USER'S GUIDE

COM-100
EC / TDS / TEMP COMBO METER

CONTENTS

Overview……1
Contact Information……1
Specifications……1
Housing and Screen Description……2
Taking Measurements……3
Switching Modes……4
Calibration……5
EC-to-TDS Conversions and Temperature Coefficients…… 7
Care, Maintenance & Techniques……8
Troubleshooting……9
Warranty……10

OVERVIEW

Thank you for purchasing HM Digital's COM-100 Combo Meter. The COM-100 is a highly advanced handheld meter that is completely waterproof. The meter measures electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solids (TDS) and temperature. The COM-100 features three different conversion factors to convert from EC to TDS, using the KCl, 442™ and NaCl scales, as well as three temperature coefficients for each scale for both EC and TDS to automatically compensate for temperature differences higher or lower than 25° Celsius. Though the meter comes factory calibrated at 1413 micro-seimens (µS), it also features digital calibration for easy and precise calibration.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any problems or questions regarding your meter, please contact HM Digital, Inc.

HM Digital, Inc.
5819 Uplander Way
Culver City, CA 90230

info@hmdigital.com
www.tdsmeter.com
1-800-383-2777

SPECIFICATIONS

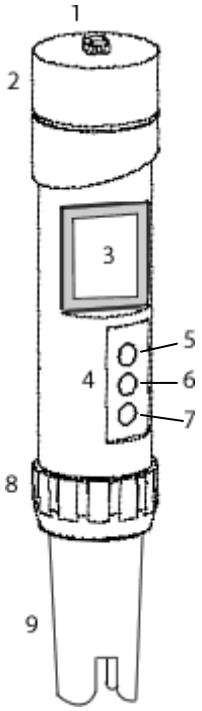
EC Range: 0 - 9990 µS
TDS Range: 0 - 8560 ppm (mg/L)
Temperature Range: 0-80 °C; 32-176 °F
Resolution:
- **EC:** 0-99: .1 µS; 100-999: 1 µS; 1000-9990: 10 µS
- **TDS:** 0-99: .1 ppm; 100-999: 1 ppm; 1000-9990: 10 ppm
- **Temperature:** .1 °C/F

Accuracy: +/- 2% F.S.
EC to TDS Conversion Factor: Pre-programmed, non-linear conversions for KCl, 442™ or NaCl solutions, selected by the user.
Temperature Compensation: Automatic (ATC) with three temperature coefficients
Calibration: Digital calibration by push button.
Auto shut-off: After 5 minutes

Probe: Detachable, with platinum electrodes
Display: LCD panel
Housing: Waterproof (submersible); floats
Power source: 3 x 1.5V button cell batteries (included), model LR44
Battery Life: Approximately 100 hours of usage (high ranges use greater power consumption)
Dimensions: 18.5 x 3.4 x 3.4 cm (7.3 x 1.3 x 1.3 inches)
Weight: 90.7g (3.2 oz) without case

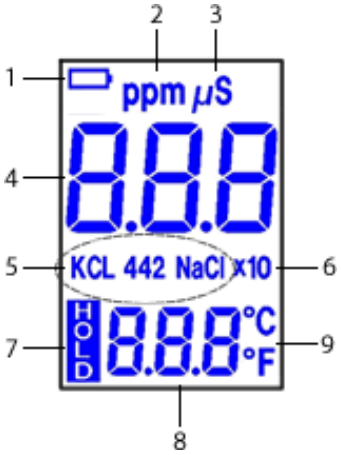
HOUSING AND SCREEN DESCRIPTION

Housing



1. Lanyard hook
2. Battery compartment
3. LCD display
4. Button panel
5. Power button
6. Calibration mode, temperature mode, calibration up button
7. EC/TDS mode, hold, calibration down button
8. Electrode gasket ring
9. Detachable electrode (sensor)

LCD Display



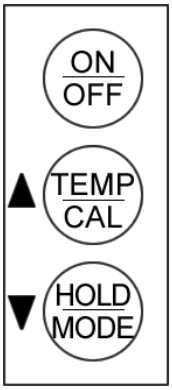
1. Low battery indicator
2. TDS mode
3. EC mode
4. EC/TDS measurement
5. Calibration solution/conversion factor selected
6. x10 mode (greater than 999)
7. Hold mode
8. Temperature measurement
9. Celsius/Fahrenheit mode

TAKING MEASUREMENTS

The COM-100 can take measurements in Electrical Conductivity (EC), Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Temperature. Please make sure to read the Switching Modes section to ensure that your meter displays the desired readings.

EC/TDS Measurements

1. Remove the cap.
2. Press the 'ON/OFF' button. The display will become active.
3. The default mode of the meter is for EC with a KCl temperature coefficient. To change the mode, press and hold the 'HOLD/MODE' button (see the Switching Modes section for more information). This unit will cycle through the six possible modes:
    a. EC with KCl temperature coefficient
    b. EC with 442™ temperature coefficient
    c. EC with NaCl temperature coefficient
    d. TDS with KCl conversion factor and temperature coefficient
    e. TDS with 442™ conversion factor and temperature coefficient
    f. TDS with NaCl conversion factor and temperature coefficient
4. Release the 'HOLD/MODE' button when the display shows the desired mode.
5. Dip the meter into the water sample or solution to be tested.
6. Lightly swirl the meter and tap it against the bottom of the beaker to ensure the removal of trapped air bubbles or electric charges.
7. The meter will display a reading almost immediately. Keep the meter in the water until the reading stabilizes (approx. 30 seconds) for an accurate reading. *NOTE – **Newer meters may take up to 2 minutes to fully stabilize**. This time will decrease with usage.*
8. To view the reading out of the water, quickly press the 'HOLD/MODE' button while the meter is in the water. This will hold the meter on the screen. Quickly pressing the 'HOLD/MODE' button again will release the hold.
9. Press the 'ON/OFF' button to turn the meter off.
10. Shake any excess water off the meter and rinse with distilled or de-ionized water. Put the cap back on.



Temperature Measurements

The temperature reading is always displayed on the LCD panel during measurement mode, and is shown simultaneously for either EC or TDS readings. It is not shown when the meter is in calibration mode. The default temperature reading for the meter is in Celsius. To change the temperature mode, quickly press the 'TEMP/CAL' button to switch from Celsius to Fahrenheit or from Fahrenheit to Celsius.

1. Remove the cap.
2. Press the 'ON/OFF' button. The display will become active.
3. The temperature reading is always displayed on the LCD panel (except in calibration mode), and is shown simultaneously for either EC or TDS readings.
4. The default mode for temperature is Celsius. To change the temperature mode, quickly press the 'TEMP/CAL' button to switch from Celsius to Fahrenheit or vice-versa.
5. Dip the meter into the water sample or solution to be measured.
6. The temperature reading will change immediately (unless the solution is at room temperature). For very hot or cold liquids, the reading may take slightly longer to stabilize.
7. Press the 'ON/OFF' button to turn the meter off.
8. Shake any excess water off the meter and rinse with distilled or de-ionized water. Put the cap back on.

SWITCHING MODES

Electrical Conductivity (EC) and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Overview

While EC and TDS are often used synonymously, there are some important differences to note. EC, when applied to water, refers to the electrical charge of a given water sample. TDS refers to the total amount of substances in the water other than the pure H_2O. The only true way of measuring TDS is to evaporate the water and weigh what's left. Since this is near impossible to do for the average person, is it possible to estimate the TDS level by measuring the EC of the water. Every digital TDS meter in the world is actually an EC meter.

All elements have some electrical charge. Therefore, it is possible to closely estimate the quantity of TDS by determining the EC of the water. However, since different elements have different charges, it is necessary to convert the EC to TDS using a scale that mimics the charge of that water type. The following are the most common water samples, and for the COM-100, each has its own conversion factor:

KCl: Potassium Chloride is the international standard to calibrate instruments that measure conductivity. The COM-100 is factory calibrated with a 1413 micro-seimens solution is the default mode is EC-KCl.
442™: Developed by the Myron L Company, 442™ simulates the properties of natural water (rivers, lakes, wells, drinking water, etc.) with a combination of 40% Sodium Bicarbonate, 40% Sodium Sulfate and 20% Chloride.
NaCl: Sodium Chloride is used in water where the predominate ions are NaCl, or whose properties are similar to NaCl, such as seawater and brackish water.

Measurements in EC (μS) do not have a conversion factor, but do require the correct setting for the proper temperature coefficient.

How temperature affects the reading: Temperature greatly affects both the EC and TDS readings. The international standard temperature for EC and TDS readings is 25^o Celsius. Without compensation, the EC and TDS readings will increase when the temperature is greater 25^o and than and decrease when the temperature is lower than 25^o. The COM-100 is equipped with Automatic Temperature Compensation (ATC). The meter will automatically adjust the reading to what it would be at 25^o. However, it is important to note that the abovementioned solutions each has its own temperature coefficient.

See page 7 for the EC to TDS conversion and temperature coefficient charts.

For additional information, please visit www.tdsmeter.com and click on 'What is TDS?'

Defaults:

The meter is shipped with the default reading in EC using the KCl temperature coefficient (see p. 7) and the temperature reading in Celsius.

Switching EC Modes:

The COM-100 has three different modes for EC: KCl, 442™, and NaCl. Note that there is no conversion factor within the three modes. The difference between the modes is the Automatic Temperature Compensation (ATC) coefficient that is used.

To change the EC mode:

1. Turn the meter on by pressing the 'ON/OFF' button.
2. Press and hold the 'HOLD/MODE' button. The meter will cycle through the following modes:
    a. EC – KCl
    b. EC – 442™
    c. EC – NaCl
    d. TDS – KCl
    e. TDS - 442™
    f. TDS - NaCl

Example:

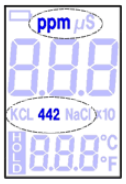
3. When the meter displays the desired selection. Release the 'HOLD/MODE' button.
4. The meter is now ready for use in your selected mode. The meter will keep this setting until changed again.

Switching TDS Modes:

The COM-100 comes with three TDS modes, each with its own EC to TDS conversion factor and Automatic Temperature Compensation coefficient. To change the TDS mode:

1. Turn the meter on by pressing the 'ON/OFF' button.
2. Press and hold the 'HOLD/MODE' button. The meter will cycle through the following modes:
    a. EC – KCl
    b. EC – 442™
    c. EC – NaCl
    d. TDS – KCl
    e. TDS - 442™
    f. TDS - NaCl

Example:



3. When the meter displays the desired selection. Release the 'HOLD/MODE' button.

The meter is now ready for use in your selected mode. The meter will keep this setting until changed again.

Switching Temperature Modes:

The temperature reading is always displayed on the LCD panel during measurement mode, and is shown simultaneously for either EC or TDS readings. It is not shown when the meter is in calibration mode. The default temperature reading for the meter is in Celsius. To change the temperature mode, quickly press the 'TEMP/CAL' button to switch from Celsius to Fahrenheit or from Fahrenheit to Celsius.

CALIBRATION

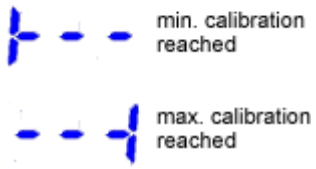
The meter comes factory calibrated to a 1413 µS solution. While this is suitable for most applications, it may be necessary to recalibrate the meter for more accurate results. EC and TDS meters should be calibrated as close as possible to the range that will be measured. For example, if you are typically measuring the TDS levels of filtered water and tap water, it is recommended to recalibrate at a lower level. HM Digital's 342 ppm NaCl solution is highly recommended for this.

The COM-100 features digital calibration. To recalibrate the meter:

1. Turn the meter on by pressing the 'ON/OFF' button.
2. Make sure the meter is in the desired mode. If not, change the mode per the instructions above. (For example, if you are calibrating to a KCl solution for TDS, change the mode to TDS – KCl.)

3. Dip the meter into the water/solution. Lightly stir and tap the meter on the bottom of the glass to remove any air bubbles or lingering electrical charges.
4. Press and hold the 'TEMP/CAL' button. The temperature display will change to a 'CAL' image.
5. The meter will automatically adjust to a reading within a range of solution the meter is in.
6. Change the reading so that it matches the calibration solution. For example, if your calibration solution is 342 ppm, decrease the reading until it reads '342'. To increase the reading, press the 'UP' button (TEMP/CAL). To decrease the reading, press the 'DOWN' button (HOLD/MODE).

   - If the calibration reading is lowered or raised to the minimum or maximum level within the range, the screen will display the 'minimum calibration reached' icon or 'maximum calibration reached' icon, respectively. Note that this occurs only within the range of the sample the meter is currently in. When 'CAL' does not flash, it means calibration is in the middle of the range. The meter does not restrict calibration.



7. To set the calibration, press and hold the 'TEMP/CAL' button until the screen reverts to the measurement mode.
8. Your meter is now re-calibrated.

EC-TO-TDS CONVERSIONS AND TEMPERATURE COEFFICIENTS

EC-to-TDS Conversion Factors:

KCl: Potassium Chloride is the international standard to calibrate instruments that measure conductivity. The COM-100 is factory calibrated with a 1413 microsiemens solution is the default mode is EC-KCl.
442™: Developed by the Myron L Company, 442™ simulates the properties of natural water (rivers, lakes, wells, drinking water, etc.) with a combination of 40% Sodium Bicarbonate, 40% Sodium Sulfate and 20% Chloride.
NaCl: Sodium Chloride is used in water where the predominate ions are NaCl, such as seawater and brackish water.

Temperature Coefficients:

Readings are adjusted as +/- percentage off 25^{o} C. If the temperature is higher than 25^{o} C, the unit will automatically decrease the measurement by the percentage below, depending on the mode selected. If the temperature is lower, the measurement will automatically be increased. These three coefficients are the only three settings possible with the COM-100.

KCl: 1.88%
442™: 1.68%
NaCl: 2.14%

CARE, MAINTENANCE & TECHNIQUES

The COM-100 requires very little maintenance. You may need to change the batteries or clean the unit or the electrodes from time to time. In addition, please note these general techniques:

1. Do not store the unit in high temperature or direct sunlight. This will shorten the lifespan of the product.
2. Do not touch the platinum electrodes. Skin oils may adversely affect the reading. If you do touch the electrodes, clean immediately with alcohol or distilled water.
3. After repeated usage in high TDS water, it is advised to clean the electrodes to prevent residue build-up.
4. For best results, always stir or tap the meter in the water sample to remove any air bubbles or lingering electrical charges.
5. Water volume, positioning of the electrode in the water sample and temperature may effect the reading.
6. Do not keep the meter in very hot water for extended periods of time.
7. If testing two water samples in a wide range (e.g., 15 ppm and 3000 ppm), make sure to rinse the electrodes with DI or distilled water or alcohol after each test to ensure accurate readings and prevent build-up of TDS on the electrodes.

Changing the batteries:

When the meter displays a flashing battery symbol, your batteries are getting weak and should be replaced soon.

To change the batteries:

1. Twist open the battery compartment on the top of the meter.
2. Remove the three batteries.
3. Insert new batteries in the direction as depicted inside the compartment. The COM-100 takes LR44 batteries.
4. Close the battery compartment. Make sure it is tightly closed to retain waterproofness.

NOTE: Do not reverse the polarity of the batteries. This will short circuit the meter.

Cleaning:

To clean the unit, use a soft rag or towel. Wipe with water and a mild soap.

To clean the electrodes, use rubbing alcohol and a cotton swab. Lightly clean the electrodes. Rinse with DI or distilled water. Air dry.

Electrode Replacement:

If your electrode has been damaged, you can purchase a new one without having to purchase a new meter. To replace the electrode:

1. Remove the electrode gasket ring by twisting it counter-clockwise.
2. Gently pull the electrode off the unit.
3. Gently insert the new electrode into the unit. Be sure to align the grooves properly. Never force the electrode into the unit!
4. Make sure the rubber ring is properly positioned on the electrode.
5. Screw the gasket ring back onto the unit by twisting it clockwise. Tighten.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Check	Action/Solution
The power won't turn on / screen is blank	Power Batteries	• The meter may need to be turned on. • The batteries may be dead. • The battery protector tab may not have been removed.
The screen goes blank on its own	Power	• The meter is equipped with an auto shut-off feature to conserve batteries. • Turn the power back on.
Unstable reading	Probe Batteries	• Immerse the probe more deeply into the sample. • Clean the probe. • Replace the probe. • Batteries may be weak – is the low battery indicator on?
Slow response	Probe	• Clean the probe.
Display locked	Electrical discharge near meter	• Switch meter off. Remove and replace the batteries. Restart the meter.
Unable to calibrate	Probe	• Clean the probe.
Calibration stops at a certain point	Solution	• The meter self-calibrates within a range of the solution. Check the calibration solution to ensure you are calibrating within the proper range.

WARRANTY

ONE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

HM Digital, Inc. ("the Company") products are warranted to the purchaser against defective materials and workmanship for one (1) year from the date of purchase.

What is covered: Repair parts and labor, or replacement at the Company's option. Transportation charges for repaired of new product to be returned to the purchaser.

What is not covered: Transportation charges for the defective product to be sent to the Company. Any consequential damages, incidental damages, or incidental expenses, including damages to property. This includes damages from abuse or improper maintenance such as tampering, wear and tear, water damage, or any other physical damage. The Company's products are not waterproof and should not be fully submerged in water. Products with any evidence of such damage will not be repaired or replaced. See additional note below. (NOTE - The COM-100 is watertight and completely submersible. Please ensure that the battery compartment and probe gasket ring are firmly tightened before submersing in water. The warranty does not cover water damage to the COM-100 due to parts not securely closed.)

How to obtain warranty performance: Attach to the product your name, address, description of problem, phone number, and proof of date of purchase, package and return to:

HM Digital, Inc.
5819 Uplander Way
Culver City, CA 90230

Implied Warranties: Any implied warranties, including implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are limited in duration to five years from date of purchase. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you. To the extent any provision of this warranty is prohibited by federal and state law and cannot be preempted, it shall not be applicable. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state.

NOTE: Warranties are product-specific. Third-party products and products deemed by HM Digital as "accessories" are not covered under warranty. Third-party products include, but are not limited to, batteries and fittings. Accessories include, but are not limited to, precipitator rods, fuses, lanyards and product cases.