

User's Manual:

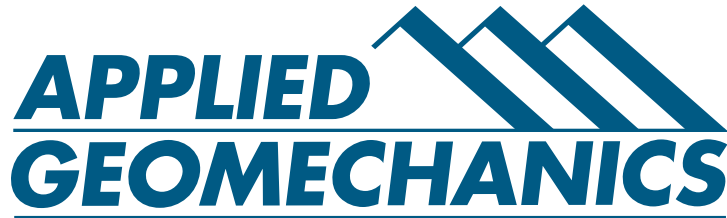
MODEL 904-T CLINOMETER PAK

Model 904-T Serial No. _____

Bipolar Output (± 2.5 volts typical): ☐

Unipolar Output (0-5 volts typical): ☐

Model 870 Readout Module Serial No. (optional) _____



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1. Introduction

The Model 904-T Clinometer Pak is an economical biaxial inclinometer in a rugged NEMA 4X (IP65) enclosure (Figure 1). It is suitable for a wide variety of monitoring and measurement applications in the factory or laboratory, or under harsh outdoor conditions. Tilt angles measured with the Model 904-T Clinometer Pak are gravity referenced. For this reason, your Clinometer Pak will measure angular rotation in any location and can be installed anywhere. There is no need for special shafts, linkages or fixturing to obtain a useful reading.

The sensing element in the Clinometer Pak is an electrolytic tilt sensor, comprised of a glass vial containing a conductive liquid and five platinum-clad electrodes. As the sensor tilts, the liquid alternately covers and uncovers opposing electrodes, changing the AC resistance measured along different paths through the sensor. The arrangement of the four outer electrodes in four quadrants enables the electronics to resolve the direction and magnitude of rotation in two orthogonal vertical planes (X and Y). The Clinometer Pak electronics converts the raw AC signals to high-level DC voltage outputs that are sent down the instrument's cable. A temperature sensor also is included in your Clinometer Pak. Output is a DC voltage proportional to temperature in degrees Celsius.

2. Specifications

TILT OUTPUT	Two orthogonal tilt angles, ± 2.5 volts single-ended (standard), 0-5 volts available
TEMPERATURE OUTPUT	0.1°C/mV, $\pm 0.75^\circ\text{C}$ accuracy; 0°C = 0 mV (bipolar output version), 0°C = 2.5 V (0-5 V output version)
TIME CONSTANT, τ	0.15 second
NATURAL FREQUENCY	10 Hz
TEMPERATURE COEF.	Span: +0.03%/°C, Zero: 10-20 arc sec/°C typ.
POWER REQUIREMENTS	+8 to +24 VDC (bipolar output version) or +10.5 to +26.5 VDC (0-5 V output version) @ 7 mA, 250 mV ripple max., reverse polarity protected
ENVIRONMENTAL	-10 to +70 degrees C operating and storage, 100% humidity
ENCLOSURE	Painted, NEMA 4X (IP65) aluminum box, 120 x 80 x 60 mm. Four 4.4 mm dia. mounting holes at corners of 107 x 67 mm rectangle
CABLE	10 ft (3 m) multiconductor cable with PVC jacket and tinned ends (longer cable available)
WEIGHT	1 lb (0.4 kg)

	Model 904-TH High-Gain Version	Model 904-TS Standard Version	Model 904-TW Wide-Angle Version
ANGULAR RANGE	± 10 degrees	± 25 degrees	± 50 degrees
SCALE FACTOR	4°/ volt typical	10°/ volt typical	25°/ volt typical
RESOLUTION	0.005 degree of angle	0.01 degree of angle	0.02 degree of angle
REPEATABILITY	0.01 degree	0.02 degree	0.04 degree
HYSTERESIS	0.01 degree	< 0.02 degree	< 0.04 degree
LINEARITY	1% of full span typical	2.5% of full span typical	7.5% of full span typical (1.2% of half span)

Ordering Information

Model 904-TH	± 10 degrees range
Model 904-TS	± 25 degrees range
Model 904-TW	± 50 degrees range

To add the following features, specify option code after Model Number

Option Code	Feature
0-5VUP	0-5 volt output
VISCDAMP	Critically damped sensor
P/N 70304	Additional cable, specify length
P/N 62204	6-pin male receptacle (connector) for clinometer cable
P/N 62202	6-socket in-line plug (mates to P/N 62204)
Model 870	Readout module (requires purchase of P/N 62204)
RMS225	Digital multimeter display unit (used with Model 870)
01439	Mounting bracket for vertical surfaces
01454-01	Mounting plate for horizontal surfaces

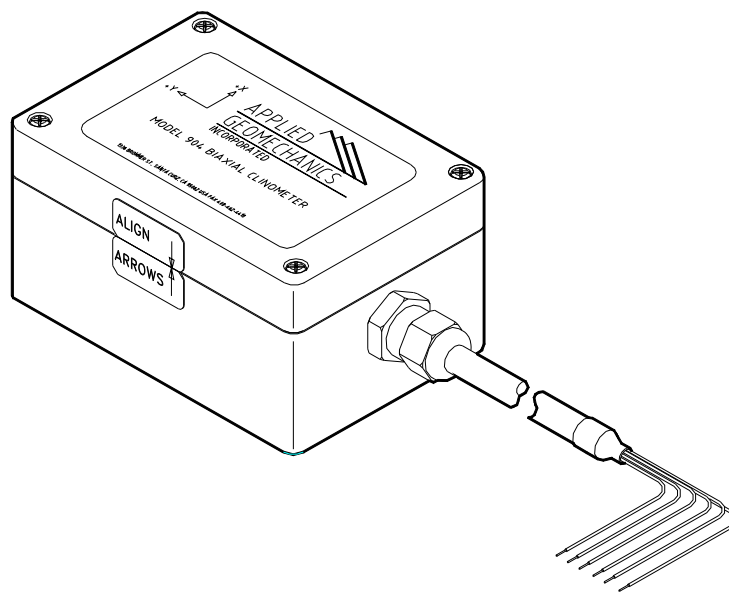
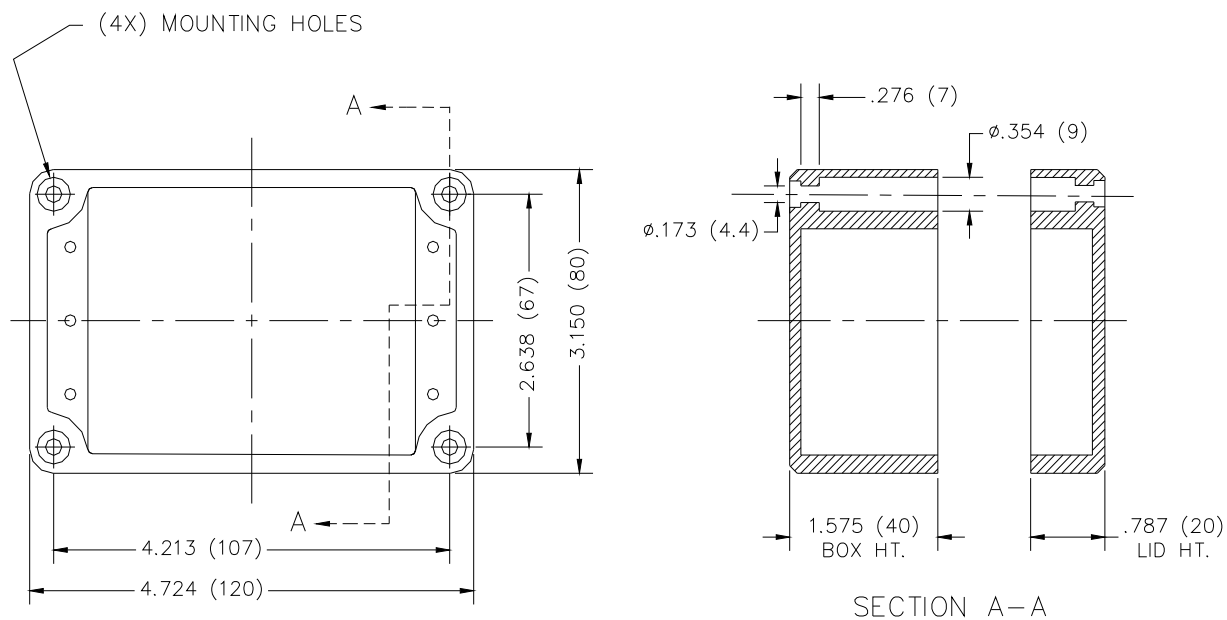


Figure 1. Model 904-T Clinometer Pak



DIMENSIONS IN inches (mm)

Figure 2. Enclosure and mounting hole dimensions

3. Wire Color Code and Connector Pin Designations

Color coding of the wires in the Clinometer Pak cable is shown in Table 1. Pin assignments refer to connector P/N 62204, which is available as an option and is attached to the end of the clinometer cable. This connector is used for connecting the Clinometer Pak to a Model 870 Readout Module, or whenever there is a quick connect/disconnect requirement.

Table 1. Wire Color Code and Connector Pin Designations		
Function	Color	Pin (P/N 62204)
Power	Red	A
Signal Ground	White	B
Power Ground	Black	C
X tilt	Green	D
Y tilt	Blue	E
Temperature	Yellow	F

4. Grounding and Transient Protection

The signal cable of the Clinometer Pak contains two ground wires: A black power ground wire and a white signal ground wire. Power and signal ground are common on the internal printed circuit assembly. We recommend that the black wire be connected to the ground of your power supply and that the white wire be connected only to the signal ground of your recording device (digital voltmeter, A/D converter, etc.). Under normal conditions, the two wires should be *not* be shorted together at the power supply end. Keeping them separate prevents a voltage drop caused by current flowing in the signal ground wire and keeps the reference potential the same at both ends of the cable.

Your Clinometer Pak is reverse polarity protected but is not surge (transient) protected. A high-voltage transient exceeding the 24 VDC input range could damage the electronics.

5. Installing Your Clinometer Pak

The Clinometer Pak has four mounting holes (Figure 2) for fastening it to a P/N 01454-01 Mounting Plate (for horizontal surfaces), to a P/N 01439 Mounting Bracket (for vertical surfaces), or directly to the surface to be monitored. These holes are 4.4 mm (0.173 inch) in diameter and accept a no. 8 screw. Access to the mounting holes is by removing the lid of the enclosure.

For best results, install your Clinometer Pak in a shaded location away from temperature extremes.

6. Converting Voltage Readings to Tilt Angles and Temperatures

The voltage outputs of the Clinometer Pak are quickly converted to tilt angles using the scale factors *or* the polynomials in the Calibration Certificate at the end of this manual. To use the scale factor, simply multiply the voltage reading by the scale factor. For example, if the scale factor of the X channel is 10.06 degrees/volt, and the X output is +2.000 volts, the tilt angle is +20.12 degrees (including the bias). To obtain tilt angles from the polynomial, substitute your voltage reading for the variable *V* and use the listed polynomial coefficients. Again, the computed angle includes the bias. Using the polynomial eliminates most of the nonlinearity and gives the most accurate results. To convert from degrees to other angle units (arc minutes, mm/meter, etc.), refer to Table 2.

The instructions in the paragraph above are for rotations in the one of the principal planes of the Clinometer Pak, that is, in a vertical plane parallel to either the X or the Y arrow on the label on the enclosure. Rotation in another vertical plane is termed a “cross-axis tilt.” Computation of cross-axis tilt angles is described in Appendix A.

To obtain temperature in degrees Celsius from clinometers with bipolar output, simply multiply the voltage reading on the temperature channel by 100°C/V (0.1°C/mV). To obtain readings from clinometers with unipolar output, first subtract 2.5 volts from the voltage reading, then multiply the result as above.

Table 2. Angle Conversion Chart						
	degrees	arc minutes	arc seconds	μradians	mm/meter	inches/ft
degrees =	1	60	3600	17453	17.45	0.2094
arc minutes =	0.01667	1	60	290.9	0.2909	3.46x10 ⁻³
arc seconds =	2.78x10 ⁻⁴	0.01667	1	4.848	4.85x10 ⁻³	5.82x10 ⁻⁵
μradians =	5.73x10 ⁻⁵	3.44x10 ⁻³	0.2063	1	0.001	1.20x10 ⁻⁵
mm/meter =	0.0573	3.436	206.3	1000	1	0.0120
inches/ft =	4.775	286.5	17,189	83,333	83.33	1

7. Measuring and Removing Zero Offset (Bias)

Bias (B) is defined as the difference between the true angle and the angle reported by the clinometer when it is level. Think of a perfectly horizontal surface with your Clinometer Pak sitting on it. If there were no bias, the output would read 0 volts on both channels (or 2.5 volts for unipolar clinometers with 0-5 volts output). In reality, the outputs of most clinometers are not 0 volts when level because of mechanical tolerances in the component parts (sensor, screws, standoffs, etc.).

To measure and remove bias, do the following:

1. Place the clinometer on an approximately horizontal surface (table top, granite flat, etc.). Read the output voltages V_{X1} and V_{Y1} for each channel and then compute the indicated angles θ_{X1} and θ_{Y1} by multiplying by the scale factors for your clinometer, found in Appendix B. For example, $\theta_{X1} = V_{X1} \times S_X$, where S_X is the scale factor for the X channel.
2. Rotate the tiltmeter 180 degrees on the surface so that it is facing the opposite direction (Figure 3). Read the new output voltages V_{X2} and V_{Y2} and compute the angles θ_{X2} and θ_{Y2} using the same procedure as in step 1 above. The scale factors are the same for both steps.
3. The biases are given by the formulae $B_X = (\theta_{X1} + \theta_{X2})/2$ and $B_Y = (\theta_{Y1} + \theta_{Y2})/2$. Record these biases and subtract them from all subsequent measurements to get the true angle.

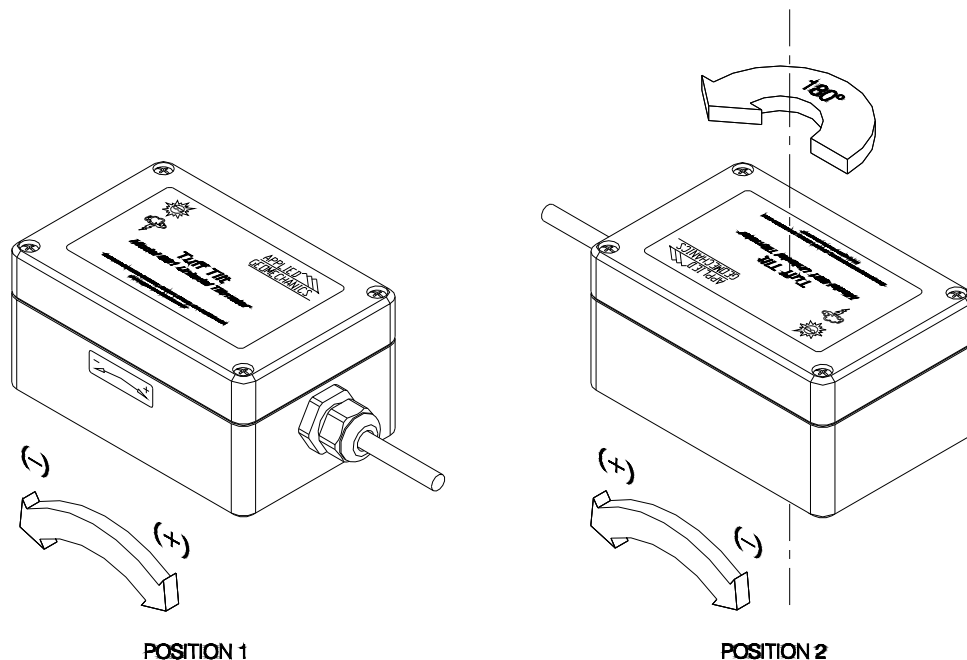


Figure 3. Measure tilt angles in these two positions to compute clinometer bias.

8. Using the Model 870 Readout Module

The Model 870 Readout Module may be used to power your Clinometer Pak (units with bipolar output only) and switch the X and Y channel outputs to a digital multimeter for display. If your Clinometer Pak was shipped with a Model 870 it will have a 6-pin connector (P/N 62204) on the end of its cable. The connector on the end of the Model 870 cable is P/N 62202. Skip this section if you did not purchase a Model 870.

The Model 870 Readout Module is designed for use with any hand-held multimeter containing banana plug sockets with standard 0.75-inch center-to-center spacing (Figure 4). To use the Model 870, first plug it into your clinometer cable via the 6-pin connector. Then plug the it into your multimeter via the banana jacks (red to red, black to black). Set the multimeter to its *DC Volts* setting and turn it on. Turn the X-OFF-Y switch on the Model 870 to the X or Y position (this powers the clinometer). Now, depress the BATTERY CHECK button. If the voltage displayed on the multimeter is below 8 volts, replace the battery inside the Model 870 with a new one as described in the next section.

You are now ready to read your Clinometer Pak. Turn the toggle switch to X or Y and read the output voltage on the multimeter display (the multimeter must be in its *DC Volts* setting). The temperature channel cannot be read using the Model 870.

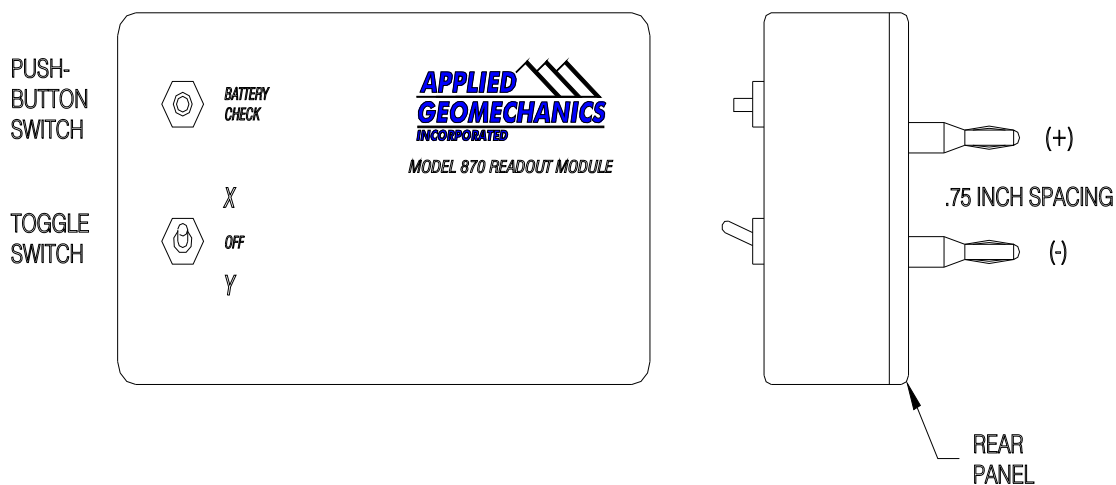


Figure 4. Model 870 Readout Module

9. Model 870 Battery Replacement

If the voltage level of the Model 870 Readout Module battery drops below 8 volts, the battery should be replaced. The battery is a standard 9-volt radio battery, available in most supermarkets and hardware stores. To replace the battery:

1. Remove the four metal screws from the back panel. Carefully separate the back panel from the front portion of the Readout Module. Do not twist or pull the internal wiring.
2. Replace the old battery with a fresh new battery.
3. Replace the back panel.

10. Warranty and Assistance

Standard goods (those listed in Applied Geomechanics' published sales literature, excluding software) manufactured by Applied Geomechanics Inc. (AGI) are warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for twelve (12) months from the date of shipment from AGI's premises with the following exceptions: Series 900 analog or digital clinometers are warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for 90 days from the delivery date. AGI will repair or replace (at its option) goods that prove to be defective during the warranty period provided that they are returned prepaid to AGI and:

- (a) that the goods were used at all times for the purpose for which they were designed and in accordance with any instructions given by AGI in respect of them,
- (b) that notice is received by AGI within 30 days of the defects becoming apparent, and
- (c) that return authorization is received from AGI prior to the goods being sent back.

Should goods be damaged in transit to the Purchaser, AGI will accept no liability unless the Purchaser can show that such damage arose solely from AGI's failure to pack the goods properly for shipment.

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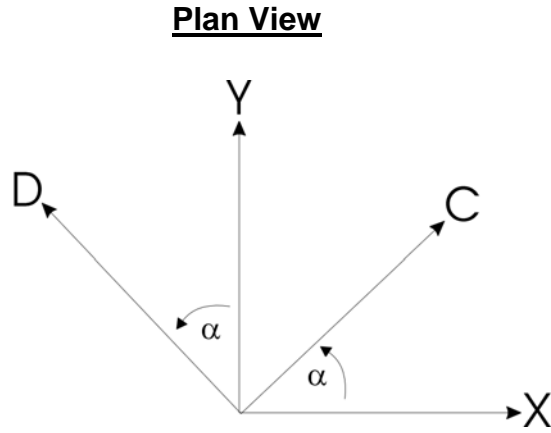
Appendix A. Computation of Cross-Axis Tilts

Problem

1. Rotation occurs in a vertical plane parallel to direction C.
2. Find angle α , which defines C direction.
3. Find amplitude of rotation, θ_C .

Assumptions

1. Planes XY and CD are initially horizontal.
2. Scale factors, S_X and S_Y , for rotations in vertical planes parallel to X and Y directions are given.
3. Bias voltages, V_{XB} and V_{YB} , have been determined. Bias voltages are the tiltmeter's X and Y outputs when it is perfectly horizontal and are equal to $V_{XB} = (V_{X1} + V_{X2})/2$ and $V_{YB} = (V_{Y1} + V_{Y2})/2$. See Section 7 for further explanation.



Solution

For rotation in the X or Y directions, rotation angle is given by $\theta_X = S_X V_X$ and $\theta_Y = S_Y V_Y$ where S_X and S_Y are the scale factors presented in the user's manual or calibration certificate, V_X is the measured X voltage minus V_{XB} , and V_Y is the measured Y voltage minus V_{YB} .

For rotation in the C direction we can define new scale factors:

$$S_C' = S_X / \cos \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad S_C'' = S_Y / \cos (90^\circ - \alpha)$$

And the rotation angle in the C direction becomes:

$$\theta_C = (S_X / \cos \alpha) (V_X) \quad [1]$$

$$\theta_C = [S_Y / \cos (90^\circ - \alpha)] (V_Y) \quad [2]$$

Equating [1] and [2] and solving gives:

$$(S_X V_X) / (\cos \alpha) = (S_Y V_Y) / \cos (90^\circ - \alpha)$$

$$(S_X V_X) / (S_Y V_Y) = \cos \alpha / \cos (90^\circ - \alpha) = 1 / \tan \alpha$$

$$\alpha = \tan^{-1} [(S_Y V_Y)/(S_X V_X)] \quad [3]$$

Substituting α in equation [1] or [2] along with the known values of S_X and V_X , or S_Y and V_Y , gives the rotation angle θ_C .

Summary: Steps in Measuring Cross-Axis Tilt Angle, θ_C

1. Measure bias voltages, V_{XB} and V_{YB} , on both tilt channels.
2. Subtract V_{XB} and V_{YB} from measured voltages to obtain corrected outputs V_X and V_Y for use in eqns. [1] through [3].
3. Compute α from equation [3] using known scale factors S_X and S_Y .
4. Compute θ_C from equation [1] or [2].

Appendix B. Calibration Certificates