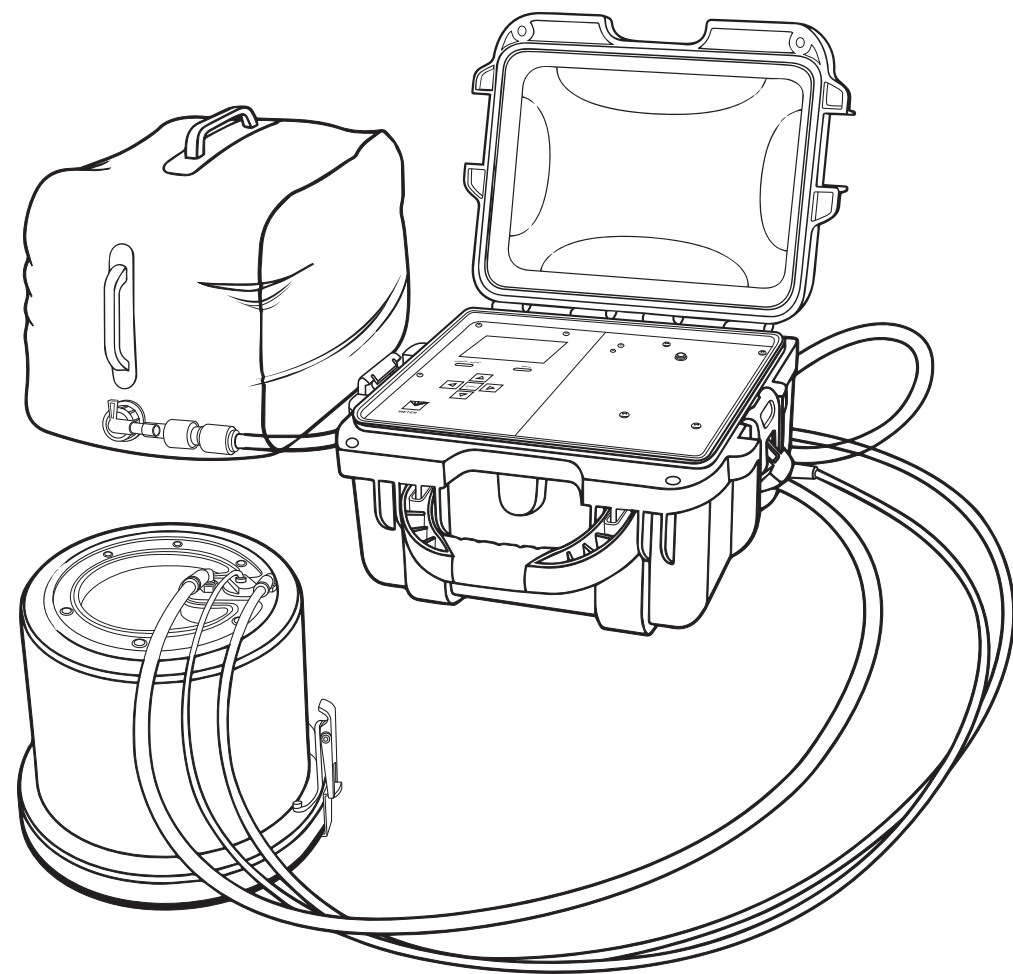


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1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing the SATURO Infiltrator from METER Group. This manual should help you understand the functionality of SATURO, make high-quality K_{fs} measurements, and get the most out of the instrument.

SATURO was designed to be an automated instrument for measuring permeability and field saturated hydraulic conductivity (K_{fs}) in soil. It utilizes a multipressure head analysis approach to simplify the corrections for three-dimensional flow from a single-ring infiltrometer, allowing for quick measurements of hydraulic conductivity without needing postprocessing. This automated approach reduces error in the hydraulic conductivity assessment (Reynold and Elrick 1990).

Verify all instrument contents shipped and appear in good condition:

- Control unit
- Two insertion rings: 5-cm depth and 10-cm depth
- Driving plate
- Infiltrator head
- Charging adapter
- Two collapsible water tanks
- 6.4-mm (1/4-in) diameter tube for air output
- 9.5-mm (3/8-in) diameter tube for water output
- 7.9-mm (5/16-in) diameter tube for water input
- Metal file
- Driving mallet
- Flathead screwdriver

2. OPERATION

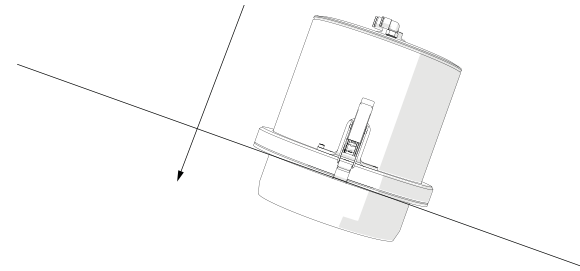
Please read all instructions before operating the SATURO to ensure it performs to its full potential.

2.1 INSTALLATION

Follow the steps listed in [Table 1](#) to set up the instrument.

Table 1 Installation

Preparation	<p>Verify Access to Water Identify a source of water on site or bring water to the site.</p> <p>Charge Battery Charge the control unit battery. Renew the charge after returning from the field.</p> <p>Download Software Install the SATURO Downloader to view files in the field (Section 2.2.4).</p>
	<p>Install Insertion Ring Remove rocks, sticks, and other large debris from the surface where the ring will be installed at the desired test location. Place the insertion ring on the soil and fit the driving plate on top. Hammer on the inner circle of the driving plate until the insertion ring is flush with the top of the soil, ensuring there are no gaps between the soil and ring side walls. Remove the driving plate. For hill installation, install the insertion ring so that the infiltrometer head will be perpendicular to the slope of the hill with interior sensor to the left or right.</p>
	<p>Set Up Infiltration Head Clear all grass and debris from the lip of the insertion ring and clamp the infiltrometer head onto the insertion ring to form a seal. A clean seal ensures accurate pressure readings. Do not clamp too tightly, as this can lead to warping of the insertion ring. Clamps can be tightened and loosened with a small flat head screwdriver as needed.</p>



will not be affected. Each term not so declared invalid or unenforceable will be valid and enforced to the fullest extent permitted by law and the rights and obligations of the parties will be construed and enforced as though a valid commercially reasonable term consistent with the undertaking of the parties under the order has been substituted in place of the invalid provision.

SET-OFF. The Buyer may not set-off any amount owing from the Seller to the Buyer against any amount payable by the Buyer to the Seller whether or not related to this contract.

SERVICE

delivery or, if transportation charges are prepaid by the Seller, the Buyer will reimburse the Seller upon receipt of an invoice from the Seller. The Buyer is obligated to obtain insurance against damage to the goods being shipped. Unless otherwise specified, the goods will be shipped in the standard Seller commercial packaging. When special packing is required or, in the opinion of the Seller, required under the circumstances, the cost of the special packaging shall be the responsibility of the Buyer.

INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE. Goods will be conclusively deemed accepted by the Buyer unless a written notice setting out the rejected goods and the reason for the rejection is sent by the Buyer to the Seller within 10 days of delivery of the goods. The Buyer will place rejected goods in safe storage at a reasonably accessible location for inspection by the Seller.

CUSTOM GOODS. There is no refund or return for custom or nonstandard goods.

WARRANTIES. The Seller warrants all equipment manufactured by it to be free from defects in parts and labor for a period of one year from the date of shipment from factory. The liability of the Seller applies solely to repairing, replacing, or issuing credit (at the Seller's sole discretion) for any equipment manufactured by the seller and returned by the Buyer during the warranty period. SELLER MAKES NO SEPARATE OR OTHER WARRANTY OF ANY NATURE WHATSOEVER, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING THE WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. There shall be no other obligations either expressed or implied.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. Seller will not be liable to the Buyer or any other person or entity for indirect special, incidental, consequential, punitive, or exemplary damages in connection with this transaction or any acts or omissions associated therewith or relating to the sale or use of any goods, whether such claim is based on breach of warranty, contract, tort, or other legal theory and regardless of the causes of such loss or damages or whether any other remedy provided herein fails. In no event will the Seller's total liability under this contract exceed an amount equal to the total amount paid for the goods purchased hereunder.

WAIVER. In the event of any default under or breach of the contract by the Buyer, the Seller has the right to refuse to make further shipments. The Seller's failure to enforce at any time or for any period of time the provisions of this contract will not constitute a waiver of such provisions or the right of the Seller to enforce each and every provision.

GOVERNING LAW. The validity, construction, and performance of the contract and the transactions to which it relates will be governed by the laws of the United States of America. All actions, claims, or legal proceedings in any way pertaining to this contract will be commenced and maintained in the courts of Whitman County, State of Washington, and the parties hereto each agree to submit themselves to the jurisdiction of such court.

SEVERABILITY. If any of the Terms and Conditions set out in this contract are declared to be invalid by a court, agency, commission, or other entity having jurisdiction over the interpretation and enforcement of this contract, the applications of such provisions to parties or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid or unenforceable

SATURO

Table 1 Installation (continued)

Installation (continued)	Connect the hoses and sensor cable to the designated fittings on the infiltrrometer head. Each input and output line is purposefully a different size of tubing to help prevent a mismatch. If a tube does not snugly fit into a connection, it is probably in the wrong one.
	Set Up the Water Tank Fill the water tank and connect it to the control unit. Fully open the water valve.
	The water tank may not hold enough water for tests in highly permeable soils. To use a larger container, place the tube at the bottom of the container and ensure the tube remains underwater throughout the test.
	Set Up Control Unit Place the control unit on a stable surface. Connect the three hoses and sensor cable to the corresponding ports on the control unit.
	Power on the control unit.

2.2 FUNCTIONALITY

Follow the steps in the following sections to collect data.

2.2.1 SETTING UP A TEST

1. Press the **POWER/MENU** button on the control unit to power on the device.
The last test results will appear on the screen.
2. Press **Enter** to view the Test Setup screen
This screen is used to name the test and configure test settings (Figure 1).



Figure 1 Test Setup screen

3. Name the test.
 - a. Select Name to create a test name.

OPERATION

- b. Highlight letters and press **Enter** after each one (Figure 2).

A decimal point is not allowed as the first character of a test name.

Toggle between upper and lower case by selecting the boxed up arrow in the lower right of the screen.

To add a space or delete a character, navigate to the test name and use the **RIGHT** or **LEFT** buttons, respectively.

The test name can have up to 20 characters.



Figure 2 Name screen

4. Select Done and press **Enter** to save the new test name.

Press **BACK** to cancel without saving changes.

NOTE: When downloading tests as a comma-separated value file format (*.csv), the degree symbol and ± symbol are omitted from the test name in the test summary information.

5. Configure test settings by selecting Settings.

Different soil types may require different parameters for an optimum infiltration test.

Adjust settings to change pressure heads, soak time, number of cycles, and hold time as well as to inform the control unit of the insertion ring depth (Figure 3).

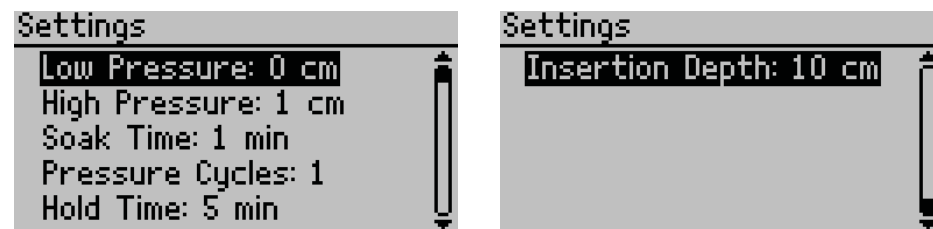


Figure 3 Settings options

- a. Set desired hydrostatic pressure.

Hydrostatic pressure for the low and high pressure heads must be between 0 and 40 cm. Generally, soils with high infiltration rates require lower pressure head settings than soils with low infiltration rates. A pressure difference of at least 5 cm between the low and high pressure heads is normally recommended, except in sites with high infiltration rates. In such cases, a pressure difference of 2 cm is sufficient to help

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4.4 CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Customer service representatives are available for questions, problems, or feedback Monday through Friday, 8 am–5 pm Pacific time.

Email: support.environment@metergroup.com
sales.environment@metergroup.com

Phone: +1.509.332.5600

Fax: +1.509.332.5158

Website: metergroup.com

If contacting METER by email or fax, please include the following information:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Email address</i>
<i>Address</i>	<i>Instrument serial number</i>
<i>Phone</i>	<i>Description of the problem</i>

NOTE: For SATURO Infiltrometers purchased through a distributor, please contact the distributor directly for assistance.

4.5 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

CONTRACT FORMATION. All requests for goods and/or services by METER Group, Inc. USA (METER) are subject to the customer's acceptance of these Terms and Conditions. The Buyer will be deemed to have irrevocably accepted these Terms and Conditions of Sale upon the first to occur of the Buyer's issuance of a purchase order or request for goods or services. Unless expressly assented to in writing by METER, terms and conditions different are expressly rejected. No course of dealing between the parties hereto shall be deemed to affect or to modify, amend or discharge any provisions of this agreement.

PRICES AND PAYMENT. Invoice prices will be based upon METER prices as quoted or at METER list price in effect at the time an order is received by the Seller. Prices do not include any state or federal taxes, duties, fees, or charges now or hereafter enacted applicable to the goods or to this transaction, all of which are the responsibility of the Buyer. Unless otherwise specified on the invoice, all accounts are due and payable 30 days from the date of invoice. Unpaid accounts extending beyond 30 days will be subject to a service charge of 2% per month (24% per annum). Should Seller initiate any legal action or proceeding to collect on any unpaid invoice, Seller shall be entitled to recover from Buyer all costs and expenses incurred in connection therewith, including court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

RISK OF LOSS AND DELIVERY TITLE. Liability for loss or damage passes to the Buyer when the Seller delivers the goods on the Seller's dock or to the transporting agent, whichever occurs first. The Seller has the right to deliver the goods in installments. Shipping and delivery dates communicated by the Seller to the Buyer are approximate only.

SHIPMENT. In the absence of specific shipping instructions, the Seller, if and as requested by the Buyer, will ship the goods by the method the Seller deems most advantageous. Where the Seller ships the goods, the Buyer will pay all transportation charges that are payable on

SERVICE

Table 3 Troubleshooting SATURO (continued)

Problem	Possible Solutions
"No depth sensor!"	Check sensor connection to the control unit.
	Verify it is measuring correctly by checking the Water Level value on the Diagnostics screen. If these actions do not fix the issue, contact Customer Support .
"Pressure limit exceeded!"	Check tubing for possible kinks or blockages.
	NOTE: This error occurs when the air pressure in the chamber is over 60.0 cm or below -50.0 cm and stops the test.
"Temperature too high!"	Move the system into a cooler environment. Make sure it is out of direct sunlight. After the system has cooled, turn the power off and on again to clear the temperature too high message.
	NOTE: This error occurs when the air temperature is above the minimum operating temperature (50 °C) while a test is running and stops the test when this occurs.
"Temperature too low!"	Move the system into a warmer environment. After the system has warmed, turn the power off and on again to clear the temperature too low message.
	NOTE: This error occurs when the air temperature is below the minimum operating temperature (0 °C) while a test is running. Water frozen in the system could cause damage. The error will stop the test.
Control unit becomes unresponsive	Charge the battery.
	Press and hold the BACK button for more than 7 s to restart. If these actions do not fix the issue, contact Customer Support .
"Date and time were reset!"	Ensure the battery is fully charged and update the date and time in the Settings menu.
	If this action does not fix the issue, contact Customer Support .
"Missing bootstrap loader! See Manual."	This error means firmware updates will not be possible on this instrument unless the instrument is serviced by Customer Support .
	The instrument may be used without consequences, but contact Customer Support for servicing so the instrument firmware can stay up to date with the latest features and bug fixes.

SATURO

reduce water usage. [Table 2](#) provides rough guidelines to determine initial pressure head settings. These values are starting points only and should be adjusted for the particular soil based on experience.

b. Set soak time.

During soak time, the infiltrometer applies water to achieve saturation of the soil before beginning the pressure cycles. A good introductory soak time is approximately 20 min, though the exact length depends largely on soil type and antecedent soil moisture ([Table 2](#)). During soak time, pressure is maintained at the low pressure head.

Table 2 Soak time and pressure head configurations

Soil Type	Soak Time (min)	Low Pressure Head (cm)	High Pressure Head (cm)	Hold Time at Pressure (min)	Pressure Cycles (count)	Total Run Time (min)
Dry loamy sand	25	5	10	15	3	115
Wet loamy sand	15	5	10	15	2	75
Dry silt loam	30	5	15	20	3	150
Wet silt loam	15	5	15	20	2	95
Dry clay (poor structure)	30	5	20	25	3	180
Wet clay (poor structure)	15	5	20	25	2	115
Dry clay (strong structure)	25	5	10	20	3	145

NOTE: These values are a rough starting point only. Soil conditions dictate the optimal settings for the test. Use lower pressure head settings for soils dominated by macropore flow. If necessary, reduce the pressure head settings to allow the instrument to keep up with the flow rates.

c. Set the number of pressure cycles.

One pressure cycle is equivalent to a full run at the two different pressure heads. The control unit takes the average infiltration rates at the different pressure heads during the last pressure cycle to calculate K_{fs} . Multiple pressure cycles ensure the steady state infiltration rate was reached.

At first, the infiltration rate is large. Steady state or quasi-steady state may be achieved when the infiltration rate charted over time levels into infinite time (Dane and Topp 2002). Wait for the flux chart to stabilize to determine if quasi-steady state has been reached. If there is a decrease in flux rate, redo the test or add another cycle.

d. Set the hold time ([Figure 4](#)).

The hold time determines how long the pressure is held at each pressure head and applies to both pressure cycles (i.e., if the hold time is 20, both the low and high pressure holds for 20 min).

e. Select the correct insertion ring depth.

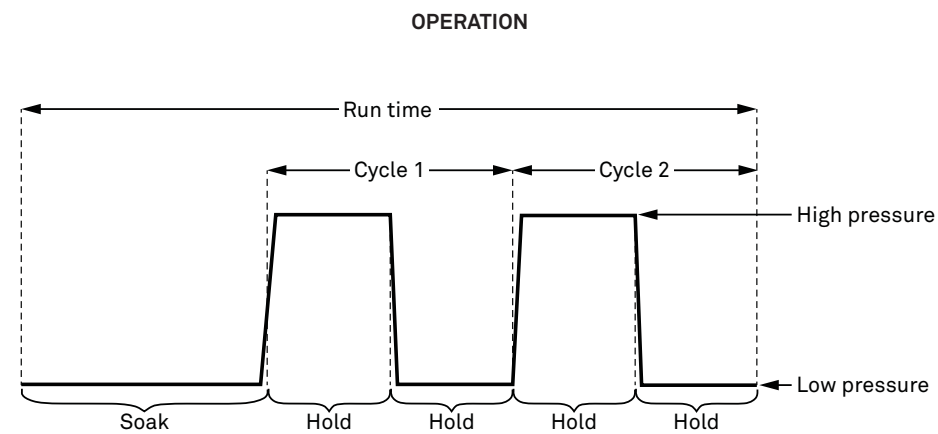


Figure 4 Run time diagram

6. After the settings are configured, press **BACK** to go to the Test Setup screen.

2.2.2 STARTING A TEST

- On the Test Setup screen, select Start.
The infiltrrometer displays a message to check tubing and connections.
- Press **Enter** to begin the test.
The infiltrrometer will pump water from the water tank until the water level reaches 5 cm. It then begins the soak time, while maintaining a level of 5 cm.
The graph feature displays incremental data during a test. The infiltrrometer records a data point every minute throughout the duration of the test.
- It is not necessary to supervise the system during a test, but check the water level intermittently to ensure a constant supply.
Test results will display automatically at the end of the test (Figure 5).

NOTE: See Section 3.2.1 for details on viewing graphs of flux, water level, and pressure.

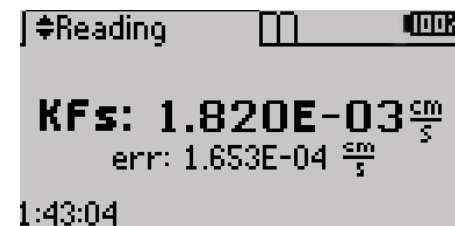


Figure 5 Test complete screen

Pressing **BACK** returns the display to the Reading screens. Pressing **Enter** on any of the Reading screens returns the display to the Name screen to review test settings.

SATURO

Table 3 Troubleshooting SATURO (continued)

Problem	Possible Solutions
Control unit shows low battery	Charge the battery to ensure it is fully charged. NOTE: This error occurs when the battery voltage drops below the minimum voltage at which the water pump can operate (11.1 V) during a test and stops the test.
"Data memory is full."	Download the data from the infiltrrometer and erase the stored data on the infiltrrometer before performing a new test. NOTE: The control unit will initially display "Water level warning!" If the water level remains below the water level sensor (4.3 cm) for more than 10 min, SATURO will stop the test and the control unit will display "Water level error!"
Test failed to reach the target water level	Check that the water supply is connected and water is able to easily flow from the water supply through the control unit into the infiltrrometer head. Check for leaks around the seal of the infiltrrometer head. If SATURO is on a slope, the slope may be too great, and the water level will not reach the sensor. If there are no apparent leaks, the location may have an infiltration rate that exceeds the capacity of SATURO. Try sampling a new location or adding a second water supply to proceed with the measurements. NOTE: Soils with extremely high infiltration rates could cause the water inside the chamber to remain below 4.3 cm, if the water pump cannot fill the chamber at a rate greater than the soil's infiltration rate.
Water is leaking between seal of infiltrrometer head and insertion ring	Remove the infiltrrometer head and check for debris (grass, leaves, loose soil, etc.) where the gasket seals with the insertion ring. Remove any debris and reconnect the infiltrrometer head. Check the tightness of the clamps. The clamps should only apply enough pressure to slightly compress the gasket. If the clamps are too tight, they can deform the insertion ring, causing a poor seal. Adjust the clamp pressure with the screw on top of the clamps as necessary.
Selected pressure heads are not being reached	Check tubing connections to ensure tubes are pressed all the way into the push-to-connect fittings. The tubes should hit the back of the fittings.
Infiltrrometer does not maintain pressure	Check tubing connections to ensure tubes are pressed all the way into the push-to-connect fittings. Check the infiltrrometer head seals for grass or debris. Verify the clamps are not bent or deformed. Adjust the clamp screw to the appropriate tightness to seal the ring as necessary. NOTE: Tightening the clamp adjustment too tight will deform the metal.

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If there is a significant change in pump calibration or the pump begins to become inconsistent, it may need to be replaced. Contact [Customer Support](#) to request instrument servicing.

SATURO is powered by 12-V, 7-A sealed lead acid battery. Over time, there will be a decrease in the maximum charge value of the battery. If the battery does not come up to full capacity after a full charge (typically 4–6 h), it will need to be replaced. Contact [Customer Support](#) for information for a new battery and servicing.

The guidelines in [Table 3](#) may also help identify any potential maintenance problems.

Table 3 Diagnostics screen metrics

Metric	Acceptable Ranges/Required Servicing
Water Level	Should range from –3.9 to 6.2 cm
Air Pressure	Variable; should remain <40 cm
Battery	~11.1 to 13.7 V
Charging Status	Variable; recommend beginning test with 100%
Temperature	Do not exceed operating temperature; 0–50 °C
Cap Sensor	NA
Water Pump	Service at 500 h
Cartridge	Service at 500 h
Air Pump	Service at 500 h

4.3 TROUBLESHOOTING

[Table 4](#) lists common problems and their solutions. If these solutions do not solve the issue, contact [Customer Support](#).

Table 4 Troubleshooting SATURO

Problem	Possible Solutions
SATURO does not turn on	Fully charge the battery. If this does not fix the issue, contact Customer Support .
“Firmware is corrupted! See Manual.”	Check for firmware updates within the SATURO Downloader by clicking Help > Check for Firmware Updates. Connect SATURO to the computer and follow the instructions in the updater. WARNING: Taking this action deletes all data from the unit. NOTE: METER can extract data from units.
Test name already exists	If a new test has the same name as a completed test that is already stored in memory, then this message will appear. Rename the test.

SATURO

2.2.3 STOPPING A TEST

To stop a test, press **BACK** on any of the Reading screens and select Stop to cancel the test ([Figure 6](#)).

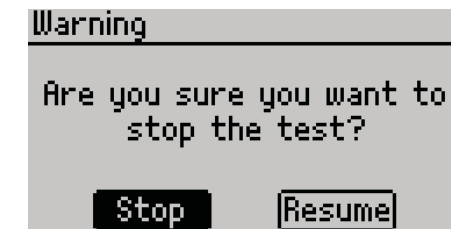


Figure 6 Stop test warning

2.2.4 DOWNLOADING DATA

The SATURO Downloader application is used to download the data from SATURO, erase stored data, set the date and time, and check for firmware updates for SATURO. Download the application from metergroup.com/saturo-support before beginning the following steps.

1. Connect the USB cable to USB ports on a computer and on SATURO.
2. Open the SATURO Downloader application on the computer.
3. Select the file type by selecting Edit > Preferences > Data File and choosing the appropriate file type ([Figure 7](#)).

Data can be downloaded as .xlsx or .csv file.

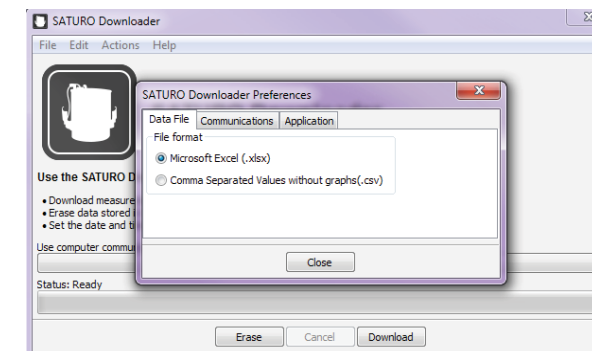


Figure 7 Change file type

OPERATION

4. Select the proper COM port and click Download (Figure 8).



Figure 8 SATURO Downloader dialog

5. After the download is complete, a prompt will ask if the data stored on the device should be erased (Figure 9).

Select Yes or No.



Figure 9 Confirm Erase prompt

SATURO

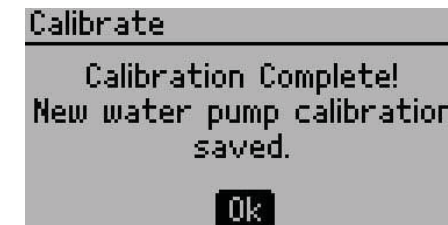


Figure 36 Calibration Complete screen

To remove the updated calibration values, highlight Restore Defaults on the Water Pump Calibration screen and press **Enter**.

Operators may run the calibration sequence as frequently as necessary to verify accurate readings. Once the calibration is complete, the new value stores in SATURO firmware until the next new calibration setting.

4.2 MAINTENANCE

Replacement parts can be ordered from METER. Contact [Customer Support](#) for more information. The instrument can be sent in to update tubing, replace battery, inspect system, and clean instrument. SATURO may also be returned to METER for maintenance and any old or damaged parts will be replaced as a part of the maintenance program.

NOTE: Complimentary maintenance lasts for 1 year; Customer Support can provide parts and labor cost estimates after this timeframe. See METER Terms and Conditions ([Section 4.5](#)) for more information.

Properly clean the equipment after each use to ensure the longevity of SATURO.

- Remove any soil on the insertion ring to reduce the amount of resistance when installing the insertion ring.
- Remove soil particles and other materials on the infiltrometer head.
- Wipe down the three tubes with a wet rag.
- Inspect the insertion ring after each use for dents and dings incidental to normal use from hitting rocks and hard roots. It is important to file away any dents or dings to the bottom edge of the ring so the inner part of the ring is smooth. Dings and dents protruding towards the inner portion of the ring can create channels and will allow for preferential flow.
- Purge water from water pump or run dry air through the tubing to dry out the control unit.
- Charge the control unit after each use.

The water pump on the SATURO is a peristaltic pump with a replaceable cartridge that houses the tube and rollers. The tubing and rollers can wear out over time, typically around 5,000 hours of run time. The pump run time is tracked in the diagnostics screen of SATURO.

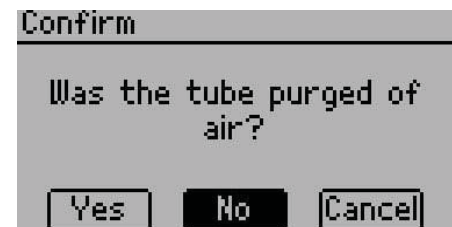


Figure 33 Confirmation screen

If using the mass method, tare the scale with the water tank. If using the volume method, ensure the graduated cylinder is empty. Select Confirm (Figure 34).

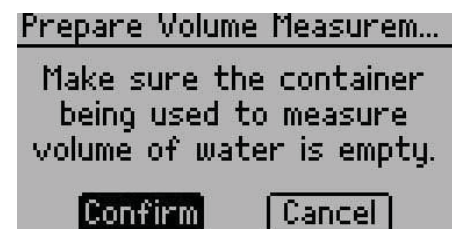


Figure 34 Prepare Volume Measurement screen

Run the calibration water flow. Compare the reading on the scale or the measurement on the cylinder to the infiltrometer default value on the Adjust Measured Value screen (Figure 35). Enter the new value from the scale or cylinder reading, and select Done. This value becomes the new default water flow value (Figure 36). SATURO uses this flow value to measure the flow of water into the infiltrometer head.

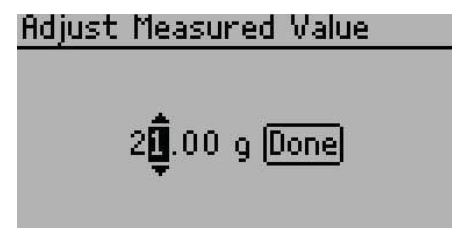


Figure 35 Adjust Measured Value screen

3. SYSTEM

This section describes the specifications, components, and theory of the SATURO system.

3.1 SPECIFICATIONS

MEASUREMENT SPECIFICATIONS

Infiltration Rate	
Range	0.0038–115.0000 cm/h
Resolution	0.0038 cm/h
Accuracy	±5% of reading

K_{fs}	
The K_{fs} values that can be effectively measured by SATURO are limited by the listed minimum and maximum infiltration rates. These depend on the pressure heads applied to the water during infiltration and to the three-dimensional flow characteristics of the soil, so the measurement range of K_{fs} cannot be specified explicitly. SATURO will generally be able to make measurements on poorly to moderately structured soils as coarse as medium sand, but the maximum infiltration rate can be exceeded by soils with excessive structure and especially by soils with	

Water Level	
Maintained at 5 cm	

Pressure Head Ranges	
0–40 cm (vacuum is applied for <5 cm settings)	

Operating Temperature	
0–50 °C	

PHYSICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Charging Adapter	
Power supply	18 V; 2.2 A
Range	18–24 VDC

Output	
USB	

Control Unit	
31.8 cm (12.5 in) x 25.7 cm (10.1 in) x 15.3 cm (6.0 in)	
Infiltrator Head	
Total height	18.3 cm (7.2 in)
Inner diameter	17.2 cm (6.75 in)
Insertion ring	
Inner diameter	14.4 cm (5.68 in)
Insertion depth	5 cm (1.97 in) 10 cm (3.94 in)
COMPLIANCE	
Manufactured under ISO 9001:2015	
2004/108/EC and 2011/65/EU	

3.2 COMPONENTS

SATURO consists of four main components: the control unit, insertion ring, infiltrator head, and water supply tank (Figure 10).

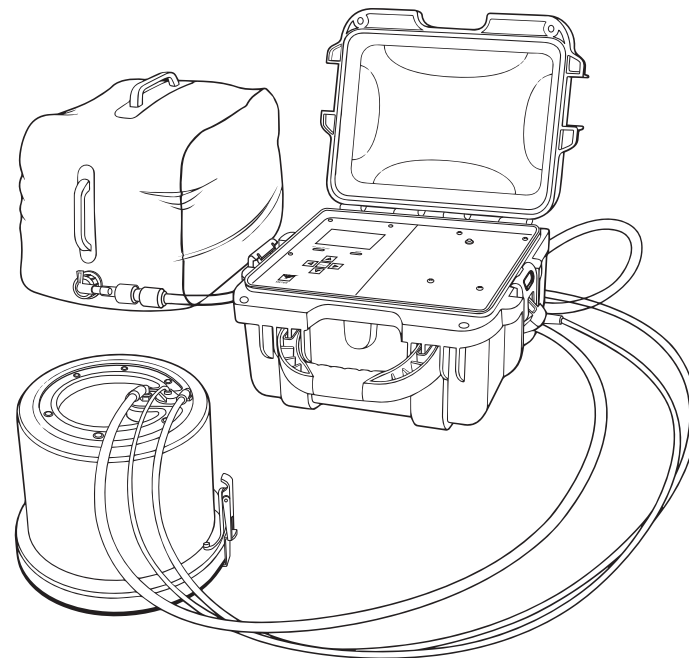


Figure 10 SATURO components

4. SERVICE

This section describes the calibration and maintenance of the SATURO infiltrator. Troubleshooting solutions and customer service information are also provided.

4.1 CALIBRATION

The water pump comes factory calibrated and is accurate to within $\pm 5\%$ of the reading at the time of shipment. However, the water pump and tubing can wear, causing a change in the volume of water flowing through the pump. Calibrate the pump every 6–12 months to ensure accurate measurements.

Operators can use two methods, based on either mass or volume, to calibrate the pump. The mass method is the most accurate, and the volume method is more convenient. Either method is acceptable for calibration.

Prior to calibration, obtain either a scale accurate to 0.01 g or a 25-mL graduated cylinder, for the mass or volume method respectively.

Press **POWER/MENU**, select Configuration, and select Water Pump Calibration (Figure 31). Press **Enter** on Type to toggle between Mass or Volume, and select Start.

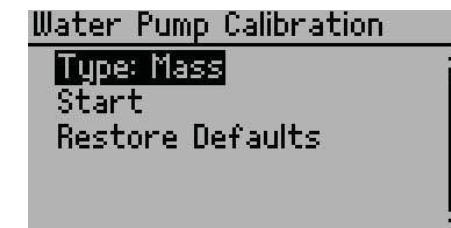


Figure 31 Water Pump Calibration screen

A message will prompt to connect to a water source and to attach the outgoing water tube (Figure 32). Connect a source of water to the water input port and press **Enter**.

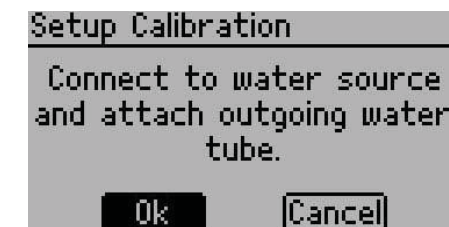


Figure 32 Setup Calibration screen

Both methods require that the water line is purged of air before running the calibration. Select Purge. Repeat the process to run water through the tube until water runs clear with no bubbles (Figure 33).

SYSTEM

The hydraulic conductivity is then multiplied by the difference in quasi-steady state infiltration rate for the last pressure cycle and divided by the difference in the measured pressure head from the last pressure cycle.

Equation 4 is equivalent to Equation 41 from Reynolds and Elrick (1990) and removes the dependence on soil characteristics and initial water content described by λ .

3.2.1 CONTROL UNIT

The SATURO control unit has seven buttons to navigate through screens and configure settings (Figure 11):

- When the device is off, press the **POWER/MENU** button to turn on the device. Hold the **POWER/MENU** button down for more than 4 s to power off the device. This button also navigates between different screen tabs.
- Pressing the **BACK** button returns the device to the parent screen. Pressing **BACK** on a selection screen cancels any changes that have been made on that screen. Holding **BACK** down for more than 7 s resets the device (hard reset).
- The **UP**, **DOWN**, **LEFT**, and **RIGHT** buttons on the directional pad allow navigation through lists and scroll wheels. Pressing **LEFT** or **RIGHT** will highlight successive items in a list and holding down the button will speed up scrolling.
- The **Enter** button selects the highlighted item to go to a submenu or save the highlighted setting to memory.

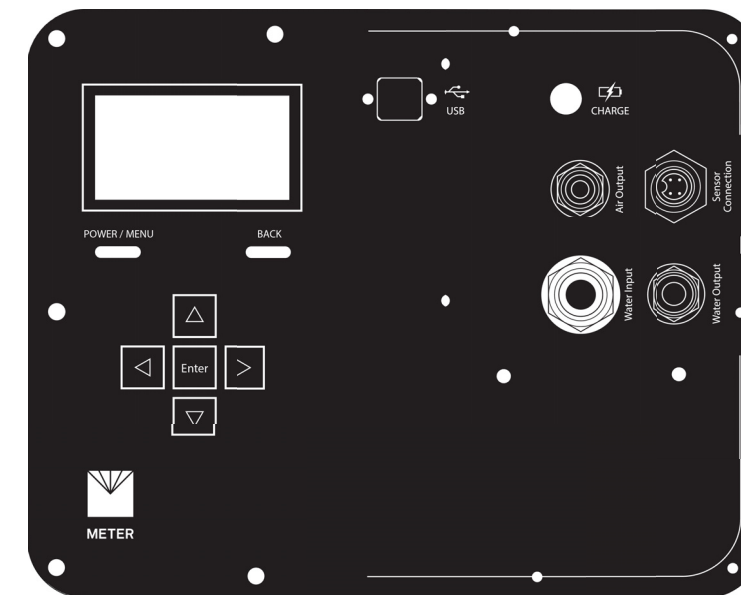


Figure 11 Control unit faceplate

The control unit is charged through a 18-V, 2.22-A, 40-W AC/DC charger. The unit takes approximately 6 h to fully charge.

The control unit's USB port takes a Type B to Type A USB to download data and to perform firmware updates.

SYSTEM

There are four connections on the control unit (Figure 12):

- Top left connection is for the 7.9-mm (5/16-in) water input (water tank to control unit).
- Bottom left connection is for the 9.5-mm (3/8-in) water output (control unit to infiltrrometer head).
- Bottom right connection is for the sensor connection to the infiltrrometer head.
- Top right connection is a 6.4-mm (1/4-in) air output (control unit to infiltrrometer head).

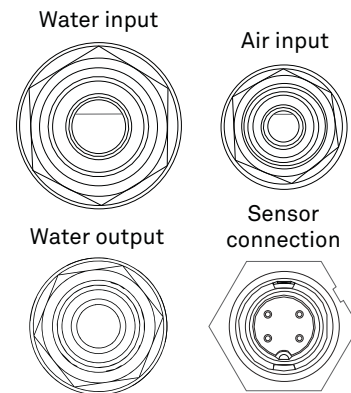


Figure 12 Control unit connections

The SATURO display (Figure 13) features three main tabs designed for ease of use: Reading, Configuration, and Data.

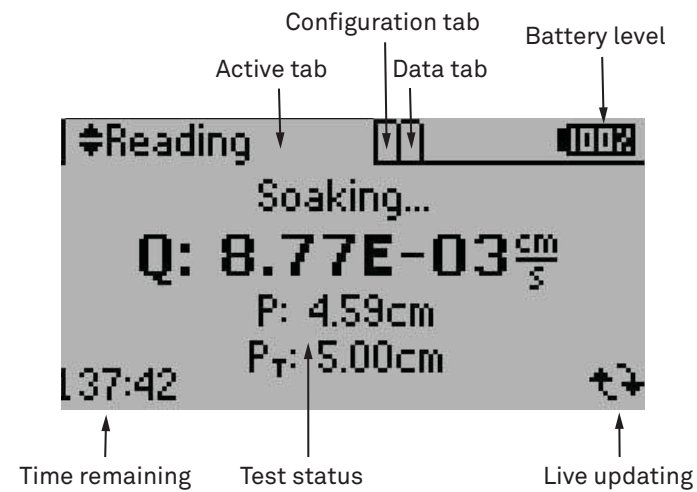


Figure 13 SATURO display elements

SATURO

Nimmo et al. (2009) gives F as shown in Equation 2

$$F = 1 + \frac{\lambda + D}{C_1 d + C_2 b} = 1 + \frac{\lambda + D}{\Delta} \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

where

D is the ponding depth (cm)

d is the insertion depth of the infiltrrometer (cm)

b is the radius of the infiltrrometer (cm)

Δ is the constant for a given infiltrrometer geometry; $C_1 d + C_2 b$ (cm)

C_1 is 0.993

C_2 is 0.578

λ is the reciprocal of the Gardner α , which is a characteristic of the soil and its initial water content (cm)

In Equation 2, Δ is simply Equation 36 of Reynolds and Elrick (1990) multiplied by $b\pi$, which allows Figure 2 and Equation 2 to be reconciled with Equation 37 of Reynolds and Elrick (1990).

For two ponding depths, use Equation 3:

$$K_{fs} = \frac{i_1 \Delta}{\Delta + \lambda + D_1} = \frac{i_2 \Delta}{\Delta + \lambda + D_2} \quad \text{Equation 3}$$

Rearranging one of the right terms to solve for λ in terms of K_{fs} , substituting this for λ in the other right term, and simplifying yields

$$K_{fs} = \frac{\Delta(i_1 - i_2)}{D_1 - D_2} \quad \text{Equation 4}$$

where

D_1 is the actual high pressure head

D_2 is the actual low pressure head

Δ is $0.993d + 0.578b$ (cm)

i_1 is infiltration rate at the high pressure head

i_2 is infiltration rate at the low pressure head

For Δ , d is the infiltrrometer insertion depth and b is the infiltrrometer radius. For the SATURO 5-cm insertion ring, $d = 5$ cm and $b = 7.5$ cm, so $\Delta = 9.3$ cm. For the 10-cm insertion ring, $d = 10$ cm and $b = 7.5$ cm, so $\Delta = 14.3$ cm.

SYSTEM

This approach overestimated K_{fs} due to lateral divergence of flow resulting from the capillarity of the unsaturated soil and from the ponding in the ring (Bouwer 1986). Attempts to eliminate flow divergence involved the addition of an outer ring to buffer the flow in the inner ring (Figure 30). However, the double-ring infiltrometer technique was ineffective at preventing lateral flow from the inner ring (Swartzendruber and Olson 1961a, 1961b).

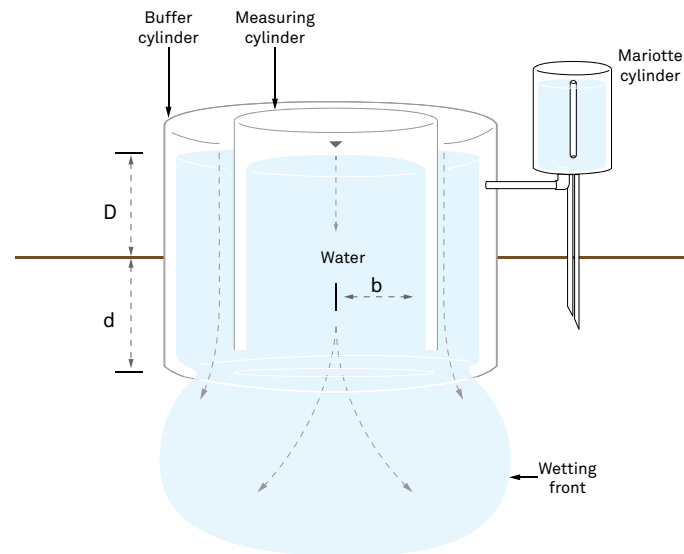


Figure 30 Cross section of a double-ring infiltrometer

More recent research provides new methods for correcting for lateral flow. Reynolds and Elrick (1990) presented a new analysis method of steady ponded infiltration into a single ring, which accounts for soil capillarity, depth of ponding, ring radius (b), and depth of ring insertion (d) and provides a means for calculating K_{fs} , matric flux (ϕ_m), and macroscopic capillary length (λ). This analysis is known as the two-ponding head approach (Reynolds and Elrick 1990).

The two-ponding head approach is the technique used by SATURO, though with some modifications and simplifications. The easiest equation for this calculation is from Nimmo et al. (2009). They compute K_{fs} as shown in Equation 1

$$K_{fs} = \frac{i}{F} \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

where i (cm/s) is the steady (final) infiltration rate (volume divided by area) and F is a function that corrects for sorptivity and geometrical effects.

SATURO

READING TAB

The Reading tab is used to view screens related to the current tests, including charts from the most recent flux, pressure, and water level readings. Use **UP** and **DOWN** to scroll through the available reading screens.

- **Status Screen.** The Status screen shows the test status as Soaking (Figure 14). When the test is completed, it changes to the Results screen.

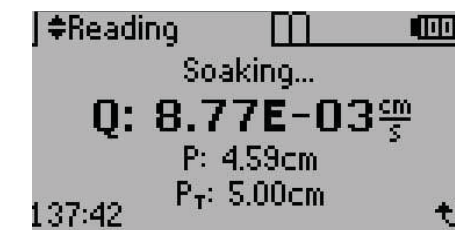


Figure 14 Status screen during test

- **Flux Screen.** The Flux screen displays the flow rate of water flow through the infiltrometer on a graph updated every minute (Figure 15). The current measurement is indicated by a flashing dot.

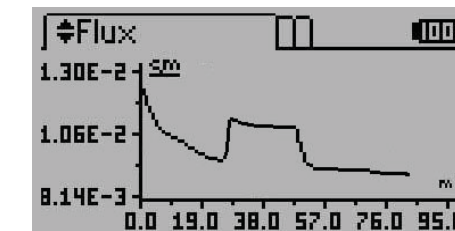


Figure 15 Flux screen

- **Pressure Screen.** The Pressure screen displays the hydrostatic pressure (combined air and water pressure) on a graph updated every minute (Figure 16). The current measurement is indicated by a flashing dot.

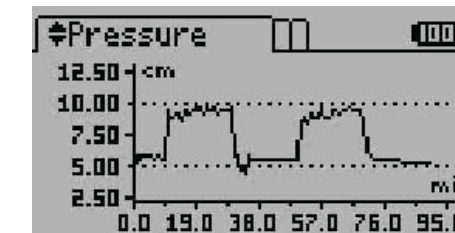


Figure 16 Pressure screen

SYSTEM

- **Water Level Screen.** After a test is started, the water level above the soil ramps up to 5 cm. The Water Level screen displays the current water level on a graph that is updated every minute (Figure 17). The current point is indicated by a flashing dot.

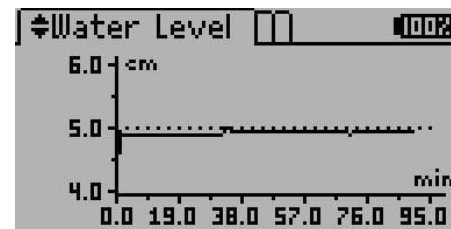


Figure 17 Water Level screen

- **Results Screen.** After a test is complete, the Results screen replaces the Status screen. It shows the resulting K_{fs} of the test (Figure 18). The error (err) value also appears on the Results screen. The err is the standard error of the K_{fs} reading and represents the amount of noise in the measurement. Press UP and DOWN to change Reading screens or press the POWER/MENU button to navigate to the Configuration tab.

SATURO will display the results from the last test if no test is running.

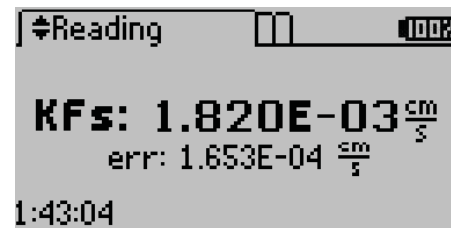


Figure 18 Results screen

CONFIGURATION TAB

The Configuration tab is used to view and set global preferences (Figure 19). Press the POWER/MENU button to navigate to the Configuration tab. Use the UP and DOWN buttons to scroll through options.

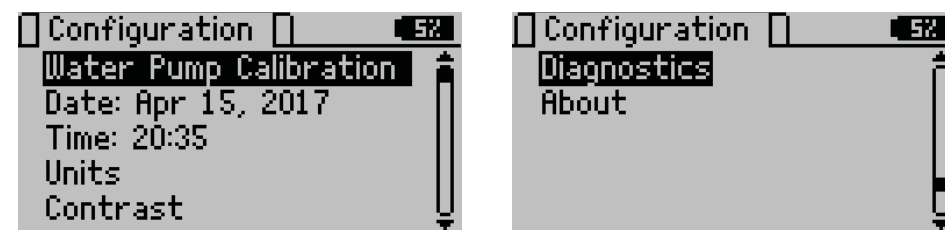


Figure 19 Configuration tab

- **Water Pump Calibration.** Water pump calibration is addressed in Section 4.1.

SATURO

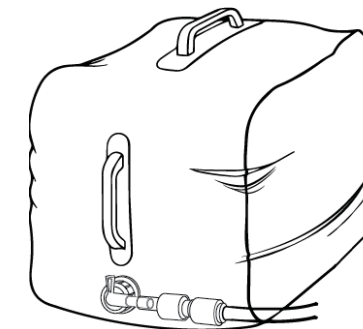


Figure 28 Water tank

3.3 THEORY

Field saturated hydraulic conductivity, K_{fs} (cm/s) is a fundamental soil hydraulic property that describes the ease with which a fluid (usually water) can move through pore spaces or fractures under field saturated conditions. One of the oldest and simplest methods for in situ determination of K_{fs} has involved the measurement of ponded infiltration (D) from within a single ring (with a radius b) pushed a small distance into the soil (d) (Figure 29). The original analysis used the measured steady flow rate, Q_s (cm³/s), and assumed one-dimensional, vertical flow to obtain K_{fs} from Bouwer (1986) and Daniel (1989).

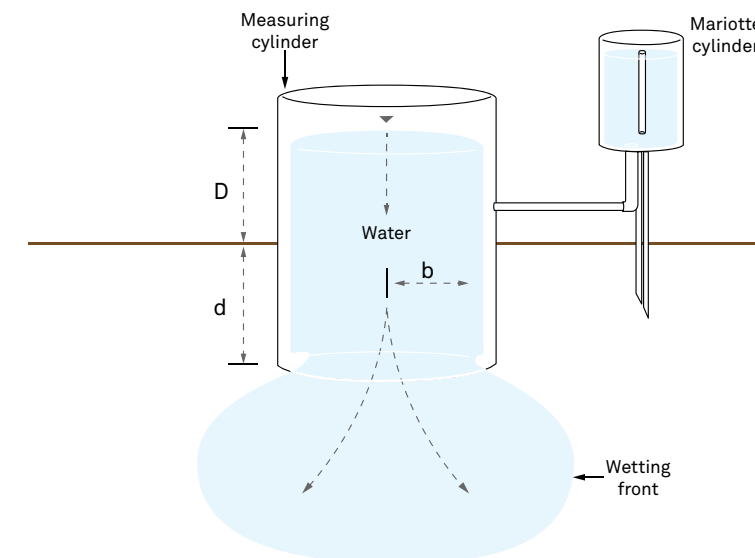


Figure 29 Cross section of a single-ring infiltrometer

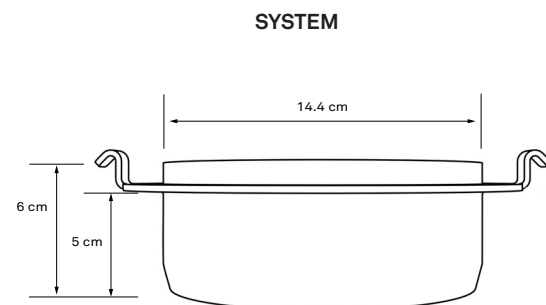


Figure 26 5-cm insertion ring

3.2.3 INFILTRMETER HEAD

The infiltrometer head houses the water level (depth) sensor (to control the water level), water connection, and air connection with push-to-connect fittings (Figure 27).

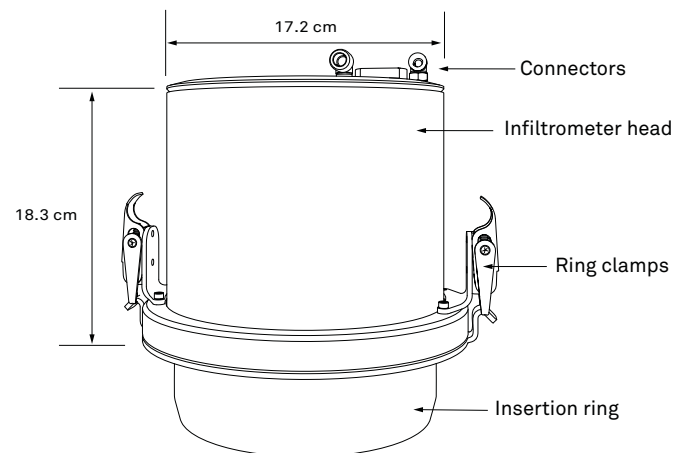


Figure 27 Infiltrometer head

3.2.4 WATER SUPPLY TANK

The water supply tank holds up to 5 gal and is sufficient for lower permeability sites (Figure 28). Some sites with higher infiltration rates will use more than 5 gal of water in the time necessary to complete a measurement. The Y-connector may be used to connect two water tanks to SATURO, doubling the water supply available for a measurement.

SATURO

- **Date.** Edit this screen to change the date saved in the control unit (Figure 20). Select the Date option in the Configuration tab. Use **UP** and **DOWN** to change the current value and hold the buttons down to scroll quickly. Press **RIGHT** to move to the next value or press **LEFT** to return to the previous value. Select **Done** to save changes or press **BACK** to cancel without saving changes.



Figure 20 Editing Date option

- **Time.** Edit this screen to change the time saved in the control unit (Figure 21). Select the Time option in the Configuration tab. Use **UP** and **DOWN** to change the current value and hold the buttons down to scroll quickly. Press **RIGHT** to move to the next value or press **LEFT** to return to the previous value. Select **Done** to save changes or press **BACK** to cancel without saving changes.



Figure 21 Editing Time option

- **Units.** Edit the preferred units on all device screens and the units that appear in downloaded data (Figure 22). Select the Units option in the Configuration tab. Press **Enter** to cycle through the available options on the highlighted measurement. Press **BACK** to return to the previous menu.

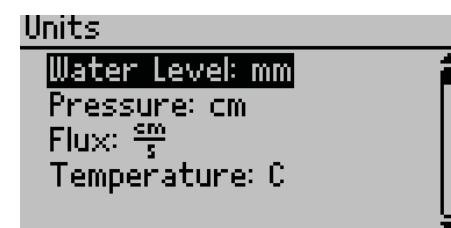


Figure 22 Editing Units options

SYSTEM

- **Contrast.** Change the screen lighting contrast settings (Figure 23).
Select the Contrast option on the Configuration tab. Use the directional buttons to change the contrast to any value from 00–25. Use **RIGHT** and **LEFT** to highlight Done and press **Enter** to save the new contrast setting. Press **BACK** to exit without saving changes.



Figure 23 Editing Contrast option

- **Diagnostics.** Shows all the current readings from the instrument: water level (the current water level above the soil); air pressure (pressure in the head space of the infiltrometer assembly); battery (current battery voltage); charging status (observed voltage from charging power supply); temperature (internal temperature of the control unit); and cap sensor (measured voltage of the cap sensor, which is proportional to the humidity within the control unit) (Figure 24).

The Diagnostics option also tracks the usage information for the water pump, cartridge, and air pump to track when parts need to be replaced. This screen provides valuable information for maintenance and troubleshooting (Section 4.2). No changes can be made in this screen.

Press **BACK** to return to the previous menu.

Diagnostics	
Water Level:	3.9 cm
Air Pressure:	-3.98 cm
Battery:	12.65 V
Charging Status:	--- V
Temperature:	22.69 C

Diagnostics	
Cap Sensor:	1.9974 V
Water Pump:	0.4 hr
Cartridge:	0.4 hr
Air Pump:	0.0 hr

Figure 24 Viewing the Diagnostics option

SATURO

- **About.** Displays the instrument's serial number, firmware version, hardware version, copyright date, and manufacturer's name (Figure 25).
Select the About option on the Configuration tab and press **Enter**. No changes can be made in this screen. Press **BACK** to return to the previous menu



Figure 25 Viewing the About option

DATA TAB

The Data tab provides access to past test data. Press the **POWER/MENU** button to navigate to this tab.

- **View.** Lists prior tests stored on the device, most recent first.
To view a test, scroll to desired test and press **Enter**. The Results (including final K_s value, water level chart, pressure chart, and flux chart), Settings, and Raw Data screens from that test can all be viewed. Scroll through the available information by using the **UP** and **DOWN** buttons. Press **BACK** to return to the previous screen.
- **Delete.** Deletes all test data in device memory. There is no way to delete individual tests or readings from the infiltrometer, it erases all test data.

WARNING: Deleting test data permanently removes it from the control unit, and it cannot be recovered. It is recommended that you download any test data prior to deleting the test data from the instrument.

3.2.2 INSERTION RING

The insertion ring is available in two depths: 5 cm and 10 cm. The 5-cm insertion ring (Figure 26) is primarily designed for sites with good soil structure. It reduces the impact from inserting the ring, so it is recommended for most sites. The 10-cm insertion ring was designed for sites with a disturbed or loose soil surface as well as sites with high fluxes due to macropores. The deeper insertion ring can also be helpful in forest or organic soils with a deep duff or organic layer at the surface.