



**Tracer™** Salt/EC/TDS  
PockeTester

Code 1749



Pool Professional's Meter!

# **TRACER™**

**SAL/EC/TDS POCKETESTER • CODE 1749**

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## INTRODUCTION

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Congratulations on your purchase of the SAL/EC/TDS (Conductivity/Total Dissolved Solids/Salinity) TRACER Pocket Tester. The TRACER offers direct reading of salinity, conductivity, and TDS with one electrode. Careful use and maintenance will provide years of reliable service.

## SPECIFICATIONS

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|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Display                | 2000 count LCD with Bar Graph  |
| Conductivity Range     | 0 to 199.9 $\mu$ S<br>200 to 1999 $\mu$ S<br>2.00 to 19.99 mS  |
| TDS Range              | 0 to 9,990 ppm (variable ratio)  |
| Salinity Range         | 0 to 9,990 ppm Salt (fixed ratio of 0.5)   |
| TDS Ratio              | 0.4 to 1.0, adjustable   |
| Salinity Ratio         | 0.5 fixed  |
| Conductivity ATC       | 2.0% per $^{\circ}$ C  |
| Temperature Range      | 32.0 to 149.0 $^{\circ}$ F, 0.0 to 65.0 $^{\circ}$ C   |
| Temperature Resolution | 0.1 up to 99.9, 1>100  |
| Temperature Accuracy   | $\pm$ 1.8 $^{\circ}$ F, 1 $^{\circ}$ C (from 32 to 122 $^{\circ}$ F, 0 to 50 $^{\circ}$ C) $\pm$ 5.4 $^{\circ}$ F,<br>3 $^{\circ}$ C (from 122 to 194 $^{\circ}$ F, 50 to 90 $^{\circ}$ C) |
| Conductivity ATC Range | 32.0 $^{\circ}$ F to 140 $^{\circ}$ F, (0.0 $^{\circ}$ C to 60.0 $^{\circ}$ C)   |
| Accuracy               | Conductivity: $\pm$ 2% FS<br>TDS: $\pm$ 2% FS<br>Salinity: $\pm$ 2% FS   |
| Measurement Storage    | 25 numbered readings   |
| Low Battery Indication | 'BAT' appears on the display   |
| Power                  | Four CR 2032 Lithium Ion batteries   |
| Auto Power Off         | After 10 minutes of no button presses  |
| Operating Conditions   | 23 to 122 $^{\circ}$ F, -5 to 50 $^{\circ}$ C  |
| Dimensions             | 1.6 X 7.4 X 1.6 inches, 40 X 187 X 40 mm   |
| Weight                 | 3.1 oz, 87 g   |

## **CONTENTS**

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|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| SAL/EC/TDS TRACER PockeTester Kit | Code 1749   |
| Includes:                         |             |
| Salinity Standard, 3,000 ppm      | Code 6005-G |
| Sample Cup w/cap †                |             |

† Not sold individually. See below.

## **PARTS & ACCESSORIES**

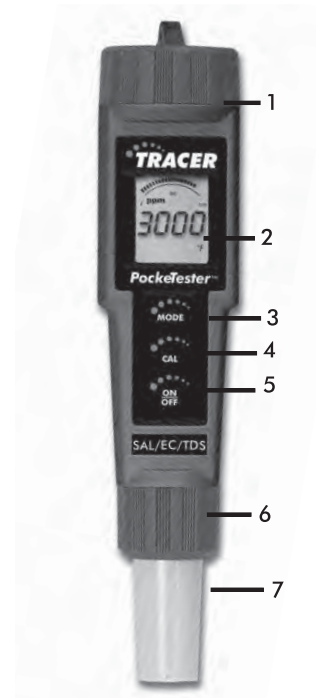
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|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| SAL/EC/TDS Replacement Electrode           | Code 1765   |
| Weighted Stand w/Sample Cups (5)           | Code 1746   |
| Sample Cups w/caps (24)                    | Code 1745   |
| Conductivity Standard, 84 $\mu$ S, 30 mL   | Code 6312-G |
| Conductivity Standard, 1413 $\mu$ S, 30 mL | Code 6354-G |
| Salinity Standard, 3,000 ppm, 30 mL        | Code 6005-G |

## METER DESCRIPTION

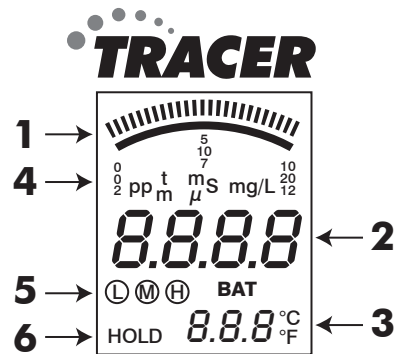
### Front Panel Description

1. Battery compartment cap
  2. LCD Display
  3. MODE button - change mode, hold data, store data
  4. CAL button - calibration, change temperature units, recall data
  5. ON/OFF button
  6. Electrode Collar
  7. Electrode
- (Note: The Electrode cap is not shown)



### TRACER Display

1. Bar graph display
2. Main display
3. Temperature display
4. Measurement units
5. Range calibration and low battery indicators
6. Reading hold indicator



## **BASIC OPERATION**

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### **Powering the TRACER**

The Tracer uses four CR2032 Lithium Ion batteries. If the batteries are weak, the *BAT* indicator will appear on the display. Press the ON/OFF key to turn the TRACER on or off. The auto power off feature will shut the TRACER off automatically after ten minutes of inactivity.

### **Automatic Calibration**

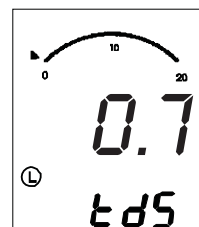
When the TRACER is turned on, it will enter the Automatic Calibration mode. *SELF* and *CAL* will appear while the calibration is in progress. After the calibration is completed, the *SELF* and *CAL* display icons will extinguish.

### **TDS Compensation Ratio**

The TDS value is determined by multiplying the conductivity measurement by a known conversion ratio factor. The meter allows the selection of a conversion ratio factor in the range of 0.4 to 1.0. The selected ratio will vary with application but is typically set between 0.5 and 0.7. In the salinity mode, the ratio is fixed at 0.5. The stored ratio factor will briefly appear in the lower temperature display when the meter is first turned on or when changing the measurement function to TDS.

#### **To Change the TDS Conversion Ratio:**

1. Turn the TRACER on.
2. Press and release the CAL button twice.  
The stored ratio will appear in the display.
3. Press the MODE button to change the ratio value in steps of 0.1.
4. When the desired ratio is displayed, press and release the CAL button to store the value and return to the normal mode.
5. If no buttons are pressed for 5 seconds, the meter will return to the measurement mode.



### Changing Temperature Units

To change the displayed temperature units between °F or °C:

1. With the TRACER off, press and hold the CAL button.
2. With the CAL button pressed, momentarily press the ON/OFF button. When *SELF CAL* appears in the display, release the CAL button. The TRACER will return to the operational mode with the temperature displayed in the new units.

### Data Hold

Press the MODE button to freeze the current reading. The HOLD icon will appear, the reading will be stored. Press the MODE key to return to normal operation.

### Auto Power Off

The auto-power off feature will automatically shut the meter off 10 minutes after the last button was pressed. To disable the auto-off feature:

1. Press the ON/OFF button to turn the meter on.
2. Wait for the *SELF* display screen to appear. This is the second screen to appear after turning on the meter. **IMPORTANT:** Review the instructions for the next 3 steps before proceeding. Step 3 must be followed immediately by Step 4.
3. Press CAL button once quickly.
4. Press MODE and ON/OFF buttons simultaneously for approximately two seconds. Quickly release buttons.
5. *OFF* will be displayed on the screen. Watch carefully. It will disappear quickly.
6. The auto power off feature will be restored automatically when the meter is turned off. Auto-off is the default function when the meter is turned on.

### Low Battery Indicator

The “*BAT*” indicator will be displayed when the batteries become weak. Refer to the maintenance section for battery replacement information

## TESTING

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### Getting Started

1. Remove the cap from the bottom of the TRACER to expose the electrode.
2. Before the first use, rinse the electrode in deionized water and dry.
3. For best results, calibrate for conductivity with a standard in the expected range of the sample. For maximum accuracy calibrate from low conductivity value standards to high conductivity value standards.
4. Store dry.

### Changing the Measurement Function

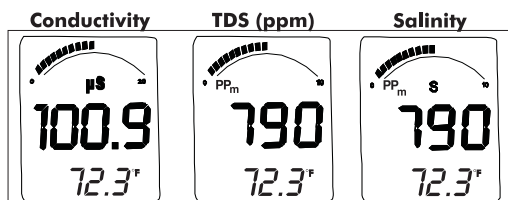
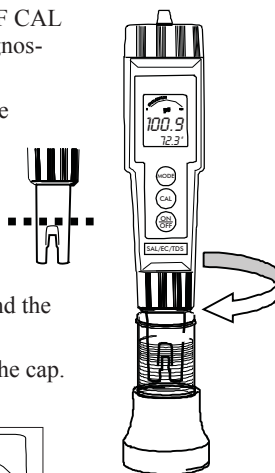
The meter can be set to measure Conductivity, TDS (ppm), TDS (mg/L) or Salinity (ppm). To change the mode:

1. Turn the TRACER on.
2. Press and hold the MODE button for 2 seconds. The display will begin to scroll through the units.
  - μS or mS (Conductivity)
  - ppm (TDS)
  - ppm (Salinity "S")
3. Release the MODE key when the desired mode is displayed.
4. Note that the "HOLD" function can not be on when changing functions.



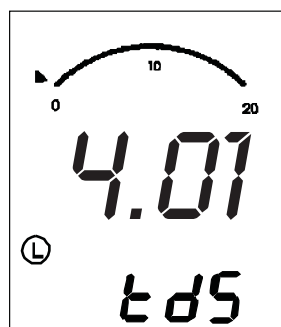
### Measurement

1. Fill a sample cup to the 20 mL line with the test sample. Sample depth must be greater than or equal to 1.5 inches.
2. Immerse the TRACER electrode in the sample. Make sure the electrode is completely submerged.
3. Press the ON/OFF button. (8888 and then SELF CAL will appear in the display during the initial diagnostics).
4. Press and hold the MODE button to scroll to the desired measurement mode.
5. Insert the electrode into the sample making sure that the electrodes are completely submerged.
6. Slowly stir the sample with the TRACER to remove air bubbles.
7. The meter will autorange to the proper range and the reading will be displayed.
8. Rinse the electrode in distilled water. Replace the cap.



### Measuring the TDS of Soil

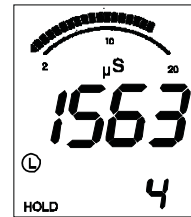
1. Fill a 50 mL beaker with the soil sample. Tap the beaker lightly on a hard surface to remove trapped air. Remove excess soil from the surface.
2. Empty the soil into a 250 mL wide-mouth flask.
3. Add 100 mL of distilled water. Stopper and shake vigorously.
4. Wait 30 minute. (Shake the flask vigorously three or four times during this period.)



5. Filter the contents of the flask. Collect the filtrate in a beaker.
6. Rinse the electrode with distilled or deionized water to remove impurities.
7. Press the ON/OFF button to turn the TRACER on. Make sure the meter is in the TDS mode.
8. Immerse the electrode in the filtrate. Make sure the tip of the electrode is completely immersed.
9. Stir the filtrate with the electrode to create a homogeneous solution.
10. Gently stir the filtrate with the electrode. Read the TDS value of the filtrate from the display.
11. Rinse the electrode in distilled water. Replace the cap.

#### Storing Readings

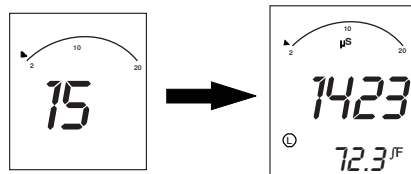
1. After the reading is displayed press and hold the MODE button to store the current reading. The meter will enter the HOLD mode and HOLD will be displayed. The storage location number will be displayed on the lower display followed by the reading being stored.
2. Press the MODE button to exit the HOLD mode and return to normal operation.
3. If an attempt is made to store more than 25 readings, the stored readings will be overwritten starting with the first reading.



#### Recalling Stored Readings

NOTE: First ensure that the HOLD symbol is not displayed. If it is, exit the HOLD function by pressing the MODE button.

1. Press the CAL button and then press the MODE button; the location number (1 through 25) will briefly appear and then the value stored in that location will appear. The displayed units will flash, indicating that the storage recall mode is active.



2. The last stored reading taken will be displayed first. To advance to the previously stored readings, press the MODE button. The location number is displayed first, followed by the reading stored in that location.
3. To exit the storage mode, press the CAL button and the TRACER will return to normal operation after displaying “End”.

### **Clearing the Stored Memory**

Turn the TRACER on. Press and hold the ON/OFF button for 4 second the display will briefly display “clr” when the memory is cleared.

### **CALIBRATION**

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For the most accurate results, allow sufficient time for the temperature of the probe to reach the temperature of the sample before calibrating. This will be indicated by a stable temperature reading on the display

Meter accuracy verification should be performed on a periodic basis as needed. If calibration is required, the meter must be in the salinity mode to perform a calibration for salinity, or in the conductivity mode to perform calibrations for conductivity, and TDS. The meter can perform a calibration and store the data for one range in the salinity mode and each of the three ranges – low, medium and high for the conductivity and TDS modes. The automatic calibration recognition procedure will recognize salinity standard 3,000 ppm (medium) and conductivity standards of 84  $\mu$ S (Low), 1413  $\mu$ S (Medium) or 12,880  $\mu$ S (12.88  $\mu$ S) (High). (See Page 5). Always calibrate in the range closest to the expected measurement value. For salinity samples within the range of 1,000 to 9,999 ppm salinity, calibrate with a 3,000 ppm calibration standard.

1. Fill a sample cup to 20 mL line with a calibration standard.  
NOTE: The meter allows for a 1, 2, or 3 point calibration for conductivity and TDS. If calibration is done for more than one point, the lowest concentration should be done first to obtain the best accuracy. Calibrate the ranges from low to high
2. Press the ON/OFF button to turn the TRACER on. Insert the electrode into the standard. Tap or stir the sample with the Tracer to dislodge air bubbles.
3. Press and hold the CAL button for approximately 2 seconds. “CAL” will appear and the display will flash.
4. The meter will automatically recognize and calibrate to the calibration standard. The display will briefly indicate “SA” and “End” and then return to the measurement mode.  
NOTE: “SA” will not appear if the calibration fails.

5. The calibration range indicator will appear on the display for each range that is calibrated during a power on cycle.

- Ⓐ Low Range, 84  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$
- Ⓑ Medium Range, 1413  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  or 3,000 ppm SaH
- Ⓒ High Range, 12.88 mS/cm (12,880  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ )

NOTE: Each time the calibration mode is entered all calibration range indicators will be cleared, but only the calibration data for the currently selected range will be replaced. In the conductivity/TDS modes, the calibrations for the other two ranges will be saved even though the indicators for those ranges are no longer displayed. Calibration of all three ranges must be performed during one power on period for all three calibration range indicators to be displayed.

## OPERATIONAL MATRIX

| Function/<br>Resulting Action | Power     | Mode             | Key Press Sequence   |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------|--|
| On/Off                        | On or Off | Any              | Momentary press of ON/OFF button   |
| Calibration                   | On        | Con              | Press & hold CAL button for 2 seconds until CAL is displayed                                 |
| Store Reading                 | On        | Any              | Momentary press of MODE button   |
| Hold Release                  | On        | Hold             | Momentary press of MODE button   |
| Enter Memory Retrieval        | On        | Any              | Momentary press of CAL button followed by a momentary press of MODE button within 4 seconds. |
| Scroll Stored Readings        | On        | Memory Recall    | Momentary press of MODE button Displays last in first out.                                   |
| Exit Memory Retrieval         | On        | Memory Recall    | Momentary press of CAL button  |
| Clear Stored Memory           | On        | Any Measure Mode | Press and hold the ON/OFF button for 4 seconds until "clr" is displayed.                     |
| Change Measurement Mode       | On        | Any              | Press and hold MODE button for 2 seconds. Modes will scroll by until button is released      |

| Function/<br>Resulting Action | Power | Mode              | Key Press Sequence   |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------|--|
| Enter CON/TDS Ratio           | On    | TDS (ppm or mg/L) | Press and release the CAL button twice in quick succession.  |
| Change CON/TDS Ratio          | On    | TDS (ppm or mg/L) | Momentary press of MODE button. Each press increases ratio by 0.1 from 0.4 to 1.0.   |
| Exit CON/TDS Ratio            | On    | TDS (ppm or mg/L) | Momentary press of CAL button.   |
| Change Temperature Units      | On    | (off mode)        | Press and hold CAL button then momentarily press ON/OFF button. Release CAL button after "Self Cal" is displayed.            |
| Override Auto Power Off       | On    | Any               | Momentarily press CAL button then simultaneously press and hold CAL and MODE buttons for 2 seconds until "oFF" is displayed. |
| Default Reset                 | Off   | n/a               | Simultaneously press ON/OFF, CAL and MODE buttons momentarily. "dFlt" will be displayed.                                     |

## MAINTENANCE

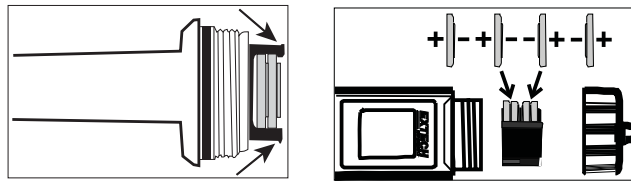
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### Storage

1. Rinse the electrode in distilled or deionized water.
2. Store the electrode dry with the cap on.
3. Always rinse the electrode in deionized water between measurements to avoid cross contamination. Double rinsing is recommended when high accuracy is required.

### Battery Replacement

1. Twist off the battery compartment cap.
2. Hold the battery housing in place with one finger. Remove the battery carrier by pulling on the small tabs.
3. Replace the four CR2032 batteries. Observe polarity.
4. Replace the battery compartment cap.



You, as the end user, are legally bound (**EU Battery ordinance**) to return all used batteries, **disposal in the household garbage is prohibited!** You can hand over your used batteries / accumulators at collection points in your community or wherever batteries / accumulators are sold!

Disposal: Follow the valid legal stipulations in respect of the disposal of the device at the end of its lifecycle.

### Electrode Care

1. Always rinse the electrode in distilled or deionized water between measurements to avoid cross-contamination of the samples. Double rinsing is recommended when high accuracy is required.
2. Do not touch the electrodes. Touching the surface of the platinized electrodes may damage and reduce the life of the electrodes.

### Replacing the electrode

1. Unscrew and remove the electrode collar. Turn collar counter-clockwise.
2. Gently rock the electrode side to side, while pulling it away from the meter, until it disconnects from the electrode socket.
3. To attach an electrode, align the slots and carefully plug the electrode into the meter socket. CAUTION: Take care to align pins carefully. Bent or broken pins will cause the meter to malfunction.
4. Firmly tighten the electrode collar to create a seal with the rubber gasket between the electrode and the meter.

### Electrode Cleaning Recommendations

Do not soak the electrode in the solutions for longer than the recommended length of time. To do so may cause a reference potential shift which will cause a degradation in performance or failure. When cleaning the probe, do not scratch or damage the platinized electrode surfaces.

| Contaminant                         | Cleaning Solution                  | Procedure   |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Water soluble substances            | Deionized water                    | Soak or scrub with a soft brush. Rinse thoroughly with DI water and dry.                          |
| Grease and oil                      | Warm water and household detergent | Soak or scrub with a soft brush, maximum 10 minutes. Rinse thoroughly with DI water and dry.      |
| Heavy grease                        | Alcohol                            | Soak for a maximum of 5 minutes. Scrub with a soft brush. Rinse thoroughly with DI water and dry. |
| Lime and hydroxide coatings and oil | 10% Acetic acid                    | Soak until coating dissolves, maximum 5 minutes. Rinse thoroughly with DI water and dry.          |



## TROUBLESHOOTING

| Problem                                  | Check                  | Action  |
|--|------------------------|---|
| Reading is frozen                        | HOLD mode              | Press MODE button to exit HOLD mode   |
| “BAT” message                            | Batteries low          | Replace batteries   |
| Meter will not calibrate                 | Trapped air bubbles    | Tap probe or stir sample to release air bubbles   |
|  | Dirty probe            | Clean probe   |
|  | Damaged probe          | Replace probe   |
|  | Contaminated standards | Use fresh standards   |
| Meter will not turn on                   | Batteries low or dead  | Replace batteries   |
|  | Battery polarity       | Replace batteries with correct polarity   |
| Unit will not respond to any key presses | Internal fault         | Perform hard reboot. Remove batteries, hold ON/OFF button down for 5 seconds, replace batteries |
| “_oL_” message                           | Sample is out of range | Dilute sample   |

## **WARRANTY**

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LaMotte Company warrants this instrument to be free of defects in parts and workmanship for 1 year from the date of shipment and the probe to be free of defects in parts and workmanship for 6 months from the date of shipment. If it should become necessary to return the instrument for service during or beyond the warranty period, contact our T

for troubleshooting help. The sender is responsible for shipping charges, freight, insurance and proper packaging to prevent damage in transit. This warranty does not apply to defects resulting from action of the user such as misuse, improper wiring, operation outside of specification, improper maintenance or repair, or unauthorized modification. LaMotte Company specifically disclaims any implied warranties or merchantability or fitness for a specific purpose and will not be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental or consequential damages. LaMotte Company's total liability is limited to repair or replacement of the product. The warranty set forth above is inclusive and no other warranty, whether written or oral, is expressed or implied.