

AC7 Operating Instructions

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Health and Safety

Comdronic Ltd takes every reasonable precaution to ensure that **AC7** Electronic Commissioning Meters are designed, constructed, calibrated and tested for safe and trouble-free operation when used in accordance with these operating instructions.

It is the user's responsibility to be aware of the general hazards associated with the systems being commissioned (e.g. high pressures; high / low temperatures; the presence of flushing / cleaning / antifreeze agents; etc.) and to use appropriate personal protective equipment / clothing for the hazards potentially present.

Statement of Conformity

This is to certify that the Comdronic **AC7** Electronic Commissioning Meter is manufactured in the UK and conforms to the published specification. It is both CE-marked & UKCA-marked, in accordance with the relevant EU/UK legislation.

Measurement Range & Accuracy

Model:	AC7-SP+ (STANDARD-PRESSURE)	AC7-HP+ (HIGH-PRESSURE)			
Accuracy	+/- 1% of reading or +/- 0.10 kPa	+/- 1% of reading or +/- 0.20 kPa			
(% of reading):	(whichever is greater)	(whichever is greater)			
Max Allowable	10 bar	20 har			
Static Pressure:	10 bai	20 bai			
Measurement	0 5 kPa to 250 kPa	1.0 kPa to 800 kPa			
Range:	0.5 KF a to 250 KF a	1.0 KF a to 800 KF a			

Factory calibration is carried out, in controlled conditions, using reference equipment which has been independently calibrated to UKAS standards.

Generally, it is recommended that AC7 handsets are serviced and calibrated annually – please 'Contact Us' for further information. However, this is not a fixed period and shorter service intervals may be necessary for extremely high-use meters or for meters which are regularly used on very dirty systems or on systems that contain high concentrations of cleaning agents / treatments.

Between services, there are some simple user-maintenance procedures which can be performed to help prolong the accuracy and performance of the AC7 – please refer to Appendix II for further information.

Contact Us

For all sales, technical or troubleshooting enquiries:

Email:	<u>enquiries@comdronic.co.uk</u>
Web:	www.comdronic.co.uk
Address:	Unit 7 Alpha Terrace, West Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9FD, UK

Description of AC7

Press ANY button to switch the AC7 'ON'.







The AC7 handset is supplied in a lightweight carry case with the following accessories:

A pair of connection tubes, complete with manually-operated isolation valves.

A pair of angle-pattern Binder-style connection adaptors with 3.3mm/2.8mm diameter needles.

A pair of angle-pattern Binder-style connection adaptors with 2.0mm diameter needles.

A set of hex keys (3mm, 4mm & 5mm) and a screwdriver.

A lanyard to suspend the handset from pipework whilst in use.

A strainer maintenance kit.

A spare battery.

Operating Instructions, a Quick-Start Guide and a Factory Calibration Certificate.

Connection Procedure

Note: each connection tube is fitted with an isolating valve and it is a matter of user-preference whether the tubes are used with the isolating valves adjacent to the AC7 or, alternatively, adjacent to the subject measuring valve / device.

- 1. Select the correct connection adaptors for the valve / device being measured and attach them to the connection tubes.
- 2. Ensure that <u>both</u> isolating valves on the connection tubes are in the **CLOSED** position.
- 3. Attach the connection adaptor on the **RED** connection tube to the high-pressure (upstream) test point on the subject measuring valve / device.
- 4. Attach the connection adaptor on the **BLUE** connection tube to the low-pressure (downstream) test point on the subject measuring valve / device.
- 5. Ensure that the equalising valve on the AC7 is OPEN.
- 6. Attach the free ends of the **RED** and **BLUE** connection tubes to the colour-coded connection points on the **AC7**.
- 7. **OPEN** the isolating valves on the connection tubes to allow the line fluid to purge any air from inside the tubes.*
- 8. **CLOSE** the isolating valves on the connection tubes.
- 9. Find a safe and static position for the AC7.**
- 10. Switch the AC7 'ON' and press the ZERO button to set the datum at zero.***
- 11. **OPEN** the isolating valves on the connection tubes and **CLOSE** the equalising valve on the **AC7**.
- 12. The **AC7** will now be reading Δp .

*If the Δp across the value / device is low, the purging process will be slow due to the internal resistance of the AC7.

******The **AC7** is <u>very</u> sensitive and readings will be affected if the position of the handset is adjusted after a datum has been set. A lanyard is provided and can be used to suspend the **AC7** from adjacent pipework, as appropriate.

*******If the **AC7** is being subjected to an extreme change of temperature at this point, the datum may drift from zero as the internal temperature of the meter changes and, in these circumstances, it will be necessary to repeat this step until the internal temperature has stabilised and a zero datum is maintained.

Disconnection Procedure

- 1. **OPEN** the equalising valve on the **AC7**.
- 2. **CLOSE** <u>both</u> isolating valves on the connection tubes.
- 3. Disconnect the tubes from both the AC7 and the valve / device.

Menu Map

The AC7 has four menus for ease of use:



Note: menu options shown in **red** may or may not appear in the menu lists, depending on the selected valve and the precise setup of the handset being used, as follows:

- > Valve Setting will only show if an adjustable valve has been selected.
- **Design Flow & Target Flow %** will only show for Fixed Orifice- and Variable Orifice Balancing Valves.
- **Change Kvs** will only show if a Fixed Orifice Balancing Valve has been selected.
- Change PIN will not show if PIN functionality has been disabled within the 'Factory' settings of the handset ("Contact Us" for more information).

On-Screen Messages / Warnings

Battery Status



Remaining battery power has dropped below 7.0 volts. [Displayed top-left of screen.]

While Taking Readings



Remaining battery power has dropped below 6.6 volts. [Displayed top-left of screen.]



Remaining battery power has dropped below 6.2 volts. [Displayed full-screen.] Action: FIT A NEW BATTERY.

ZERO

The ZERO button will need to be pressed to set a datum before a reading can be taken. [Displayed top-left of screen.]



DP < 0.60 kPa and, as such, is it too low for Flow to be derived. [Displayed top-right of screen.]

Specific Gravity has been set to a value other than 1.0, and readings are being auto-corrected for SG. [Displayed top-left of screen.]

SG



0.60 < DP < 0.95 kPa and, although this might be a little lower than ideal, Flow is now being derived and displayed.



DP is unexpectedly NEGATIVE. [Displayed top-left of screen.] Action: DOUBLE-CHECK INSTALLATION / CONNECTIONS.

<u>Reminders at Turn ON / OFF</u>



Crucial for the protection of the pressure-sensor, and is displayed at every turn ON & turn OFF. [Displayed full-screen.]



Sensor Signal Error. [Displayed full-screen.] Action: If problem persists, 'Contact Us' for further advice.



Details of the selected valve – plus its setting, if applicable – are displayed at every turn ON. [Displayed full-screen.]

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TEMP HIGH

Temperature of the fluid <u>inside</u> <u>the handset</u> > 50°C, which is too high for readings to be temperature-compensated. [Displayed top-left of screen.]

∆p↓

If the selected valve is line-size, pipe-losses are being assessed as being extremely high. [Displayed top-right of screen.]



Measured DP > Range-of-Operation. [Displayed full-screen.] Action: Proceed with caution.

Commissioning Menu

The Commissioning Menu is concerned with the various selections / parameters that a user may wish to enter depending on the valve / device being measured and the commissioning techniques being utilised.

Select A Valve

TIP: Whist in any screen, press ? on the keypad as a shortcut to this menu option.

The performance characteristics of over 6,500 valves – from 80+ manufacturers / brands – are preprogrammed into the AC7 and this data is updated as a matter of course whenever an AC7 is serviced by Comdronic.



Make selections for <u>all four</u> parameters (i.e. *Maker, Type, Model* & *Size*) before pressing the \checkmark button to accept them. Or, press the \searrow button to exit and <u>retain the previous selection</u>.

Note: whilst every effort is made to ensure that stored valve data is correct, valve manufacturers invariably reserve the right to modify their products, without notice, and so Comdronic cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or omissions.



When variable orifice values or adjustable automatic balancing values are being measured, the handwheel position / cartridge setting must be entered so that the correct flow characteristics are used for the derivation of flow.



Design Flow

The Design Flow for the selected valve can be entered / edited in this screen. When a value is entered, the derived flow will be calculated as a percentage of the Design Flow and this will be displayed on the Advanced Display in the Design Flow box.



Target Flow %

The Target Flow % for the selected valve can be entered / edited in this screen. When a value is entered, it will be displayed on the Advanced Display in the Target Flow box. Target Flow must be entered as a percentage and is generally required when carrying out 'proportional' balancing. Typically, the value used will be the same as the calculated Design Flow percentage on the index circuit. Balancing to 100% target on subsequent valves will ensure that valves adjacent to the index valve are 'balanced'.



Specific Gravity

TIP: SG can be adjusted within the range 0.9 <= SG <= 1.2.

This menu option allows the user to enter the Specific Gravity (SG) of the line fluid. Typically, this would be necessary when glycol (or similar) is present in the system. Please refer to **Appendix I** for further information.



Note: while SG is set to a value other than 1.0, "SG" will show at the top of the chosen display screen as a reminder to the user that readings are being subjected to a correction. It is strongly recommended that users regularly check that the set value for SG is appropriate for the system being commissioned.

Change Kvs

If the valve / device is <u>not</u> listed in the AC7's database, this menu option enables the user to manually enter a Kvs value so that a derived flow can still be calculated by the AC7.

	Enter New Kvs	Use ▲ to increase a value. Use ▼ to decrease a value. {▼ at zero for a decimal
Use < to remove a digit.	0.6	point.} Use ► to add a digit.
		Press ✓ to accept the new value.
and retain the current setting.	>= 0.5 Kvs Current setting.	

Preferences Menu

Show/Hide Makers TIP: No Makers will be DELETED via this operation!



Show All Makers TIP: Requires a minimum battery voltage of 7 volts to run.



Press \checkmark to proceed and put ALL Makers back into the

Press BACKARROW to exit and abandon the operation.

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DP Units

Default = kPa

Available options are kPa, psi, bar, cmH₂O, IWGA (inches water gauge), Ft HD (feet head) or Pa.



Flow Units

Default = I/s

Available options are l/s, l/m, l/h, USGPM, UKGPM, m³/h, m³/m or m³/s.



Size Units

Default = mm

This menu option allows the user to specify the preferred units (millimetres/inches) for viewing/selecting valve sizes.



Press ✓ to accept the new Size Unit.

Display Menu

There are four different display formats available for the **AC7**. The most appropriate format will depend on the type of valve / device being measured and the commissioning method being applied.

DP And Flow

The DP And Flow Display is suitable for most general commissioning purposes.

An example of displayed data when a fixed orifice valve has been selected is as follows:



An example of displayed data when an automatic balancing valve has been selected is as follows:



*If the measured Δp exceeds the minimum required for the selected valve (at the selected setting) to deliver the pre-determined flow, the flow status message will be Δp oK. However, if the required Δp is not present the flow status message will be Δp is in the unlikely event that the measured Δp exceeds the recommended maximum for the valve, the flow status message will be Δp .

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Advanced

The Advanced Display can show more complex commissioning data and it may be preferred to the DP And Flow Display if automatic balancing valves are being measured or if a system of proportional balancing is being adopted.

An example of displayed data when a variable orifice valve has been selected is as follows:



******These are iterative processes due to the unknown valve authority in the circuit and so 2-3 attempts may be required to achieve the desired reading. Please also note that in conjunction with pressing the $\triangleleft \triangleright$ buttons on the AC7, the physical handwheel setting of the valve will also need to be changed to match the new value.

findicates Δp must be Approx. increased {by 6.21 kPa} to actual flow. achieve the pre-determined Pre-determined flow for flow {0.160 l/s}. the selected valve at the 0.160 |/ s would indicate Δp is selected setting. unnecessarily high.] Flow status message.* Δp^{1} 6.21 Chevrons in the inlet pipe 0.125 Chevrons will appear in the S indicate $\Delta p > 0$. outlet pipe only once the 16.00 pre-determined flow has Δp required to achieve been achieved. pre-determined flow. 5.00 9.79 kPa Current valve setting. Measured Δp . **FLOWCON** Green Green.0 Press **A** to edit.

An example of displayed data when an adjustable automatic balancing valve has been selected is as follows:

*If the measured Δp exceeds the minimum required for the selected valve (at the selected setting) to deliver the pre-determined flow, the flow status message will be Δp oK. However, if the required Δp is not present the flow status message will be Δp . In the unlikely event that the measured Δp exceeds the recommended maximum for the valve, the flow status message will be Δp .

DP Only

The DP Only Display is the simplest option available and may be preferred when the AC6 is being used as a simple manometer.



Velocity (Flushing)

The Velocity Display would normally only be preferred when fluid velocities are being measured for the purposes of system flushing.



System Setup Menu

Auto-Off Timer

Default = 5 min

The Auto-Off Timer sets the period of time after which the **AC7** will turn 'OFF' after a period of inactivity. A short time will preserve battery life.



Damping

Default = MIN

This screen allows the user to adjust the apparent sensitivity of the AC7 by increasing the time delay between each screen update and extending the period of time over which readings are averaged. Damping = MAX may be advisable on an unstable system in order to give a steadier reading.



Language



Available options are English, French, Italian or Spanish.



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Factory Reset



Kvs & Pipe Size \rightarrow Default for Selected Valve

Valve Setting \rightarrow 'max' for Selected Valve

Change PIN

TIP: To special request, all PIN functions can be completely removed from a handset – please "Contact Us" for more information.

As the default, the PIN Code is factory-set to "0" (zero), and when it is set to "0" it will never be asked for. But, if a PIN other than "0" is set it will be asked for at every battery change.

Any numerical value (including decimal places) is allowable. As an example, proceed as follows to change the PIN from "0" to "236.67":



TIP: If, after setting your own PIN, you decide to revert to the default, just reset it back to "0" and it will cease to be asked for.



<u>"About"</u>

The 'About' menu option gives the unique serial number of the AC7 (please quote this in any correspondence with Comdronic) plus the installed firmware version.

Serial Number of Handset.	AC7-1234	SP+	Pressure-Sensor Configuration.
	WWW.COMDRO	NIC.CO.UK	
Firmware Version in use.	P4.01-E0EB	81L/23-31	Valve Database Release.

Appendix I

	% Glycol Additive										
Temperature °C	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
80			0.991	1.003	1.017	1.026	1.036	1.046	1.054	1.062	1.068
70		0.990	1.000	1.010	1.023	1.034	1.042	1.053	1.062	1.069	1.075
60		0.995	1.007	1.017	1.030	1.041	1.050	1.060	1.070	1.076	1.083
50		1.000	1.013	1.023	1.035	1.048	1.057	1.067	1.077	1.084	1.090
40	0.990	1.004	1.018	1.029	1.042	1.054	1.064	1.074	1.085	1.091	1.098
30	0.996	1.007	1.022	1.034	1.047	1.059	1.070	1.080	1.092	1.099	1.105
20	0.999	1.010	1.026	1.038	1.052	1.065	1.076	1.088	1.099	1.106	1.114
10	1.000	1.013	1.028	I.042	1.056	1.070	1.082	1.094	1.105	1.113	1.120
0	1.000	1.015	1.029	1.045	1.061	1.075	1.088	1.100	1.112	1.120	1.128
-10				1.048	1.065	1.079	1.092	1.107	1.118	1.127	1.135
-20					1.068	1.083	1.097	1.113	1.124	1.133	1.136
-30						1.087	1.100	1.118	1.128	1.137	1.137
-40							1.102	1.122	1.133	1.138	1.138

Glycol / Water Specific Gravity Chart

E&OE



Appendix II

Recommended User Maintenance Procedures

Pressure Sensor Flushing

The pressure sensor within the **AC7** is protected from the majority of system-dirt by the presence of a strainer in each of the Red and Blue connection ports on the top of the unit. These strainers have been carefully selected and will prevent all but the smallest of dirt particles from entering the sensor-unit. They are vital for maintaining the proper performance of the **AC7**.

Over time, however, there may be a build-up of tiny dirt particles within the sensor-unit and if this is allowed to continue the performance of the **AC7** may become affected in two ways:

- A. Readings may be significantly less than the true value, and / or
- B. On-screen readings may change very slowly when adjustments are made to the balancing valve.

Regularly performing a simple flush will help to reduce any build-up of dirt within the sensor-unit:

- 1. Ensure that the equalising valve on the AC7 is fully OPEN.
- 2. Hold the AC7 upside down and connect a cool, clean, water supply to the Blue connector and allow the water to flow out of the Red connector. This is the back-flush and should always be done first.
- 3. Whilst keeping the AC7 upside down, disconnect the water supply from the Blue connector and reattach it to the Red connector and allow water to flow out of the Blue connector. This is the forward-flush.

In addition to performing **simple flushes**, if the **AC7** is regularly used on extremely dirty systems it may also be necessary to periodically perform an **advanced flush**. An **advanced flush** is the same basic process as a **simple flush** but it is performed with the strainers temporarily removed (see strainer removal instructions opposite).

During an **advanced flush**, it is advisable to clean the strainers in a soapy solution and then flush them with a pressurised air / water source. However, if the strainers are in very poor condition it may be necessary to replace them with new (spare part order code = HS-STR-P).

If an AC7 continues to read incorrectly even after an **advanced flush** and strainer change, please 'Contact Us' for further advice.

Hose Maintenance

The connection tubes supplied with the AC7 are fitted with snap-connectors on both ends. Over time, these snap-connectors may become a bit stiff to operate as system dirt accumulates in the 'snapping' mechanism and continued use may result in damage to the AC7. To avoid this, the regular application of a small amount of multi-purpose grease in each of the snap-connectors will help to keep them in good working order.

Strainer Removal / Replacement

Parts Required:



Step 1 – Remove the male connectors from the top of the meter using a 13mm wrench.



IMPORTANT - Take care not to disturb (i.e. move) the strainer housings. If a male connector doesn't readily unscrew, use a 14mm wrench to hold the strainer housing in place before any additional force is applied.

Step 2 – Remove the strainers from their housings using the 8.5mm screwdriver bit provided (or, alternatively, an 8.0mm screwdriver).

IMPORTANT – Clean any dirt that may be present in the thread <u>before</u> attempting to remove the strainer. Any attempt to unscrew a strainer through a dirty thread may cause the strainer to become seized in its housing.



 Use the 8.5mm bit in the bit-holder to gently unscrew the strainers from their housings.

Step 3 - If the strainers are being reused, clean them in a soapy solution and then flush them with a pressurised air / water source.

Step 4 – Refit the cleaned / new strainers.

Step 5 – Refit the male connectors so that they are firm, but not overtight (and don't forget the O-rings!).



User Notes: