



# CALIBRATABLE 3-FUNCTION THERMO- HYGROMETER

USER'S MANUAL



## EP8703

*Please read this manual carefully and thoroughly before using this product.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing General Tools & Instruments' EP8703 Calibratable 3-Function Thermo-Hygrometer. Please read this user's manual carefully and thoroughly before using the instrument.

The EP8703 can measure any environment's ambient temperature, relative humidity (RH) and dew point. These measurements are typically made by three groups of users:

- Water damage restoration contractors
- HVAC/R system installers and technicians
- Professionals charged with monitoring and maintaining the environment of facilities such as office buildings, greenhouses, food and equipment storage facilities, wineries, freezers, shipping containers, computer rooms, labs, libraries, museums and saunas.

The dew point is the temperature below which the water vapor in a volume of air at a given constant barometric pressure will condense into liquid water at the same rate at which it evaporates. Condensed water is called dew when it forms on a solid surface.

Another way to think of the dew point is as an air saturation temperature associated with relative humidity (RH). A high RH value indicates that the dew point is close to the current ambient air temperature. At 100% RH, the dew point temperature is equal to the ambient temperature because the air is completely saturated with water.

The EP8703 is powered by one “9V” battery (included).

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## KEY FEATURES

- Jumbo backlit display with 2-line readout
- Field calibratable using optional 33% and 75% salts
- °F/°C switch
- 20-minute Auto Power Off function
- Low battery indicator

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## WHAT'S IN THE BOX

The EP8703 comes fully assembled in a box along with a sensor protection cap, a “9V” battery and this user’s manual.


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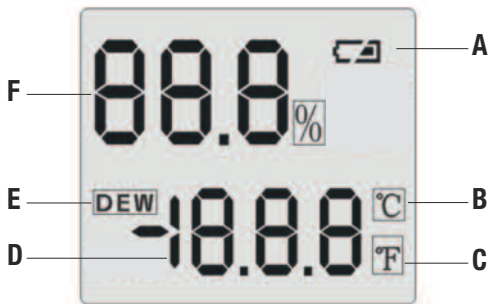
## PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Figure 1 shows all of the controls, indicators and physical structures on the front, top and bottom of the EP8703. Figure 2 shows all text and icons that could appear on the unit’s LCD. Familiarize yourself with the positions and functions of all buttons, structures and icons before moving on to the Setup Instructions and Operating Instructions.



**Fig. 1. The EP8703's controls, indicators and physical structures**

- A. Humidity and temperature sensors
- B. LCD
- C.  (Power on/off) button
- D. **F/C** button
- E. Battery compartment
- F. **DEW** button



**Fig. 2. All possible display indications and their meanings**

- A. Low battery icon
- B. °C indicator
- C. °F indicator
- D. Temperature readout
- E. Dew point temperature indicator
- F. Relative humidity (RH) readout

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## **SETUP INSTRUCTIONS**

### ***INSTALL BATTERY***


1. The meter's battery compartment (Fig. 1, Callout E) is accessible from the bottom of the unit. Use a Phillips-head screwdriver to loosen the single screw in the back of the unit that holds the yellow battery compartment cover in place. Set the cover and screw aside.

2. Plug the included “9V” battery into the wired socket inside the compartment. The terminals of the battery and the socket mate in only one way, with the smaller male terminal plugging into the larger female terminal.
3. Replace the battery compartment cover and tighten the screw to secure it to the housing.

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## **OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**


### ***MAKING BASIC MEASUREMENTS***


Before making any measurements, rotate the sensor protection cap with your thumb and index finger so the three vents are open to the ambient environment from both the front and back. Press the  button to power on the meter. The dual displays will immediately begin reading out humidity and ambient temperature measurements made by the sensors at the top of the unit.

**To display the dew point temperature** (instead of ambient temperature) on the lower readout, press the **DEW** button. The reading will be accompanied by the symbol **DEW** at its left. To return to displaying ambient temperature, press the **DEW** button again.

By default, the EP8703 displays ambient and dew point temperatures in °F. **To switch to °C**, press the **F/C** button.

Pressing any button turns on the green backlight for 10 seconds.

To extend the life of the “9V” battery powering the EP8703, the unit’s Auto Power Off (APO) function will automatically shut down the instrument if no front-panel buttons are pressed within any 20-minute period. **To disable the APO function**, power on the unit in a special way by pressing and holding the **DEW** button while pressing the  button. The LCD will confirm that you are disabling the APO function by displaying its complete set of icons until you release the **DEW** button. The APO function will be enabled the next time you power on the unit in the normal way.

**To power off the EP8703**, press and hold the  button for at least 3 seconds.

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## **CALIBRATING THE METER**

Your EP8703 was calibrated at the factory, so its measurements should remain within their specified tolerance for several years. However, you can re-calibrate the unit yourself to reassure yourself of the accuracy of readings, especially after the instrument has been operated for many



hours in a dusty environment.

To calibrate the EP8703, you must use two jars of standard calibration salt: one containing a 33% solution of MgCl and the other a 75% solution of NaCl. Both are available for purchase from General as part numbers HR33 and HR75.

Before beginning the calibration procedure—which is a turnkey process but takes at least 80 minutes to complete—you must disable the APO function so the instrument can remain on for more than 20 minutes. **To disable the APO function**, power on the unit in a special way by pressing and holding the **DEW** button while pressing the  button.

Following is the calibration procedure:

1. With the unit powered on and the APO function disabled, rotate the sensor protection cap to open its three vents and expose the humidity sensor to the environment.
2. Press and hold the **DEW** and **F/C** buttons at the same time, and then release them. This will cause **\_ \_ . 1** to appear on the lower readout.
3. Turn the unit upside-down and insert the sensor structure in the opening of the 33% salt bottle after removing the bottle's cap. The fit should be tight, with no air

leaking into the bottle.

4. Leave the unit upside-down in the 33% salt bottle for at least 40 minutes. The calibration to 33% is fully automatic and requires no interaction or checking by you.
5. Remove the meter from the 33% salt bottle and again press, hold and release the **DEW** and **F/C** buttons at the same time. Doing so this time will cause `__ .2` to appear on the lower readout.
6. Turn the unit upside-down and insert the sensor structure in the opening of the 75% salt bottle after removing the bottle's cap. The fit should be tight, with no air leaking into the bottle.
7. Leave the meter upside-down in the 75% salt bottle for at least 40 minutes. The calibration to 75% is fully automatic and requires no interaction or checking by you.
8. The unit is calibrated when two cycles—one at 33% and the other at 75%—have been completed. It is important that the 33% calibration precede the 75% calibration. Reversing the order, or performing either calibration twice, will produce an error message when the unit is restarted.

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## **SPECIFICATIONS**

Temperature Measurement Range:

14° to 122°F (-10° to 50°C)

Temperature Measurement Accuracy:

1.8°F ( $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ )

Temperature Measurement Resolution: 0.1°

RH Measurement Range: 0 to 99.9%

RH Measurement Accuracy:

$\pm 3\%$  from 5% to 95% RH

RH Measurement Resolution: 0.1%

Response Time: <80 seconds

Display Size: 1.7 in. (43mm) diagonal

Current Consumption: <15mA

Battery Life: 60 hours (typical)

Dimensions of Instrument:

7.56 x 2.40 x 1.57 in. (192 x 61 x 40mm)

Dimensions of Box:


7.76 x 3.66 x 1.58 in. (197 x 93 x 40mm)

Weight (without battery): 3.77 oz. (107g)

Power Source: (1) "9V" battery (included)

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## OPERATING & MAINTENANCE TIPS

When the  icon appears at the upper right of the display (Fig. 2, Callout A), it's time to replace the "9V" battery that powers the instrument (although measurements will remain valid for several hours after the icon first appears). To replace the battery, follow the instructions on pages 6 and 7.

To prevent dust and moisture from degrading the performance of the humidity and temperature sensors, after each measurement session rotate the sensor protection cap to close its three vents.

Do not operate the EP8703 in the presence of a flammable or explosive gas or near an arc welder or induction heater.

After subjecting the unit to a large change in ambient temperature, wait at least 30 minutes before making measurements to guarantee the accuracy of readings.

Remove the battery when storing the unit or when you do not expect to use it for an extended period of time (months rather than weeks).

Do not drop or disassemble the EP8703 or immerse it in water.

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## **WARRANTY INFORMATION**

General Tools & Instruments' (General's) EP8703 Calibratable 3-Function Thermo-Hygrometer is warranted to the original purchaser to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of one year. Subject to certain restrictions, General will repair or replace this instrument if, after examination, the company determines it to be defective in material or workmanship.

This warranty does not apply to damages that General determines to be from an attempted repair by non-authorized personnel or misuse, alterations, normal wear and tear, or accidental damage. The defective unit must be returned to General Tools & Instruments or to a General-authorized service center, freight prepaid and insured.

Acceptance of the exclusive repair and replacement remedies described herein is a condition of the contract for purchase of this product. In no event shall General be liable for any incidental, special, consequential or punitive damages, or for any cost, attorneys' fees, expenses, or losses alleged to be a consequence of damage due to failure of, or defect in any product including, but not limited to, any claims for loss of profits.

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## **RETURN FOR REPAIR POLICY**

Every effort has been made to provide you with a reliable product of superior quality. However, in the event your instrument requires repair, please contact our Customer Service to obtain an RGA (Return Goods Authorization) number before forwarding the unit via prepaid freight to the attention of our Service Center at this address:

General Tools & Instruments  
75 Seaview Drive • Secaucus, NJ 07094  
212-431-6100

Remember to include a copy of your proof of purchase, your return address, and your phone number and/or e-mail address.

## ***NOTES***

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