



# ScreenWriter

**Video Movie  
Character Generator**

## INSTRUCTIONS

# ScreenWriter

## Video Movie Character Generator

### INFORMATION

This equipment generates and uses radio frequency energy and if not installed and used properly, that is, in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, may cause interference to radio and television reception. It has been type tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B computing device in accordance with the specifications in Subpart J of Part 15 of FCC Rules, which are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference in a residential installation. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more the the following measures:

- Reorient the receiving antenna;
- Relocate this equipment with respect to the receiver;
- Move this equipment away from the receiver;
- Plug this equipment into a different outlet so that this equipment and receiver are on different branch circuits.

If necessary, the user should consult the dealer or an experienced radio/television technician for additional suggestions. The user may find the following booklet prepared by the Federal Communications Commission helpful:

"How to Identify and Resolve Radio-TV Interference Problems". This booklet is available from the US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, Stock No. 004-000-00345-4.

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### INTRODUCTION

The Sima ScreenWriter allows you to create professional video titles and overlay them on your recorded scenes or on a blank background while editing or transferring your video tapes.

Titles are first created and stored in the ScreenWriter's memory. They are then called up and inserted at the appropriate location on the tape.

The ScreenWriter provides 12 pages for standard titles and 3 pages for Zoom titles. Four character sizes are available as well as two scrolling functions, bottom to top and right to left typewriter scrolling, which can be used with any standard page.

The keyboard is laid out in a standard keyboard format with a variety of special and international symbols. Titles can be created using a VCR and television set and can be stored in memory for up to one year if the backup battery is installed.

Read these instructions thoroughly, experiment and familiarize yourself with the push button simplicity of the ScreenWriter.

ScreenWriter demo program included, see enclosed sheet.

**NOW WITH  
12 STANDARD  
AND 3 ZOOM  
PAGES**

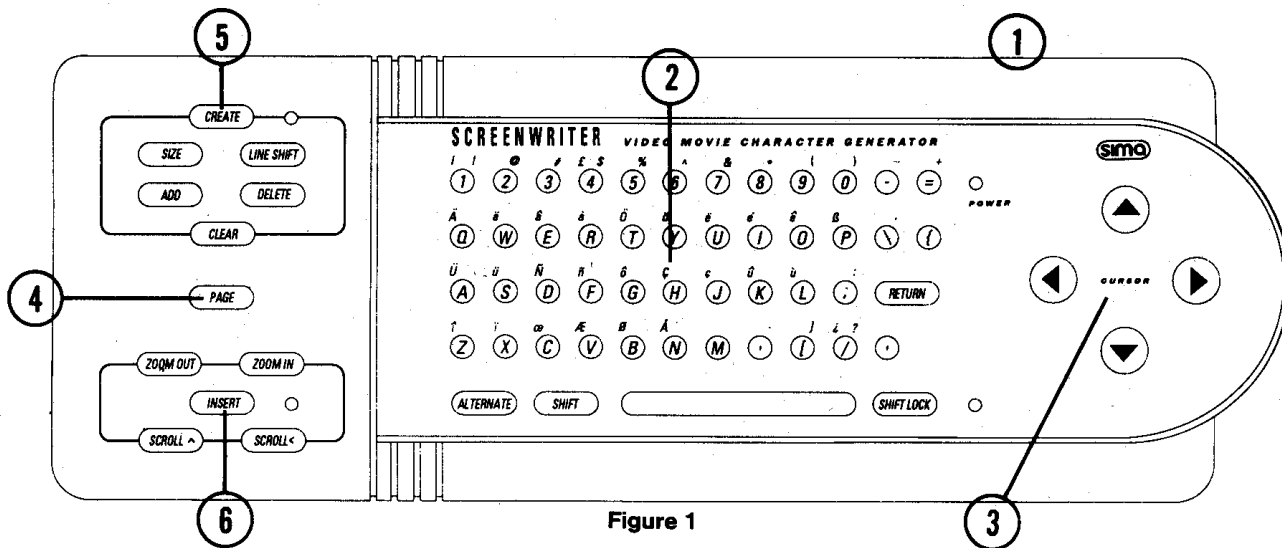


Figure 1

## CONTROLS

1. **POWER**  
Located on the rear panel. Activates power to the unit when the AC adapter is connected. The green power LED will light when power is on.
  2. **MAIN KEYBOARD**  
These keys are capable of generating up to three different characters.
    - A. **NORMAL Mode**  
Characters shown on the key tops will be generated. Letters will be in lower case.
    - B. **SHIFT Mode**  
When the SHIFT key is depressed and released, followed by another key, the letter keys will generate upper case. All other keys will generate the characters shown in orange.  
**SHIFT LOCK**  
When the SHIFT LOCK key is depressed, the green LED next to it will light. The unit is now in permanent shift mode and shift mode characters will be generated. To leave the shift mode, depress the SHIFT LOCK again and the LED will go off.
    - C. **ALTERNATE Mode**  
When the ALTERNATE key is depressed and released followed by another key, the characters appearing in blue will be generated.
  - NOTE:** The characters will be placed on the screen when the selected key is released not when it is depressed.
  3. **CURSOR KEYS**  
Allows you to position the cursor anywhere on the screen. The cursor is a flashing block where characters can be inputted.
  4. **PAGE**  
When this key is depressed, followed by a number (1-15), a page in memory is selected to store a title which will be created or retrieve a previously created title.
  5. **CREATE**  
When this key is depressed, the green LED next to it will light indicating that you are in the Create mode. The following keys then become active.
    - A. **SIZE**  
Each depression shifts to the next of 4 character sizes, from the smallest to the largest.
    - B. **LINE SHIFT**  
When this key is engaged you will be able to move an entire line up, down, left or right using the cursor control keys.
    - C. **ADD**  
Allows you to add or insert characters.
    - D. **DELETE**  
Allows you to remove characters.
    - E. **CLEAR**  
Clears a page in memory
  6. **INSERT**  
When this key is depressed the green LED next to it will go on and the selected title will appear on the video output for review or recording. When depressed again, the title will disappear and the LED will go off.
    - A. **ZOOM IN**  
This key will cause the selected zoom page to begin with the smallest character size and increase in 4 steps to the largest.
    - B. **ZOOM OUT**  
This key will cause the selected Zoom page to begin with the largest character size and decrease in 4 steps to the smallest.
- NOTE:** Zoom can only be used with pages 13, 14 and 15
- C. **SCROLL ^**  
This key will cause the selected standard page to move from the bottom to the top, line by line.
  - D. **SCROLL <**  
This key will cause the selected standard page to move in a single line from right to left, across the bottom of the screen.
- NOTE:** Scroll can only be used with pages 1-12.



## SET UP

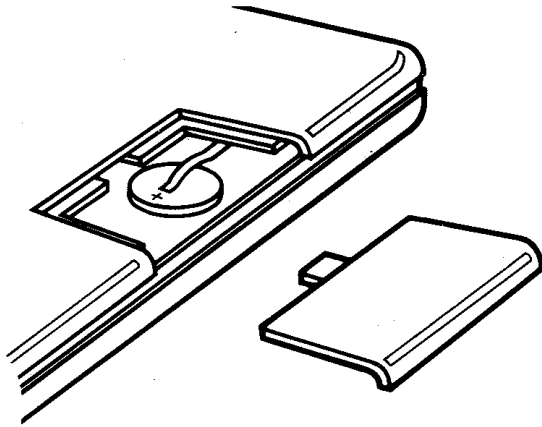
### 1. Installation of the backup battery.

In order to save the titles you have created, the backup battery provided must be installed. This should be done before power is applied to the unit. See Figure 3.

- Slide open the battery compartment door
- Insert the battery with the plus sign (+) showing
- Replace the battery compartment door.

The battery will last for about 1 year and should be replaced with a CR2025, CR2032 or equivalent.

Figure 3



### PRECAUTIONS REGARDING THE BACKUP DISC-BATTERY

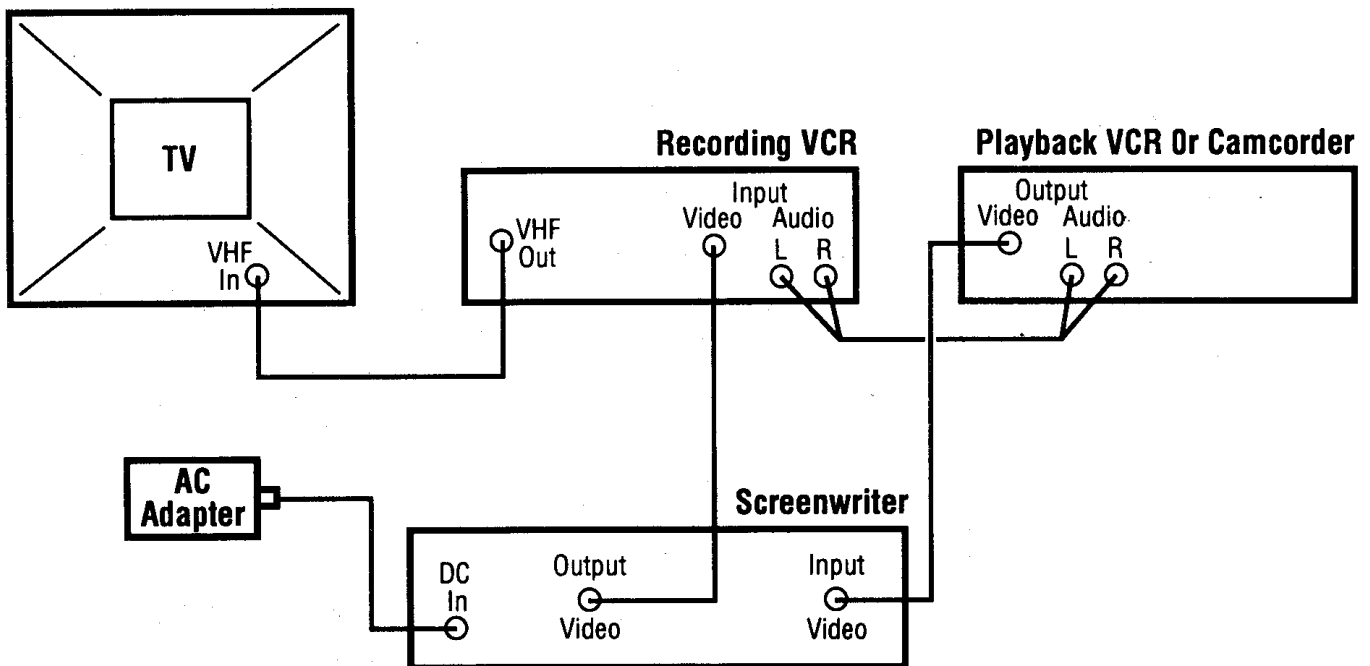
KEEP DISC-BATTERIES AWAY FROM CHILDREN. IF ONE SHOULD BE SWALLOWED, CONTACT A DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY.

- To avoid any possibility of explosion or leakage of chemicals, observe correct polarity when inserting the battery.
- Do not attempt to recharge, short-circuit or disassemble the battery.
- Do not heat or put into a fire.

### 2. Connect the ScreenWriter as shown in Figure 4.

- Make sure that the recording VCR has been switched to the Line mode if it has a Line/Tuner Switch. If you cannot find a Line/Tuner Switch, check your VCR manual to determine how to record using the Audio/Video inputs on your VCR.

Figure 4



# CREATING TITLES

## CREATING A STANDARD TITLE

All that is required to create a title with the Screen-Writer is a VCR with a television connected to the VHF output.

1. Turn on the ScreenWriter, VCR and television as if you were playing the VCR.
2. Depress the PAGE key.
3. Depress a number key, 1 to 12 to select a page.
4. Depress the CREATE KEY.

The green LED next to the CREATE key will go on.\* The television screen will show 10 lines of 24 boxes per line. The first block on the first line will blink. This is called the Cursor. At the top of the screen a P will appear with the number 1 thru 12 depending on which page you selected. Next to the P and number will be L1 indicating that you are on the first line.

If all the white blocks do not appear or if random characters are present, press the CLEAR key and RETURN. This will clear out this page in memory and allow you to continue.

\*If a number key (1 to 15) was not depressed or if some other key was depressed after the PAGE and before CREATE, the following message will be displayed "PAGE 1 to 15 MUST BE SELECTED". If this happens start over and depress the PAGE key, depress a number and then CREATE.

5. You can change the character size by depressing the SIZE key. Each depression will change the size and number of blocks to show you how much room you have for your title. Only one character size can be used for each page. You can change the character size anytime during create by depressing the SIZE key. All the characters on the page will then change to the new size.\*
6. The CURSOR keys can be used at anytime to position the blinking block anywhere on the screen. Characters will be entered wherever the blinking block is located.
7. As characters are typed in, they will appear on the screen and the cursor will move one position to the right. (When the cursor reaches the last position on the line, it will not move any further. All characters inputted at this point will replace the previous character). Depressing the RETURN-key will take the cursor to the first character of the next line.
8. If you are creating a standard page and will not be scrolling it, your title is limited to the number of lines displayed on the screen. When you have completed creating the title, depress the CREATE key. The title will disappear and be stored in the memory.

\*If more characters per line were input than the next size allows, the excess characters will not be shown.

Eg.—if 15 characters were input in Size 1 on line 1 and then the size was changed to Size 2 the last 3 characters would not be shown. If the size was changed back to size-1 by stepping thru the 4 sizes, the originally inputted characters will be shown.

## CREATING A PAGE FOR SCROLLING

Any page, 1 through 12, can be scrolled when inserted. Nothing special has to be done when creating the page. However, when scrolling you can go beyond the lines displayed on the screen, up to 14 lines in total. If you will be using more than the number of lines displayed, create as instructed above for a standard page and proceed as follows.

1. When you reach the last character on the last line displayed and depress the RETURN key, all the displayed lines will shift up by one line and display the next line for accepting data. All pages are capable of storing 14 lines of information regardless which size of characters are used. The display can only show a limited number of lines depending on the size, but the remaining lines can be seen by using the cursor's up and down buttons.
2. When you reach the 14th line in memory, the words "LAST LINE" will appear in the upper right corner of the screen. When you reach the last character on the 14th line, the "LAST LINE" message will flash. No further characters can be inserted. If the return key is depressed while on the last character of the last line, the cursor will go to the first character of the last line.
3. When complete, depress the CREATE key. The green LED will turn off and you will exit this mode. The screen will go blank and the page will be committed to memory.

## CREATING A ZOOM PAGE

1. Depress the PAGE key.
2. Depress number 13, 14 or 15 (these are the Zoom pages).
3. Depress the CREATE KEY

The television will show 3 lines of 6 boxes per line. The first box in the first line will blink. The display will show P13, P14 or P15 in the upper left corner. The line number (L1) will appear next. The Zoom page will appear as Z1 for P12, Z2 for P14 or Z3 for P15.

In the Zoom mode, you can only use 3 lines of 6 characters each. All other operations are the same as for creating a standard page.

**NOTE:** Keep a record of the title information on each page placed in memory. This will assure that, when you actually insert the title, you will be calling up the correct page.

<p><b>STANDARD TITLES ... PAGES 1 TO 12</b> <b>ZOOM TITLES ..... PAGES 13 TO 15</b></p>
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## CONVENIENT FEATURES WHICH WILL MAKE CREATING TITLES EASIER

### ADDING CHARACTERS

The ADD key can be used to correct errors or insert characters.

When the ADD key is depressed, the word "ADD" will flash on the top line in the center of the screen. The CURSOR position keys can now be used to place the cursor at the point that the new character or characters are to be added. As a character is depressed, all the characters beginning with the cursor will be shifted by one character to the right. The new character will be inserted into the position vacated by the cursor. As long as you are in the ADD mode, you can continue inserting new characters. If enough characters are added so that the line is shifted all the way to the right, all characters going off the screen will be lost. When the ADD key is depressed again, the ADD will disappear from the screen and the unit returned to the normal mode. In normal mode, anytime a character is depressed, it will appear exactly where the cursor is. It will replace any character that may already be there.

### DELETING CHARACTERS

The DELETE key can be used to eliminate a character and close up the line. The CURSOR keys should be used to place the cursor on the character to be deleted. When the DELETE key is depressed, the character at the cursor disappears and all characters to the right of the cursor will shift left to fill in the vacancy. One character is deleted for each depression of the DELETE key. The DELETE key can be used while in the ADD mode.

### LINE SHIFT

The LINE SHIFT key allows you to move a complete line to a new location on the same line. Using the CURSOR position keys, place the cursor on the first character of the line that is to be moved. Depress the LINE SHIFT key. The word SHIFT will begin flashing in the center of the top line on the screen. Now using the

cursor position key, place the cursor at the new location for the first character on the same line. Depress the RETURN key. The line will now be shifted to the new location.

This feature is particularly convenient for centering lines of characters. You can create a line without concern for centering it and center it afterwards.

To shift to a new line, place the cursor anywhere on the line to be moved. Depress the LINE SHIFT key. The word SHIFT will begin flashing in the center of the top line on the screen. Using the CURSOR position keys, move the cursor to the new line. Press the RETURN key. The line will be moved to the new line.

**NOTE:** If you move to a new line where previous information exists, the previous characters will be eliminated and replaced with the line that was moved. If you move the line to the right and there are insufficient locations to accept the line, all characters at the end will be lost.

If you depress the LINE SHIFT and change your mind, press the LINE SHIFT again to exit.

### CLEARING A PAGE

The CLEAR key is used to completely erase a page in memory. A two step process is required so that you cannot accidentally erase a page. If you want to erase a page, select the page and enter the Create mode. Depress the CLEAR button. The word CLEAR will begin flashing in the center of the top line on the screen. If you are sure that you want to clear this page, depress RETURN. The page will be cleared and the unit will remain in the Create mode so that a new title can be created. The cursor will go to the first character position in the first line.

If after depressing the CLEAR button you decide to not clear the page, depress the CLEAR a second time. This will return you to the Create mode.

## CHECKING A TITLE

A Title can be checked at any time. It can be checked with the ScreenWriter connected only to the recording VCR as it was during creating, or with a playback VCR connected and playing a tape so that the title can be checked overlaying your video. The recording VCR must be on but does not have to be recording.

### 1. STANDARD TITLE

- Depress the ScreenWriter PAGE key and the number of the title page you want to check.
- Press INSERT and the title will be displayed.
- Press INSERT again and the title will disappear.

### 2. SCROLLING TITLE

- Depress PAGE key and the number of the title page to check.
- Depress one of the SCROLL keys.
- Depress INSERT.
- Press INSERT again and the title will disappear.

### 3. ZOOMING TITLE

- Depress PAGE key and number 13, 14 or 15.
- Depress one of the ZOOM keys.
- Depress INSERT.
- Press INSERT again and the title will disappear.

## INSERTING TITLES

The title pages which have been stored in the ScreenWriters memory can easily be inserted as your videotape is being transferred or edited, with the touch of a button. Instructions are presented below for inserting

a standard title, scrolling or zoom.

Your system should be connected as shown in Figure 4. The original tape should be in the playback VCR or camcorder and a new tape in the recording VCR.

## STANDARD TITLE

(PAGES 1 THRU 12)

1. Turn on all units.
2. Put the playback VCR in play and the recording VCR in record. If connected properly a picture should appear on the television screen.
3. Depress the PAGE key in the ScreenWriter, and the number of the title page you want to insert.
4. When the point on the tape where you want to insert the title is reached, depress the INSERT key. The title will now appear on top of the picture being played\*. Depressing INSERT again will remove the title.
5. A second title page can now be selected by following the same steps for a different page number.

\*If the title does not appear, repeat steps 3 & 4. If the title still does not appear, the memory page selected is empty. The created title was either stored in a different page or it was not created correctly. Go back and check the pages to find the location of the title or re-create the title again.

## SCROLLING

Standard title pages can also be scrolled.

### SCROLL UP

1. Depress the PAGE key and select the number of the page you want to scroll (1-12).
2. Depress SCROLL  $\Delta$ .
3. At the point on the tape where you want to insert the title, press the INSERT key. There will be a 1 to 2 second delay before the scrolling starts. The first line of the selected page will appear on the bottom line of the screen and step upward with the next line right behind it. This will continue until all lines on that page have shifted up and off the screen at the top. If all 14 lines are filled then all 14 lines will scroll upward.

If another page of scrolling is wanted to follow behind the first selected page, then after the scrolling has started for the first selected page, the PAGE key and the next page number should be depressed. This will cause the second selected page to begin scrolling after the last line of the first page has scrolled off the top of the screen. All blank lines on a page will appear blank during scrolling. If all 5 pages of memory are to be scrolled, it should be done in the following way.

Enter Page 2 when Page 1 is scrolling.

Enter Page 3 when Page 2 is scrolling.

Enter Page 4 when Page 3 is scrolling.

Enter Page 5 when Page 4 is scrolling.

4. After scrolling is completed, the INSERT key should be depressed again to get out of the insert mode.

**NOTE:** If INSERT is depressed any time during the scrolling process, the entire process will stop and the title will be removed from the screen.

If the SCROLL  $\Delta$  key is depressed during the scrolling process, the scrolling will stop and the title will remain in position on the screen. If the SCROLL  $\Delta$  is depressed again, the scrolling will continue.

### TYPEWRITER SCROLL:

1. Depress the PAGE key and select the number of the page you want to Scroll (1-12).
2. Depress SCROLL  $\leftarrow$ .
3. Depress INSERT.

There will be a 1 to 2 second delay before the scrolling starts. The first character of the first line will appear on the bottom line of the picture at the right side. The characters will move one by one from right to left. When the end of the line is reached, the second line will immediately follow it.\*

The same functions can be used as described in the Scroll Up section.

\*Any spaces left between the last character on a line and the end of the line will appear as spaces during typewriter scrolling. A word can be split between 2 lines for typewriter scrolling. A word can be split between 2 lines for typewriter scrolling. A part of a word can be put at the end of one line and continued on the next line. The word will appear complete during typewriter scrolling.

## ZOOMING

Pages 13, 14 and 15 of memory have been defined as zoom pages.

### ZOOM IN

1. Depress the PAGE key and select the number of the page you want to zoom (13, 14 or 15).
2. Depress ZOOM IN.
3. Depress INSERT.

The title will appear in the center of the screen in the smallest size and step thru all 4 sizes until the largest is displayed and then remain there.

If ZOOM OUT is depressed, the title will step down

to the smallest size and stay there. If ZOOM IN is depressed again, the title will jump to the smallest size and step up to largest size again.

If INSERT is depressed, the title will disappear.

### ZOOM OUT

1. Depress the PAGE key and select the number of the page you want to zoom (13, 14 or 15).
2. Depress ZOOM OUT.
3. Depress INSERT.

This works in exactly the same way as ZOOM IN except it starts with the largest characters first.



## TROUBLE SHOOTING SUGGESTIONS

Check the following list of problems and remedies before calling service personnel. The problem may be one you can solve yourself.

PROBLEM	CAUSE	REMEDY	
Power	Power LED does not go on	Switch is off	Turn switch on
		Adapter is not attached to the ScreenWriter	Attach adapter cable to the ScreenWriter
		Adapter is not plugged into a good outlet	Try a different outlet
Create	Page does not appear on TV screen after depressing "PAGE" "number 1-15" "CREATE"	VCR or TV not turned on	Turn on VCR and TV
		ScreenWriter, VCR and TV not connected correctly	Check connections as shown in Fig. 4
		VCR input not switched to line	Switch VCR to line input to accept signals thru the A/V connections. Refer to VCR manual
		VCR output not switched to VCR	Switch to VCR
		TV not switched to channel 3 or 4	Select channel 3 or 4 depending on what the VCR output is set to.
Memory	Previously created title cannot be recalled or characters are missing	Title was saved on a different page	Check the other pages
		Backup battery not installed	Install battery and re-create title
	Empty page is accessed and random characters are present	Backup battery is dead	Replace backup battery
		Backup battery has just been installed	Use clear button to clear page
		Backup battery is dead	Replace battery and use clear button

**For Technical Assistance  
Call  
800-345-7462**

## **LIMITED WARRANTY**

SIMA PRODUCTS CORP. ("COMPANY") warrants that if the accompanying product proves to be defective to the original purchaser in material or workmanship within 90 days for the date of original retail purchase, the company will, at the company's option, either repair or replace same without charge (but no cash refund will be made).

### **What you must do to enforce Warranty**

You must deliver, mail or ship the product, together with both the original bill of sale and the Limited Warranty statement as proof of warranty coverage to Sima Products Corp., Customer Service, 140 Pennsylvania Ave., Bldg. #5, Oakmont, PA 15139 USA

### **Exclusions**

The Limited Warranty covers all defects in material and workmanship in the product, except damage resulting from accident, misuse, abuse, attempted repair by anyone other than the Company, neglect or from their normal and ordinary use of the product. This Limited Warranty does not include the cost of installation, removal and re-installation. The Company accepts no obligation or liabilities for consequential or incidental damage arising out of or in connection with the use or performance of the product. This Limited Warranty provides you with specific legal rights, you may have additional legal rights provided to you under the laws of your state or federal laws.

# **sima**®

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