

USER MANUAL

pH METER

PCE-PH 228 Series



ENGLISH



User manuals in various languages (français, italiano, español, português, nederlands, türk, polski) can be found via our product search on:
www.pce-instruments.com

SAFETY NOTES

Please read this manual carefully and completely before you use the device for the first time. The device may only be used by qualified personnel and repaired by PCE Instruments personnel. Damage or injuries caused by non-observance of the manual are excluded from our liability and not covered by our warranty.

- » The device must only be used as described in this instruction manual. If used otherwise, this can cause dangerous situations for the user and damage to the meter.
- » The instrument may only be used if the environmental conditions (temperature, relative humidity, ...) are within the ranges stated in the technical specifications. Do not expose the device to extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, extreme humidity or moisture.
- » Do not expose the device to shocks or strong vibrations.
- » The case should only be opened by qualified PCE Instruments personnel.
- » Never use the instrument when your hands are wet.
- » You must not make any technical changes to the device.
- » The appliance should only be cleaned with a damp cloth. Use only pH-neutral cleaner, no abrasives or solvents.
- » The device must only be used with accessories from PCE Instruments or equivalent.
- » Before each use, inspect the case for visible damage. If any damage is visible, do not use the device.
- » Do not use the instrument in explosive atmospheres.
- » The measurement range as stated in the specifications must not be exceeded under any circumstances.
- » Non-observance of the safety notes can cause damage to the device and injuries to the user.

We do not assume liability for printing errors or any other mistakes in this manual. We expressly point to our general guarantee terms which can be found in our general terms of business.

INTRODUCTION

The advanced pH meter stands for precision, user-friendliness, and GLP compliance. With a high resolution LCD, the pH meter provides a clear and concise presentation of measurement values. The USB-C interface enables quick data transfer and charging. A powerful LiPo battery enables hours of measurements before it needs to be recharged. The graphics-guided calibration makes the process simple and user-friendly. GLP compliance is ensured by automatic data recording and traceable documentation. User and sample management allow easy navigation and setting of measurement parameters. Sample information can be saved to facilitate management and identification of measurements. A vast internal data memory saves extensive records without the need for external memory.

Overall, this pH meter represents a significant step in the development of handheld and laboratory instruments. The LCD, USB-C interface, powerful battery, graphics-guided calibration, GLP compliance, user and sample management and data memory make it an indispensable tool for scientists, researchers and laboratory technicians who rely on precise pH measurements. It not only improves the accuracy and efficiency of experiments but also facilitates everyday work in industry, quality assurance and laboratories.

Delivery contents

- 1 x pH meter PCE-PH 228
- 1 x pH electrode (depending on the model)
- 1 x temperature sensor
- 1 x service bag
- 1 x USB-C cable
- 1 x quick start guide

Accessories

- Calibration solutions
- Cleaning/storage solution

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Handheld device specifications	
pH measurement range	-2 ... 20 pH
Resolution (adjustable)	0,1 pH, 0,01 pH, 0,001 pH
Accuracy	± 0.002 pH + 2 digits
Redox measurement range	-2000 mV ... 2000 mV
Resolution	1 mV
Accuracy	± 2 mV
Calibration pH	selectable 2-, 3-, 4- or 5-point calibration
Temperature measurement range	-20 ... 100 °C
Resolution	0,1 °C
Accuracy	$\pm 0,5$ °C (@ 20 °C)
Temperature sensor	Pt1000 3-conductor; 1.5 m cable length
Temperature compensation	automatic / manual
Sampling rate	3 Hz
General	
Display	2,8" LCD
Menu languages	English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Turkish, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Danish, Japanese
Operating and storage conditions	Temperature: -20 ... +65 °C Humidity: 10 ... 95 % RH, non-condensing
Data logger	64 MB storage capacity 100 recordings with a maximum of 20,000 data points per recording
Memory interval	1 s ... 12 h
Interface	USB-C
Protection class	IP52
Power supply	Internal: rechargeable LiPo battery (3.7 V, 2500 mAh) External: USB 5 VDC, 500 mA

Technical specifications pH electrodes	
PCE-PH-FOOD	
Applications	pH measurement of food, meat, cheese...
Measurement range	0 ... 14 pH
Temperature range	0 ... 60 °C
Zero point	0 ... ± 20 mV
Slope	56 ... 59 mV/pH at 25 °C
Min. insertion / immersion depth	20 mm
Diameter	12 mm
Length	110 mm
Material	Stainless steel
Connection	BNC
Connection cable	1 m
Elektrolyte	solid
Diaphragma	open-pored
Reference system	Ag/AgCl
PE-03	
Applications	general pH measurements in aqueous solutions
Measurement range	1 ... 13 pH
Temperature range	5 ... 60 °C
Zero point	7 pH ± 1 pH
Min. insertion / immersion depth	20 mm
Diameter	12 mm
Length	160 mm
Material	plastic
Connection	BNC
Connection cable	1 m

Product variations		
Product code	Included pH electrode	Application
PCE-PH 228	PE-03	general pH measurements in aqueous solutions
PCE-PH 228HTE	PCE-PH-HTE	high-temperature measurements up to 100 °C
PCE-PH 228LIQ	PCE-PH-LIQ	pH measurements specifically for beer, milk, blood
PCE-PH 228M	PCE-PH-FOOD	pH measurements in food, pH electrode with stainless steel blade
PCE-PH 228P	IJ-44A	pH measurements in pasty media such as shampoo, soap, pastes, paints and lacquers
PCE-PH 228R	ORP-17	measurement of redox potential
PCE-PH 228S	PCE-PH-ES	measurements in loose soil and seeds
PCE-PH 228SF	EPX-3	surface pH measurements
PCE-PH 228SLUR	PCE-PH-SLUR	pH measurements in sludge and soil
PCE-PH 228WINE	PCE-PH-WINE	pH measurements in wine

EXPLANATIONS

pH value

The pH value is a measure of the hydrogen ion concentration in a solution. The value is given as a negative logarithm of ten (=10^{-pH}). Acidic solutions have pH values <7, basic solutions have pH values >7. pH is derived from pondus Hydrogenii (Latin: pondus = weight, hydrogenium = hydrogen).

Redox value

The redox value is an electrical voltage that can be measured with a corresponding electrode (redox electrode). It is an indirect measure of the disinfection effect in the pool, measured in millivolts (mV). At a pH value of 7.0, the redox value should be 0 mV.

Buffer solution

A buffer system or just buffer is a mixture of substances the pH value (concentration of hydrogen ions) of which changes much less when an acid or base is added than would be the case in an unbuffered system.

BNC connection

A BNC plug connection is a coaxial plug connection with a bayonet lock. Coaxial means that there is a tubular outer conductor around a central inner conductor, which has a shielding effect due to its tubular shape. A bayonet lock works on the principle of plug in - turn slightly (usually approx. 90°) - connected.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

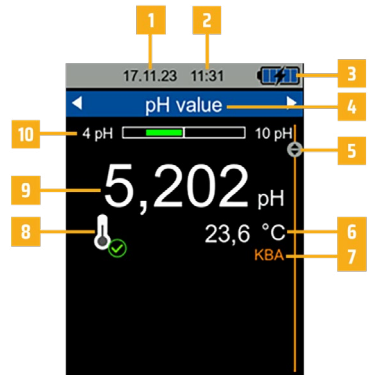
Device

- 1 - 3.5 mm jack connection for temperature sensor
- 2 - BNC connection for measuring electrode (pH electrode)
- 3 - Display
- 4 - Control panel
- 5 - USB-C socket



Display

- 1 - Date
- 2 - Time
- 3 - Battery level
- 4 - Header bar for displaying the measurement parameter
- 5 - Vertical scroll bar shows the position of the measurement screen
- 6 - Set or measured compensation temperature
- 7 - Selected user (visible when selected)
- 8 - Temperature sensor detection
- 9 - pH or redox measured value
- 10 - Bar display of the PMV function



Function keys

Key	Description	Function
	ON/OFF	Turn meter on/off
	Menu	Open main menu
	Back	Cancel, back
	OK	Confirm / start quick calibration
	Rec	Open data logger dialogue
	Up	Navigate up / change display mode
	Down	Navigate down / change display mode
	Right	Navigate right / change measured parameter
	Left	Navigate left / change measured parameter

GETTING STARTED

Power supply

An internal rechargeable LiPo battery supplies the power. With a fully charged battery, a battery life of approx. 10 ... 15 hours is possible, depending on the display brightness. The battery is charged via the USB-C socket at the bottom of the device and corresponding USB-C chargers can be used. The charging process can be shortened by switching off the device in the meantime.

The current charge status of the battery is displayed in the status bar at the top right. As soon as the battery charge level is no longer sufficient for proper operation of the device, it switches off automatically. The device is switched on by pressing the ON/OFF key. When switching on, the start screen appears for approx. 1 second and then the device switches to the measurement screen. To switch off, press and hold the ON/OFF key. A dialogue with a countdown now appears on the display, announcing that the device is switching off.

The pH electrode is connected by plugging it into the BNC socket at the top of the device and turning it. To disconnect, turn and pull the surface of the connector to release the plug connection.

The supplied temperature sensor can be connected by simply plugging it into the 3.5 mm jack connection provided.

MAIN MENU

The main menu can be opened at any time using the MENU key. Use the arrow keys to navigate between the menu items, which can be activated with the OK key. The BACK key can be used to exit submenus.

The main menu of the PCE-PH 228 series consists of the submenus Calibration, Measurement, Data logger, User menu, Settings, Manual and Info. The submenus are explained in more detail in the following chapters.

pH calibration

The calibration menu allows you to set a scaling factor which can be determined by calibration.

To ensure ideal accuracy of the measured pH values, it is recommended that the PCE-PH 228 is calibrated regularly. The frequency of calibration depends on the individual application and the desired degree of accuracy. The PCE-PH 228 supports various calibration types, including twopoint, three-point, four-point and five-point calibrations. In addition, the pH meter can be calibrated with user-defined solutions. In the Reset calibration points submenu, the saved calibration can be reset while the Calibration reminder submenu displays the time remaining until the next calibration. Calibration can be carried out by any user. You can find the required calibration solutions in the online shop of PCE Instruments.

If you require a calibration certificate, please contact PCE Instruments. Our contact data can be found at the end of this manual.

Calibration

In the Calibration menu, select the calibration to be performed. The following chart shows the calibration values that are saved by the factory. However, you can also customised these.

Calibration	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	Temperature
2-point	7,00	4,00	-	-	-	at 25°C
3-point	7,00	4,00	10,00	-	-	at 25°C
4-point	7,00	2,00	4,00	10,00	-	at 25°C
5-point	7,00	2,00	4,00	10,00	12,00	at 25°C

An ideal pH electrode outputs a value of 0 mV at a pH value of 7. A pH meter at a medium temperature of +25 °C would therefore be ideally calibrated. As such a pH electrode does not exist, the meter must be calibrated. Calibration liquids are required in order to carry out a calibration.

The meter can be calibrated either via the calibration menu or via the quick calibration function. Quick calibration can be started on the measurement screen by pressing and holding OK.

Connect the pH electrode and the temperature sensor to the meter. When using the temperature sensor, the temperature cannot be entered manually.

Use clean containers for the buffer solution and fill them with one buffer solution each.

Note: Never pour the buffer solution back into the containers but dispose of it properly!

- » Connect the pH electrode and the temperature sensor* to the meter.
- » Turn on the meter.
- » Press the MENÜ key to get to the main menu. Select Calibration and confirm with OK.
- » Select one out of five pre-programmed calibration options and confirm with OK.
- » To make a calibration, select Start calibration and confirm with OK.
- » Pay attention to the specified pH value of the buffer solution.
- » Remove the protective cover from the pH electrode and immerse it and the temperature probe in the buffer solution. The temperature of the buffer solution is automatically measured and transferred.
- » As soon as the pH electrode and the temperature probe are immersed in the buffer solution, press OK. The meter is now calibrated. Once the calibration is complete, Calibration point added appears on the display. Then confirm with OK.
- » You will automatically be taken to the next stage of calibration. Follow the instructions on the device. Repeat step 8 until all calibrations have been carried out.
- » Press the BACK key twice to return to the start screen.

*If the temperature is determined manually, set the temperature value under Menu=>Measurement=>Temperature as close as possible to the value of the medium to be analysed; the calibration can then be carried out.



If calibration is not successful, the entire calibration process must be restarted. The meter can only be used after successful calibration.

Custom calibration liquid

You can define individual pH values between 0.00 and 13.99. To do this, you have the options Custom 1-5.

- » Press MENU.
- » In the main menu, select Calibration and confirm with OK.
- » Select Custom solution and confirm with OK.
- » Select Custom 1 and confirm with OK.
- » Set the pH value using the arrow keys.
- » Confirm your entry with OK.

You can create up to 5 user-defined pH values (Custom 1-5) in the same order. To calibrate with the user-defined pH values, proceed as follows for the setting. The two-point calibration is described as an example.

- » Press the BACK key.
- » You are in the Calibration submenu. You can set customised pH values for the two-, three-, four- and five-point calibration.
- » Select two-point calibration and confirm with OK.
- » Select buffer solution 1 and confirm with OK.
- » Select the user-defined pH value Custom 1-5 and confirm with OK.
- » Select buffer solution 2 and confirm with OK.
- » Select the user-defined pH value Custom 1-5 and confirm with OK.
- » Select Start calibration and confirm with OK.
- » The PCE-PH 228 calibrates according to the customised pH values. Follow the instructions of the meter.
- » Once calibration is complete, press the BACK key twice to return to the start screen.

Reset calibration

The calibration points can be reset manually. To do so, go to Reset calibration points in the submenu Calibration and confirm with OK. Select the tick with the arrow LEFT key and confirm with OK. To get to the start screen, press the BACK key twice.

Calibration reminder

How often you carry out a calibration later depends on the intended use and the desired accuracy.

When the meter is delivered from the factory and when it is reset, the default setting is 7 days.

You have the option of setting the calibration reminder to a value between 1 and 999 days.

If you set 0 days, the calibration reminder will be deactivated. You will not be reminded!

Do the following to change the calibration reminder:

- » Press the MENU key.
- » In the main menu, go to Calibration and confirm with OK.
- » Select calibration reminder and confirm with OK.
- » Use the arrow keys to set the days of the next calibration reminder and confirm with OK.
- » To return to the start screen, press the BACK key twice.

Measurement

In the Measurement menu, you can set the Temperature, Temperature Sensor, Unit, Alert and pH resolution.

Temperature

The manually determined temperature of the liquid to be measured can be entered in the Temperature submenu. Temperatures from 0 to 100 °C can be set. If the temperature sensor is connected, the temperature cannot be changed. To set the manual temperature, select the corresponding menu item using the OK key. A dialogue for entering the temperature opens.

Each decimal place can be selected using the RIGHT/LEFT arrow keys and edited using the UP/DOWN arrow keys.

Temperature sensor

In this submenu, you can select the temperature sensor to be used. You can select the temperature electrode TP-07 (NTC) or the sensor PT-1000.

Unit

This menu allows you to set the units for all measured parameters. The following chart shows the available units.

Parameter	Unit	Acronym
Temperature	Celsius	[°C]
	Fahrenheit	[°F]
	Kelvin	[K]

- » Press MENU.
- » In the main menu, go to Measurement and confirm with OK.
- » In the submenu, go to Unit and confirm with OK.
- » Use the arrow keys to select the unit and confirm your selection with OK.
- » Press the BACK key twice to return to the start screen.

Alert

The Alert menu is used to configure the visual and audible alarm of the device. Three modes are available for monitoring.

Mode	Description
Off	The alarm is deactivated.
Overflow	The alarm is triggered as soon as the measured parameter exceeds the upper limit value.
Undercut	The alarm is triggered as soon as the measured parameter falls below the lower limit value.
Window mode	The alarm is triggered as soon as the measured parameter is between the upper and lower limit values.
Inverted window mode	The alarm is triggered as soon as the measured parameter is outside the range between the upper and lower limit values.

In addition to selecting the alarm mode, the measured parameter to be monitored can be selected under the Parameter menu item.

The limit values can be set under the Limits menu item by selecting the respective menu item using an input dialogue.

pH resolution

In the submenu pH resolution, you can set if you want the readings to be displayed with a resolution 0.1, 0.01 or 0.001.

To do this, press OK and then select the desired resolution with the arrow keys. Confirm again with OK.

Data logger

The Data logger menu allows you to select Start condition, Stop condition, Measuring interval, Records and Delete all. The data logger dialogue can be called up on any screen using the REC key and displays the current settings and the status of the data logger.

Start condition

The data logger can either be started manually by pressing a key via the data logger dialogue or automatically from a date that is set in this menu.

Stop condition

Three different options are available for stopping the data logger. It can either be stopped manually by pressing a key via the data logger dialogue, on a date or after an adjustable time interval.

Measuring interval

The time interval for saving the measured values can be set between 1 s and 12 h via an input dialogue.

Records

All saved data records are displayed in this menu and selecting a data record displays information on the start and stop time as well as the number of saved data points. One data point corresponds to the one-off storage of all measured parameters.

Delete all

By selecting this menu item and confirming via the dialogue, all saved data records are deleted.

User menu

With the PCE-PH 228, up to 10 different users can be saved in the menu, whereby the meter can be protected with a 4-digit password. When data is recorded, the log shows which user carried out the measurement and which user calibrated the measuring instrument.

Add user

You can create a maximum of 10 users in the user menu. A maximum of 25 characters is available for the name and 4 numbers for the password.

Delete user

Users can be deleted in this menu. You need the password to delete a user.

Change password

The entered password can be changed here.

If you have forgotten the password, press and hold the arrow UP/DOWN keys simultaneously for 5 seconds. The password will then be reset and a new one must be set.

User login

Here you can set whether the meter takes the user login into account when switching on. This setting then applies to all created users. You can activate the user login, in which case each user must log in with the saved password, or you can deactivate the users, in which case the device starts without a login.

SETTINGS

Decimal separator

Either a point or a comma can be selected as the decimal separator for measured values.

Date & time

In this menu, you can set the date and time as well as the date and time format.

Display

In this tab, the display brightness can be set between 50 and 100 %. Automatic dimming can also be set. After the set time, the display is dimmed to a lower brightness to save power. Pressing any key returns the brightness to the original setting.

Language

The menu languages available are English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Turkish, Polish, Russian and Chinese.

Automatic power off

This option can be used to set the device to switch off automatically. When auto power off mode is activated, the meter switches off if no key is pressed for a certain period of time. You can choose between 1 minute, 5 minutes and 15 minutes. The automatic power off function can also be deactivated completely.

Factory settings

Via this option, you can reset the meter to its factory settings.

When the device is reset, the default values for the measurement parameters and the remaining menu options are restored.

User manual

A QR code is displayed in this menu. The QR code can be scanned with an appropriate reader, such as a mobile phone, and leads directly to this user manual.

Info

The model name, serial number and firmware version are displayed in the Info menu.

OPERATION

When the meter is started, the password is requested if a user has been created. If no user has been created, the start screen starts automatically. If you have saved a password, press OK to enter the password using the UP/DOWN and RIGHT/LEFT arrow keys, then press OK to confirm.

pH measurement

Before carrying out a pH measurement, the meter must be calibrated.

This is the only way to ensure that the measurement is accurate.

Calibration is described in pH calibration.

With automatic compensation (recommended measurement method)

- » Connect the pH electrode to the PCE-PH 228.
- » Also connect the temperature sensor to the measuring device in order to use automatic temperature compensation.
- » Now hold the pH electrode and the temperature sensor in the medium whose pH value is to be determined.
- » The pH measurement value of the medium is shown directly on the display.

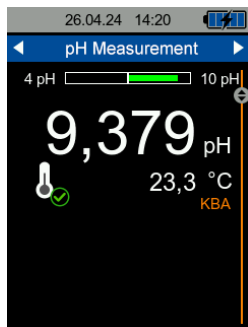
With manual compensation

- » If you do not want to use automatic temperature compensation, set the compensation temperature in the menu as close as possible to that of the medium to be measured.
- » Connect the pH electrode to the PCE-PH 228.
- » Now hold the electrode in the measuring medium.
- » The measured value is now shown on the display.

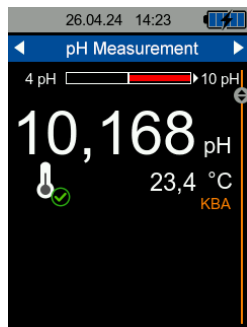
When the pH electrode is moved within the medium, the reading will be displayed more quickly.

PMV function

The PCE-PH 228 pH meter has a PMV function, which stands for Permanent Measurement Verification. This function ensures that the measurements are always carried out within the calibration range. The verification of the measured value is shown via the bar display above the measured value.



Reading within calibration range



Reading outside calibration range

If the measured value is outside the measurement range of -2 ... 20 pH, a warning message will be displayed.

mV / Redox measurement

In addition to pH, the PCE-PH 228 can also measure the redox potential of liquids in mV. Connect the redox electrode to the meter via the BNC socket. Press the LEFT/RIGHT arrow keys to switch to mV mode. Immerse the electrode in the liquid to be measured. The measured value is shown on the display directly.

Evaluation

You have the option of creating users in the user menu. The measurements are automatically assigned to the registered user. The registered user is displayed on the start screen directly below the temperature display.

When reading out the meter, the time of calibration, the pH values / mV values with date and time and the user are transmitted.

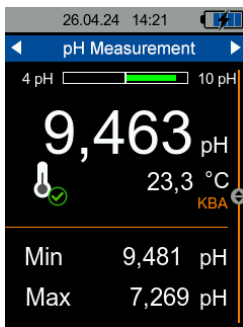
Navigation

To ensure a clear display of the measured parameters, the measurement screen consists of several views. Each view displays a parameter, whereas the parameter is displayed in the top blue bar of the view. You can switch between the views of the parameters using the RIGHT and LEFT arrow keys.

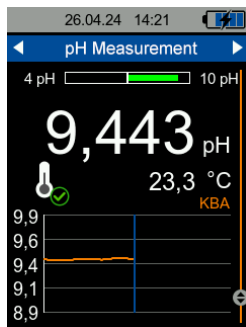
Some parameter views also have several display formats for the parameter, such as the simple numerical display, the graphical display or the display of the statistical values (minimum value, maximum value). Use the UP and DOWN arrow keys to change the display format. The following illustrations show the different display formats.



numerical representation



statistical representation



graphical representation

MAINTENANCE

Storing the pH electrode

The pH electrode should always be kept moist in the storage liquid, as this is the only way to ensure proper operation.

If the pH electrode is stored in dry condition, it must be soaked in a pH-neutral storage solution before use.

Calibration not successful

An x appears. Restart the calibration. A successful calibration is marked with a tick. Check the redox potentials during calibration.

The pH electrode is not permanently durable, therefore the approximate value at a value of 7 pH should be 0 mV, the deviation corresponds to ± 2 mV. If the deviation is greater, replace the measuring probe.

Meter does not work

Press and hold the ON/OFF and MENU keys at the same time until the meter restarts.

Forgotten user password

Press the UP and DOWN arrow keys simultaneously for 5 seconds. The password is reset and a new password must be entered.

DISPOSAL

For the disposal of batteries in the EU, the (EU) 2023/1542 directive of the European Parliament applies. Due to the contained pollutants, batteries must not be disposed of as household waste. They must be given to collection points designed for that purpose. In order to comply with the EU directive 2012/19/EU we take our devices back. We either re-use them or give them to a recycling company which disposes of the devices in line with law. For countries outside the EU, batteries and devices should be disposed of in accordance with your local waste regulations. If you have any questions, please contact PCE Instruments.

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