
8. DOWNLOADING DATA

MiniTrase was designed for full portability and data collection in the field. Waveform analysis is not a critical part for simple data collection, therefore the screen for graph viewing was not provided on this unit on the palm.

However graphs and waveform analysis can be performed after downloading the collected readings from the field and then viewed using the WinTrase software.

There are two methods for downloading data. First, just the readings can be easily and quickly downloaded via the palm hotsync procedure and can be loaded directly into Excel or WinTrase. If the hotsync procedure is used, graph data savings, even though stored with the reading on the MiniTrase, will not be available. The only palm data available will be the readings.

The second method is to download the data directly from the MiniTrase to the PC using a DB-9 cable (MEZ036) to connect to a COM port (1 to 4 only) on the PC (or possibly bluetooth, more follows).

Downloading Data via the Palm Hotsync Method

To download moisture measurements, make sure that the Palm Hotsync Manager is running. You should see a small red and blue Hotsync symbol in the lower righthand corner of your screen. We recommend that you not use the hotsync functions for synchronizing email, expense, and other hotsync functions as this will slow down the hotsync procedure. These functions can easily be disabled in the Hotsync Manager (refer to Palm's operating instructions for further details).

When the Hotsync Manager is running, connect the Palm to the computer and press the hotsync button on the cable if available or screen icons.

TraseTerm software installs a palm conduit to download the readings from the TraseTerm application on your handheld. When you perform a hotsync, all of the readings on the handheld will be removed and appended to a file on your PC. By default, these readings are appended to the file, "Readings.csv" in the Trase subdirectory in your Palm User directory. For example, for user Tom Jones, the readings would be appended to C:\Palm\JonesT\Trase\Readings.csv.

Although the default extension is .csv, the readings are stored in the Trase .trs format. This file can be loaded directly by either Microsoft Excel or WinTrase.

You can change the file name and location by copying the sample trase.ini file from C:\Program Files\Soilmoisture Equipment Corp\Trase Terminal to the C:\Windows directory and then editing this file. The sample file contains: [Palm-Conduit] OutputDataFile = C:\TraseData.trs

Change the OutPutDataFile value to whatever directory and file you desire.

To view the data, simply open either Excel or WinTrase and locate the directory where the readings.csv file is stored.

**Setting Up
MiniTrase and
WinTrase
Software for
Data Transfer**

WinTrase is a comprehensive software program designed for the remote use of MiniTrase via modems and DB-9 links (for possible Bluetooth links on ports 1-4 consult a computer technician). The software package is provided with your unit from Soilmoisture or local Soilmoisture dealers or the website for the Trase, Trase BE, and MiniTrase.

Using the same mathematical processes incorporated into MiniTrase, WinTrase can automatically fit tangents to the waveforms, provide movable timebars to adjust transit times, provide multiple custom lookup tables for specialized waveguides and material allowing for quick analysis and determinations.

In order to download collected data from the MiniTrase to WinTrase, you must first install WinTrase software on your PC. Follow the instructions that are included with the WinTrase software for proper installation and use the serial number code on the CD jewel case.

Items needed to download data from the MiniTrase to the PC:

1. Before beginning, first verify that the MiniTrase Battery is either fully charged or connect the MiniTrase to the Power Supply plugged into a wall socket.
2. Locate the Output Bluetooth/ Modem/ Serial Switch on the MiniTrase front panel. Set the rocker switch to the Serial Setting. You were provided with an MEZ036 Cable that has a male DB-9 connector on one end and a female DB-9 connector on the opposite end. Connect the MiniTrase to your PC's serial port using this cable. You may need a connector adapter, depending on the type of serial port on your computer.

Once the MiniTrase is properly connected to the PC, turn the MiniTrase on with the Power Rocker switch in the ON position, and the Output rocker switch to Serial.

From your PC, start the WinTrase software. From the pull down menu, select Remote, then select Settings. In settings you will need to indicate which com port is being used. Generally, this is Com Port 2, but this may differ in your particular situation (must use from COM Ports 1-4).

NOTE:

The Palm Hotsync Manager should be deactivated before performing this procedure. If running, it could interfere or prevent the data transfer process. (Right click at hotsync symbol usually at the bottom right of computer screen to exit hotsync.)

Also note that you may be able to utilize the bluetooth rather than the cables. (see page 3-2).

**WinTrase
Software
Settings**

Check the Direct Connection box. All other default communications settings remain the same (Baud Rate: 9600, Stop Bit: 1, Parity: None, Flow Control: Xon/Xoff and Data Bits: 8). Once the settings have been made, WinTrase is ready to download the collected data from the MiniTrase.

From WinTrase's main pull down menu, select Get Remote Readings. WinTrase will automatically connect with the MiniTrase. The user is prompted by WinTrase to save readings at this time.

When prompted to save readings, you may either append this information to a file already created or you may overwrite a file, deleting previous data and replacing it with the new data to be saved.

To save data to a new file, leave Append selected and click OK. WinTrase will now prompt for a file folder and file name to be entered. From the folder menu, select the file folder where you want to save the data and enter a file name using the WinTrase extension (.trs).

Once the readings have been saved, graphs may now be viewed by selecting File, Open Graph, from the WinTrase main menu.

Graphs may be selected one at a time for viewing and moisture content calculations.

Collected moisture readings may also be downloaded directly from the MiniTrase to the PC using 3-letter command protocol and a communications program such as HyperTerminal terminal emulator, Windows Terminal or Tera Term.