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TM-06-98

AMPEL PROBE EVIDENCE COLLECTION DEVICE

By: Glenn Carroll
Canadian Police Research Centre

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Submitted by
Canadian Police Research Centre

December, 1998

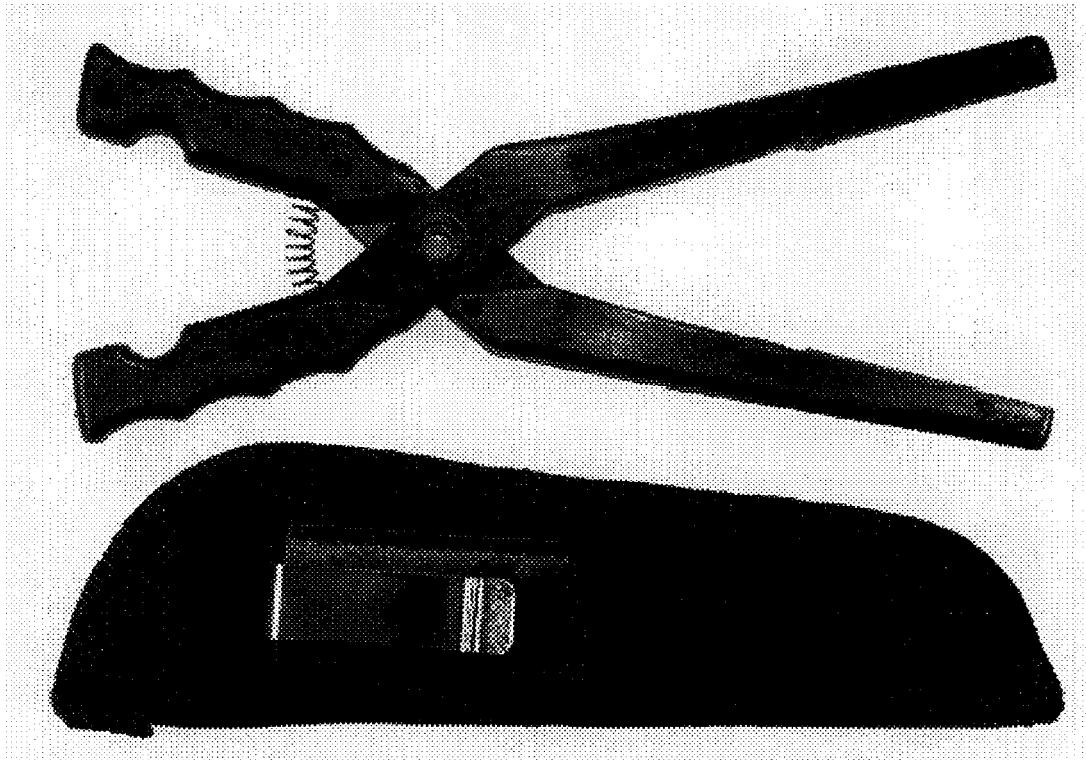
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Executive Summary

A commercial product, the AMPEL probe, consisting of polycarbonate tongs (30cm - 12" long) has been developed for searching suspects, crime scenes, and exhibits. The driving factors are to reduce the risk of biohazard exposure to personnel and to avoid contamination of exhibits. Five units have completed field trials in police agencies across Canada.

Sommaire

On a mis au point un nouveau produit commercial, la sonde AMPEL, pour fouiller les suspects et les lieux de crime et examiner les pièces à conviction. Il s'agit de pinces en polycarbonate (30 cm - 12 po de long) qui visent à réduire le risque d'exposition à des dangers biologiques et à éviter la contamination des pièces à conviction. Cinq appareils ont été mis à l'essai dans différents services de police canadiens.



The **AMPEL Probe** is an inexpensive multi-use tool designed primarily for exhibit collection. It consists of polycarbonate tongs (30cm - 12" in length) and can be used for searching suspects, crime scenes, and other exhibits in order to reduce risk of biohazard exposure to personnel and contamination of exhibits. Cost per unit is \$38.95 US and includes a belt/auto visor holster as well as a training videocassette.

The device is particularly useful in searching suspects' pockets to avoid the possibility of needle sticks, razor or knife cuts. It is large enough to reach into places that may be inaccessible or too hazardous with bare hands.

It is ambidextrous and allows tactile feedback in detecting objects. Decontamination can be carried out with a surface disinfectant or it is reported as being autoclavable up to 225°C (425" F). However and unfortunately, due to the low chemical resistance of its polycarbonate composition, use of a variety of solvents should be avoided. For example the low resistance of polycarbonate to acetone makes clean-up after handling explosive or post-blast residue problematical.

In Canada, the **AMPEL Probe** is available from:

Highpoint Security Technologies Inc.
RR1
Morrisburg, Ontario K0C 1X0

Phone 613-652-4623
Fax 613-652-2739

and

HAR-TECH
16009 - 92 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5R 5C7

Phone (780) 484-4791

Elsewhere, further information can be obtained directly from the manufacturer:

The **AMPEL Probe** Corporation
2499 West Glades Road, suite 207
Boca Raton, Florida 33431
USA

Phone (407) 477-3150 or toll free 1-800-844-31 50
Fax (407) 488-2936

Price is approximately \$40 US which includes the probe, holster, and training video.

Overall impressions ran a full range from excellent to poor with no overall consensus. The evaluation questionnaire follows at the end of this report.

Some interesting comments from testers were:

“The predominant - and consistent - use of the item is by cellblock staff when searching persons - particularly deep pockets, unknown recesses (shoes) etc.”

“This equipment has been useful at crime scenes in a limited capacity. It is a slight improvement over existing tools (ie rubber-tipped tongs).”

“Used at homicide scenes to remove evidence from biohazards, for example cartridge cases found in blood, stained tissue paper from a toilet, clothing searches in a crack house.”

Technology Partner Associate signature

GENERAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

EQUIPMENT ITEM	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Applicable
1) Effectiveness of equipment (for intended purpose)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) Ease of Use / Manoeuvrability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) Compatibility with other equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4) Appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5) Colour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6) Weight Size	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7) Comfort	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8) Durability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9) Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10) Accessories (list each piece)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11) Overall rated performance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12) Test Conditions _____						

13) Additional comments (including any precautions, warnings/cautions)

Ampel Probe

Functions like an extension
of your own hand to...

*Retrieve evidence without
cross-contamination*

*Reduce the risk of contracting
AIDS, Hepatitis, or other infectious
disease caused by puncture wounds.*

Ampel Probe

800.844.3150

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