

# TENSITRON®



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**Operating Instructions**  
**TX-1 Series Digital**  
**Wire / Filament Tension Meter**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. WARRANTY POLICY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. SPECIFICATIONS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. INSTRUMENT DESCRIPTION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
STANDARD INSTRUMENTS.....	7
ADD-ON OPTIONS .....	7
- R Custom Roller Option.....	7
- S Speed and Length Option.....	7
- A Analog Output Option .....	7
- E RS-232 Serial Output Option.....	7
FEATURES OF ALL INSTRUMENTS.....	8
<b>5. BASIC OPERATION .....</b>	<b>10</b>
CHARGING INSTRUMENT BATTERIES .....	10
QUICK START INSTRUCTIONS .....	10
ENGAGING INSTRUMENT ONTO MATERIAL.....	12
<b>6. DISPLAY SCREEN .....</b>	<b>13</b>
SETUP SCREEN.....	13
LCD Refresh Rate.....	13
Data Averaging .....	13
Cal Analog (Optional feature).....	13
Cal Length (Optional feature).....	14
Custom Names .....	14
Resolution.....	14
Length Units (Optional feature).....	14
Audio .....	15
Backlight.....	15
Set-Point Menu.....	15
Version.....	15
DATA LOGGING SCREEN .....	16
Logging Rate (when logging Continuous Data).....	16
Duration (when logging Continuous Data).....	16
Select Mode.....	16
View Data Stats .....	16
View Data Log .....	17
Clear Single Point Log.....	17
TENSION UNITS SCREEN .....	17
SELECT MATERIAL SCREEN .....	17
Select Material Wire Units.....	17
Select Material Filaments Units.....	17
Select Material Custom Units .....	17
LENGTH SCREEN .....	17
SPEED SCREEN.....	18



**Proprietary Notice**

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Tensitron reserves the right to make instrument changes and improvements, which may not be reflected in this document. Portions of this document may have been updated to include the latest hardware or firmware version, if applicable. We recommend that this document be read in its entirety before any attempt is made to operate the instrument.

Please note Tensitron requires this instrument to be returned to Tensitron for recalibration. Annual Calibration is strongly recommended. Please contact us at [service@tensitron.com](mailto:service@tensitron.com)

***Thank You . . .***

For purchasing another fine product from Tensitron

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call us at

303-702-1980

or find us online at

[www.tensitron.com](http://www.tensitron.com)

**1****WARRANTY POLICY****STANDARD EQUIPMENT WARRANTY**

Tensitron warrants that all Tensitron-manufactured equipment will be free of any defect in materials or workmanship for the period of (1) year. Warranty begins from the date of shipment from a Tensitron facility. The warranty is extended to customers and applies to all Tensitron-manufactured equipment purchased, installed, and used for the purpose for which such equipment was originally designed. The above warranties cover only defects arising under normal use and do not include malfunctions or failures resulting from misuse, abuse, neglect, alteration, problems with electrical power, usage not in accordance with product instructions, acts of nature, or improper installation or repairs made by anyone other than Tensitron or a Tensitron-authorized, third-party service provider. Shipping costs to and from Tensitron are not included in the warranty coverage.

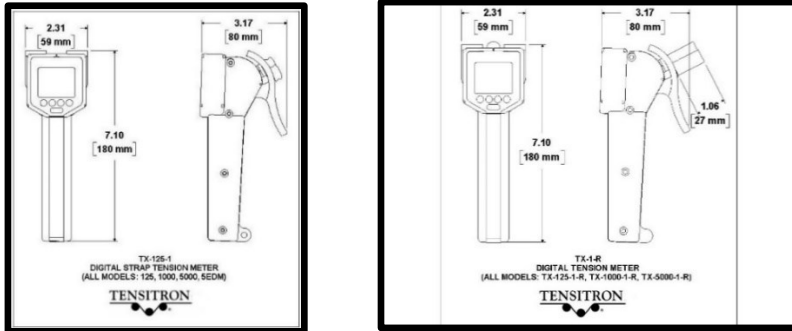


Figure 1: TX-1 Dimensions

**Full-Scale Accuracy**

For all models up through 5000 grams: 1%  
 Accuracy for custom calibrations is material specific.

**Power Requirements**

For Instrument Input: 9 VDC...2.2A  
 For AC Adapter: 100-240V~50-60Hz 0.48A  
 Power Supply operates with input voltages from 100 –240V and includes several interchangeable adapters allowing use with European, U.S., Australian, British, and other plug configurations.  
 Battery: Rechargeable NiMH, custom proprietary design

**Battery Life**

Approximately 8 hours depending on backlighting intensity

**Operating Temperature**

Recommended operating temperature range for TX-1 meters is 20 to 65 C (-4 to 149 F).  
 Recommended charging temperature range for TX-1 meters is 0 to 45 C (32 to 113 F).

**Storage Temperature**

20° F to 158° F (instrument and charger)

**Ambient Humidity**

10% to 90% non-condensing

**Dimensions**

All models without cylindrical rollers: 2.31" x 3.17" x 7.10"  
 All models with cylindrical rollers: 2.31" x 3.70" x 7.10" (See Figure 1.)

**Weight**

.75 lb. (depending on instrument configuration)

**Environment:**

Indoor or outdoor use, dust-free environment



## 3

## SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

**WARNING:** When using cordless, electronic instruments, always follow basic safety precautions to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock, and personal injury



**USE ONLY A TENSITRON POWER SUPPLY TO AVOID DAMAGE TO INSTRUMENT.**



**READ AND SAVE ALL INSTRUCTIONS.** Before use, ensure all users read and understand this manual, as well as labels packaged with or attached to the instrument.

- Know your instrument. Read this manual carefully to learn your tension meter's applications and limitations, as well as potential hazards associated with this type of instrument.
- Avoid dangerous environments. Do not use your instrument in explosive atmospheres (gaseous fumes, dust, or flammable materials). Do not submerge your instrument in liquids.
- Use the right tool or instrument. Do not use this instrument to do a job for which it is not recommended.
- Check for damaged parts. Inspect instrument before use. Check for any binding of moving parts, improper mountings, broken parts, and any other condition that may affect operation. Do not use a damaged instrument. Tag damaged instrument "DO NOT USE" until repaired. For repair, send instruments directly to Tensitron.
- Guard against electric shock.
- Maintain instrument carefully. Keep handles dry, clean, and free from oil and grease. Do not lubricate. All roller bearings are sealed.
- Do not use instrument if it has received a sharp blow, been dropped, or damaged in any way. Do not disassemble. Incorrect reassembly may result in damage to the instrument and risk of electric shock and fire. Return damaged instruments to Tensitron for repair.
- **WARNING:** Only use battery pack assemblies provided by Tensitron with your meter. Other types of batteries might explode, causing personal injury and damage. Unplug charger when not in use.
- Tensitron recommends calibration by the manufacturer at one-year intervals or sooner if the meter is worn, damaged, or reading incorrectly. However, it is the user's responsibility to establish a suitable calibration interval, considering the user's accuracy requirements, requirements set by contract or regulation, and environmental factors such as frequency and conditions of the meter's use.



## STANDARD INSTRUMENTS

Model	Material Selection (Wire / Filaments)	Resolution (grams)	Range (grams)
TX-125-1	37 to 54 AWG or finer / .0002" to .0044" Filaments	0.1	0-125
TX-1000-1	32 – 40 AWG or finer / .002" to .008" Filaments	1	10-1000
TX-5000-1	28 – 40 AWG or finer / .02" to .120" Filaments	5	50-5000
TX-5EDM-1	EDM Wires (.10, .15, .20, .25, & .30mm)	5	50-5000

## ADD-ON OPTIONS

*Instruments can be configured with any of the options below. Meters can be equipped with either –A or –E, but not both.*

**- R Custom Roller Option**

Choose from numerous sizes of cylindrical, flanged, or U-shaped rollers.

**- S Speed and Length Option**

Indicate real-time speed in FPM or MPM. Maximum measurable speed is 9,999 FPM or 9,999 meters per minute. (Note: Line speeds exceeding 2,000 FPM are generally unsafe for hand-held applications.) Read length measured up to 9,999 meters.

**- A Analog Output Option**

For both speed and tension values.  
0-5 VDC of 4-20mA with software definable ending sequences.  
Data output at 40 Hz.  
Provided with 10' cable to interface with your receiving device.

**- E RS-232 Serial Output Option**

Select data sampling rate from 1, 2, or 5 Hz.  
Provided with 10' cable to interface with your receiving device.



## FEATURES OF ALL INSTRUMENTS

- Large, easy-to-read, color display with adjustable backlighting.
- Display shows tension, material selected, minimum and maximum tension values, and a dynamic color bar graph that indicates changing tensions and battery charge levels.
- Select tension values to display in grams, lbs, Newtons, or cN (cN only available on TX-125-1-series instruments).
- Instrument includes calibrations for numerous wires and filaments.
- Extremely accurate custom calibration using up to a 10-point linear calibration procedure.
- All calibrations are password protected.
- Choose your calibration by first highlighting and selecting the material (Wire, Filaments, or Custom). Next, define material size using choices such as AWG, inches, or mm and push “Enter.” The instrument automatically adjusts to the calibration you’ve selected with a full-scale accuracy of +/- 1%. Note: Full-scale accuracy for custom calibrations is material-specific.
- Adjustable LCD refresh rates allowing for stable, digital readouts.
- Automatic shutoff after several minutes of non-use.
- Instruments may be operated continuously while connected to power supply.
- Data Logging: Select either Continuous or Single Point data logging mode and record tension or (optional) speed values to the instrument memory.
- Data Averaging: Stabilizes your displayed tension readings. This feature calculates and displays a rolling average of the readings taken over a user-defined time period. Options are: 1, 2, 5, or 10 seconds. (Only the readings taken in the most recent period will be averaged and displayed.)
- Data Statistics: Monitor your process by viewing count, average, minimum/maximum, and standard deviation values of your logged data.
- Set-Point feature: allows user to specify high and low tension points, which are then shown on the main display as an active, color-changing bar graph.
- Rechargeable NiMH batteries with power supply provided. Approximately 12 hours of continuous use depending on backlighting intensity.
- Power supply operates with input voltages from 100 – 240V and includes several interchangeable adapters allowing use with European, Australian, US, British, and other plug configurations.
- Optional features, including Custom Rollers, Speed and Length monitoring, Analog Output or Serial Output.
- Optional magnetic or rigid Mounting Bracket.
- All models typically available from stock.
- Numerous application-specific models available.
- Durable, lightweight carrying case with protective foam inserts. (See Figure 2.)
- All instruments are factory-calibrated and ready to use. Calibration certificate is included. All calibration values are traceable to National Standards.






*Figure 2: Carrying case with instrument, calibration certificate, power supply (charger), adapters and operating instructions.*

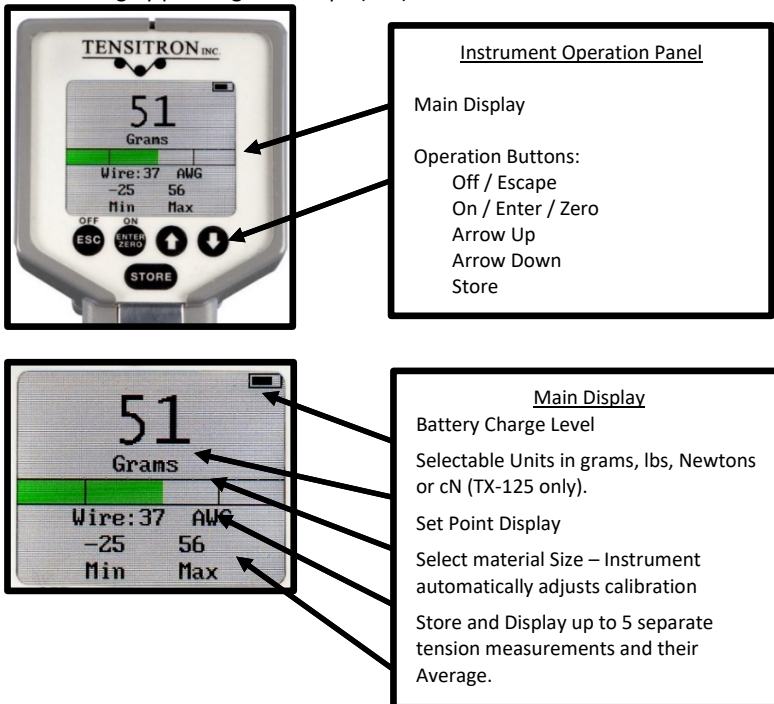


### CHARGING INSTRUMENT BATTERIES

1.  Use only a Tensitron power supply to avoid damage to instrument. Connect power supply cable to instrument.
2. Plug the power supply into a power source with input voltages between 100 – 240 VAC.
3. A full charge of the battery assembly requires several hours of charging.
4. Battery pack assembly cannot be overcharged.
5. Instrument will remain on while connected to its power supply.
6. Battery charge level is indicated in upper right-hand corner of display.

### QUICK START INSTRUCTIONS

1. Power unit on by pressing ON button. Main display will indicate Tension, Material, five stored tension readings and their average, and other information. (See Figure 3.)
2. Select a screen:
  - a. Move between screens by using the up (↑) and down (↓) buttons.
  - b. Make or enter a selection by pressing the Enter/Zero button.
  - c. Exit a setting by pressing the Escape (ESC) button.



**Figure 3: Instrument Operation Panel and Display**



3. Log Data:
  - a. Press the STORE button to store tension readings along with the Minimum and Maximum of these values.
  - b. Clear the data displayed on the Main Screen by pressing and holding the STORE button or power the instrument off.
  - c. For additional information on logging and viewing data, refer to Sec 6 - Display Screens - Data Logging.
4. Read Tension: Variations in materials affect tension readings. It is essential to select the correct material and size before use, or tension values may be incorrect.
5. Select Tension Units:
  - a. Using the up or down arrows, scroll to TENSION UNITS, then press ENTER.
  - b. Next, select from Grams, Newtons, or LBS, and then press ENTER.
6. Select material:
  - a. Using the up or down arrows, scroll to SELECT MATERIAL, then press ENTER.
  - b. Next, select your material from Wire, Filaments, or Custom and press ENTER. Next, select your material size (diameter) in AWG (for wires), Inches, mm, or description for Custom entries, and then ENTER your selection. (See Figure 4.)
  - c. If your specific material is not listed, add it to the menu by following the calibration instructions included at the end of these instructions. Or, send a 15' sample of your material and the instrument to Tensitron and ask to have it added to the menu.



Select material and then Size – Instrument automatically adjusts calibration

**Figure 4: Select Material Screen**

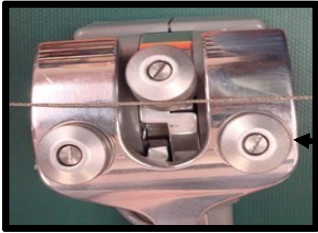
7. Zero Instrument: Hold the instrument in the attitude your reading will be taken before you engage it to the tensioned material. Then, press ZERO.



## ENGAGING INSTRUMENT ONTO MATERIAL

**WARNING: DO NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM TENSION RANGE  
OF THE INSTRUMENT, OR DAMAGE WILL OCCUR.**

- Engage the Instrument onto the tensioned material by separating the rollers (squeeze the trigger assembly) and inserting your material between the fixed roller and the two rollers on the trigger assembly. (See Figure 5.)
- Once the material is in line with the three rollers, slowly release the trigger until it makes a full stop. Note tension reading (See Figure 6.)



Trigger and Guide Plate

Note the routing of the material.  
Pull Trigger and engage instrument onto material

***Figure 5: Instrument ready to engage***



Note the routing of the Material.

Once material is properly routed, gently release the Trigger until it stops into the engaged position.

***Figure 6: Instrument engaged onto material***



## 6

**DISPLAY SCREEN****SETUP SCREEN****LCD Refresh Rate**

To either speed up or slow down the instrument's LCD refresh rates:

- Scroll to SETUP and press ENTER.
- Scroll to LCD REFRESH RATE and press ENTER.
- Enter your preference: 1, 2, or 5 Hz, and press ENTER.  
Note: This feature is unrelated to Data Averaging.

**Data Averaging**

Use this feature to adjust the stability of your displayed tension readings. It allows users to select the duration the meter takes tension readings over before averaging all of the readings and posting that average to the display. The meter takes ~300 readings per second, so if a 1 second duration is selected, the meter will average all 300 readings before posting the average of those readings to the display. Likewise, if a 10-second duration is selected, the meter will average all 3000 readings before posting the average of those 3000 readings to the display. Options are: 1, 2, 5 and 10 seconds. This is a rolling average, meaning that only the readings taken in the last 1, 2, 5, or 10 seconds (your choice) will be averaged and displayed.

Note: This feature is primarily used in processes where the material to be checked is constantly moving, such as coil winding and textiles.

**Cal Analog (Optional feature)**

Use this feature to calibrate the Analog Out option by hanging the weight specified on the screen then entering that numeric value on your Signal Conditioner (follow the instructions with your signal conditioner)

- Scroll to SETUP and press ENTER.
- Scroll to CAL ANALOG and press ENTER.
- Using the up and down arrows, adjust the display to indicate the value at which the instrument should output maximum Voltage or current.
- Then press ENTER.



## Cal Length (Optional feature)

Use this feature to calibrate the Length measurement option of your instrument.

- Scroll to SETUP and press ENTER.
- Scroll to CAL LENGTH and press ENTER.
- Next, using a precise 20-foot length of your material (20.0'), thread one end through the instrument's three rollers and slowly pull exactly 20.0' through the instrument.  
NOTE: The material must be under tension to make good contact with the rollers on the instrument.
- Then press ENTER.

## Custom Names

Custom calibrations, listed as Custom 0 – 9, can be renamed, so your material appears as a selection on the Main Display. To rename a Custom Calibration:

- Scroll to SETUP and press ENTER.
- Scroll to CUSTOM NAMES and press ENTER.
- Scroll to the description to rename and press ENTER.
- Input your custom name by using the up and down arrows to select each number, letter, or character, followed each time by ENTER.
- Continue pressing ENTER until all spaces in the description have values, including blank spaces.
- Once your new name has been entered, you will automatically be returned to the SETUP screen.

## Resolution

To either increase or decrease the Resolution of the tension readings:

- Scroll to SETUP and press ENTER.
- Scroll to RESOLUTION and press ENTER.
- Select your preference: 5 or 10 Grams for the Model TX-5000 series, 1 or 5 Grams for the TX-1000 series, or 0.1 to 0.5 Grams for the TX-125 series. Then press ENTER.

## Length Units (Optional feature)

Use this feature to select the unit for measuring length.

- Scroll to SETUP and press ENTER.
- Scroll to Length Units and press ENTER.
- Select your preference: Meters or Feet, and press ENTER.



## Audio

To turn the Beep ON or OFF:

- Scroll to SETUP and press ENTER.
- Scroll to AUDIO and press ENTER.
- Select ON or OFF and press ENTER.

## Backlight

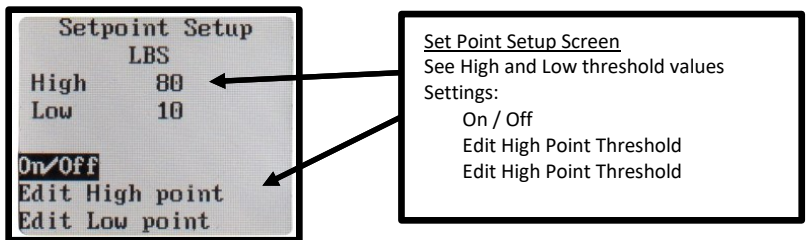
To adjust the visual intensity of the LCD screen:

- Scroll to SETUP and press ENTER.
- Scroll to BACKLIGHT and press ENTER
- Select Low, Medium, or Full intensity and press ENTER.

## Set-Point Menu

This feature displays tension as a colored bar on the main display. The colored bar advances as tension increases and retracts as tension decreases. You can define a safe operating tension range. For tension measurements within this range, the bar is green. Below the range, the bar is amber. Above the range, the bar is red. To adjust the Set Point Menu:

- Scroll to SETUP and press ENTER.
- Scroll to SETPOINT MENU and press ENTER.
- Follow and enter the prompts to turn this feature on or off or to edit your high and low values. (See Figure 7.)



**Figure 7: Setpoint Setup**

## Version

Press this button to determine the instrument's model and what level of firmware is downloaded to the instrument.



## DATA LOGGING SCREEN

Each time the instrument's STORE button is pressed, a log of that material tension will be stored in memory for later review.

### Logging Rate (when logging Continuous Data)

To adjust the rate at which the tension readings are logged:

- Scroll to DATA LOGGING and press ENTER.
- Scroll to LOGGING RATE and press ENTER
- Select 1, 2, or 5 Hz and press ENTER.

### Duration (when logging Continuous Data)

To adjust the duration that tension readings are logged:

- Scroll to DATA LOGGING and press ENTER.
- Scroll to DURATION and press ENTER
- Use the Up and Down arrows to change the Duration that you want data stored and press ENTER. (Minimum: 10 seconds; Maximum: 100 seconds)

### Select Mode

To change the mode that tension readings are logged:

- Scroll to DATA LOGGING and press ENTER.
- Scroll to SELECT MODE and press ENTER
- Use the Up and Down arrows to select either CONTINUOUS or SINGLE POINT data collection.

### View Data Stats

This feature allows the operator to view the basic statistics of the logged data (Count, Average, Min/Max, and Standard Deviation). (See Figure 8.)

Data Statistics	
Count:	12
Avg:	293
StdDev:	30
Max:	352.8
Min:	231.6

Data Statistics Screen

See the Count, Average, Minimum/Maximum, and Standard Deviation of the logged data.

*Figure 8: Data Statistics Screen*





## **View Data Log**

When data is logged to the instrument memory, that data and the statistics of that data log (Count, Average, Minimum/Maximum, and Standard Deviation) can be seen under the Data Logging / View Data Stats screen. To view this logged data:

- Scroll to DATA LOGGING and press ENTER.
- Scroll to VIEW DATA LOG and press ENTER.

## **Clear Single Point Log**

To clear stored data, scroll to CLEAR SINGLE PT LOG, press ENTER, and follow the prompts.

## **TENSION UNITS SCREEN**

To change the unit of measure in which tension readings are logged:

- Scroll to Tension Units and press ENTER.
- Use the Up and Down arrows to Grams, Newtons, and Pounds (CentiNewtons on TX-125 only) and press ENTER.

## **SELECT MATERIAL SCREEN**

Press ENTER while this display is shown to show the available options for material types. The options are Wires, Filaments, and Custom. Use the up or down arrow to scroll to the option you want and press ENTER to select it.

### **Select Material Wire Units**

This feature allows the operator to select the unit for describing diameter of wire to be measured for tension: AWG, Inches, or mm.

### **Select Material Filaments Units**

This feature allows the operator to select the unit for describing diameter of filaments to be measured for tension: Inches or mm.

### **Select Material Custom Units**

This feature allows the operator to select the unit for describing diameter of the custom material to be measured for tension. For Custom, the operator inputs the options for units. Use the up and down arrows to scroll through all the available alpha-numeric symbols and press ENTER to choose that symbol.

## **LENGTH SCREEN**

SCROLL down to this screen to view the length that has traveled through the meter since enabled (or reset), measuring up to 9,999 meters. The units of measure will be shown in meters or feet. (These units are designated in the Setup screen under Length Units).



## **SPEED SCREEN**

Scroll down to this screen to view the speed at which the material is passing through the meter at that instant. The meter will also store the Minimum and Maximum speeds logged. The units of measure will be shown in Meters/Minute or Feet/Minute. (These units are designated in the Setup screen under Length Units). Maximum measurable speed is 9,999 FPM or 9,999 meters per minute. Note: line speeds exceeding 2,000 FPM are generally unsafe for hand-held applications.

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