

CAL250

Precision Acoustic Calibrator

Manual



Larson Davis
CAL250
Reference Manual

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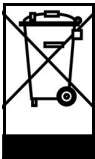
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Using the CAL250 Calibrator

Features of the CAL250

The Larson Davis Model CAL250 is a battery-operated precision microphone calibrator used for the calibration of sound level meters and other sound measurement equipment. The CAL250 delivers a full 114.0 dB level output signal @ 251.2 Hz. It has been designed for field or laboratory use and its accuracy has been calibrated to a reference traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

- **Automatic compensation sensors provide accurate calibrations in extreme environments**
- **An effective volume of > 100 cm³ (6 in³) ensures an accurate calibration, even if the microphone and microphone adapter are not fully seated**
- **An accurate tone is measured even with a weakened battery**
- **Special adaptors make possible the use of 1/4", 3/8", 1/2" microphones, as well as 1" microphones without an adaptor**

CAL250 Accessories

The CAL250 includes the following accessories:

- **ADP019: Adaptor for 1/2" microphone**
- **CCS003: Storage case**
- **9 V alkaline battery**

Optional Accessories

The following optional accessories are available:

- **ADP020: 3/8" adaptor**
- **ADP021: 1/4" adapter**

Installing the Battery

The CAL250 will run for approximately 100 hours on one nine-volt battery. This will give you nearly 4200 calibrations.

As the battery becomes weaker, the calibration tone will not deteriorate, but the operating time will decrease until the time is too short to accomplish an adequate calibration.

The CAL250 uses a nine-volt battery and it is recommended that you use an alkaline battery to extend the running time of your calibrator.

Follow the steps below to install the battery:

- Step 1** Locate the end cap at the bottom of the calibrator, as this functions as the battery door.
- Step 2** Unscrew the cap by hand, in a counterclockwise direction until battery is exposed.
- Step 3** Pull the battery out of the compartment and undo the battery from the clip.
- Step 4** Snap a new battery onto the clip, then place the battery back into the compartment.
- Step 5** Replace the battery cap and tighten using only finger/hand strength.

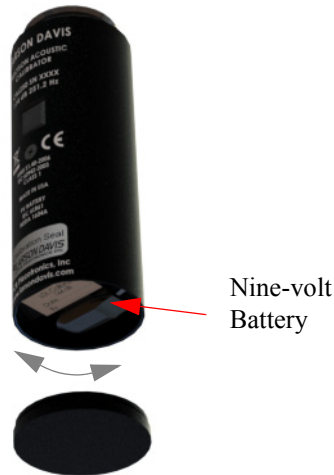


FIGURE 1-1 Battery End Cap

Microphone Calibration

The CAL250 provides a nominal tone of 250 Hz at 114 dB. If the device being calibrated has only A-weighting, it should be calibrated to read 105.4 dB.

WARNING!

Do not remove the microphone grid cap while calibrating, as it may lead to microphone damage.

To calibrate the microphone, follow the steps below:

- Step 1** Place the instrument so that you can perform the calibration. The preferred method for calibrating with the CAL250 is to mount the preamplifier in a fixed, vertical position.
- Step 2** Insert the proper microphone adapter fully into the calibrator. Make sure it fits snugly.



FIGURE 1-2 Cal250 with ADP019

If using a 1" microphone remove the 1/2" adaptor in order to place the calibrator over the microphone.

- Step 3** Insert the microphone fully into the adapter opening. Make sure it fits snugly.

Step 4 With the microphone connected to the instrument being calibrated, press the CAL250 ON button. With a fresh battery, the calibrator will issue a tone for more than 60 seconds before automatically shutting off (see note below).

Step 5 Make a reading. If the reading is not within tolerance, refer to the instrument's manual for instructions on how to adjust the instrument.

When making a sequence of measurements, a calibration check and an adjustment (if necessary) of the instrument should be made at the beginning. At the end of the measurement sequence, the calibration should be checked again. The inaccuracy of the measurements will be at least as large as the difference between the level measured for the initial calibration (or calibration check) and the level measured for the final calibration check.

Turn Calibrator OFF

The button on the CAL250 calibrator is not an ON/OFF button. Each time the ON button is pressed, the tone sound approximately 60 seconds on a fresh battery. In order for the calibrator to turn off, wait 60 seconds, do not press the ON button again. Wait until the calibrator times out.

Calibration History

Larson Davis strongly recommends that a history of each calibration adjustment be kept for each piece of equipment. Normally, most modern equipment requires little or no adjustment once the initial calibration is performed. Systematic drifts are possible, and these should be recorded for corrective action.

The Larson Davis Models 706, 720, 812, 814, 820, 824, 831, 870 and LxT sound level meters keep a history of each calibration change that can be printed before an overall reset.

Environmental Precautions

While the CAL250 will perform normally under a wide variety of gradually changing environmental conditions, some precautions should be taken when sudden changes occur:

- The temperature of the CAL250 should be stable. If the temperature changes suddenly, provide a stabilization time of 15 minutes. This will ensure that the temperature compensation sensors are at the same temperature as the rest of the unit.

- While humidity will not affect the CAL250, avoid condensing moisture. Also, avoid environments over 90% relative humidity because condensation can easily take place.
- The CAL250 is insensitive to magnetic fields; however, the instrument being tested may not be. Therefore, calibration should not be done near motors, dynamos, high voltage wires, or other sources of electromagnetic fields.

Calibrator Calibration

The American National Standards Institute says, “An acoustical calibrator should be recalibrated at least annually by the instrument manufacturer or an acoustical test laboratory qualified to perform calibration.” (American National Standards Institute. Specifications for Acoustical Calibrators. ANSI S1.40, 1984, par. 5.2)

Larson Davis believes the frequency of recalibration depends on the number of calibrators being used and the number of instruments being calibrated. With this in mind, the following guidelines are presented for your consideration:

- **For one calibrator and one measurement instrument, the CAL250 should be certified at least yearly.**
- **For one calibrator and several measurement instruments, one calibration a year is recommended. but if no systematic drift occurs, every two years might be satisfactory.**
- **For several calibrators and several instruments, one calibration a year is recommended.**

NOTE: If a systematic drift of several dB occurs, there is no reliable way to verify which instrument is at fault, even though it is more likely to be the measurement instrument.

NOTE: If the CAL250 is being used to calibrate several instruments, then the history of calibration adjustments can usually pinpoint which instrument is drifting. If all the measurement instruments are drifting in the same direction by an amount you consider significant, the CAL250 should be re-certified.

NOTE: If several instruments and several calibrators are in use, then the history of calibration adjustments would precisely pinpoint any problem pieces of equipment. Furthermore, it is probably satisfactory to recalibrate only one of the calibrators each year.

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CAL250 Specifications

The specifications contained in this chapter are subject to change without notice. Please refer to calibration and test results for data on a specific unit.

Standards Met

- ANSI S1.40-2006, Specifications and Verification Procedures for Sound Calibrators, Class 1
- IEC 60942-2003, Class 1, Electroacoustics: Sound calibrators
- IEC 61010-1: 2001, Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use--Part 1, General requirements
- IEC 61326-1: 2012 Electrical equipment for measurement control and laboratory use--EMC Requirements, Part 1, General requirements

Microphone Compatibility

The CAL250 is for use with the following microphone types:

- 1" WS1P, WS1F and WS1D without any adaptor
- 1/2" WS2P, WS2F and WS2D with ADP019 adaptor (supplied)
- 1/4" WS3P, WS3F and WS3D with ADP021 adaptor (optional)

Size according to IEC 61094-1:2000

- 1" LS1P without any adaptor
- 1/2" LS2P with ADP019 adaptor (supplied)

Other Microphones


- 1/8" with ADP023 adaptor (optional)

Technical Specifications

The limits expressed in these specifications do not include any allowance for the effects of measurement uncertainty. The product is determined to be in compliance with these specifications when the measured result is within or equal to the specified limit. When reporting test results, Larson Davis recommends reporting the limits, measured value, measurement uncertainty and a statement of compliance or non-compliance.

For new products, the measured results, measurement uncertainty and coverage factor are reported in the test results that ship with the product.

| | |
|---|--|
| Calibration sound pressure level (factory specification & initial accuracy) | 114.0 ± 0.1 dB re: 20µPa @ 101.3 kPa, 23 °C and 50% RH |
| Calibration sound pressure level (accuracy after 1 year) | 114.0 ± 0.2 dB re: 20µPa @ 101.3 kPa, 23 °C and 50% RH |
| Equivalent free-field level | 0.0 dB for 1/2" microphones, including 377B02 and other WS2F-compliant free- field microphones |
| Frequency | 251.2 Hz ± 2 Hz |
| Total Harmonic distortion | < 2% |
| Minimum stabilizing time after the microphone and the calibrator are coupled together | 10 seconds |
| Stability after pressing On | ± 0.1 dB after 2 seconds |
| Static pressure range | 65 kPa to 108 kPa, SPL variation will be < ± 0.3 dB |
| Temperature range | SPL variation < ± 0.3 dB and frequency variation < ± 2 Hz over the range -10 °C to 50 °C |
| Humidity range | SPL variation < ± 0.3 dB and frequency variation < ± 2 Hz over the range 10% to 90% relative humidity (non-condensing) |
| Storage temperature | -40 °C to 60 °C |

| | |
|---|--|
| Storage humidity | 0% to 90% relative humidity (non-condensing) |
| Effective volume of calibrator | > 100 cm ³ (6.1 in. ³) Calibrator level is not affected by microphone volume. |
| Dimensions | Length 124 mm (4.9 in.) Diameter 44.5 mm (1.75 in.) |
| Weight | 249 gm. (8.8 oz.) |
| Battery | 9 V NEDA 1604A or IEC 6LR61 |
|  | CE-mark indicates compliance with: EMC directive. Note: The reference orientation for testing the effects of radio-frequency fields is with the radio-frequency field incident on the calibrator side (with the On button) and the electric field vector parallel to the axis of the microphone. This is also the orientation of maximum susceptibility and emissions |
| EMC Emission | EN 50081-1: Generic emission standard. Part 1: Residential, commercial and light industry |
| EMC Immunity | EN 50082-2: Generic immunity standard. Part 2: Industrial environment. |

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