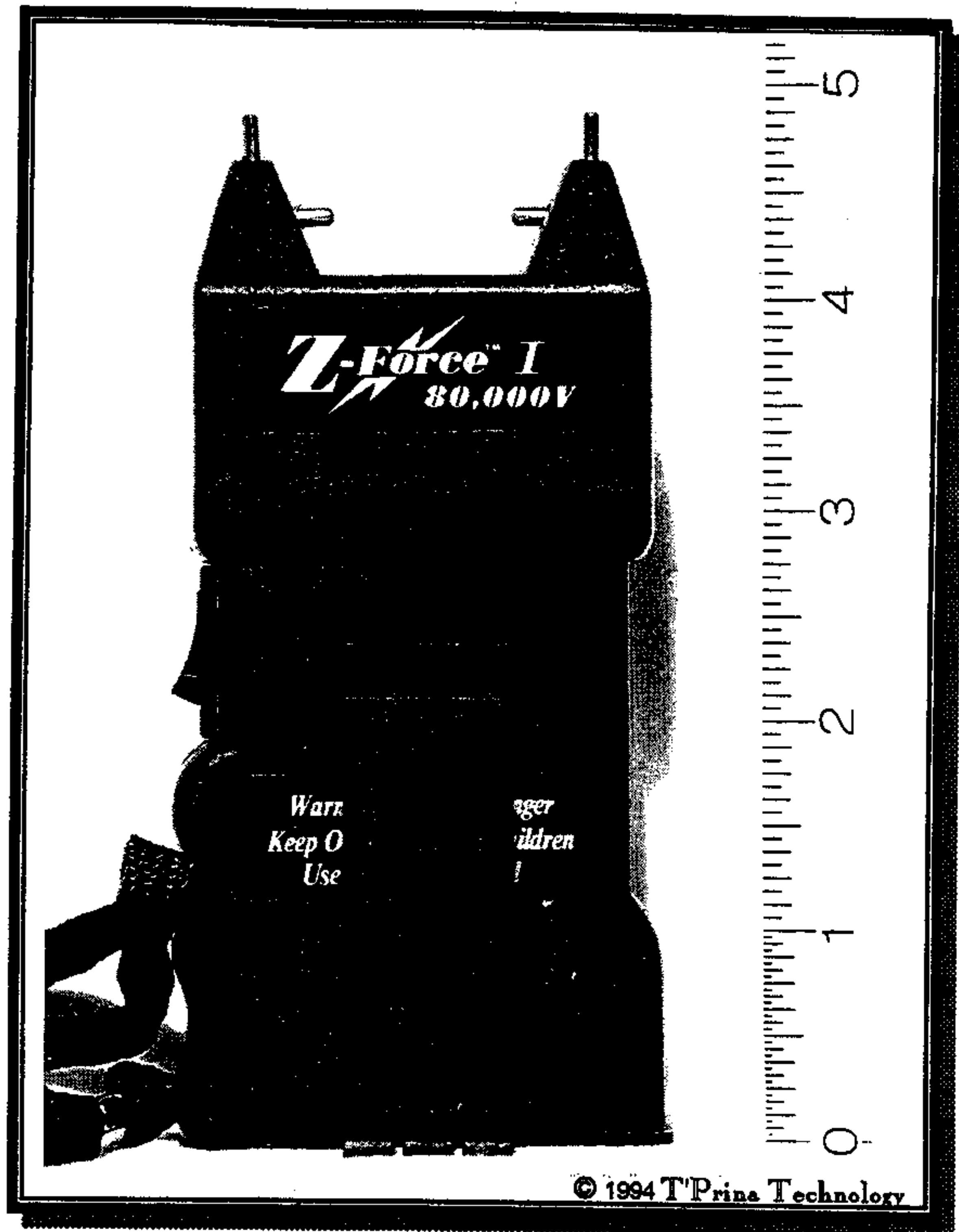
This device has a high repetition rate - 28.6 cycles per second - but low energy per pulse, 0.06 joules/pulse.

Neuromuscular stimulation was minimal.

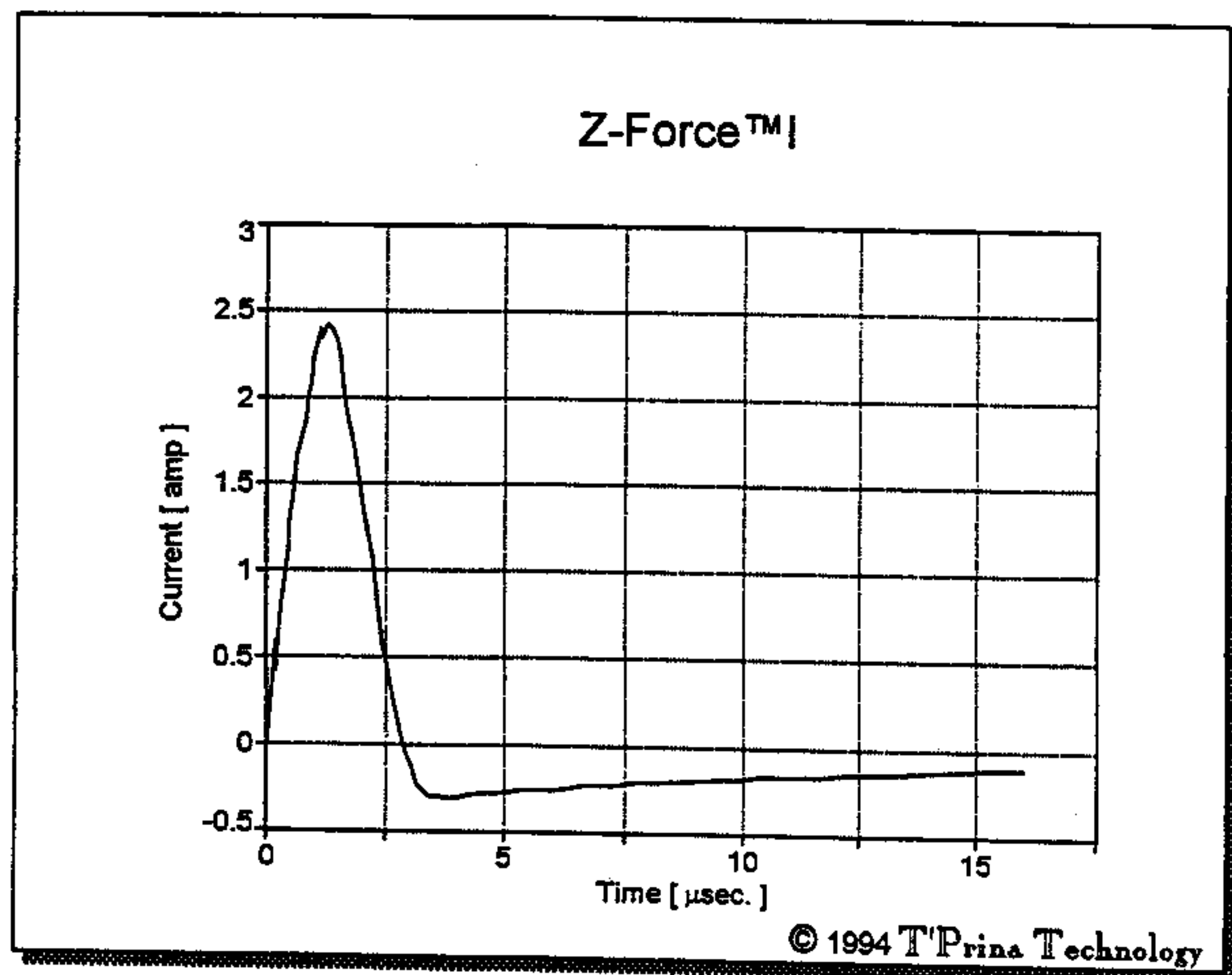
Battery

The Z-Force I uses one 9 volt battery, e.g. Duracell MN1604..

Z-Force™ , Assembled in USA.
No address or phone number is given on the packaging or in the enclosed instructions.



Z-Force™ I



STG-1

The STG-1 was constructed from a kit, the plans for which first appeared in Radio Electronics September, 1986. The kit is well documented and simple to construct.

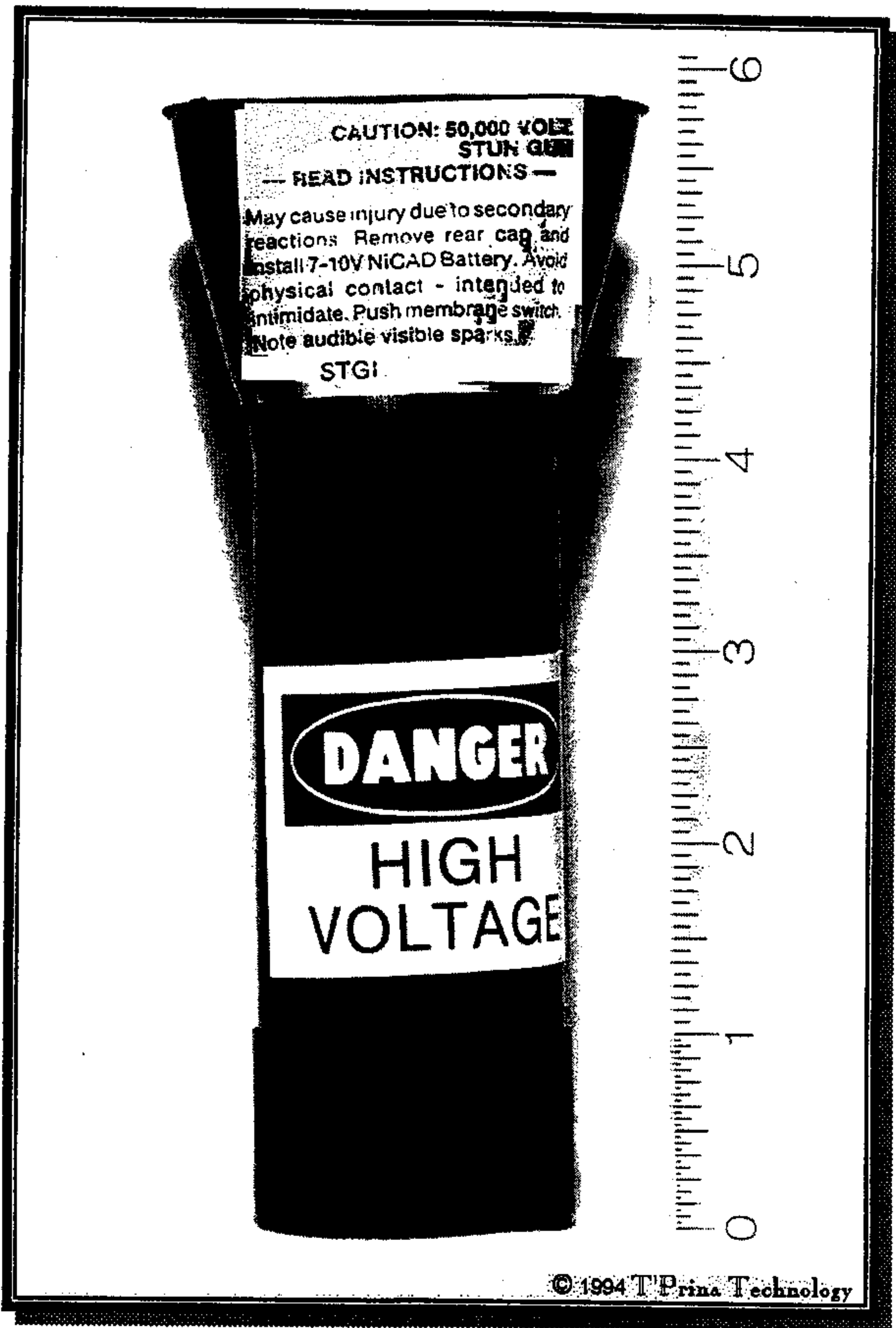
The accompanying literature states under a caution heading, "WE MAKE NO CLAIMS AS TO THE USER'S SAFETY OR STOPPING POWER OF THIS DEVICE."

This is a very low power (1.1 watt) device that produces only minimal neuromuscular stimulation.

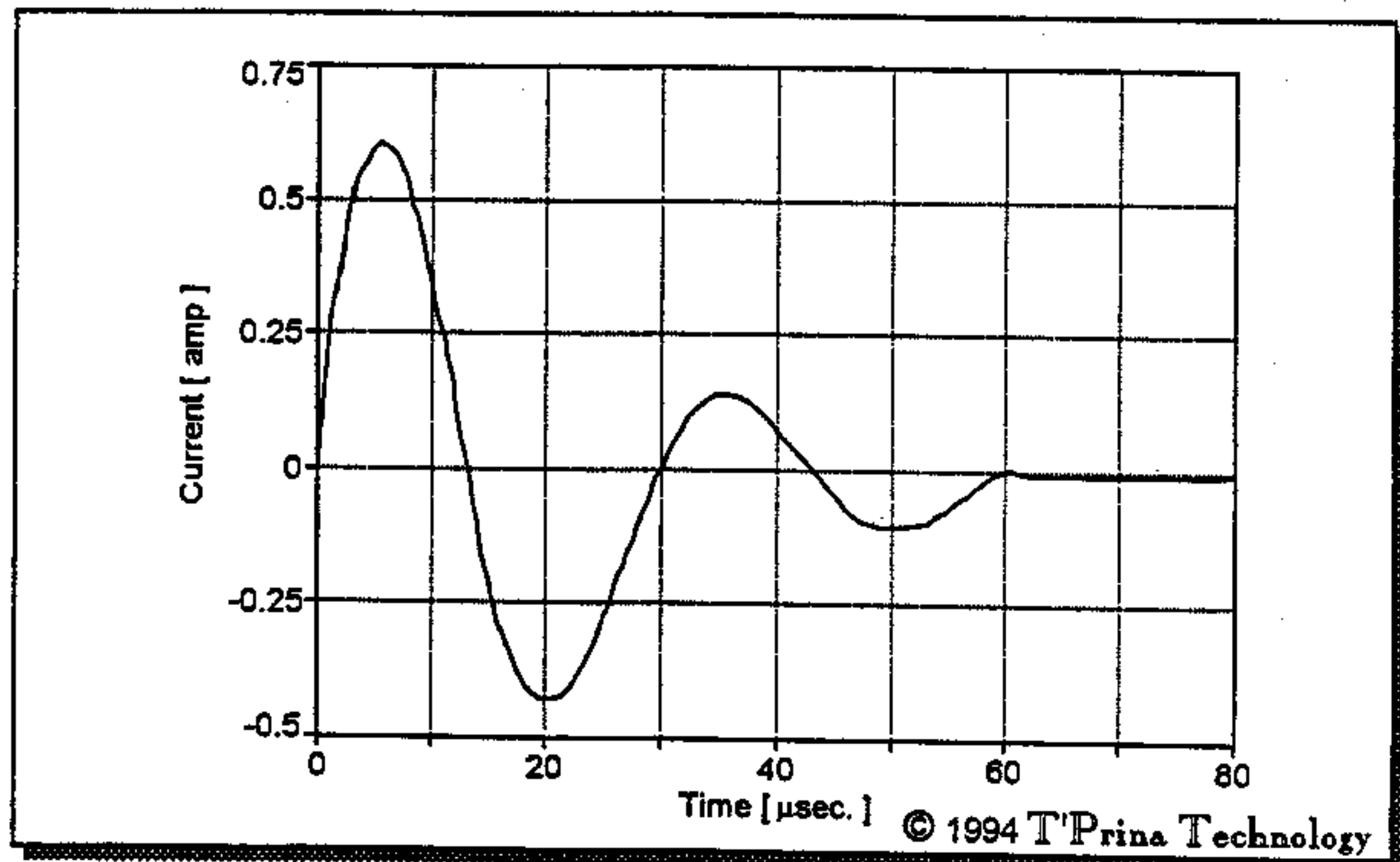
Batteries

A single 9-volt nickel cadmium or alkaline battery is recommended, and a jack is provided for convenient recharging of the nicad. A charger is not provided with the unit but is available at extra charge

Information Unlimited, Box 716, Amherst, NH 03031, 1-800-221-1705, 603-673-4730.



STG-1 (case only)



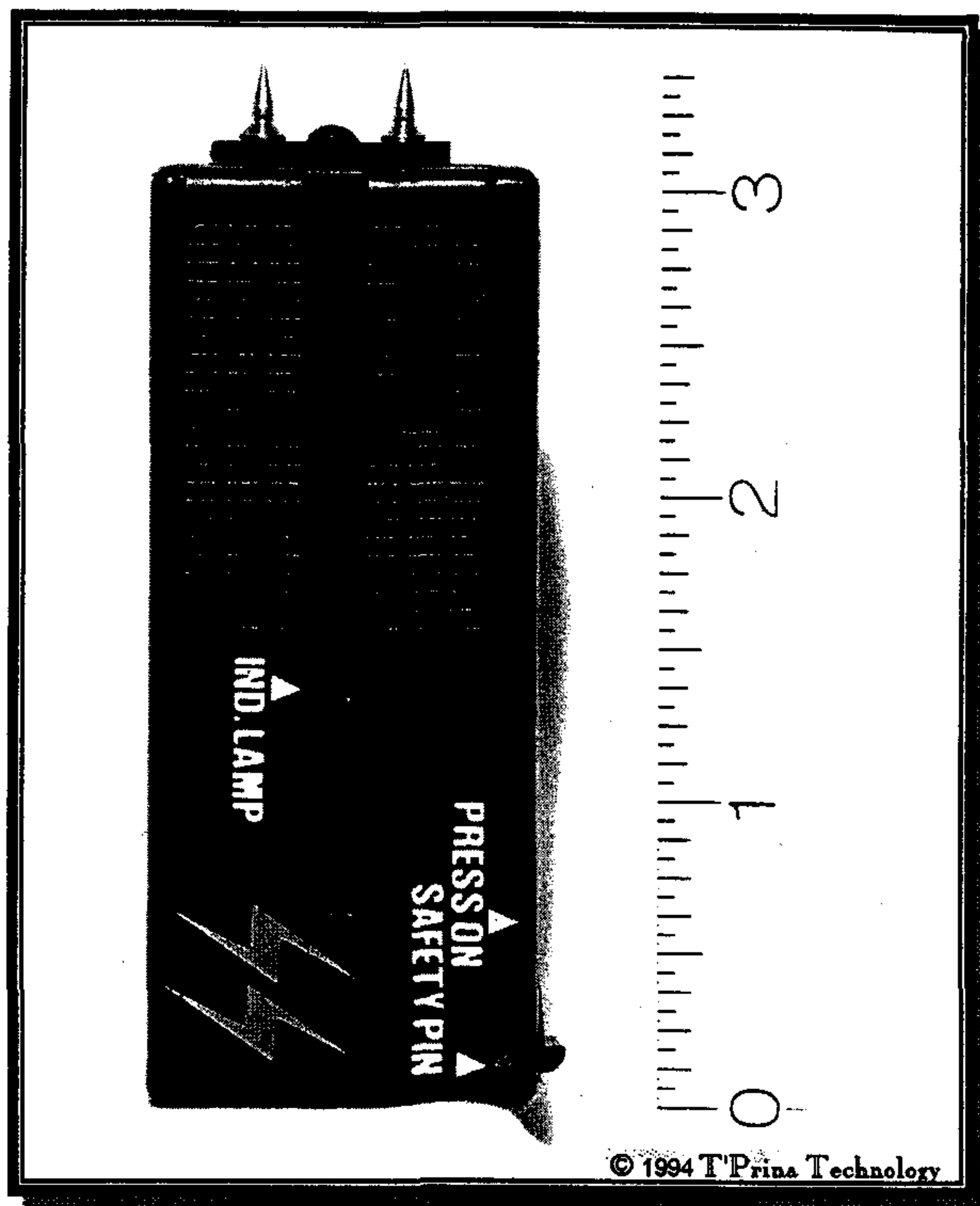
Saftron

Personal Protector **Pro-007**

Although advertised as a "Micro Stun Gun" and the "World's smallest stun gun!", the Pro-007 is not a stun gun. Stun guns put out a series of high voltage, narrow pulses of energy. The Pro-007 is a high current, low voltage device that puts out a single pulse and does not produce the repeated neuromuscular stimulation characteristic of a stun gun.

To operate the Pro-007 one must first ensure that the rubber cap (not shown in photo) is in position, remove the safety pin, then, hold down the activation button and wait while the unit charges up. When the indicator light is seen to be fully lit the device is ready to be used. It is then applied to the assailant, delivering energy for only a fraction of a second. *The Pro-007 must then be removed from the assailant and recharged before it will deliver more energy.* In other words if you keep the device in contact with the assailant it cannot be recharged and will not deliver more energy. This unexpected operating anomaly is not described in the accompanying instructions.

Stun guns typically have two metal probes that are not sharpened but rather are blunt and not capable of piercing the skin. The Pro-007 has two very sharp points protected by a removable, flexible rubber cap (not shown in the photo). The cap has two holes that, on pressing against the assailant, permits protrusion of



Pro-007 Personal Protector

the two points. The rigidity of the rubber cap serves to somewhat limit the exposure of the points.

To test this device the user removes the rubber cap, charges the device, touches the two needles to a piece of metal and observes a "sparking action".

The accompanying instructions specify that "... the unit functions with the rubber cap in place to protect the user.". When the rubber cap is removed the Pro-007 will still deliver power to the needles. The needles are of a

length and sharpness sufficient to penetrate skin to a depth to draw blood.

The rubber cap (held in place by friction) is not securely affixed to the Pro-007; it could inadvertently be removed while being carried in a purse or by being jostled in a scuffle.

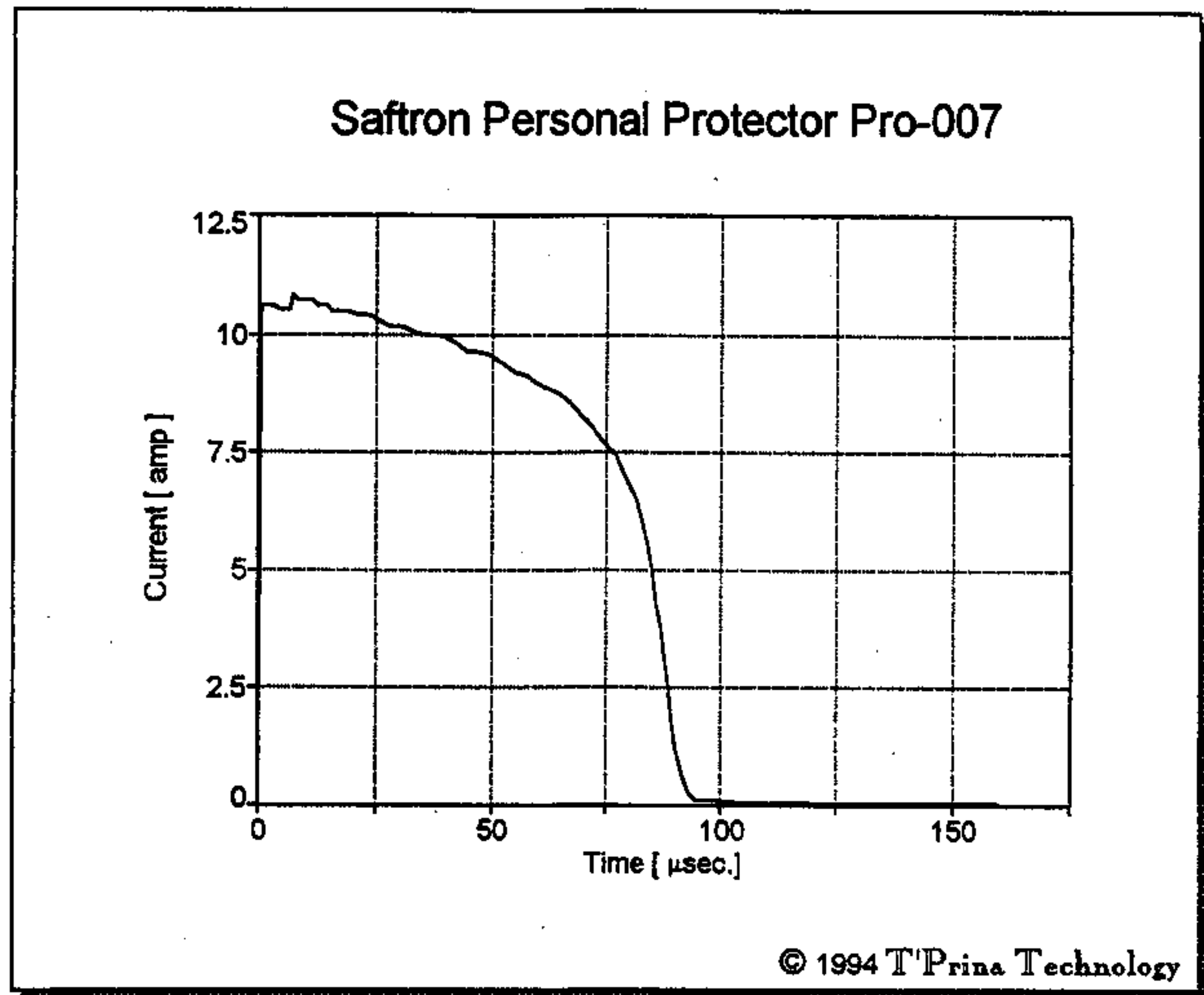
When this device is applied to an assailant no muscle spasms are seen. What you do see and smell is a small plume of smoke from burning flesh. On removal a small area of burned tissue can be seen.

A typical stun gun would require an application in excess of 5 seconds before a burn mark might be seen.

The ability of this 'burn' gun to penetrate clothing is virtually limited to mechanical penetration by the needle points as opposed to electrical arcing such as would occur with a stun gun.

The values shown in *Table 2* for the Pro-007 assume a total recharge-plus-reapplication time of 1.5 second; that is, the maximum power shown is what would be delivered if the user could charge-apply-discharge-remove-recharge in rapid succession with a cycle time of 1.5 second. This is obviously a very optimistic estimate so that the actual power and rms values that you might expect are somewhat less than that shown in *Table 1*.

The safety pin comes with a key ring and attachment device.



Batteries

The Pro-007 uses two 1.5-volt batteries; it came with 2 Magicell High Duty size N, UM-5.

Waveform

The pulse shown at the upper right is the single pulse of maximal power delivery that might occur each time the Pro-007 is

charged and applied to an assailant. Note that the pulse length is considerably longer than that employed by stun guns which deliver a train of pulses.

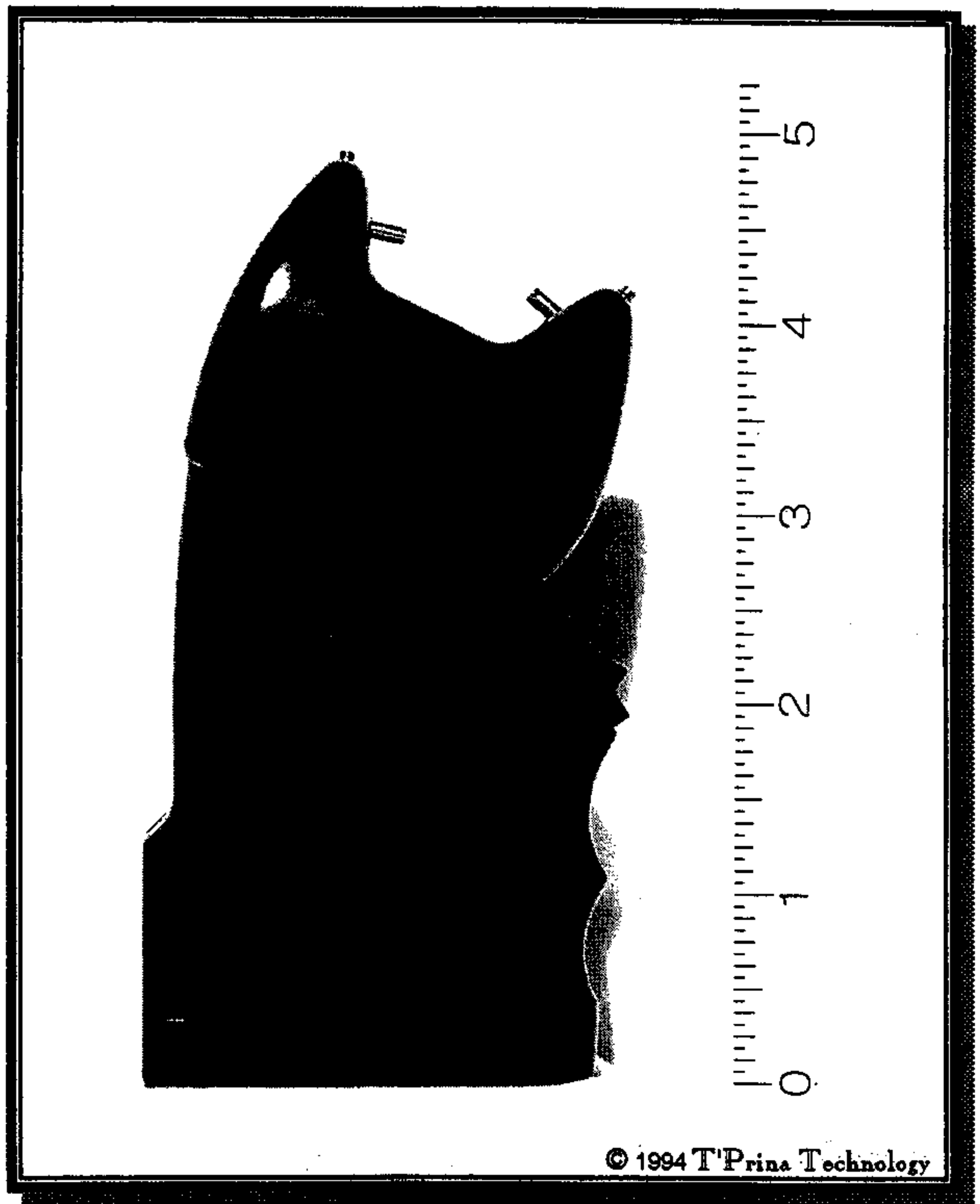
Pro-007, Saftron. Made in Taiwan. *No address or phone number is given on the packaging or in the enclosed instructions.*

Exotic Electronics
PDI

Defender II

The Defender II failed at the beginning of the test procedure. After only a few seconds of use the power output was zero.

PDI, 9608 Van Nuys Blvd,
#104, Panorama, City, CA 91402.
Made in Korea. *No telephone
number was provided on the
packaging or in the enclosed
literature.*



Defender II

Cautions & Disclaimers:

- Keep all stun guns, electro-immobilization devices, and electronic self-defense devices out of the reach of children.
- Do not exceed the manufacturers recommendations for duration of application. Excessive application times may result in serious harm such as burns or suppression of respiration.
- This report does not endorse any manufacturer or product and makes no claims as to the effectiveness of these devices in stopping an assailant. Further, this report makes no claims as to the safety of these devices as regards the user or the person on whom the device may be used.
- The results presented in this report are based on testing only one sample of each model evaluated.
- Check local laws before acquiring a stun gun. Most, but not all, states permit the sale and carrying of stun guns.
- The authors of this report have given their best efforts in making this report as complete and accurate as possible. However, typographical errors as well as errors in content may have occurred. Therefore, this report should be used only as a general guide and not as the ultimate source of information on stun guns, electro-immobilization devices, or electronic self-defense devices.
- T'Prina Technology and the authors of this report shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any entity or person with respect to any loss or damage caused, or alleged to be caused, directly or indirectly by the information contained in this report.

About

T'Prina Technology

A consulting firm that has provided services in medical electronics since 1989.

Our experience includes:

- ◆ the design and testing of high voltage instruments used in clinical applications
- ◆ delivering seminars to surgeons and corporate executives on medical instrument technology.
- ◆ measuring the effects of medical instruments in terms of electrical energy spread and depth of penetration into tissue.
- ◆ expert witness testimony and technical advice in litigation both in U.S. and foreign courts.
- ◆ evaluation of stun guns.
- ◆ invention of now patented medical instruments

Considering a stun gun for your Security Service or Police Department ?

If your organization is considering the purchase of a stun gun T'Prina Technology can help you make the right decision by performing unbiased tests of the models that you are reviewing. Many new models of stun guns are introduced on the market every year. Without extensive electrical and physiological testing by an independent expert you have no solid information on which to base your purchase.

To obtain further information please write to the following address:

T'Prina Technology
Gateway Station
Aurora, CO 80044-1126

Order Form

for 'Stun Guns An Independent Report'.

Please send _____ copies @ \$14.50 ea. \$ _____

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