

THREE INTO TTT WILL GO



Norbar Torque Tools Ltd, one of the first companies in the world to develop electronic torque measuring instruments, has been using its experience over the years to develop and refine its products. The Torque Tool Tester Series 3 is the latest development to emerge from Norbar's electronic laboratory and is a fine example of just what progress has been made.

The main visible difference from the previous models is that series 3 has three transducer inputs. This apparently small difference is important for users, though, as it should allow most of them to check all the torque wrenches they use, from the smallest to the largest, with suitable transducers simultaneously connected. Selecting a transducer is a simple matter of rotating a switch. The torque capacity of the selected transducer is confirmed on screen to avoid any possible confusion.

The instrument is programmed to operate in all of the common measurement units of torque but it is now also possible for users to set up their own units. In this way, it is possible for the TTT to work with virtually any strain gauged transducer, which considerably adds to the versatility of the instrument.

The number of target limit values that can be set has been increased from eight to twelve. This feature gives a clear visual signal as to whether the measured process is within tolerance and the increased number corresponds with the increase in transducer inputs. As well as the visual indication, the 'low', 'high' or 'pass' signal can also be output via RS-232 to a PC or printer.

The new models also have a faster response times: in particular, faster operation after a manual or auto reset, faster transducer recognition and faster response to key strokes. These changes will certainly be appreciated by busy torque calibration laboratories.

All the other features that have made the TTT a huge success are still there. One very important one is the use of heavy duty industrial input connectors with low resistance, gold plated pins and sockets. Far superior to the 'D' or 'RJ' connectors more suited to computer or telephone applications (but nevertheless used by some torque testers), the Norbar inputs are sturdy alloy housings and offer solid reliable operation even after years of use.

The TTT features a pictorial display panel and a membrane keypad for the simple selection of the numerous operating modes which are available to suit the majority of torque applications.

The control panel uses diagrams of various types of torque tool and the operator simply presses the button corresponding to the tool under test. The TTT's automatic set up procedures then do the rest, selecting the appropriate test mode and frequency response.

To eliminate operator errors, all user selectable features have password protection so that when it is issued to the test area only the required modes of operation and units of calibration are enable.

The instrument can be mains or battery operated and a rechargeable NiMH battery pack is included which will give approximately 16 hours of operation. When used on mains power, a display screen back light will come into operation and the battery pack will be recharged.

Each Torque Tool Tester is supplied with a UKAS certificate of calibration so that, provided the external transducer is itself calibrated, full system traceability is maintained. Transducer calibrations are carried out to BS7882: 1997 in Norbar's own UKAS accredited laboratory.

With their accuracy, easy of use and value for money the existing Torque Tool Testers are already extremely popular. The new series with all its added benefits can only build on this to enhance the reputation even further.