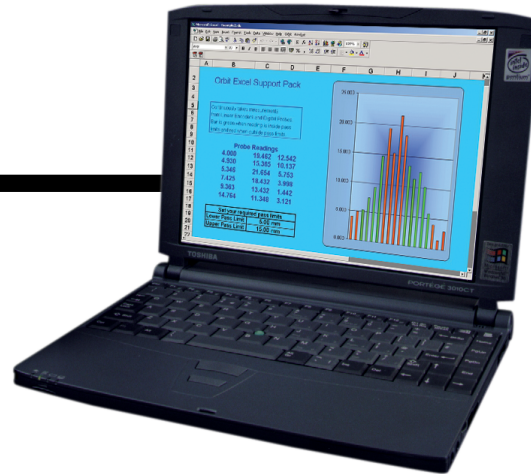


# Orbit Support Pack for Excel®



user manual



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**Return of Goods**

# 1.0 Introduction

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## Introduction

The Orbit Support Pack for Excel® software enables you to take readings from up to 31 Orbit Modules forming an Orbit Network and place them in cells of an Microsoft® Excel® spreadsheet.

The program is designed to work with the Solartron Orbit Controllers (Orbit Network Cards, Orbit RS232 Interface Module and Orbit USB Interface Module).

## This manual

This manual describes the installation and preparation and also provides information and guidance on using the software.

## PC System Requirements

### *PC Hardware Requirements*

- Personal or Multimedia computer with a Pentium processor running at 700 MHz or above with 128 MB or more RAM
- An available PCI slot, COM port or USB port.
- Microsoft Windows® 32 bit operating system (Windows® 98, Windows® ME, Windows® 2000, Windows® XP, NT4® (SP6) or later)
- VGA or higher resolution video adaptor (Super VGA, 256-colour recommended)
- Microsoft® Mouse or compatible pointing device

### *PC Software Requirements*

- Microsoft® Excel® 97, Excel® 2000, Excel® 2002 or Excel® 2003

# 2.0 Installation

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## Overview

This section will guide you through the steps required to complete a successful installation of the Orbit Support Pack for Excel® software.

Install the Orbit Support Pack for Windows® software  
(freely downloadable from [www.solartronmetrology.com](http://www.solartronmetrology.com))



Install the Orbit controller(s)



Connect the Orbit module(s)



Install the Orbit Support Pack for Excel® software

## 2.0 Installation (cont.)

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### **Installing the Orbit controller**

Refer to the appropriate Orbit controller installation documentation.

### **Connecting the Orbit Network**

Connect the modules that will form the Orbit Network to the Orbit controller. Please refer to the Orbit Network Measurement System Network Card and Driver manual (part no. 501620).

### **Installing the Orbit Support Pack for Windows® software**

Before you can use the Orbit Support Pack for Excel® software, you must have the Orbit Support Pack for Windows® software installed on your computer; this is supplied on the Installation CD in the OWSP folder. Refer to the Orbit PCI MKII Network Card manual (part no. 502566) for Orbit Support Pack for Windows® software installation instructions. If you already have the Orbit Support Pack for Windows® software installed, proceed to the next page - Installing the Orbit Support Pack for Excel® software.

Refer to the readme.txt file for details of where the Orbit Support Pack for Excel software files are installed on your system.

## 2.0 Installation (cont.)

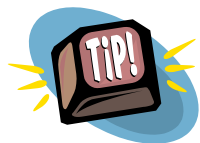
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### To install the Orbit Support Pack for Excel® software

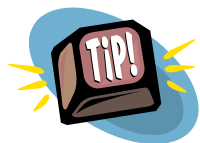
- Insert the Orbit Support Pack for Excel® software disk into the appropriate drive
- Using the Windows® **Start** button, select **Run**
- Select **Browse** and locate **D: SETUP.EXE** (where D: is the CD drive). Select **Open**, then click **OK**

The installation is now complete!

The Orbit Support Pack software has loaded an Excel Add-In. This can be accessed via the Orbit menu that has now been added to the Excel toolbar.



*To disable the Orbit Add-In & remove the Orbit menu from the Excel toolbar:  
In Excel, select **Tools, Add-Ins** & unclick the **Orbit Link** check box.  
This will remove the active mark.*



*To enable the Orbit Add-In and add the Orbit menu (having disabled it from the Excel toolbar):  
In Excel, select **Tools, Add-Ins** & click the **Orbit Link** check box.*



# 3.0 The Orbit Network Link

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## Getting started

- Open Excel
- Select **Orbit** from the Excel toolbar

The Orbit Support Pack for Excel software works via the Orbit Network Card, the Orbit RS232 Interface Module or the Orbit USB Interface Module. The communication between the Orbit Network and the spreadsheet is referred to as the **Link**.

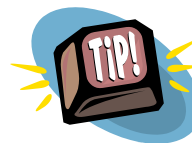
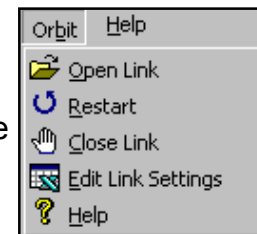
The Link can be *open* or *closed*.

When the link is open, readings can be obtained from the Orbit module(s) & placed within cells of your spreadsheet. When closed, readings cannot be taken.

## Setting up the Link

The Link has to be configured before communication with the Orbit Network can begin.

When working with an Excel file (workbook) that has not previously been used with the Orbit Support Pack software, you must configure the Link via **Edit Link Settings** before taking readings.



*The Orbit Link Settings are saved with the workbook. Ensure you save the workbook to preserve your current setup.*

## 3.0 The Orbit Network Link (cont.)

### Edit Link settings

When **Edit Link Settings** is selected, the *Orbit Link settings* dialogue box opens which allows you to change how and where readings are placed in the Excel worksheet.

• <b>Worksheet Name</b>	Lists the names of the available worksheets in the active workbook. Use this control to select the destination worksheet for your Orbit readings		
• <b>Initial Cell Address</b>	Sets the cell in which the first of the Orbit readings is to be placed. The address can be in A1, \$A\$1 or 'Name' format		
• <b>Place next reading</b>	Use this control to select where subsequent readings will be placed. The choices are next row, next column, same row or same column		
• <b>Stop after X readings</b>	Sets the number of readings to take before automatically closing the Orbit Link		
• <b>Don't Stop</b>	Use this control to override the automatic closing of the Orbit Link		
• <b>Units</b>	Sets the unit of measure for all the Orbit readings placed on the spreadsheet		
• <b>Sample On</b>	Selects the event that triggers Orbit readings.	• SPACEBAR	Using keyboard functions
		• ENTER	
		• ENTER (numpad)	
		• TIMER	Automatically using the PC system timer
• <b>Delay (seconds)</b>	Sets the delay between subsequent readings when <b>Sample On</b> is set to <b>TIMER</b> . (1 to 9999 seconds, 0 for continuous readings)		
• <b>Set up Orbit Network</b>	Calls up the <i>Orbit Network Settings</i> dialogue box		

**Orbit Link settings**

Spreadsheet Settings

Worksheet Name:

Initial Cell Address:

Place Next Reading:

Stop after:  readings

☐ Don't stop

Sample On

Delay:  seconds

Orbit Network Settings

Units

☒ mm ☐ Inch

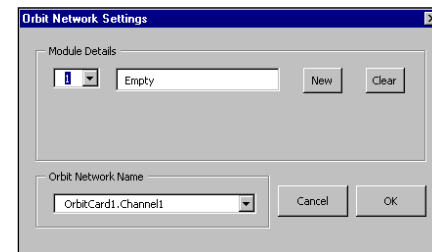
## 3.0 The Orbit Network Link (cont.)

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### Orbit Network settings

This dialogue box allows you to add and remove Orbit modules on an Orbit Network

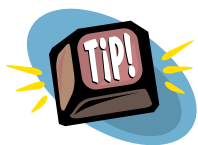
- Select the Orbit Network you wish to use from the Orbit Network Name listbox
- Select the Orbit module number (1 to 31) that you wish to use (usually starting with number 1)
- Select **New**
- Press the tip of the first probe that you want to use. The 10 character Orbit module ID will be saved. (The Orbit module number will be increased by 1)
- Repeat steps 2 to 4 for all other probes to be used
- To remove an Orbit module, select the appropriate Orbit module, select **Clear** and the 10 character Orbit module ID will be replaced with 'Empty'
- Select **OK**



## 3.0 The Orbit Network Link (cont.)




### Opening the Link

To receive readings from modules on the Orbit Network, the Link needs to be open. From the Excel toolbar, select **Orbit, Open Link**. You are now ready to take readings from the Orbit Network.



*When Excel has created a successful link with the Orbit Network, the Orbit toolbar will appear on your spreadsheet.*

### The Orbit toolbar

• Zero readings	<p>While the link is open, the <b>ZERO</b> button can be used to set the current reading(s) to zero. All subsequent readings will be referenced to this zero datum.</p> <p>This action cannot be undone.</p>
• Take readings	<p>Click  (or press the key that you have assigned to trigger a new reading) to place readings in your spreadsheet.</p> <p>If <b>Sample on</b> has been set to <b>TIMER</b>, this button will start the timer.</p>
• Restart	<p>Clicking the <b>Restart</b> button  will set the current destination cell address to the initial cell address that was set via the <i>Orbit Link Settings</i> dialogue box.</p>
• Close Link	<p>Click  to close the link. This will also stop the timer when <b>Sample On</b> is set to <b>TIMER</b>.</p> <p>If the active key is pressed after the Link has closed, it will return to its original function and not take any more readings from the Orbit Network.</p>

# 4.0 Examples

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## Included examples

The Orbit Support Pack for Excel® disk contains three examples to help you get started.

The examples are designed to show different aspects of the Orbit Support Pack Add-In.

After loading the example you will need to assign the Orbit module (refer to page 8 Orbit Network settings).

Example 1
Takes 5 readings from an Orbit module. A new reading is taken each time the spacebar is pressed. The individual readings are displayed in a table, together with the mean. The reading values are also displayed on a bar graph.
Example 2
Automatically takes readings from any two Orbit modules every second. The readings are then placed in a worksheet called 'Reading', and a two column graph is shown on a worksheet called 'Graph'.
Example 3
Automatically takes continuous readings from an Orbit module. The reading is placed in a cell in the worksheet. The Limits table allows you to enter your upper and lower limits. The graph shows a simple column display that changes colour (from red to green) when the reading is within limits.

# 5.0 Glossary

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## Terms used in this manual

• <b>Add-In</b>	Components that can be installed on your computer to add commands and functions to Microsoft Excel
• <b>Link</b>	The communication between the Orbit Network and the Excel spreadsheet
• <b>Orbit Link Settings dialogue box</b>	Allows you to change how and where the readings are placed in the Excel worksheet
• <b>Orbit menu</b>	When the Orbit Add-In is present, the menu is added to the Excel toolbar
• <b>Orbit module</b>	Any device which connects to the Orbit Network and communicates using the Orbit Network protocol
• <b>Orbit module ID</b>	Each Orbit Module has a unique 10-character ID to identify it on the Orbit Network
• <b>Orbit Network controller</b>	<p>A device that can communicate with Orbit modules using the Orbit Network protocol.</p> <p>Current Orbit Network controllers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Orbit Network Card - two-channel card for PC's</li><li>• Orbit RS232 Interface Module - single channel module for any device with an RS232 port.</li><li>• Orbit USB Interface Module - single channel module for any device with a USB port</li></ul>
• <b>Orbit Network Settings dialogue</b>	Allows addition and removal of modules on the Orbit Network
• <b>Orbit toolbar</b>	When the Orbit Network Link is active the toolbar appears on the spreadsheet