

PIECAL 311

Automated Universal RTD Calibrator

Operating Instructions

Product Description

- **Easy to use**

With the PIECAL 311 you can check & calibrate all your RTD instruments and measure RTD Sensors. Automatic indication of connections on the display for hookups.

- **Take it into the shop, plant or field**

Carry it without worry - it comes protected with a rubber boot and rugged, low profile switch. Easy to operate even in the dark areas of the plant with the backlit display.

- **Calibrate directly in temperature (°C & °F)**

Stop carrying around a decade box and RTD resistance tables. The PIECAL 311 works with the RTDs you use including Platinum 100 (alpha = 3850, 3902, 3926) & 1000 (alpha = 3850, 3750) Ohm, Copper 10 & 50 Ohm, Nickel 100 and 120 Ohm. Easily set any value quickly to within 0.1° with the adjustable digital potentiometer "DIAL" plus store any three temperatures for instant recall with the EZ-CHECK™ switch.

- **Calibrate quickly with automatic output stepping**

Choose between 2, 3, 5, 11 and 21 steps to automatically increment the output in 100%, 50%, 25%, 10% or 5% of span. Select the step time to match your system from 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 60 seconds.

- **Compatible with all process instruments**

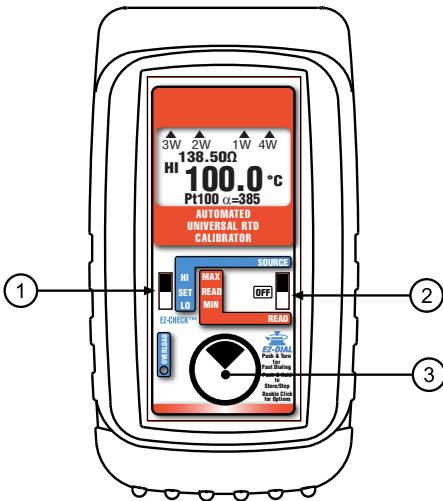
Connect directly to the RTD inputs of smart transmitters, PLCs, DCS and multichannel recorders and verify their outputs or displays. Works with older instruments with fixed excitation currents and newer multichannel instruments that switch the excitation current between input channels.

- **Measure RTD Sensors**

Trouble shoot sensor connections and find broken wires with patented technology. Connect your two, three or four wire RTDs and the PIECAL 311 automatically detects the connections and measures the RTD in degrees C or F. Secondary display shows the resistance value corresponding to the RTD temperature.



Basic Operation



① EZ-CHECK™ SWITCH

SOURCE: Instantly output two preset RTD temperatures by moving the EZ-CHECK™ switch to the “LO” position or “HI” position. For fast three point checks select the “DIAL” position. The PIECAL 311 will remember the last “DIAL” value, even with the power off.

These values can easily be changed to suit the calibration requirements. The temperatures stored in the HI and LO positions are also used for Auto Stepping.

READ: Slide the switch to the DIAL position. The PIECAL 311 will display the current temperature from the RTD sensor. Slide the switch to HI and the highest temperature measured since turn-on or reset will be displayed; slide the switch to LO and the lowest temperature measured since turn-on or reset will be displayed.

② SOURCE/OFF/READ Switch

Select “SOURCE” to output in °C, °F or ohms. Select “READ” to read an RTD sensor or ohms.

③ EZ-DIAL™ KNOB

SOURCE: Turn the knob to adjust the output level. Turn clockwise to increase the output, counter clockwise to decrease the output in 0.1° steps at a time. Push down and turn the EZ-DIAL knob for faster dialing. Press and hold the knob for two seconds to store desired EZ-Check™ HI/LO points in SIMULATE mode. *Continue to press and hold the knob for two more seconds to start the automatic ramping.*

READ: Press and hold to transfer the current temperature into the EZ-Check™ HI/LO points. This clears the HI/LO temperature readings which will update as the temperature changes.

Double click the knob to get into the PIECAL 311 Configuration Mode. Use configuration to select °C or °F, T/C Type, Backlight On/Off, Step Size, Step Time and Auto Off On/Off.

CHANGING BATTERIES

Low battery is indicated by “BAT” on the display. Approximately one to four hours of typical operation remain before the PIECAL 311 will automatically turn off. To change the batteries; remove the rubber boot, remove the battery door from the back of the unit by sliding the door downward. This allows access to the battery compartment. Replace with four (4) “AA” 1.5V batteries being careful to check the polarity. Replace the battery door and replace the boot. All stored configuration options (RTD Type, EZ-CHECK Memories, etc., are reset to factory settings when the batteries are removed.

Note: Alkaline batteries are supplied and recommended for maximum battery life and performance.

Configuration

Configure the Calibrator

Move ② POWER SWITCH to “SOURCE” or “READ”.

MODEL 311 V#.#
DOUBLE CLICK
EZ-DIAL KNOB
FOR CONFIGURATION

Setup

Double click the ③ DIAL KNOB at any time the unit is on and the following displays will appear for 15 seconds:

> EXIT	15
TEMP UNITS	°C
RTD Pt 100 $\alpha=3850$	
BACKLIGHT	ON
2ND DISPLAY	ON

> EXIT	15
STEPS	3
STEP TIME	8
AUTO OFF	ON

Turn the ③ DIAL KNOB to move through the menu. Press the ③ DIAL KNOB to toggle between OFF and ON or to scroll through the settings.

EXIT MENU - exits this menu immediately and saves any changes. Menu will automatically exit after 15 seconds of inactivity (countdown timer is displayed).

TEMP UNITS - pressing the knob will toggle between °C and °F.

RTD - pressing the knob will cycle through the various RTD (Pt, Cu & Ni) at different base resistances and alpha values.

BACKLIGHT - If BACKLIGHT is ON the backlight will light all the time the unit is powered up. For maximum battery life turn the backlight off when using the calibrator in areas with enough ambient light to read the display.

2ND DISPLAY - If 2ND DISPLAY is ON the resistance associated with the RTD temperature will appear in small digits on the display.

STEPS - pressing the knob will cycle through 2, 3, 5, 11 and 21 steps. The endpoints of the steps are based on the values stored in the **HI** and **LO** EZ-CHECK outputs.

STEP TIME - pressing the knob will cycle through 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 60 seconds.

AUTO OFF - If AUTO OFF is ON, the unit will turn off after 30 minutes of inactivity to save battery life. If AUTO OFF is OFF the unit will stay on until the POWER SWITCH is moved to the off position.

Note: All settings are remembered even with the power off. Removing the batteries resets the values to factory defaults.

Calibrating RTD Instruments

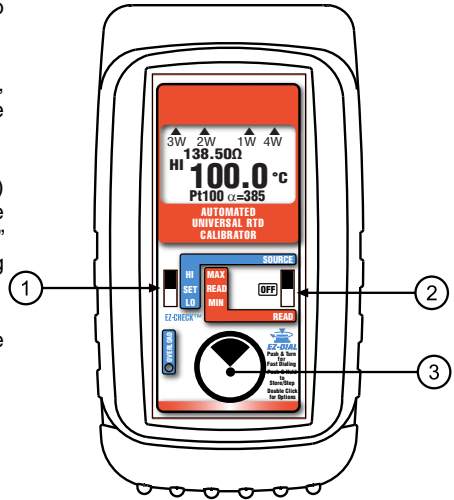
SOURCE

Choose this function to provide a simulated RTD signal into controllers, temperature transmitters, indicators or any input devices that measure thermocouple sensors.

- 1) Disconnect the RTD sensor from the device to be calibrated.
- 2) Select **"SOURCE"** with slide switch ②.
- 3) Connect the PIECAL 311 to the device using 2, 3 or 4 wires matching the connections of the sensor that was just removed.

The output is adjusted in 0.1° (or 0.01/0.1 ohm) increments by turning the knob ③ while the EZ-CHECK™ switch ① is in the "HI", "LO" or "SET" position. Press and turn the knob for faster dialing with 10° (or 1.00/10.0 ohm) increments.

The OVERLOAD indicator will light if excessive voltage or current is detected by the calibrator.



Reading RTD Sensors

READ

Choose this function to measure temperatures with an RTD probe or sensor.

- 1) Disconnect the RTD sensor from any other device.
- 2) Select **"READ"** with slide switch ②.
- 3) Place the EZ-CHECK switch into the READ position.
- 4) Connect the PIECAL 311 to the device using 2, 3 or 4 wires.

The PIECAL 311 measures the temperature signal and constantly updates the display with the current temperature reading. Move the EZ-CHECK switch to MAX to see the highest temperature reading and to MIN to see the lowest temperature reading. Press and hold the knob ③ to clear the MAX and MIN readings.

The OVERLOAD indicator will light if excessive voltage or current is detected by the calibrator.

Storing EZ-CHECK Outputs

STORING HI and LO EZ-CHECK Outputs

Choose this function to provide a simulated RTD signal into controllers, temperature transmitters, indicators or any other input device that measure thermocouple sensors..

- 1) Store your high (SPAN) output temperature by moving the EZ-CHECK switch to the **HI** position and turn the ③ EZ-Dial knob until the desired temperature is on the display. Press and hold the EZ-Dial knob until **STORED** appears to store the value. Release the EZ-Dial knob.
- 2) Store your low (ZERO) output temperature by moving the EZ-CHECK switch to the **LO** position and turn the ③ EZ-Dial knob until the desired temperature is on the display. Press and hold the EZ-Dial knob until **STORED** appears to store the value. Release the EZ-Dial knob.
- 3) Instantly output your SPAN and ZERO temperature outputs by moving the EZ-CHECK switch between HI and LO. You may also select any third temperature output (such as mid-range) using the SET position on the EZ-CHECK switch.

Automatic Stepping

To change the Automatic Stepping settings

Double click the ③ DIAL KNOB at any time the unit is on and the following display will appear for 30 seconds:

Turn the ③ DIAL KNOB to move through the menu. Press the ③ DIAL KNOB to toggle between OFF and ON or to change the STEPS and the STEP TIME settings. These settings are remembered even with the power off.

EXIT	15
> STEPS	3
STEP TIME	8
AUTO OFF	ON

EXIT MENU - exits this menu immediately and saves any changes. Menu will automatically exit after 30 seconds of inactivity.

STEPS - pressing the knob will cycle through 2, 3, 5, 11 and 21 steps then reverse direction. The endpoints of the steps are based on the values stored in the **HI** and **LO** EZ-CHECK outputs.

2 steps will automatically switch between the values stored in the HI & LO EZ-CHECK (0 & 100%).

3 steps between the HI, Midpoint and LO EZ-CHECK (0, 50 & 100%).

5 steps between the HI and LO EZ-CHECK in 25% increments (0, 25, 50, 75 & 100%).

11 steps between the HI and LO EZ-CHECK in 10% increments (0, 10, 20...80, 90 & 100%).

21 steps between the HI and LO EZ-CHECK in 5% increments (0, 5, 10... 90, 95 & 100%).

STEP TIME - pressing the knob will cycle through 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 60 seconds.

To start the Automatic Stepping

Start automatic stepping or ramping by placing the EZ-CHECK Switch into the HI or LO position then press and hold the ③ DIAL KNOB for 6 seconds (the word STORE will appear on the display after 3 seconds and continue to press the DIAL KNOB) until the word STEPPING appears on the display. The word STEPPING will appear on the display anytime the selected automatic function is running. Stop the stepping by again pressing and holding the ③ DIAL KNOB for 3 seconds.

Ranges & Accuracies

RTD Type	Alpha	Degrees C Range	Accuracy °C	Degrees F Range	Accuracy °F
Pt 100 Ohm (DIN/IEC/JIS 1989) Based on ITS-90	1.3850 (0.00385)	-200.0 to 200.0 200.0 to 600.0 600.0 to 850.0	±0.2° ±0.3° ±0.4°	-328.0 to 392.0 392.0 to 1112.0 1112.0 to 1562.0	±0.4° ±0.6° ±0.7°
Pt 100 Ohm (Burns)	1.3902 (0.003902)	-195.6 to 200.0 200.0 to 648.9	±0.2° ±0.3°	-320.0 to 392.0 392.0 to 1200	±0.4° ±0.6°
Pt 100 Ohm (Old JIS 1981)	1.3916 (0.003916)	-200.0 to 200.0 200.0 to 648.9	±0.2° ±0.3°	-328.0 to 392.0 392.0 to 1200	±0.4° ±0.6°
Pt 100 Ohm (US Lab)	1.3926 (0.003926)	-200.0 to 100.0 100.0 to 700.0 700.0 to 850.0	±0.2° ±0.3° ±0.4°	-328.0 to 212.0 212.0 to 1292.0 1292.0 to 1562.0	±0.4° ±0.6° ±0.7°
Pt 1000 Ohm (DIN/IEC/JIS 1989)	1.3850 (0.00385)	-200.0 to 200.0 200.0 to 600.0 600.0 to 850.0	±0.2° ±0.3° ±0.4°	-328.0 to 392.0 392.0 to 1112.0 1112.0 to 1562.0	±0.4° ±0.6° ±0.7°
Pt 1000 Ohm Hy-Cal HVAC	1.3750 (0.00375)	-200.0 to 200.0 200.0 to 600.0 600.0 to 850.0	±0.2° ±0.3° ±0.4°	-328.0 to 392.0 392.0 to 1112.0 1112.0 to 1562.0	±0.4° ±0.6° ±0.7°
Copper 10 Ohm (Minco)	1.4274 (0.004274)	-200.0 to 260.0	±2.0°	-328.0 to 500.0	±4.0°
Copper 50 Ohm	1.4280 (0.00428)	-50.0 to 150.0	±1.0°	-58.0 to 302.0	±1.6°
Ni 120 Ohm (Pure)	1.6720 (0.00672)	-80.0 to 260.0	±0.1°	-112.0 to 500.0	±0.2°
Ni 110 (Bristol 7 NA)	1.5801 (0.005801)	-100.0 to 260.0	±0.2°	-148.0 to 500.0	±0.3°

PIECAL 311 Specifications

(Unless otherwise indicated all specifications are rated from a nominal 23 °C, 70 % RH for 1 year from calibration)

General	
Accuracy	$\pm(0.015\% \text{ of Reading} + 0.05 \text{ Ohms})$
Temperature Drift	$\pm 0.01\% \text{ of span outside of } 23^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 10^{\circ}\text{C} (73^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 18^{\circ}\text{F})$
Operating Temperature Range	-25 to 60 °C (-10 to 140 °F)
Relative Humidity Range	10 % \leq RH \leq 90 % (0 to 35 °C), Non-condensing 10 % \leq RH \leq 70 % (35 to 60 °C), Non-condensing
Size	5.63 x 3.00 x 1.60 inches, 143 x 76 x 41 mm (L x W x H)
Weight	12.1 ounces, 0.34 kg (including boot & batteries)
Batteries	Four "AA" Alkaline 1.5V (LR6)
Battery Life	50 Hours
Optional NiMh Rechargeable battery kit	120 VAC for North America Only; charger, four NiMh batteries, AC & DC cords [Part # 020-0103]
Low Battery	Low battery indication with nominal 1 hour of operation left
Protection against misconnection	Over-voltage protection to 60 V dc (rated for 30 seconds)
Display	High contrast graphic liquid crystal display. LED backlighting for use in low lit areas.

Read	
Excitation Current	0.5 mA nominal
Normal Mode Rejection	50/60 Hz, 50 dB
Common Mode Rejection	50/60 Hz, 120 dB

Source	
Accuracy	
From 1 to 10.2 mA External Excitation Current	$\pm(0.015\% \text{ of Reading} + 0.05 \text{ Ohms})$
Below 1 mA of External Excitation Current	$\pm(0.015\% \text{ of Reading} + \frac{0.025 \text{ mV}}{\text{mA Excitation Current}} + 0.05 \text{ Ohms})$
Resistance Ranges	0.00 to 410.00, 410.1 to 4001.0 Ohms
Allowable Excitation Current Range	<410 Ohms: 10.2 mA max; steady or pulsed/intermittent 410 to 4001 Ohms: 1 mA max; steady or pulsed/intermittent
Pulsed Excitation Current Compatibility	DC to 0.01 second pulse width

Additional Information

This product is calibrated on equipment traceable to NIST and includes a Certificate of Calibration. Test Data is available for an additional charge.

Practical Instrument Electronics recommends a calibration interval of one year. Contact your local representative for recalibration and repair services.

Accessories

Included:

Rubber Boot, Four "AA" Alkaline batteries, Certificate of Calibration	
Small Carrying Case with PIE Logo	Part No. 020-0205
Evolution RTD Wire Kit	Part No. 020-0208
2 Red & 2 Black Leads with Retractable Shield Banana Plugs & Spade Lugs	

Optional:

Ni-MH 1 Hour Charger with 4 Ni-MH AA Batteries (100-120 V AC input for North America Only)	Part No. 020-0103
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Warranty

Our equipment is warranted against defective material and workmanship (excluding batteries) for a period of three years from the date of shipment. Claims under warranty can be made by returning the equipment prepaid to our factory. The equipment will be repaired, replaced or adjusted at our option. The liability of Practical Instrument Electronics (PIE) is restricted to that given under our warranty. No responsibility is accepted for damage, loss or other expense incurred through sale or use of our equipment. Under no condition shall Practical Instrument Electronics, Inc. be liable for any special, incidental or consequential damage.