

PG-Chek

Automotive Coolant-Fluid Tester User Guide



INTRODUCTION:

We at Reichert Analytical Instruments would like to extend our appreciation to you for purchasing this instrument. It is our mission to provide a quality product at a very competitive price and we feel this instrument will prove its value time and again to you.

FEATURES:



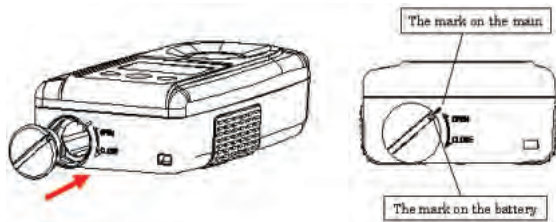
Using a PG-Chek to test freeze points following the American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM) Standard Practice D3321 provides results that are precise to $\pm 1.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($\pm 0.6^{\circ}\text{C}$) reading a 50 vol % aqueous solution of propylene glycol. By comparison, a hydrometer is only precise to $\pm 8.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($\pm 4.4^{\circ}\text{C}$).

When testing the boiling point, the displayed value represents the boiling point under actual conditions where the fluid is under pressure in the vehicle cooling system. The added pressure, which is controlled by design from the vehicle manufacturer, enables the fluid to increase in temperature without boiling in the system.

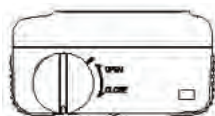
It should be noted that it is recommended that the vehicle manufacturers recommendations be followed concerning concentration for best heat transfer and component protection of the cooling system.

SIMPLE SET UP:

1. Insert the included batteries with positive side facing outward.



2. Align small mark found on the battery cover with mark found on the instrument body and insert cover as shown above.
3. Rotate the cover in the clock wise direction until it is in the position shown to the right.



CLEANING:

Cleaning of the measurement surface and well should be performed immediately after each sample reading. Never immerse the instrument in any liquid. When the measurement surface and well have been completely cleaned no residue should be present.

To properly clean the sample well and glass measurement surface use a mild soap and water solution or Isopropyl Alcohol followed by a distilled water rinse and then thoroughly dry with a soft lint and residue free cloth or a product such as Kimwipes®.

To clean the refractometer's body use a soft cloth with a mild cleaning solution like window cleaner applied to a cloth and follow by wiping the instrument dry.

CLEANING PRECAUTIONS:

1. Never use any harsh cleaning agents that will damage the instrument.
2. Strong solvents should never be used. Such chemicals will deteriorate the prism seal and attack individual component material which will adversely affect or destroy the instrument.

CALIBRATION:

1. Be sure that the measuring surface and well are clean as outlined under the "Cleaning" section.
2. Apply distilled water to the measurement surface.
3. Allow time for the distilled water sample to temperature equilibrate to that of the instrument.
4. Press and hold the "CAL" key until CAL is displayed. While still holding the "CAL" key press the "READ" key and then release both keys.
5. A series of dashed lines will appear and successful calibration will be indicated when the word END is displayed.

CAUTION:

1. Due to the nature of cooling system automotive fluids, to avoid possible injury, Reichert recommends that safety glasses and gloves be worn when extracting a sample from the vehicles cooling system.
2. The radiator cap should not be removed while the car is running or the engine is warm. Coolant fluid which is warm and under pressure in the radiator could cause personal injury.

SAMPLE ANALYSIS:

Before analyzing a sample, it should be noted that to attain the greatest accuracy the refractometer should be calibrated at the same temperature as the environment that it will be used in. As an example; if the environment that the instrument is being used in changes by five degrees, then the instrument should be re-calibrated.

1. Inspect the glass measuring surface and well to be sure that there is no residue remaining from a previous sample analysis. If the measuring surface and well does not appear to be clean, then refer to the cleaning section of this user guide before proceeding.
2. Extract the sample to be tested and apply adequate sample to the sample well to completely cover the glass measuring surface. Minimum sample size is 0.3 mL.
3. Allow time for the sample to reach the same temperature as the instrument. Failure to do so will result in inaccurate measurement.
4. Press the "READ" key and note the displayed value and the position of the annunciator. The annunciator should be located below the fluid scale that you are attempting to attain a reading for. If the position of the annunciator is not located under the desired scale, then press the "SCALE" key until the annunciator position indicates the correct scale.

SCALES:

To change the reading mode scale between %, freeze point and boiling point, press the "SCALE" key to toggle through those choices. The annunciator displayed on the screen denotes the active scale.

Displaying Actual Temperature:

To display the temperature at the measuring surface, momentarily press the "CAL" button while the sample value is displayed.

AUTOMATIC TEMPERATURE COMPENSATION:

All Reichert refractometers are automatically temperature compensated assuring extremely accurate results. Automatic temperature compensation corrects readings over a range of temperatures. As an example; samples taken within the working temperature range of the instrument are corrected to a reference temperature of 68° F (20° C). Temperature compensation is essential because refractive index varies inversely with temperature. This feature is used in lieu of temperature control of the measuring surface and sample. For this feature to be effective however, it is necessary to allow the sample to temperature equilibrate to the ambient temperature of the measuring surface. Without allowing for temperature equilibration of the sample the read values will not be as accurate as they could be since the sample will be in a state of temperature and refractive index change.

ERROR CODES:

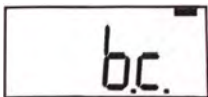
- Err01 - No sample present. Add sample.
- Err02 - Inadequate sample. Add additional sample.
- Err03 - Sample exceeds the refractive index reading range.
- Err04 - Sample temperature has not equilibrated. Allow more time for temperature equilibration.
- Err05 - Excessive ambient light. Cover sample well when reading.
- Err06 - Excessive ambient light. Cover sample well when reading.
- Err07 - Positive calibration error. Re-calibrate with distilled water.
- Err08 - Negative calibration error. Re-calibrate with distilled water.
- Err09 - Poor sample condition. Sample may not be able to be read.
- Err10 - Sample type may not be able to be read.
- Err12 - Index of sample is out of range of instrument.
- Err5X - For any errors in this series contact Reichert Analytical Instruments for technical assistance.

BATTERY CONDITION:

The following display examples represent either a low battery condition or an extremely low battery condition where the instrument will no longer operate properly. In either case the batteries should be promptly replaced.



Battery condition low.
Replace Batteries.



Battery condition extremely low.
Replace Batteries.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Catalog - 13940026 (deg F) / 13940027 (deg C)

Reading Scales - % = Percent, propylene glycol antifreeze
Freeze point = propylene glycol antifreeze (FP)
Boiling point = propylene glycol antifreeze (BP)

Reading Ranges,

% (PG), 0 thru 95 percent

PG FP, 32° thru -60°F / 0° thru -51°C, Accuracy +/- 1°F /0.6°C

PG BP, 242° thru 345°F / 117° thru 174°C, Accuracy +/- 1°F /0.6°C

Calibration - Distilled Water

Automatic Temperature Compensation - 68°F (20°C)

The built in temperature compensation mode is based on the temperature coefficients that have been calculated for the individual solutions offered in this instrument.

Prism - Glass

Illumination - 589nm LED

Dimensions - 54 x 27 x 100 mm / 2.13 x 1.06 x 3.9 inches

Power - 2 AAA Batteries, included.

Battery life - 10,000 readings, Auto Off Sleep Mode.

Ratings - IP65 Dustproof/Water Resistant, CE, RoHS, and WEEE compliant.

Warranty - One year against manufacturing defects. Evidence of tampering voids warranty.



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