
***CYGNUS 4
ULTRASONIC
THICKNESS
GAUGE***

QUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

“It is the policy of Cygnus Instruments to provide all customers with products and services of a quality that complies in all respects with the requirements contained in their orders and specifications.

“It is our firm belief that excellence can only be achieved and maintained by continual appraisal. The organisation, methods, and procedures adopted by the company aim to both fulfil this policy and ensure adherence to it.”

Cygnus is an ISO-9001 accredited company.
The scope of our accreditation covers all our products and services.



CYGNUS 4

ULTRASONIC THICKNESS GAUGE

OPERATION MANUAL

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INTRODUCTION

Cygnus 4 Ultrasonic Thickness Gauge

Cygnus Instruments

The Multiple-Echo Method

Cygnus 4 Gauge Specification

CYGNUS 4 ULTRASONIC THICKNESS GAUGE

The ***Cygnus 4 Multiple-Echo Ultrasonic Thickness Gauge*** is a rugged, handheld, battery-powered instrument designed for high-reliability thickness measurement using the multiple-echo technique.

The ***Cygnus 4 Gauge*** can be used with a choice of single-crystal Ultrasonic Probes, depending on the thickness and type of material which is to be measured.

Measurement can be displayed in Metric (mm) or in Imperial (inch) units, and measurement resolution can be selected for either 0.1 or 0.05 mm, (or 0.005 or 0.002 inch). A hold facility allows the current reading to be maintained on the display with the Probe removed from the material being measured.

Crystal-controlled Calibration provides stability and accuracy – Calibration can be made to a known thickness, or to a known Velocity of Sound. Velocity of Sound is displayed in either metres/second or inches/microsecond, depending on the current selection for Measurement Units.

The ***Cygnus 4 Gauge*** is able to operate accurately in a wide range of ambient temperature, and is environmentally sealed to IP65 for use in wet conditions. The backlit LCD display allows easy viewing from bright sunlight to complete darkness.

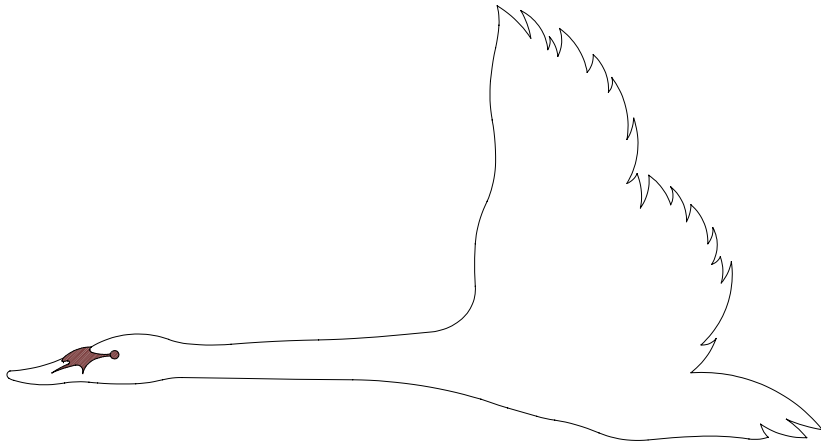
*The **Cygnus 4 Ultrasonic Thickness Gauge** is a solid-state electronic instrument which, under normal operating conditions, will give many years of active service.*

Although designed for ease of operation, the first time user should carefully read this manual to familiarise themselves with the features of the instrument.

CYGNUS INSTRUMENTS

Cygnus Instruments Limited, founded in 1983, were pioneers in the development of the *Ultrasonic Multiple-Echo Technique* used for measurement through coatings. This has long been the standard required to ensure that accurate measurements are taken without the need to first zero the Gauge or remove coatings.

Our philosophy is to work closely with each of our customers to provide a range of products specifically for each application. *Cygnus Ultrasonic Thickness Gauges* are designed to be simple to use and to withstand the harsh environments that they are intended for. We have built up an enviable reputation with our customers in over 45 countries around the world.



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CYGNUS Instruments Limited

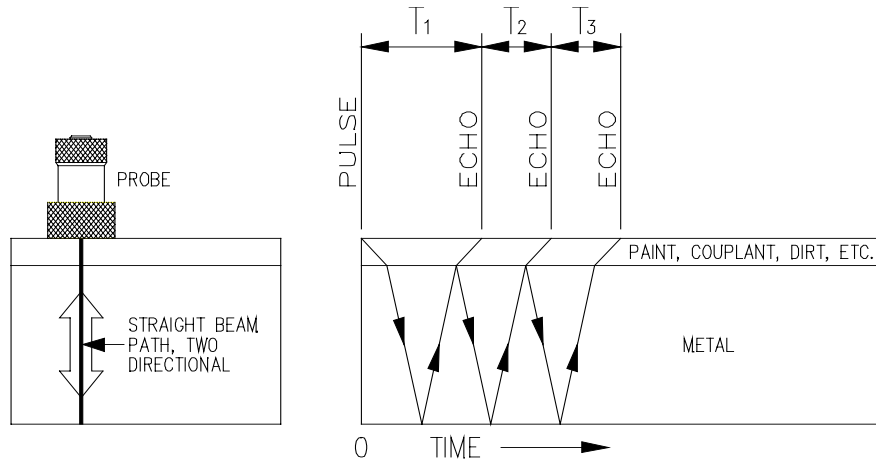
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THE MULTIPLE-ECHO METHOD

The *Cygnus 1 Ultrasonic Thickness Gauge* works on the pulse-echo principle. The Probe is made to vibrate for a very short period, creating a pulse of ultrasound which enters the test piece. The Probe waits for returned echoes and acting as a receiver, converts them into electrical signals which are processed to produce timings in digital form.



The *multiple-echo* beam travel is depicted above, spread out for time, to illustrate the timing method. The beam path is in fact straight, at 90 degrees to the surface and the ultrasonic energy reverberates up and down within the metal (as shown in the small sketch above - left). Each time the echo is reflected back down, a small portion of the energy comes up through the coatings, striking the Probe which now acts as a receiver.

The delay between echoes at the Probe-face is exactly equal to the time taken to pass through the metal twice, therefore coatings such as paint are ignored and the measurement displayed is of the metal thickness only.

CYGNUS 4 GAUGE SPECIFICATION

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Materials | Sound Velocity from 1000 m/s to 9995 m/s [0.0400 in/uS to 0.3998 in/uS] |
| Range | <i>Measurement Range in Steel :</i> 2¼ MHz probe : 3 mm to 250 mm [0.120 in. to 10.00 in.] 3½ MHz probe : 2 mm to 150 mm [0.080 in. to 6.000 in.] 5 MHz probe : 1 mm to 50 mm [0.040 in. to 2.000 in.] |
| Resolution | 0.1 mm [0.005 in.] or 0.05 mm [0.002in.] |
| Accuracy | ± 0.1 mm [± 0.005 in.] or ± 0.05 mm [± 0.002 in.] |
| Probes | <i>Single-Crystal, Soft-face Probes :</i> ➤ 2¼ MHz : 13mm [0.5 in.] ➤ 2¼ MHz : 19mm [0.75 in.] ➤ 3½ MHz : 13mm [0.5 in.] ➤ 5MHz : 13mm [0.5 in.] ➤ 5MHz : 6mm [0.25 in.] |
| Power | Disposable 2 x AA Alkaline batteries Rechargeable [NiMH, NiCad] may also be used |
| Battery-life | <i>Typical life from a new set of Alkaline batteries :</i> 21 hours continuous usage with Backlight on 14 hours continuous usage with Backlight off |
| Display | 4-character Seven-segment Liquid-Crystal display with switchable Electro-Luminescent Backlight |
| Size | 150 x 33 x 82 mm [5.9 x 1.3 x 3.3 in.] |
| Weight | <i>Including Batteries :</i> 285 gm [10 ounce] |
| Operating Temp. | <i>Recommended :</i> 0°C to +50°C [32°F to 122°F] |
| Storage Temp. | <i>Recommended :</i> -10°C to +60°C [14°F to 140°F] |
| Environmental | Case-rating : IP65 - <i>the instrument is shock-proof and splash-proof, but should not be immersed in water</i> |

GETTING TO KNOW THE GAUGE

The Cygnus 4 Gauge

Battery Type and Location

Keypad Controls

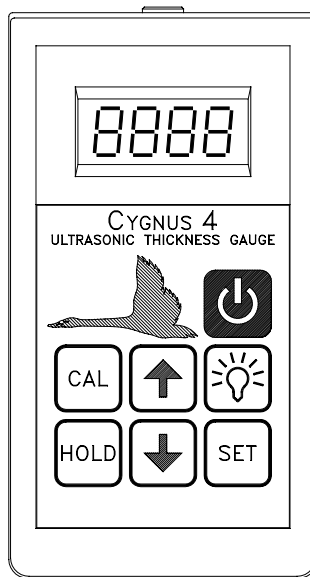
Measurement

Calibration

Probe/Knurled Ring Assembly

Probe Usage

Table of Probe Types



Cygnus 4 Gauge Kit of Parts

Cygnus 4 Instrument Body
Leather Case & Strap
Probe & Lead
Bottle of Couplant
Bottle of Membrane Oil
Membranes
Locking Ring Key
Steel Test Block
2 x AA Batteries
Carry Case

KEYPAD CONTROLS



ON/OFF Button

To switch the instrument on press and release the ON/OFF button :

- ⇒ all digits illuminate ‘**8.8.8.8.**’ showing that self-test has been performed and the instrument has been activated.
- ⇒ the symbol ‘**LOW BATTERY**’ is briefly displayed as the battery is tested

The Gauge is now ready to take measurements– the display will show a decimal point, and a single flashing bar. In Metric mode the display will show ONE or TWO digits after the decimal point; in Imperial mode there will be THREE digits after the decimal point.

The instrument can be turned off in one of three ways :

- ⇒ **Manually** : press and release the ON/OFF button - the message ‘**Shutoff**’ will scroll through the display, and then the Gauge will turn itself off.
- ⇒ **Automatically** : the Gauge will turn itself off 10 minutes after the last reading
- ⇒ **Low-Battery** : see Low-Battery Warning, page 29



BACKLIGHT Button

Press once to turn on the display Backlight, press again to turn off Backlight.



HOLD Button

Press once to hold the current reading, press again to release – see Holding the Current Reading, page 29



CALIBRATION Button

Press once to enter Calibration mode - this is used to calibrate the Gauge Sound Velocity setting for the material under test.

See Calibrating the Gauge procedures on page 23

A Guide to Sound Velocities can be found on page 32

SET

SET Button

This is used to change four Gauge-settings :

- ⇒ **Probe-setting** can be preset between three Probe-types : 2.25, or 3.5, or 5 MHz
- ⇒ **Gain-setting** can be reduced to prevent standing readings from over-sensitive Probes
- ⇒ **Units-setting** can be preset between *Imperial (inch)* units, and *Metric (mm)* units
- ⇒ **Resolution-setting** can be switched between 0.1mm and 0.05mm [*0.005 inch* and *0.002 inch*] according to preference

See Changing Gauge- Settings, page 25



UP and DOWN Buttons

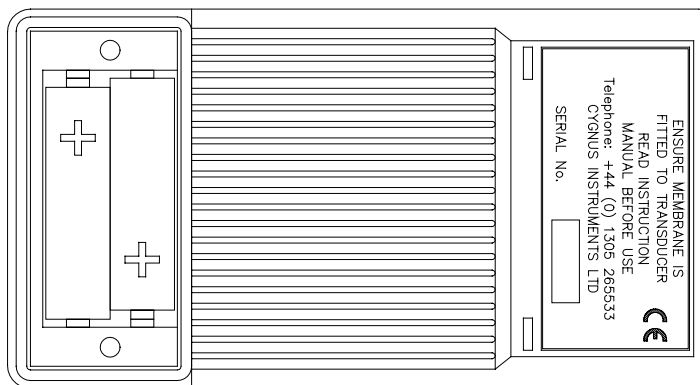
These two buttons are used to adjust Calibration, or to change Gauge-settings.

BATTERY TYPE AND LOCATION

The Cygnus 4 uses 2 x AA-size disposable Alkaline batteries which will give up to 21 hours continuous switched-on time when not using the Backlight, and up to 14 hours when the Backlight is used.

ⓘ *Rechargeable Nickel-Cadmium (NiCad) or Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries may be used, but operation time will be reduced.*

The two AA batteries are located inside the battery compartment as shown - ensure that the batteries are fitted with the positive (+) marking on each battery aligned with the corresponding + sign engraved in the battery compartment :



✗ *Always remove the batteries if the Gauge is going to be left unused for more than a few days*

MEASUREMENT

The Cygnus 1 Gauge is designed to provide accurate, reliable readings on most types of surfaces using the Multiple-echo method described on page 9.

Preparing to take Measurements

- ⇒ *When measuring underwater* : there is no need to use a couplant - the water itself is a good couplant
- ⇒ *When measuring in air* : always use a couplant to enable ultrasound to enter the test material.
Water, oil or gel are all suitable couplants, depending on application and preference.
- ⇒ Ensure that the Probe is correctly fitted with a membrane, and with membrane oil correctly applied. See *Probe / Knurled-Ring Assembly*, page 18
- ⇒ Remove all scale, calciferous marine growth, dirt or loose coating and brush or scrape the test area clean.
- ⇒ Protective coatings such as paint or epoxy resin need not be removed, provided that their adherence is good.
- ⇒ Place the Probe-face on the clean, lubricated test surface and make firm contact.

Echo-Strength meter

When there is difficulty in obtaining a measurement the Gauge aids the operator by displaying flashing bars as an indication of signal strength and coupling :

- one flashing bar only : no echoes are being returned
- one bar + one flashing : 1 echo only is being returned
- two bars + one flashing : 2 echoes only are being returned
- three bars + one flashing : 3 echoes are being returned but are not matching
to give a valid *multiple-echo measurement*

While the display is showing these indicators the operator should continue to move the Probe around to locate a reflector, using a slight rocking movement.

CALIBRATION

Calibration adjusts the Gauge Sound Velocity setting for the material under test.

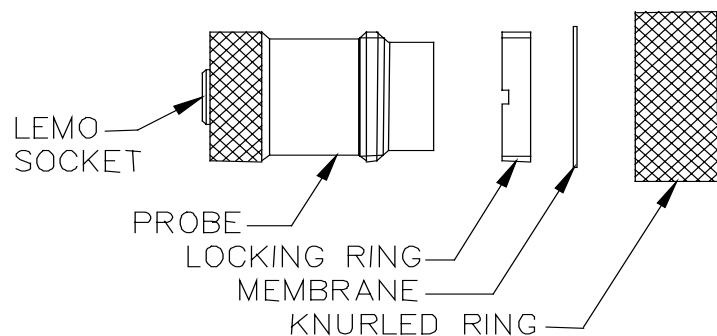
See *Calibrating the Gauge*, on page 23

A *Guide to Sound Velocities* can be found on page 32

- Cygnus Gauges are always delivered calibrated for Steel.
The Calibration is stable and there is no warm-up time.
- There is no zero-adjustment since the multiple-echo technique zeros automatically – the timing starts when the first echo is received.
- There is no ‘*ranging in*’ since the straight beam path of the single-crystal Probe ensures that the timing is related to the thickness – the linearity is perfect.
- *Calibration is vital* : whenever a reading is suspect, check that the test material is the same as the one for which the instrument has been calibrated.
- Some castings have unreliable sound velocity values - allow for greater inaccuracies.
Many castings are also difficult to penetrate with high frequencies, making it difficult to obtain three echoes : the larger the Probe the better.

PROBE/KNURLED RING ASSEMBLY**Use of the Membrane**

- The polyurethane membrane covering the Probe-face provides better contact on rough surfaces and protects the Probe-face from damage.
- To avoid excessive wear of the membrane, do not use pressure nor 'screw' the Probe when trying to obtain readings on rough surfaces - a light touch is normally sufficient
- Check the membrane regularly and renew when it becomes worn.

**Replacing the Membrane in the Knurled-ring**

- ⇒ To replace the membrane unscrew the Knurled-ring from the end of the Probe. The membrane is held in place by a locking-ring.
- ⇒ Unscrew the locking-ring using the locking-ring key provided
- ⇒ Remove the old membrane and clean the locating groove in the knurled ring before fitting a new membrane
- ⇒ Replace the locking-ring and screw up tight, checking that the membrane is properly located.

Refitting the membrane

- ✘ *There must always be a thin film of mineral oil such as glycerine or liquid paraffin between the membrane and the Probe-face to ensure good contact and exclude any air.*
- ✘ *Do not overtighten the knurled ring assembly as this will affect the performance of the Probe.*

PROBE USAGE

✘ *When a Probe of different Frequency is used it is essential that the Gauge Probe-setting is changed accordingly.
See [Changing the Probe-Setting](#), page 26*

Probe face colour

Cygnus 4 Gauges should only be used with soft-face Probes, as supplied by Cygnus.

The colour of the Probe face indicates the Probe frequency

See [Table of Probe Types](#), page 20

Probe Selection

Apart from the physical limitations of the Probe size, the diameter of the crystal affects the probe performance :

- Larger diameter crystals produce more energy, which in turn gives better penetration.
- Smaller diameter crystals produce a narrower beam, which is a distinct advantage when looking for small reflectors - they are particularly useful on tubes of small diameter

Using Probes at high temperature

Heat can damage the Probe crystal - in Cygnus Probes the crystal is very near to the face. *The higher the temperature of the test material and the longer the contact with the Probe, the greater the likelihood of eventual damage to the crystal.*

- *At temperatures above normal, ie : above 75°C (170°F), always avoid prolonged contact.*
- *Teflon (PTFE) membranes are available for measurements up to 150 °C (318 °F).*
- *Thin oil couplants evaporate rapidly at high temperature – high melting-point grease is more suitable in such cases.*

TABLE OF PROBE TYPES

| CRYSTAL DIAMETER | FREQUENCY | MEASUREMENT RANGE | APPLICATION |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 13 mm ½ inch | 2¼ MHz Red face | 3.0 – 250 mm 0.12 – 10 inch | <i>This is the standard probe – suitable for most applications</i> |
| 19 mm ¾ inch | 2¼ MHz Red face | 3.0 – 250 mm 0.12 – 10 inch | <i>Use with castings and other attenuative materials if the 13mm probe is inadequate – the larger diameter gives greater penetration power on badly corroded or heavily coated steel. Some metallic coatings are also highly attenuative.</i> |
| 13 mm ½ inch | 3½ MHz Orange face | 2.0 – 150 mm 0.08 – 6 inch | <i>Suitable for measurement on thinner sections where surfaces are relatively rough</i> |
| 6 mm ¼ inch | 5 MHz Black face | 1.0 – 50 mm 0.04 – 2 inch | <i>The higher frequency and narrower beam makes this Probe ideal for measuring small-bore tubing, thin section plate and other areas where access is limited.</i> |
| 13 mm ½ inch | 5 MHz Black face | 1.0 – 50 mm 0.04 – 2 inch | <i>Ideal for thin sections without heavy corrosion</i> |

① Use the face colour to determine the frequency of the probe in use

✘ **Important** : always ensure that the Gauge is set for the actual Probe in use
see Changing the Probe-Setting, page 26

WORKING WITH THE GAUGE

Calibrating the Gauge

- *Calibration on a Test Sample*
- *Calibration by Sound Velocity*

Changing Gauge-Settings

- *Changing the Probe-Setting*
- *Changing the Gain-Setting*
- *Changing the Units-Setting*
- *Changing the Resolution-Setting*

Low-Battery Warning

Holding the Current Reading

Using the Backlight

Troubleshooting

- *General Points on Thickness Gauging*
- *The Five-Point Check*

A Guide to Sound Velocities

Table of Velocities

CALIBRATING THE GAUGE



① *Cygnus 4 Gauge has a Sound Velocity range of 1000 m/s to 9995 m/s when preset for Metric units, and 0.0400 in/us to 0.3998 in/us when preset for Imperial units.*

The *Cygnus 4 Gauge* stores a single Calibration value for the Sound Velocity used to display thickness measurement – this value is adjusted by *Calibration on a Test Sample*, or *Calibration by Sound Velocity* methods

➤ ***Calibration on a Test Sample :***

If possible the Gauge should always be calibrated on the actual material under test or on a measured test sample of the same material

This method should always be used wherever possible, to achieve the most accurate Calibration

➤ ***Calibration by Sound Velocity :***

If there is no test sample available the Gauge can be calibrated by setting the value of Sound Velocity directly

This method should only be used if a value for Sound Velocity of the material to be measured is known to be correct

① ***Alternatively :*** *preset the Gauge to the Sound Velocity for Steel [5920 m/s or 0.2332 in/us], and then use a Conversion Factor : see page 32.*

This method should be used where the Sound Velocity value is not known at the time the measurements are taken, and where the correct value will be determined at a later time.

Calibration on a Test Sample

Turn the Gauge on as normal : place the Probe on the measured test sample and obtain a steady reading.

- ⇒ Press the **CAL** button - the display will now begin flashing.
This shows that the Gauge is now in *Calibration* mode.
- ⇒ Now use the **↑** and **↓** buttons to adjust the reading until the correct thickness value is displayed – the Gauge is now Calibrated.
- ⇒ Press the **CAL** button again to return to normal *Measurement* mode.

Calibration by Sound Velocity

Turn the Gauge on as normal, but ensure that the Gauge is *not* displaying a reading :

- ⇒ Press the **CAL** button :
The display will now begin flashing the current setting of Sound Velocity
This value is displayed without a decimal point, which shows that the Gauge is now Calibrating by Sound Velocity.
- ⇒ Use the **↑** and **↓** buttons to adjust the value until the desired Sound Velocity is displayed – the Gauge is now Calibrated.
- ⇒ Press the **CAL** button again to return to normal *Measurement* mode

① *Sound Velocity is displayed in the same units to which the Gauge is currently preset*
For example - if the Gauge is calibrated for Steel [5920 m/s or 0.2332 in/us] :

- *the display will flash '5920' if the Gauge is preset for Metric units*
- *the display will flash '2332' if the Gauge is preset for Imperial units*

see *Table of Sound Velocities*, page 33

CHANGING GAUGE-SETTINGS



Settings for Probe-Frequency, Probe-Gain, Measurement-Units, and Measurement-Resolution can be changed by the User, using the **SET** key and the \uparrow or \downarrow keys

Stepping through the Settings-menu

- ⇒ Turn the Gauge on using the **ON/OFF** key
 - The Gauge is now in **Measurement** mode, as normal

Keep pressing the **SET** key until the setting you want to change appears flashing on the display :

- ⇒ Press **SET** once
 - The Gauge is now in **Probe-Setting** mode with the display flashing '**Prob**' and the current Probe-selection
- ⇒ Press **SET** a second time
 - The Gauge is now in **Gain-Setting** mode with the display flashing '**GAin**' and the current Gain-value
- ⇒ Press **SET** a third time
 - The Gauge is now in **Units-Setting** mode with the display flashing '**Unit**' and the current Units-setting
- ⇒ Press **SET** a fourth time
 - The Gauge is now in **Resolution-Setting** mode with the display flashing '**rES**' and the current Resolution-setting
- ⇒ If you press **SET** once more
 - The Gauge will now return to **Measurement** mode with all of the Gauge-settings unchanged

Changing the selected value

When the setting you want to change is flashing on the display :

- ⇒ Keep pressing the \uparrow or \downarrow keys until the new value you want for this setting appears on the display
- ⇒ Now press the **SET** key once more
 - The Gauge will now reset and quit *Gauge-setting* mode, and then return to normal **Measurement** mode
 - *The display will now show the same sequence as seen when the Gauge is first turned-on, followed by '**Stor**', telling you that the new setting has been stored*

① *The new setting has been stored – and this new setting will now be in use each time the Gauge is turned-on*

CHANGING THE PROBE-SETTING

✘ *When a Probe of different Frequency is used it is essential that the Gauge Probe-setting is changed accordingly – if the Probe-setting does not match the Probe in use it may be difficult or impossible to obtain correct Readings*

To change the Probe-frequency setting

- ⇒ Turn the Gauge on as normal
- ⇒ Press the **SET** button *once*.
 - The Gauge is now in *Probe-setting mode* - the display will now alternate between '**Prob**' and the current Probe frequency value
 - The Probe-frequency values are displayed as :
 - '**2.2**' [2.25 MHz]
 - '**3.5**' [3.5 MHz]
 - '**5.0**' [5 MHz]
 -
- ⇒ Use the ↑ or ↓ button to change the Probe-frequency value.
- ⇒ *When the display shows the desired Probe-frequency* : press the **SET** button once more
 - *This completes Probe-setting., and the Gauge will now reset itself*

CHANGING THE GAIN-SETTING

✘ **Gain-setting should not be changed unless the Gauge is being used with an over-sensitive Probe – beware, that if the Gain value is set too low, it may be difficult or impossible to obtain Readings.**

Gain-setting allows the sensitivity of the Probe to be reduced – this is only required if an extra-sensitive Probe is used, and standing readings are being obtained : ie there are readings with a Probe connected, even though the Probe is not in contact with anything.

Gain-setting should always be set to the highest possible value, for maximum sensitivity and ease of obtaining measurements

ⓘ Standing readings can occur if there is excess couplant on the Probe-face, or if the Probe-membrane has been overtightened.

ⓘ The Cygnus 1 Gauge is always supplied with the Gain set correctly for the Probe supplied with the Gauge - the default setting is 11

To change the Gain-setting

- ⇒ Turn the Gauge on as normal
- ⇒ Press the **SET** button *twice*.
 - The Gauge is now in *Gain-setting mode* - the display will now alternate between '**GAIN**' and the current Gain value.
 - The Gain value can be set between 1 [low sensitivity] and 12 [high sensitivity]
- ⇒ Use the ↑ or ↓ button to change the Gain value

- ⇒ *When the display shows the desired Gain-value : press the **SET** button once more*
 - *This completes Gain-setting, and the Gauge will now reset itself.*

CHANGING THE UNITS-SETTING

The Cygnus 4 Gauge always displays the Thickness value , and also Velocity of Sound value, in the Measurement-Units which have been stored in internal memory.

The Gauge can be preset to either Metric[mm] or Imperial[inch] Measurement-Units.

To change the Units-setting

- ⇒ Turn the Gauge on as normal
- ⇒ Press the **SET** button *three times*
 - The Gauge is now in *Units-setting mode* - the display will now alternate between ‘**unit**’ and the current Units-setting
 - Units-settings are shown as :
 - ‘**Euro**’ [Metric, mm]
 - ‘**inch**’ [Imperial, inch]
- ⇒ Use the **↑** or **↓** button to change the Units-setting

- ⇒ When the display shows the desired Units-setting : press the **SET** button once more
 - This completes Units-setting, and the Gauge will now reset itself

CHANGING THE RESOLUTION-SETTING

The Cygnus 1 Gauge can display thickness measurements in one of two Resolution-settings – the Resolution should be chosen according to your own preference.

The exact value of the Resolution-setting will also depend on whether Metric or Imperial Units is currently selected

To change the Resolution-setting

- ⇒ Turn the Gauge on as normal
- ⇒ Press the **SET** button *four times*
 - The Gauge is now in *Resolution-setting mode* - the display will now alternate between ‘**RES**’ and the current Resolution-setting
 - Resolution-settings are shown as :
 - ‘**HI**’ [High-Resolution : 0.05mm, or 0.002 inch]
 - ‘**LO**’ [Low-Resolution : 0.1mm, or 0.005 inch]
- ⇒ Use the **↑** or **↓** button to change the Resolution-setting

- ⇒ When the display shows the desired Resolution-setting : press the **SET** button once more
 - This completes Resolution-setting, and the Gauge will now reset itself

LOW BATTERY WARNING

The instrument shows a warning message as the battery is coming to the end of its useful charge :

- **LOW BATTERY** is briefly flashed once every four seconds -
There is no need to replace the battery immediately, the instrument will continue to measure as normal for some time yet : the exact period depends on battery-type.
- When the battery is finally exhausted the **LOW BATTERY** message will flash continuously for about five seconds, and the instrument will then switch itself off.

The battery should now be replaced, as described on page 15

HOLDING THE CURRENT READING



*Whenever the Gauge is displaying a thickness measurement the reading can be held on the display by pressing the **HOLD** button, allowing the operator to remove the Probe from the material under test.*

- *The display will now alternately flash the reading and the message '**Hold**'.*
- ⇒ Press the **HOLD** button again, to clear this function, and return to normal Measurement operation.

USING THE BACKLIGHT



The Backlight may be turned on or off at any time by pressing the Backlight button.

If the Backlight is on when the Gauge is turned off the current setting of the Backlight is stored, so that next time the Gauge is turned on the Backlight will automatically turn on.

① *Continuous use of the Backlight will typically reduce the life of the battery by 30%*

TROUBLESHOOTING

If the Gauge does not switch on

- only if the batteries are *completely dead* will the Gauge not display anything when the **ON/OFF** button is pressed.
- otherwise, if the batteries are at the end of their useful charge the Gauge will normally flash **LOW BATTERY** several times and then turn off

See *Low-Battery Warning*, on page 29

⇒ *in either case replace or recharge the Battery*

- if any of the buttons do not always function properly, or if excessive pressure is needed, the Keypad may have become contaminated or defective :

⇒ *the Gauge will need to be returned for Manufacturer's Service*

If it is difficult to obtain a reading

- if there is only a single flashing bar on the display - this means the Gauge is not receiving any echoes :
 - ⇒ *check that the Probe-lead is properly connected to both Probe and Gauge.*
 - ⇒ *check the condition of the lead; replace if necessary.*
- if there is mostly one fixed bar plus one flashing bar this means that the Gauge is having difficulty obtaining more than one echo :
 - ⇒ *check the Probe and its membrane are properly assembled – see page 18*
 - ⇒ *also see *General Point on Thickness Gauging*, page 31*
- if there is up to three fixed bars plus one flashing bar, but never any reading - this means the Gauge is receiving unrelated echoes from more than one reflector :
 - ⇒ *on heavily corroded areas this is often a problem; try check measurements on an adjacent area of the same material. See *General Points**
 - ⇒ *check the Gauge and Probe together on a test block; if there is still no reading the Gauge may require servicing.*

If readings are erratic or unstable

- Check that the Probe-lead is properly connected to both Probe and Gauge; check that the Probe and its membrane are correctly assembled with sufficient couplant

- Check that the Gauge is set for the same Probe-frequency as the actual Probe being used see *Changing the Probe-Setting*, page 26

- The User should ensure that the Probe-frequency is suitable for the *probable minimum thickness* of the material being measured – Probe-frequency *too low* causes doubling and tripling of the actual thickness - see *Probe Usage*, page 19, and *Changing the Probe-Setting*, page 26

GENERAL POINTS ON THICKNESS GAUGING

- On very rough surfaces, and especially if both sides are badly corroded, it is often necessary to move the Probe around to locate a reflector. Sometimes a slight rocking movement can help find reflectors which are otherwise impossible.
- Always ensure that there is plenty of couplant present for good contact, but beware that on a pitted surface the Gauge may just measure the couplant-filled pit – always avoid measuring directly over external pits.
- Beware that in extreme conditions, or if the plate is of poor quality and contains many inclusions, the ultrasound will be scattered to such an extent that measurement may not be possible.
- Beware that the multiple-echo technique will not work if the front and back surfaces of the material being measured are not close to parallel; also note that long narrow bars cannot be gauged along their length with the multiple-echo method.
- The instrument should not be used near arc-welding equipment, as this affects the performance of the Gauge.

THE FIVE-POINT CHECK

The most frequent reasons found which cause difficulty getting readings

- Is the Probe-membrane fitted correctly ?
see : *Probe/Knurlled Ring Assembly*, page 18
Check that there is a thin layer of oil between the membrane and Probe-face, and with no air-bubbles trapped
- Is the Probe-lead OK ?
see : *Probe Usage*, page 19
Check that the lead is in good condition, and is it correctly inserted into both the Probe and the Gauge
- Is the Probe-setting correct ?
see : *Changing the Probe-Setting*, page 26
Check on the Gauge that the Probe-setting is correct for the actual Probe in use
- Is there adequate couplant applied to the material being measured, and is the surface properly prepared ?
see : *Preparing to take Measurements*, page 16
Check that there is plenty of couplant applied, and that there are no air-gaps between the Probe and the material when measuring
- Is the material measurable at all ?
 - Are the front and back faces of the material parallel ?
 - Is the material not too corroded ?
 - Is the material not too thin for the Probe being used ?*It is often worth confirming that the Gauge is operating OK using a test sample – and also to confirm that the material can actually be measured by ultrasonic multiple-echo thickness measurement.*

A GUIDE TO SOUND VELOCITIES**Table of Sound Velocities**

- Velocities can vary according to the precise grade and processing conditions.
This table is included as a guide only.
Wherever possible, the Gauge should always be calibrated on the material under test.
- These Velocities are given in good faith and are believed to be accurate within the limits described above.
No liability is accepted for errors.
- Velocities given are the compressional wave velocity c_l .

Reading Conversion

*If only a few measurements are to be taken on a material other than Steel, it may be easier to leave the calibration set for Steel and merely convert the readings by multiplying by the Conversion Factor for the material being measured.
This method avoids unnecessary recalibration.*

Example – if the Gauge is calibrated for Steel [5920 m/s], and a reading is being taken on Copper [4700 m/s] :

$$T = t \times V_{\text{COPPER}} / V_{\text{STEEL}} = t \times 4700 / 5920 = t \times 0.794$$

thus : **T = t x f**

where : **T = true thickness of Copper being measured**

t = actual reading obtained

f = Conversion Factor

V_{COPPER} = Sound Velocity in Copper : 4700 m/s

V_{STEEL} = Sound Velocity in Steel : 5920 m/s

Conversion Factor f : is given for various materials in the Table of Sound Velocities on page 33

TABLE OF SOUND VELOCITIES

| Material | Velocity of Sound | | Conversion Factor |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| | m/s | in/us | |
| <i>Aluminium</i> | 6320 | 0.2488 | 1.068 |
| <i>Epoxy</i> | 2500 | 0.0986 | 0.422 |
| <i>Copper</i> | 4700 | 0.1850 | 0.794 |
| <i>Grey Cast Iron</i> | 4600 | 0.1812 | 0.777 |
| <i>Magnesium</i> | 5770 | 0.2272 | 0.975 |
| <i>Nickel</i> | 5630 | 0.2218 | 0.951 |
| <i>Acrylic</i> | 2730 | 0.1076 | 0.461 |
| <i>Nylon (Polyamide)</i> | 2620 | 0.1032 | 0.443 |
| <i>Porcelain</i> | 5600 | 0.2206 | 0.946 |
| <i>Glass</i> | | | |
| <i>Quartz</i> | 5570 | 0.2194 | 0.941 |
| <i>Soda-lime</i> | 6000 | 0.2362 | 1.014 |
| <i>Borosilicate</i> | 5640 | 0.2222 | 0.953 |
| <i>Steel</i> | | | |
| <i>Mild</i> | 5920 | 0.2332 | 1.000 |
| <i>Tool</i> | 5870 | 0.2312 | 0.992 |
| <i>Stainless 302</i> | 5660 | 0.2228 | 0.956 |
| <i>Tungsten</i> | 5460 | 0.2150 | 0.922 |
| <i>Monel</i> | 5400 | 0.2126 | 0.912 |
| <i>Inconel</i> | 5700 | 0.2244 | 0.963 |
| <i>Phosphor Bronze</i> | 3530 | 0.1390 | 0.596 |
| <i>Brass (70% Cu)</i> | 4700 | 0.1850 | 0.794 |

CARE AND SERVICING

Care of the Cygnus 4 Gauge

Service and Repair

CARE OF THE CYGNUS 4 GAUGE

Although Cygnus Gauges are highly robust, care should be taken to ensure years of active service :

➤ **Cleaning the Gauge**

- ⇒ Clean and service the Gauge periodically.
- ⇒ Do not use solvents for cleaning - mild detergent is ideal.
- ⇒ Do not use any abrasive cleaner, especially on the display window.
- ⇒ Do not use excessive liquid when cleaning.

➤ **Care of Batteries**

- ⇒ Remove the batteries from the Gauge if the Gauge will be left unused for more than a few days

➤ **Environmental**

- ⇒ Do not immerse the Gauge in liquid.
- ⇒ Do not subject the Gauge body to temperature in excess of 60°C (140°F).
- ⇒ Do not store the Gauge for long periods in conditions of high humidity.

SERVICING

ⓘ Please refer to the Gauge and Accessories brochure for our full range of Equipment.

Returning your Gauge for Service

A full Manufacturer's Factory Service is available from Cygnus Instruments

ⓘ Please note : the complete Kit should always be returned for Service or Repair, including all Probes and Leads.

Cygnus Gauges are renowned for their reliability – very often problems with getting measurements are simply due to the way the Gauge is being used – see : Troubleshooting, page 30, and The Five-Point Check, page 31

However, if you do need to return your Gauge for Repair please let us know the details of the problem, to guarantee the best possible service :

- Is the problem behaviour intermittent ?
- Is there a problem turning the Gauge on ?
- Is there a problem with the Gauge turning itself off ?
- Does the Gauge constantly give incorrect Readings, or unsteady Readings ?
- Is it not possible to Calibrate the Gauge ?
- Does the Gauge fail to operate correctly in certain ambient conditions ?

Cygnus Instruments has a policy of continual product improvement. We reserve the right to make changes to the product without prior notification to any person or organisation

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