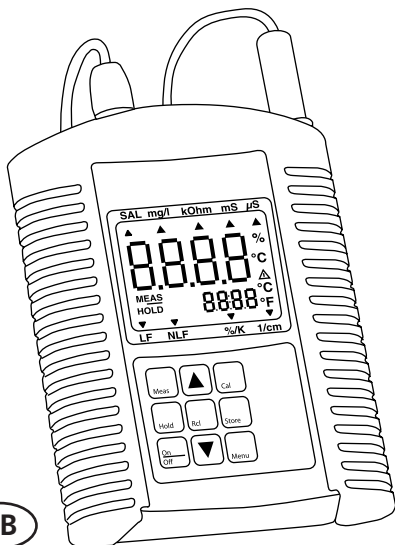


## AL20Con

Conductivity/TDS/Salinity Meter  
Operating instructions





## Declaration of CE-Conformity

The manufacturer:

**Tintometer GmbH**

Schleefstraße 8 a  
44287 Dortmund  
Deutschland

declares that this product

Product name:

**AL20Con**

with all optional items conforms to the following regulations:

**EMC**

EN 55 022 : 6 / 1993 class B  
EN50082-1(EN61000-4-6,  
EN 61000-4-4, EN 61000-4-3,  
EN 61000-4-2)

**The product conforms to the regulations of the  
EMC Directive 89/336/EEC and 73/23/EEC.**

Dortmund, March 12, 2003

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Cay-Peter Voss,  
Managing Director

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# 1. Scope of delivery

## Standard:

- AQUALYTIC® AL20Con
- Batteries, 4\*AA 1,5 V cells
- Operating instructions

## Set:

- AQUALYTIC® AL20Con
- Batteries, 4\*AA 1,5 V cells
- 4 pole measuring sensor
- Carrying case
- Operating instructions

# 2. System description

The AQUALYTIC® AL20Con is a sturdy, water-proof handheld meter designed for daily measurements in the area of field or laboratory analysis.

It is used to measure conductivity, total dissolved solids and salinity in surface water and groundwater as well as in the field of waste water or industrial water analysis.

The system complies with the requirements in EN 60529 relating to protection class IP67 and water-proof/dustproof properties.

The permanent protective plating on the unit serves not just as impact protection but also as a storage compartment for the electrode and as an anti-slip device when the meter is used in an upright instrument position.

A „Low Bat“ indicator in the display shows the user

when it is time to change the batteries.

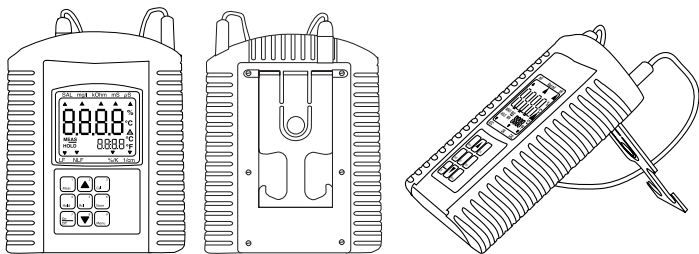
The required temperature compensation for the system is performed automatically (ATC) following connection of the temperature sensor (NTC 10 kOhm) that is integrated in the conductivity electrode.

The Min/Max function enables the user to identify minimum or maximum results and to show these results on the display.

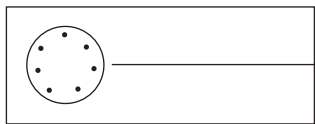
Temperature compensation during measurement can be carried out either in non-linear mode in accordance with EN 27888 or in linear mode. The system is calibrated using AQUALYTIC standard solutions.

An internal memory for 20 results is integrated in the unit as standard. The memory stores location, result and temperature.

The memory is called up via the display.



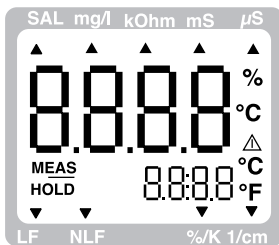
### 3. Connections



Conductivity measuring cell

### 4. Display

Main display:	Result or user prompt
[SAL]	Salinity, g/kg
[mg/l]	TDS
	Total Dissolved Solids
[kOhm]	Specific Resistance (1/conductivity) kOhm · cm
[mS]	Conductivity ms/cm
[μS]	Conductivity μS/cm



Secondary display:	Result - temperature or user prompt
[°C/°F]	Temperature unit
[△]	Warning index - battery
[LIN]	Linear temperature compensation
[NLF]	Non-linear temperature compensation
[%/K]	Unit for temperature compensation coefficient
[1/cm]	Unit for cell constant correction
[MAX/MIN/HOLD]	show whether maximum, minimum or Hold value is shown

## 5. Operation

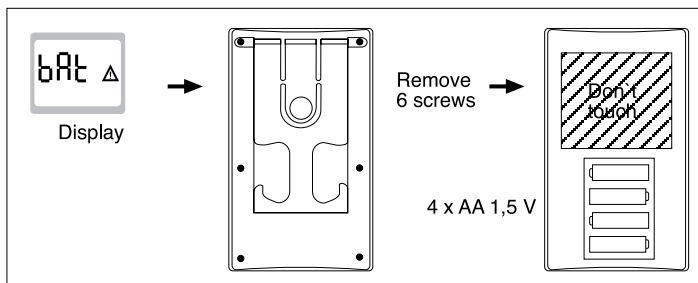
[Meas]	Continuous measurement, (standard setting)
[Hold]	Retain of current result
[On/Off]	On/Off
[▲][▼]	Leaf through menu or memory or show maximum [▲] or minimum [▼] value
[Cal]	Calibration mode
[Rcl]	Display of stored results
[Store]	Storage of current result or acceptance of unit configuration
[Menu]	Unit configuration



## 6. Startup

The unit is supplied with integrated batteries as standard and is therefore ready for immediate use.

You have to unscrew the unit to insert or change the batteries.



When inserting the batteries, ensure correct polarity!  
Screw the unit back together carefully without exerting too much pressure on the gasket seal.

If the [▲] symbol appears together with „bAt“ in the lower section of the display, this means that the batteries are nearly empty and need replacing.



However, the unit will continue to function for a certain period of time.

If „bAt“ appears in the upper section of the display, this means that the batteries are completely empty.

Only use the matching AQUALYTIC conductivity electrodes!

Other electrodes may cause serious damage to the meter and the electrode.

Switch off the unit before changing electrodes. Plug in the electrode before switching the unit back on.

The unit is factory-calibrated to the supplied electrode. If the electrode is replaced, the unit must be factory-calibrated.

The electrode must be plugged in before the unit is switched on.

Switch the unit on via the [ON/OFF] key.



Following measurement, please switch the unit off using the [ON/OFF] key.



## 7. Measurement

### Measuring mode MEAS



After the unit is switched on, it is automatically in the standard measuring mode MEAS.

You can “freeze” the result shown in the display by pressing the [Hold] key.

If you press the [Hold] key once again, the meter switches back to the continuous measuring mode.

Four display modes are supported:

Conductivity	(units – mS/cm and $\mu$ S/cm)
Resistance	(unit – kOhm · cm)
Salinity	(unit – g/kg)
Total dissolved solids (TDS)	(unit – mg/l)

The conductivity mode supports 4 different measuring ranges:

0,0	...	200,0 $\mu$ S/cm
0	...	2000 $\mu$ S/cm
0,00	...	20,00 mS/cm
0,0	...	200,0 mS/cm

When the Auto Range feature is active, the meter automatically selects the most suitable resolution.

When the Auto Range feature is inactive, you can change to the next measuring range resolution by briefly pressing the [Meas] key. If the highest resolution is active when you press the key, the unit switches to the lowest measuring range resolution.

## 8. Configuration of the unit



To configure the unit, press the [Menu] key.

The first menu item appears.

If you press the [Menu] key again, the display jumps to the next menu item.



You can set the various parameters using the [▲] [▼] keys.



Press the [Store] key to store and conclude configuration.

The unit then switches back to measuring mode.



You can terminate the configuration process by pressing the [Meas] or [Hold] key.

Settings made up to this point are not stored.

The unit retains the previous settings.



### 8.1 'Unit': Selection of the display mode

**SAL:** Salinity

**mg/l:** TDS

**kOhm:** Specific Resistance

**mS/μS:** Conductivity



### 8.2 'Auto Range': automatic range selection in Conductivity measuring mode

**off:** the range is entered manually ([▲] or [▼] keys)

**on:** the most suitable range is automatically set by the unit



### 8.3 'Temperature Compensation': Selection of temperature compensation

**off:** no temperature compensation

**nLF:** non-linear temperature compensation for natural water in acc. with EN27888 (DIN 38404).  
(for analysis of groundwater or surface, drinking or ultrapure water)

**Lin:** linear temperature compensation  
(for other aqueous solutions)

Non-linear temperature compensation 25°C for natural water is always used for measurement of total dissolved solids (TDS).

During salinity measurement, the unit automatically switches to non-linear temperature compensation in acc. with IOT (reference temperature = 15°C).



### 8.4 Setting of compensation coefficient (only when t.Cor = Lin)

**0.300 ... 3.000:** temperature compensation coefficient in %/K.

The factor for the solution in question must be determined in pre-trials.



### 8.5 Selection of reference temperature (only when t.Cor = nLF or Lin)

**20°C:** Reference temperature 20°C

**25°C:** Reference temperature 25°C



## 8.6 Input of TDS factor

**0.40 ... 1.00:** Conversion factor for TDS measurement.

The conversion factor depends on the composition of the medium and needs to be determined separately for each type of water.



## 8.7 Cell Constant 1/cm

The cell constant may change due to soiling, deposits or other mechanical influences on the measuring cell. If an exact standard reference solution is available, the measuring cell can be adjusted accordingly by changing the cell constants. Additionally, the cell constant can be automatically recorded by means of calibration.

- User calibration: **cCELL**
- Manufacturing calibration: **CELL**



## 8.8 Selection of temperature unit °C /°F

**°C:** All temperature values in degree Celsius

**°F:** All temperature values in degree Fahrenheit



## 8.9 Zero point temperature offset

-2.0°C...2.0°C bzw. -3.6°F...3.6°F

The zero point for temperature measurement is offset by this value.

This enables the user to balance out any occurring sensor deviations:

Displayed temperature =  
measured temperature – offset  
off: zero point offset is inactive (=0.0°)



## 8.10 'Power off': automatic unit switch-off

If no key is pressed during the switch-off delay period, the unit switches off automatically after the selected time has run down.

The desired delay time is entered in minutes.

If P.off = off, automatic unit switch-off is inactive.

## 9. Calibration of conductivity measurement

The individual electrode data of conductivity sensors are stable for extremely long periods of time.

If, however, you establish deviations during tests, you can improve measuring accuracy by performing calibration.

AQUALYTIC standard conductivity solutions serve as a reference.

These solutions have a defined conductivity of 1413  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ . Standard solutions with other conductivity levels may also be used to calibrate the system.

The shelf life of calibration solutions is limited and is shortened further by, among other things, inadequate cleaning and drying of the electrode prior to insertion. This can lead to incorrect calibration!

You should therefore always use fresh solutions for calibration and clean the electrode using deionised or distilled water!

## Performing calibration

Prepare electrode and calibration solution.

Clean the electrode using deionised water and dry carefully.

Insert the electrode in the vessel containing the calibration solution and stir well.

### Starting calibration: Press [Cal] key.

'CAL' appears momentarily in the display, then the previous cell constant is shown briefly:



You can terminate calibration at any time by pressing the [Meas] key or [Hold] key. In this event, the previous calibration setting is retained.

### Input of calibration solution



The flashing display shows the last-used calibration value or the factory-set  $1413 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ . You can change this value via the  $\blacktriangle$  or  $\blacktriangledown$  keys in the range from  $1000 \dots 2000 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ . The value you enter is the correct temperature (non-compensated) LF value. You then confirm and complete your choice by pressing the [Store] key. During calibration, CAL flashes in the display. If the value is stable, calibration is complete and the new cell constant is briefly shown in the display. If the cell constant calculated during calibration is outside the range  $0.55 \pm 0.11 \text{ 1/cm}$ , an error message is

shown and the original calibration value is retained.

- User calibration **cELL**
- Manufacturing calibration **CELL**

## 9.1 Restoring the factory calibration setting



You can set the conductivity meter back to the factory setting by simultaneously pressing the [On/Off] and [Cal] keys when you switch the system on.

## 10. Result memory

A maximum of 20 results with the corresponding temperatures can be stored.

### 10.1 Storing results



You can store the current result in the result memory by pressing the [Store] key.

[Stor] and the number of the memory location appear briefly in the display.

### 10.2 Displaying stored results



You can call the stored results up in the display by pressing the [Rcl] (=Recall) key.

The first time you press the [Rcl] key, the number of the memory location and the corresponding value are displayed.



The second time you press the key, the temperature for this result is displayed. You can use the [▲] [▼] keys to switch between the stored results.



As soon as you press the [Store], [Meas] or [Hold] key, the unit reverts to the corresponding measuring mode.

### 10.3 Delete stored results

If you press the [Store] key for longer than 2 seconds, the unit switches to the delete menu [CLR].



You can use the [▲] [▼] keys to select the desired action and press the [Store] key to execute it.



The unit then returns to the corresponding measuring mode.




[CLr-ALL]: delete all stored results.

[CLr-LASt]: delete the last-stored result.

[CLr-no]: do not delete any result.



## 11. Error messages and troubleshooting

Display	Cause	Remedy
	Weak battery voltage, the unit will only continue to function for a short time	Insert new batteries
	Batteries empty	Insert new batteries
	Memory full	Delete memory
No display or strange symbols	Batteries empty	Insert new batteries
	Batteries incorrectly inserted	Check batteries
Unit does not react when keys are pressed	System error	Disconnect batteries, wait for a short time, reconnect the batteries
	Unit defective	Send in for repair
Err.1	Exceeds measuring range	Check: can value exceed admissible measuring range? -> Result too high!
	Sensor/Electrode defective	Send in for repair

Err.2	Below measuring range	Check: can value be below admissible measuring range? -> Result too low!
	Sensor/ Electrode defective	Send in for repair

Display	Cause	Remedy
Err.7	System error	Send in for repair
Err.11	Value could not be calculated	Temperature outside the admissible temperature measuring range

## Calibration

Display	Cause	Remedy
CAL.-Err.1	Value was inadmissible, cell constant too high: electrode defective	Clean electrode, re-calibrate If error repeated -> replace electrode
	Buffer solution unusable	Use fresh buffer solution
CAL.-Err.2	Value was inadmissible, cell constant too low: electrode defective	Replace electrode
	Buffer solution unusable	Use fresh buffer solution
CAL.-Err.4	Wrong temperature during calibration	Calibration only possible in range from 10 ... 40°C

## 12. Technical data

Parameter	Indicating ranges	Resolution
Conductivity	0.0 ... 200.0 $\mu\text{S/cm}$	0.1 $\mu\text{S/cm}$
	0 ... 2000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$	1 $\mu\text{S/cm}$
	0.00 ... 20.00 $\text{mS/cm}$	0.01 $\text{mS/cm}$
	0.0 ... 200.0 $\text{mS/cm}$	0.1 $\text{mS/cm}$
Specific Resistivity	0.005 ... 100.0 $\text{kOhm}$	0.001 $\text{kOhm} \cdot \text{cm}$ , 0.01 $\text{kOhm} \cdot \text{cm}$ 0.1 $\text{kOhm} \cdot \text{cm}$
Total dissolved solids (TDS)	0 ... 1999 $\text{mg/l}$	1 $\text{mg/l}$
Salinity	0.0 ... 70.0	0.1
Temperature	-5.0 ... +100.0°C 23.0 ... 212°F	0.1°C bzw. 0.1°F

- Accuracy:** conductivity, spec. resistance, TDS and (at nominal temperature) salinity ( $\pm 3$  digits)  $\pm 0.5\%$  of result  $\pm 0.5\%$  FS  
 temperature  $\pm 0.3\text{K}$
- Cell correction:** determination with automatic calibration in the range from 0.55 to  $\pm 0.11$   $1/\text{cm}$
- Temperature compensation:** choice of
  - linear temperature compensation with a compensation factor of 0.3 to 3.0  $\%/K$
  - non-linear temperature compensation in acc. with EN 27888 (DIN 38404) reference temperatures 20°C and 25°C or without temperature compensation

- **Calibration:** 1-point calibration with conductivity solution in the range from 1000...2000 $\mu$ S/cm

- **Nominal temperature:** 25°C

- **Operating temperature:**

unit:	0 to +50°C
measuring cell:	-5 to 80°C (short-term to 100°C)

- **Memory:** Measured values are stored for the ranges „conductivity“, „resistivity“, „TDS“ and „salinity“ together with the temperature at which the value occurred
- **Power supply:** 4 x 1.5V batteries, type AA, operating life up to >1500h (depending on measuring mode)
- **Power consumption:** ca. 2.0 mA, max. 4.2 mA at 199.9 mS/cm
- **Battery change indicator:** ‚bAt‘
- **Automatic „Off“ function:** if no key is pressed and no data transfer transfer is occurring, the unit switches off after the switch-off delay time. May be set between 1 and 120 minutes or inactive.

- **Housing:** Water-tight in accordance with IP67  
Integral protective plating  
LCD  
Film keypad
- **Measuring cell:** 4-electrode conductivity measuring cell with integrated temperature sensor  
NTC 10 kOhm.
- **Electrode material:** Special graphite
- **Shaft material:** Epoxy,  
Dimensions: black ø 12 mm,  
120 mm long
- **CE:** EN 55022: 6/1993 class B  
EN 50082-1 (EN 61000-4-6, EN 61000-4-4, EN 61000-4-3, EN 61000-4-2)

### 13. Accessories

4722200	AQUALYTIC® AL20Con basic instrument
4722220	AQUALYTIC® AL20Con Set
722225	AL20 Conductivity Sensor 4-Pole Technology
722250	Conductivity Standard 1413µS/cm
725020	Case AL20





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