

▼ VersaProbe™

A Universal Probe for Reliable Meter Reading



Model VP-31



Model VP-34



Adjustable-angle Head
Model VP-35



Model VP-33

What is a VersaProbe™? In 1994, Northrop Grumman began production of the VersaProbe, a universal probe for touch read meters and registers. The universal touchread compatibility of the VersaProbe eliminates the burden of carrying several devices to accommodate meters from different manufacturers without any delay in the meter reading process. It enables cities and utilities to purchase meters under open, competitive bidding to acquire the best pricing without concerns about compatibility with existing meters and reading equipment.

Patented in 1997, the VersaProbe was redesigned in 2009 to improve reading and product reliability, versatility, and maintainability. The new probe can display more data, read more meter types, store more readings in probe memory, and be easily adapted to new touch read technologies. It is nearly

15 percent lighter than the previous model. Additionally, our new Bluetooth wireless RF interface option eliminates the need for a cable connection to our VersaTerm® hand-held computers as well as to hand-held computers from other manufacturers.

Northrop Grumman's hardware and software provide the features, maturity, and ease of use evolved from over 27 years experience in the application of hand-held systems for data collection and 22 years dedicated to meter reading technology. More than 1,000 cities and utilities use the VersaProbe in their daily meter reading operations.

Advantages Over Manual Reading

With the addition of the VersaProbe touch reader, cities and utilities can save time and money. By automating the entire data collection process, VersaProbe eliminates any read error, ensuring the right read is captured

every time. Touch reading is also more time effective, meaning cities and utilities can save money on labor. Furthermore, VersaProbe's universality eliminates the need to buy multiple probes to match each brand of meter, saving a great deal of money in the process.

Features and Technical Specifications

Unparalleled Flexibility

- Reads routes in a random fashion when used with the VersaTerm ID look-up feature
- Determines which meter protocol to read when in auto-sense mode and can be preset to the protocol for the next meter in a route from the hand-held computer
- Transfers all data from meter encoder including multipliers, tamper status, and battery status as applicable
- Features wireless connectivity using Bluetooth®

- Weather resistant and rugged case designed for use in harsh meter reading environments: IP67 environmental standards
- Independently stores 500 to 1300 reads for download
- Attaches to virtually any industry-standard hand-held computer
- Serves as a visual reader for meter installation and inspection
- Optionally provides meter register programming capability for initial register installation (requires keypad support from a handheld computer) and for conversion from touchread mode to AMR mode

Available Models

- Standard probe
- Probe with fixed-length pit-probe extension
- Probe with telescoping pit-probe extension and adjustable-angle head
- Probe with adapter for reading Neptune ARB-V pin-type receptacles.

Physical Specifications

- Weight: 0.9 lbs. (14.3 oz.)
 - Telescoping pit probe: 1.1 lbs. (17.6 oz.)
- Dimensions: 9" x 4" x 2.5"
- Display
 - 2 lines by 16 character LCD
 - Recharging time indicators
- Power
 - Rechargeable NiCAD (optional NiMH) batteries
 - Flash memory for data integrity
 - Average 5000 reads per charge
 - Typical charge time of 8 to 10 hours
 - 3-year average battery life

Optional Equipment

- Pit extension
- Belt Clip & Bracket
- Neptune ARB-V adapter
- 12V Vehicle battery charger
- Interface cable

Advantages over Earlier Models

- 15 percent reduction in weight
- Larger display
- More memory (500-1300 reads)
- Improved reliability
- Wireless interface
- More protocols
- Meter programming capability

Universality: Supported Meters

Northrop Grumman's meter reading technical philosophy has always been to support open architecture and the right of utilities to demand open and competitive meter bids. This is becoming more difficult in light of new challenges presented by automated meter-reading technology, but it is still our position that we can interface to virtually any meter-reading system by adding the appropriate adapter and software to our existing hand-held equipment. As new meters and encoders are introduced, Northrop Grumman works closely with the original equipment manufacturers to ensure reading compatibility with the VersaProbe. We are committed to supporting other manufacturers' electronics as license agreements are negotiated.

The VersaProbe has been successfully interfaced to handheld computers from Itron, Radix, Neptune/Schlumberger/DAP, Badger Meter, Psion, Datamatic and Sensus/Invensys. Northrop Grumman is committed to expanding our list of compatible touch read systems available to meet our customers' needs.

Supported meters/registers:

- Actaris Cyble® Touchpad
- AMCO/ABB Water Meters ScanCoder®, ScanCounter®, DualScan®, MultiScan®, InVision® and AquaMaster® with encoder output

- Badger Meters with DIALOG® or TouchRead®
- CICASAScanPro®
- Equimeter (gas) with TouchRead Fusion (Talisman) Star® and XLT5 (ARB-5 touchpad conversion)
- GWFcoder-WM®
- Hersey Touchless® and Translator®
- Hexagram ScanPak® and ScanDisk®
- Invensys (Sensus/Rockwell) TouchRead® and MultiRead® (including ECR-3® and ICE®)
- Landis & Gyr (electric) with TouchRead®
- Master Meter DIALOG®, including networks
- Metre Pro ProLink®
- Metron-Farnier with Metron, ProLink® or Hexagram Encoder
- Precision Meters with Hexagram or TouchRead®
- Schlumberger (Neptune) ARB-I® through ARB-V® (Pin-Type Receptacle)
- Schlumberger (Neptune) ARB-VI® ProRead® and ProRead AutoDetect®
- Schlumberger (Sangamo electric) with Hexagram
- Severn Trent SmartMeter® (Fusion Meters SE7000E® and NSF-61®)

VersaProbe Model VP-33 provides a method of reading Schlumberger/Neptune pin-type receptacles which were widely deployed before the advent of inductive encoder technology.

Contact Us

For more information, please contact

Northrop Grumman Information Systems

VersaProbe™

800-453-0661

http://www.is.northropgrumman.com/by_market/commercial/meter_reading_products/index.html

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