

MAGMETER MF500M+ MAGNETITE METER

USER MANUAL

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing MF500M+. Before using the unit, please read these instructions carefully. If you are uncertain about any aspect of its operation, please contact Diverse ,our contact details are at the end of this manual.

The MF500M+ is designed to measure magnetite in non-magnetic stainless steel pipes, particularly cooling pipes in power stations.

The MF500M+ Magnetic Field Meter uses a force technique to detect and estimate levels of magnetic material (particularly magnetite) contained within stainless steel pipes. Because of this, it is **ESSENTIAL** that the pipe walls are not magnetic.



First time, quick start

The unit requires 4 AA cells which should be installed in the battery compartment on the rear of the housing.

Measurements are made by bringing the flat area at the front side of the probe into contact with the outside of the pipe. The probe measures force and has correction for gravitational force, but it is good practice to zero the probe in the same orientation as the measurement.

Quick start

1. Plug in the magnetite probe.
2. Load the AA batteries in to the battery compartment ensuring that the polarity is correct
3. Press the ⓘ power button, the unit will switch on.
4. Hold probe away from pipe and depress button on probe until a long beep is heard (zero value stored)
5. Take probe to the pipe and press button on probe, a double beep will indicate measurement has been taken.

For a more detailed description of functionality see the operation section.

Important note

The probe end should be placed no closer than 5mm to steel or iron as this will stress the detector.

Controls

There are 4 buttons on the meter and one on the probe with functions as given in table 1.

Table 1. Button functions

Button presses are accompanied by audible confirmation as

Button	Icon	Function
Power	ⓘ	long press to turn unit off, short press to turn on
up	▲	scroll through records in <view records> scroll through barrel menu
down	▼	scroll through records in <view records> scroll through barrel menu
Tick	✓	select main menu item If in <view records> long tick to exit Double press toggles backlight
Probe button	black (probe)	short press take measurement and record, long press store current value as zero/offset

follows:

- single beep - menu select and at power on
- double beep - measurement recorded
- triple beep - unit powered off
- long beep - zero/offset value updated

Menus

<Measure>

This is the normal mode of operation.

There are two display modes for this menu which can be toggled using a long press on the up ▲ or down ▼ keys. Data is updated approximately every second.

The first mode displays the measured value, currently stored offset and signal (difference) on the bottom line. The next available record number is shown on the top line.

The second display mode estimates the amount of pipe occlusion based on the current measured and offset values (note there are a number of assumptions in these estimates see section on calibration).

Note that data displayed on the first of these display formats is what is recorded on a short probe button press.

<View records>

Press tick ✓ to view stored records (4 records shown, 1 record per line). Tick ✓ toggles between the two display formats.

The default format is record number, measure value, stored offset and signal (difference between measured and zero/offset). Alternative format gives record number and signal.

Use the up ▲ or down ▼ keys to scroll through stored records. Long press of up ▲ or down ▼ scrolls a page i.e. 4 records. Press long tick ✓ to return to <Measure>.

<Clear records>

Press tick ✓ to clear records and set next record pointer to start of memory. Reverts back to main screen.

<About>

Press tick ✓ to see software version. To leave press up ▲ or down ▼ keys.

<Calibrate>

The instrument has two calibration factors used when estimating pipe occlusion, gain and packing factor. The following section gives details on how these factors are calculated.

This menu option gives the user the opportunity to modify the calibration factors. Press tick ✓ to see factors.

A long press on the up ▲ or down ▼ keys is used to select the factor. The current selection is shown by the symbol >. Press up ▲ and down ▼ keys to increase or decrease the selected factor. With gain or packing selected press enter to store the values and exit to the main menu.

To revert to the factory calibration press enter button with default selected.

Calibration and pipe occlusion

A magnetite sample was used for factory calibration, This is a cuvette 1cmx1cmx1.5cm packed with magnetite flakes. A force measurement is recorded with the centre of a long side of the cuvette 5mm from the centre of the probe measurement surface (to simulate a pipe wall thickness). This value is taken for the factory calibration gain and the software assumes that this value corresponds to an occlusion of 75% in a tube of 40mm inner diameter and 5mm wall thickness.

By measuring the mass of the cuvette the density of the magnetite flake sample was calculated and compared to the density of solid magnetite. This gave a packing factor of 48%. This factor is used in the display of occlusion for solid magnetite. Calibration settings can be altered using the <Calibrate> menu. The calibration standard supplied is designed to mimic the above, measurement should be on the black side without the label.

User offset adjustment

The offset has been set to be nominally 0 counts with the probe held horizontally. In the unlikely event that the offset needs to be adjusted then this can be carried by adjusting the potentiometer. Gently peel back the calibration label on the probe to access the potentiometer. Using a small screwdriver, clockwise will take the offset negative, anticlockwise will take the offset positive. Replace the calibration label after adjustment. Note that the meter's range is nominally 0 to 2047 force units.

The meter provides a number that increases with the amount of magnetite present. The following aspects should be noted:

1. The meter is corrected for gravity but it is good practice to zero the meter, away from the pipe, in the same orientation as the measurement to follow.
2. The meter is designed to work with a space between the probe cap and magnetite. If the meter is too close to magnetite (or indeed a ferritic sample) then a raw reading of 2047 will be displayed.
3. Warning, magnetite distribution will effect the measured value i.e. a small amount of material close to the probe will give the same signal as a larger amount further away.

Magnetite tends to accumulate on the corners of cooling pipes where the pipes turn from vertical to horizontal. At these points the pipe fills up from the bottom rather than homogeneously as per our occlusion calculations.

Under these conditions we would recommend probing the underside, the side and the top of the pipe around the circumference. Due to the proximity of other pipes the underside and top of the pipes may not be accessible so we recommend probing positions A, B and C in the Figure 2.

As the pipe fills up the signal is expected to increase on A first then B and finally C.

Measurement technique

We recommend that a number of pipes are surveyed and the measurements correlated with magnet tests and x-ray data. From these results a measurement rational should be evident that allows pipes with a particular occlusion to be readily identified using the meter. An alternative formal rote is described in the following section.

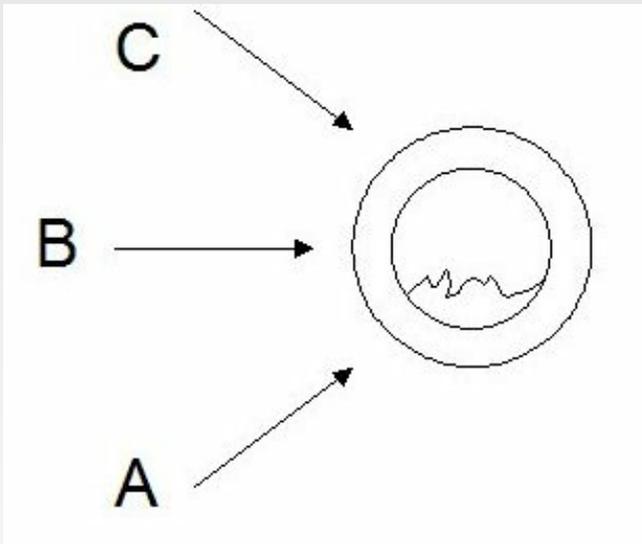


Figure 2. Pipe measurement

Calculation of Magnetite from MF500M readings

Preamble

The magnetite meter measures the force on a powerful rare earth magnet caused by the ferritic component of the magnetite. It is a prerequisite of this technique that the containing pipe is stainless steel which is not magnetic. In making the measurement the instrument has a sensor that has some compensation for the probe orientation in respect to gravitational forces.

Clearly the magnetite could be in any amount at any point in the pipe, but in reality there are only really 2 likely scenarios. Firstly the pipe is fully filled and in normal use there is continuously flowing water filling the tube. In this case the magnetite is likely to be evenly deposited on the inside surface. (Note this is not guaranteed and could be affected by turbulent flow or surface finish attributes). The second scenario is that the magnetite has accumulated on one side of the pipe. This can be due to a horizontal pipe that is not fully filled, or accumulation of flakes of magnetite building up under gravity. The measurement rote attempts to identify which type of deposit is in place and then estimate the deposit thickness from the measurement.

Before starting the probe should be placed in a position at least 1m from any magnetic material and the instrument should be zeroed. This removes any constant offset in the measurement system to be removed from all subsequent measurements.

Calculation of Magnetite from MF500M+ readings

Measurement - phase 1

Placing the probe on any point on the surface of the pipe slowly move the probe around the surface of the pipe keeping the face of the probe at a tangent to the pipe surface. noting the points where the reading is the highest and lowest S_{max} and S_{min} .

Now you need to decide whether the magnetite is coating the whole of the inside surface of the pipe or just a sector (as would happen with a horizontal pipe where either flakes of magnetite have accrued or the water has not fully filled the pipe). From the analysis we have done, if the ratio $S_{max}/S_{min} < 1.5$ then the accrual might be deemed to be evenly coated.

Measurement - phase 2: sector coating

Starting at the point where the signal is a maximum (S_{max}) with a chalk mark to indicate this position, slowly move the probe round the pipe maintaining the probe at a tangent to the pipe surface until the signal has fallen to $S_{max}/2$. Mark the pipe again. Repeat the procedure in the other direction. In each case note the angle from the S_{max} position take the average of these as θ (the half angle).

Calculation of Magnetite from MF500M readings

Defining the sector thickness t to be the thickest point of a sector bounded by the inside of the pipe and a straight line across the arc, and, R is the radius of the inside of the pipe.

The *estimate* of sector thickness, t is: $t = R * (1 - \cos(\theta))$

Ratio of sector thickness to radius is: $q = 1 - \cos(\theta)$ ———(1)

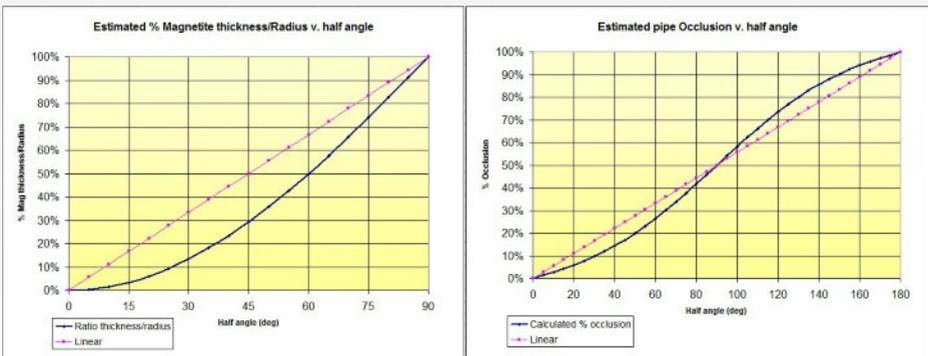
($0 < \theta < 90^\circ$)

Occlusion, f (fraction)

For θ in radians: $f = (\theta - (\sin(2\theta)/4)) / \pi$

For θ in degrees: $f = (\theta * \pi / 180 - \sin(2\theta * \pi / 180) / 4) / \pi$ ———(2)

Expressions 1 and 2 are plotted below together with a simple linear approximation that could be appropriate for quick assessments.



MF500M Specification

Reading range	0 to 2047 force units
Occlusion	0 to 100%
Technique	Uses net magnetic force to identify magnetite and magnetic material
Accuracy	Reading range: 0 - 2047 force units. These are arbitrary units, and each instrument needs to be calibrated to the specific pipe geometry and magnetite samples
Zero	Can be zeroed at any time - probe is corrected for gravitational forces but zeroing recommended in the measurement orientation
Probe orientation	Measurement independent of probe orientation provided it is zeroed first in that orientation
Gravity	Probe is corrected for gravitational forces.
Display	4 lines of 16 characters Shows value and user interface messages
Functions	Raw force, occlusion for solid and broken magnetite
Internal data sample rate	500 samples per second
Repeatability	+/-5% assuming sample is degaussed
Probe size	20mm x25mm, 150mm long
Detection	Detects the magnetic force between the sensing magnet and the magnetite. The signal is offset by an estimate of the gravitational force.
Storage	Maximum of 20 records can be stored
Probe cable length	1.5m typical
Calibration:	Calibration is indicative only. Unit is supplied with a standard so that the instrument functionality can be verified
Power:	4 standard AA cells , typical lifetime 12 months. Continuous use 15 hours
Instrument size:	210 x 100 x 50mm
Weight in case:	1.3kg
Environmental:	10 - 40C operating, 0 - 80C storage
Humidity	0-90% non condensing
Display update rate:	0.3 seconds
Warranty	12 months

Diverse Technologies accepts no responsibility for the consequential losses arising from the ability or inability to use the equipment supplied. The limit of warranty is the repair or replacement of any faulty components, directly attributable to manufacturing defects, arising during the period of 12 months following purchase. This does not include damage resulting from incorrect operation of the instrument.

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Calibration, Repair, Disposal and Recycling

The MF500M+ and probe is supplied with a calibration certificate. However, its operation is indicative only to be used to determine the potential level of pipe occlusion.

IMPORTANT

This instrument uses magnetic force balancing and requires specific equipment to set the unit up for optimum operation. If the instrument requires repair this can only be undertaken at Diverse Technologies. If the MF500M+ requires repair, the unit should be returned to Diverse, there are no user serviceable parts.

This instrument should be disposed of in a responsible manner to allow the components within it to be recycled. The wheellie bin symbol shown here and on the product means that the product is classed as Electrical and Electronic Equipment and should not be disposed with other household or commercial waste at the end of its working life.

The Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) directive (2002/96/EC) has been put in place in the EU to recycle products using the best recovery and recycling techniques to minimise the impact on the environment, treat any hazardous substances and avoid landfill. Business users should ensure that this product is not mixed with other commercial waste for disposal.

