Instruction Manual for LAC series ovens

LAC Series Despatch ovens are bench ovens to 260°C (500°F) with forced convected airflow.

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INTRODUCTION

The Despatch LAC series are precise high quality, high volume ovens featuring a horizontal airflow system for rapid, uniform distribution of heat throughout the chamber.

To obtain optimal results from your Despatch oven, thoroughly familiarize yourself with this manual and the various procedures outlined.

WARNING: Failure to heed these restrictions can result in property damage, serious bodily injury or death.

DO NOT use oven in wet, corrosive, or explosive atmosphere.

DO NOT attempt any service on this equipment without disconnecting the main power switch or power cord.

DO NOT exceed maximum operating temperature of 260°C (500°F).

DO NOT use any flammable solvent or other flammable materials or enclosed containers in the oven.

REPLACE 3 FU fuses with NON-6 or OT-6 (250V, 6 amp) only.

FOR supply connections on LAC 2-12 use 10 AWG or larger wires suitable for at least 75°C (167°F).

Unpacking, Inspection and Packing List

Remove all packing materials and inspect the oven for damage. If damaged, and damage is due to shipment, contact the shipper immediately. If oven parts are damaged, or if parts are missing, contact Despatch Customer Service at 800/328-5476. (In MN 800-462-5396)

You should have in this box:

One oven
Two shelves
One package containing four rubber feet
One operators manual
Warranty card

Any optional accessories ordered will be shipped separately.

Installation

Remove the adhesive backing sheet from the rubber feet and attach the rubber feet to the bottom corners of the oven.

Place the oven on a bench top or an optional cabinet base. The oven must have a minimum of 2” clearance in the rear to provide proper ventilation but may be placed next to another cabinet or oven (the doors will still open).

Make sure oven is level and plumb. This will assure proper heat distribution and operation of all mechanical components.

LAC 1-10 uses a standard 120 volt, 15 amp circuit.
LAC 1-38A also uses 120 volts but requires 20 amp service.
LAC 1-38B or LAC 1-67 can plug into a 240 volt outlet, with 15 amp service, for which cord and plug are provided.

If you have an LAC 2-12, check the oven power requirements for amperage and voltage on the cover of this manual.

Connect the electric supply directly to your oven (see electrical schematic in back of manual) with all required grounding and safety equipment, in compliance with applicable codes, ordinances and accepted safe practices.

A note on line voltage: Line voltages may vary according to your geographical location. If line voltage is significantly lower than oven voltage rating, heat up times will be extended, and motor may overheat. If line voltage varies ±10% from the oven voltage rating, temperature control will operate erratically.

Ovens designed for 240 volts (see name plate on oven) will operate satisfactorily on a minimum of 208 volts, but with a reduction in heater power. If your power characteristics are lower, contact Despatch Industries, Inc.

A. PRE-START-UP

1. KNOW THE SYSTEM:

   Read this manual carefully. Make use of its instructions and explanations. The "Know How" of safe, continuous, satisfactory, trouble free operation depends primarily on the degree of your understanding of the system and of your willingness to keep all parts in proper operating condition.

2. CHECK LINE VOLTAGE

   This must correspond to nameplate requirements of motors and controls. A wrong voltage can result in serious damage.

3. FRESH AIR DAMPER

   Do not be careless about restrictions in and around the fresh air and exhaust openings and stacks. Under no condition, permit them to become so filled with dirt that they appreciably reduce the air quality.

B. START-UP

1. START FAN AND CHECK ROTATION

   Rotation MUST correspond to the directional arrows provided.

2. ADJUST HI-LIMIT TO OPERATING POSITIONS

   The hi-limit thermostat can be used for the protection of the equipment or the product against excessive temperatures when set properly.

   Hi-limit thermostats of the non-indicating type (ones which do not show the temperature) can be properly set only after oven is in operation. Until then, such thermostats should be set at their maximum positions so all preliminary testing and adjusting can be done. Before putting oven into production, adjust this type of thermostat as follows: Set the temperature control thermostat at 14°C (25°F) above the desired operating
temperature. Operate oven until the control thermostat is regulating. Carefully adjust the hi-limit downward until it trips. Reset the temperature control thermostat at the desired operating temperature. The two instruments are now set in their correct positions.

NOTE: Never operate oven at a temperature in excess of the maximum operating temperature which is 260°C (500°F).

NOTE: All ovens are tested at the factory; however, shipping may cause damage or deviation. Therefore, before oven is put into regular service, the following items should be inspected and adjusted if necessary: thermostat calibration, doors, hinges, latches and other miscellaneous parts.

3. OPTIONAL PROCESS TIMER (SPRING WOUND)

Turn process timer to the desired time interval. The heater will shut off after the timer times out. Turn timer knob to hold position to eliminate the timer function.

C. OPERATION

1. KEEP EQUIPMENT CLEAN

Gradual dirt accumulation retards air flow. A dirty oven can result in unsatisfactory operation such as unbalanced temperatures in the work chamber, reduced heating capacity, reduced production, overheated components, etc.

Keep the walls, floor and ceiling of the oven work chamber free of dirt and dust. Floating dust or accumulated dirt may produce unsatisfactory results.

Keep all equipment accessible. Do not permit other materials to be stored or piled against it.

2. PROTECT CONTROLS AGAINST EXCESSIVE HEAT

This is particularly true of controls, motors or other equipment containing electronic components. Temperatures in excess of 51.5°C (125°F) should be avoided.

3. ESTABLISH MAINTENANCE AND CHECK-UP SCHEDULES

Do this promptly and follow them faithfully. Careful operation and maintenance will be more than paid for in continuous, safe and economical operation.

4. MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT IN GOOD REPAIR

Make repairs immediately. Delays may be costly in added expense for labor and materials and in prolonged shut down.

5. LUBRICATION

Fan motor bearings are permanently lubricated.

All door latches, hinges, door operating mechanisms, bearing or wear surfaces should be lubricated to ensure easy operation.

6. CHECK SAFETY CONTROLS

This should be done as indicated.

Make these tests carefully and do them regularly. The safety of personnel as well as the equipment may depend upon the proper operation of any one of these controls at any time.

a. TEMPERATURE CONTROL (40 hours)

Observe heater indicator light flashes every 1 to 2 seconds when the control is operating at set point temperature.

b. HI-LIMIT (40 hours)

With the oven operating at a given temperature, gradually turn the hi-limit control knob down to the set point operating temperature. The hi-limit is in control when the heater indicator light is on for 3 or more seconds at a time rather than a fraction of a second.

7. PRACTICE SAFETY

Make it a prime policy to “know what you are doing before you do it.” Make CAREFULNESS, PATIENCE and GOOD JUDGEMENT the safety watchwords for the operation of your oven.

8. MINIMUM OPERATING TEMPERATURES

LAC 1-10 approximately 45°C
LAC 1-38 approximately 46°C
LAC 1-67 approximately 54°C
LAC 2-12 approximately 54°C

9. VENTILATION

There is an exhaust opening in the rear of the unit that is always open. The fresh air can be adjusted open or closed by adjusting the push/pull vent mechanism on the control panel.

**IMPORTANT**

**WARNING:** Failure to heed these restrictions can result in property damage, serious bodily injury or death.

THE USER(S) OF THIS EQUIPMENT MUST COMPLY WITH OPERATING PROCEDURES AND TRAINING OF OPERATING PERSONNEL AS STATED IN THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT (OSHA) OF 1970, SECTION 5, AND THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) 86A OF 1973 (ARTICLE 100, SECTION 2d, 5 AND APPENDIX 1).

DO NOT use any flammable solvent or other flammable materials or enclosed containers in the oven.

DO NOT attempt any service on this equipment without first disconnecting the main power switch or power cord.

DO NOT exceed the maximum operating temperature, 260°C (500°F).

DO NOT use oven in wet, corrosive or explosive atmosphere.

REPLACE 3 Fuse units with NON-6 or OT-6 (250V, 6 amp) only.

FOR supply connections on LAC 2:12 use 10 AWG or larger wires suitable for at least 75°C (167°F).
Starting the Oven

1. Push power switch to "ON" (indicator light should light). This activates the fans and control circuit.
2. Press and hold "push-to-set" button on the Digitronic™ temperature control. The display will be in the set point mode and the set point indicator light is on as long as the button is depressed.
3. Rotate "turn-to-set" knob until the desired chamber temperature is displayed. Release the "push-to-set" button. Note that the set point will be changed if knob is turned when button is not depressed.
4. Set hi-limit device by rotating hi-limit control knob to 10.15°C (18.27°F) above process temperature. Set point should be low enough to prevent damage to the workload but high enough to allow the Digitronic to control at set point. Hi-limit will assume control of heater if chamber temperature exceeds high limit set point.
5. Push heater switch to "ON". Heater indicator light should light. This activates the heating elements. When the desired temperature is reached, the Digitronic will proportion power to the heater as needed and the heater indicator light will flash on and off.
6. The readout area will alternatively display set point and actual chamber temperature. Set point is on display when the small light shows above the "set point" label.
7. Oven set point can be displayed at any time by manually depressing and holding the "push-to-set" button. This will not disengage the control function.

8. When the operating temperature is approximately 65°C (149°F) or lower, the vent should be wide open to assure these low temperatures can be achieved. The fresh air vent control is located on the control panel and the exhaust vent is on rear of the oven.

Loading the Oven

1. Avoid spills of anything onto the heater elements or floor of oven.
2. The two shelves are designed to be pulled out about half-way without tipping.
3. The support capacity of the shelves is 25 pounds. Do not overload the shelves.
4. Do not place the load on the oven floor plate. Placing the load on the oven floor plate may cause the load to heat unevenly. Use the shelves provided.
5. Distribute workload evenly so that airflow is not restricted.
6. Do not overfill your oven. The workload should not take up more than two-thirds of any dimension of the inside cavity.

Shutting down the oven

1. Push the heater switch to "OFF" after the heating cycle is complete.
2. Do not turn the power off until the oven temperature is below 150°F (302°F). If the oven is turned off before it is properly cooled, the fan shaft and motor bearings may become overheated, shortening the life of the motor.
How to replace parts

WARNING – Disconnect main power switch or power cord before attempting any repairs or adjustments.

Replacing control unit (Tools needed: screwdriver, either an adjustable wrench or a nut driver, pliers)
1. Disconnect power. Remove screws from the face of the control panel and slide it forward.
2. Locate the Digitronic printed circuit (PC) board.
3. Remove wires from terminal strip, noting which numbered wires connect to which terminals. Refer to wiring diagram in this manual.
4. Remove the screws holding the terminal board onto sub-panel. Replace old PC board with new PC board. Attach board to sub-panel.
5. Reattach wires to terminal strip making sure the correct ones are connected.
6. Replace control panel.

Replacing heater unit (Tools needed: crescent wrench, screwdriver)
1. Disconnect power. Remove floor plate by removing screws and lifting it out.
2. Disconnect heater leads from heater element with wrench. Note which wires go on which terminals.
3. Unscrew the screws holding the frame to the oven body. Remove the heater and discard.
4. Screw down new heater frame.
5. Attach heater leads to appropriate terminals.
6. Replace interior floor.

Replacing fan motor (Tools needed: screwdriver, 5/32" Allen wrench, and crescent wrench)
1. Disconnect power. Remove chamber floor by removing screws and lifting it out.
2. Remove the screws from heater frame then tip up and to the right.
3. Loosen set screws on fan wheel inside fan housing.
4. Remove the screws from the face of the control panel and slide it forward to uncover motor.
5. Tip oven on its back.
6. Unbolt the four bolts holding the motor to the motor mount.
7. Remove motor (NOTE: After fan wheel has run at temperature for a while, it will stick to the shaft. Some force may be required to separate the two). Suggest holding the fan wheel against the insulated wall while using a mallet and center punch to loosen the shaft from the fan.
8. Disconnect motor leads from terminal block.
9. Hold new motor in place while you remount fan wheel to motor shaft. Reattach motor to motor mount.
10. Attach motor lead wire to terminal block (see wiring diagram).
11. Replace oven control panel and bottom, then tip oven upright again.
12. Adjust fan wheel for 3/16” clearance between wheel and inlet ring.
13. Tighten set screws making sure set screws hit the flats machined into the motor shaft.
14. Bolt heater back in place.
15. Replace interior floor.

Replacing the hi-limit (Tools needed: small screwdriver)
1. Disconnect power. Remove the screws from the face of the control panel and slide it forward.
2. Locate control thermocouple and hi-limit bulb along the left side of the control chamber.
3. Loosen the nut on the brass fitting holding the hi-limit capillary in place.
4. Pull hi-limit capillary out of the fitting. NOTE: Avoid rough handling.
5. Carefully uncoil the new capillary tube, taking care not to kink it.
6. Feed the new hi-limit capillary through the nut and ferrule and place back into the fitting.
7. Retighten the fitting nut.
8. Remove the “hi-limit” label on the outside of the control panel.
9. Detach the old hi-limit body by unscrewing the screws that were underneath the label.
10. Remove the hi-limit and discard.
11. Attach the new hi-limit. Put on the new label. Reattach the knob.
12. Replace control panel of oven.

Recalibrating the hi-limit
(Tools needed: small screwdriver)
The hi-limit device was calibrated at our factory; however it may need periodic checking and recalibration. If the hi-limit overrides the Digitronic when the hi-limit is set above Digitronic set point, the hi-limit needs recalibration. The hi-limit
is in control when heater indicator light is lit for 2-3 seconds at a time rather than for a fraction of a second. Recalibrate using the following procedures:

1. Turn oven on and set controller at 260°C (500°F). It should be stabilized at temperature for about one hour before adjustments are made.
2. Set hi-limit to 260°C (500°F). Pull hi-limit control knob off. Calibration screw is located in the center of the thermostat shaft.
3. 1/4 turn of the screw equals approximately 20°C (68°F).
4. If hi-limit set point is HIGHER than actual oven temperature, (Digitronic readout) turn calibration screw counterclockwise.
5. Turn the screw until the heater shuts off.
6. If set point is LOWER than actual temperature, turn screw clockwise.
7. Turn the screw until the heater turns on.
8. If readings do not coincide within 30 minutes, repeat operation.
9. Replace knob on shaft.

**Thermocouple break protection**

If the thermocouple breaks, the Digitronic will shut off power to the heater, preventing excessive temperature in the chamber. This condition will be indicated on the Digitronic digital display area by decimal points between the numerals.

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The Controller thermocouple is type “J” (iron/constantan) and is replaceable using the following procedure:

1. Disconnect power and remove screws from the face of the control panel and slide it forward.
2. Locate thermocouple and hi-limit bulb along the left side of the control chamber.
3. Loosen the nut on the fitting holding the thermocouple in place.
4. Pull thermocouple out of brass fitting.
5. Feed new thermocouple through the nut and ferrule and place back into the fitting.
6. Retighten the fitting nut.
7. Remove old thermocouple from terminals marked “TC+” and “TC-” on PC board.
8. Attach new thermocouple to “TC+” and “TC-” making sure that white lead is attached to the “+” terminal and the red lead is attached to the “-”.
9. Replace oven control panel.
10. If decimal points still appear between numerals, repeat procedure.

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**Digitronic Control**

**Manual Reset Adjustment**

When operating the oven at different temperatures and damper settings, the setpoint may vary from the oven temperature. Align these two readings as follows:

1. Turn oven ON and allow the oven to cycle off and on at the desired setpoint for 15 minutes.
2. If the oven temperature is below the setpoint on the display, turn the trim pot marked offset clockwise. If the oven temperature is above the setpoint, turn offset pot counterclockwise. 1/16 turn of the pot is equal to approximately 1°C (2°F). Adjust until both read the same. (See diagram of main board for pot location.)
Digitronic troubleshooting

DIFFICULTY

Erratic Sensor Readout
Erratic Setpoint Readout
Inaccurate Temperatures
Decimal Points Between the Numerals
Sensor Readout
Setpoint Readout

PROBABLE CAUSE

Broken T/C
Control Malfunction
Bad Slide Wire on 5K Potentiometer
Control Malfunction
Control Miscalibration
Thermocouple is Open or Broken
Overrange

SUGGESTED REMEDY

See Thermocouple Test
See Control Output Test
See Potentiometer Test
See Potentiometer Test
See Calibration Test
See Thermocouple Break Protection
Lower Setpoint Potentiometer or Input Signal Voltage

Tests

WARNING — HIGH VOLTAGE IS PRESENT ON TERMINALS. VOLTAGE CHECKS TO BE MADE ONLY BY QUALIFIED ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL: E.G., ELECTRICIAN OR TECHNICIAN. FAILURE TO HEED THIS WARNING CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, OR DEATH.

Thermocouple Test:

1. Place a jumper or short the terminals “TC+” and “TC-” on the control. The display should read ambient temperature and be very stable.
2. Replace the control if the unit is not stable.

Control Output Test:

1. Disconnect line power from the control.
2. Remove the jumper or leads attached to terminals + and - on the control.
3. Attach a multimeter with internal impedance greater than 10,000 OHMS/volt DC across these terminals.
4. Set meter to 30 VDC range.
5. Reconnect line power to the control.
6. The meter should read approximately 10 VDC when the sensor readout is 10°C below setpoint and 0 VDC when the readout is 10°C above setpoint. The voltage should be fluctuating when both the sensor and setpoint readouts are the same.
7. Replace control if the unit does not respond as above.

Potentiometer Test:

Control:

1. Most controls have a bypass resistor across terminals P1 and P2 to limit the maximum operating setpoint temperature.
2. Remove one potentiometer lead leaving the bypass resistor across P1 and P2. The setpoint display will increase to approximately 200° to 400°, but the readout should be stable.
3. Replace control if the readout is not stable.

Setpoint Potentiometer

1. Turn the pot all the way clockwise and then all the way counterclockwise several times. This should remove any dust or dirt from the slidewire. The setpoint should be stable.
2. Replace pot if the readout is still not stable.

Calibration procedure

1. Disconnect line power to the control.
2. Attach an accurate potentiometer with a millivolt of Type "J" thermocouple output to the "TC+" and "TC-" terminals on the control.
3. Attach a multimeter with internal impedance greater than 10,000 OHMS/volt DC across terminal + and - on the control. Remove jumper, if one was installed.
4. Set meter to 30 VDC range.
5. Turn the line voltage on.
6. Set offset, bal. adjust, and FS adjust to mid range.
7. Turn millivolt source to 0.0° C or 0° F. Adjust zero pot on control when necessary, if the readout is not the same.
8. Turn millivolt source to 538° C (1000° F). Adjust the span pot on control when necessary if readout is not the same.
9. Turn millivolt source to 150°C (302°F).
10. Adjust the FS adjust pot if the readout is not 150°C (302°F). Turn the FS adjust clockwise to turn the readout down.
11. Turn the control setpoint pot (5K) until the meter is fluctuating at about 50% on and 50% off.
12. If the setpoint readout is not 150°C (302°F) adjust the bal. adjust until the setpoint is 150°C (302°F). Turn the bal. adjust pot clockwise to turn the setpoint up.
13. Repeat steps 11 and 12 until the setpoint and sensor temperature both read 150°C and the meter is fluctuating at 50%.
14. Disconnect all power, leads and reinstall jumper if necessary.
15. Place nail polish on the zero, span, FS adjust, and bal. adjust pots.

**Troubleshooting**

Any equipment operating for as many hours a day as lab ovens often do is likely to have problems now and then. Below are possible problems and suggested solutions. If you have a problem not listed and don’t know what to do, contact Despatch at our toll free “Help Line” 800-328-5476 (In MN 800-462-5396).

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<td>See troubleshooting information on Digi-tronic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Disconnect power and check connections behind control panel</td>
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<td>Fan motor failure</td>
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<td>Unbalanced fan wheel</td>
<td>Replace fan wheel</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIFFICULTY</td>
<td>PROBABLE CAUSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excessive Vibration</td>
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<td>Clean Fan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Unbalanced fan wheel</td>
<td>Replace fan wheel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Triac malfunction</td>
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<td>Control malfunction</td>
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Electrical Schematics and Wiring Diagrams for LAC ovens

LAC 1-10

LAC 1-38A

LAC 1-38B and LAC 1-67

LAC 2-12

MATERIAL LIST

ITEM | DESCRIPTION OF PART | QUANTITY
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How to install LAC optional accessories:

Four optional accessories are available for LAC series ovens. They are available at any time from Despatch Industries’ Customer Service Department, 800/328-5476 which is our no toll “Help Line”. (MN 800-462-5396)

When you order accessories, full instructions for mounting them in the control panel will be enclosed; however, in case they are misplaced, instructions are repeated here.

Process timers (Spring Wound). Available for 60 minutes or 6 hour cycles, these timers are electrically connected into oven control and will shut off the heater at end of cycle. (Tools needed: screwdriver, utility knife.)

1. Disconnect power, remove screws from the face of the control panel and slide it forward.
2. From back of panel, locate prepunched holes. Process timer can be mounted in either of the two far left sets of holes. From the front of panel, use utility knife to cut holes in the silver overlay.
3. Put shaft and mounting screws through holes and screw timer into place.
4. Locate connector marked “Process Timers” on the back of the digitronic bracket. Remove jumper. Replace it with connector supplied with the timer.
5. Replace oven control panel.
6. Peel top part of backing off black “Process Timer” sticker and apply it to front of control panel, using the two locating marks and shaft holes as location guides. Peel remaining backing off and smooth sticker down.
7. Push Knob onto shaft.

Signal Timer. This timer sounds an audible bell at the end of the cycle, up to 60 minutes. It is not electrically connected to oven and does not shut off heater. (Tools needed: screwdriver, utility knife.)

1. Disconnect power, remove screws from the face of the control panel and slide it forward.
2. From back of panel, locate prepunched holes. Signal timer can be mounted in either of the two far left sets of holes. From the front of panel, use utility knife to cut holes in the silver overlay.
3. Put shaft and mounting screws through holes and screw timer into place.
4. Replace control panel.
5. Peel top part of backing off black “Signal Timer” sticker and apply it to front of control panel, using the two locating marks and shaft holes as location guides. Peel remaining backing off and smooth sticker down.

Running Time Meter. Digital meter counts up to 99,999.9 hours of process time. Runs continuously when oven is on. Not resettable. (Tools needed: screwdriver, utility knife.)

1. Disconnect power, remove screws from the face of the oven control panel and slide it forward.
2. From back of panel, locate prepunched holes. The running time meter can be positioned only in the lower left set of holes. Use the utility knife to cut four holes in the silver overlay.
3. Attach meter to panel with screws.
4. Locate connector marked time meter on the back of the Digitronic bracket and connect the wired connector from the meter to it.
5. Replace control panel.
6. Peel top part of backing off black “Running Time” sticker and apply it to front of the control panel using locating marks and meter hole as location guides. Peel remaining backing off and smooth sticker down.
7. Meter will operate when oven is on.

Remote Setpoint Interface

The control is designed to accept a 0-5 VDC (1 MA at 5 volts) analog signal that will program the setpoint. The feedback or temperature signal is also an analog 0-5 VDC from the signal conditioner. 5 VDC signal corresponds to 1000 engineering units (5 mV/unit). Part number 031939 is an optional terminal which is required to accomplish this interface with a microprocessor or computer.