

# CurveX 3 Basic<sup>®</sup>

Article number: CX3005



**User Guide**  
V1.0- 0315

## Warranty

*TQC will grant a warranty for a period of 12 months for TQC CurveX 3 Basic and 12 months for all related equipment from the date of delivery in respect of any evidence of faulty workmanship and materials. TQC will extend the warranty for TQC CurveX 3 Basic to a period of 24 months from the date of delivery if TQC CurveX 3 Basic is licensed via the TQC Ideal Finish Analysis software. Should a delivered consignment prove to be contrary to contract upon inspection, the customer shall grant TQC the opportunity hereunder of removing the fault, or else the customer may demand a replacement. Should the supply or delivery of any improvement or replacement not prove possible, the customer may choose between having the purchase price reduced or in demanding the contract of sale to be rescinded (conversion). Damage resulting from natural wear and tear, mechanical or chemical damage, an act of God or non-compliance with the operating instructions shall be excluded from the warranty as well as mechanical interference by the customer or by third parties with TQC CurveX 3 Basic and related equipment without TQC's written permission. No liability will be accepted for defects, damage or injury caused due to use not carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's user instructions.*

*To claim warranty, the rejected product has to be sent to TQC together with the original invoice, any exchange before the product has been returned to TQC is not possible. TQC reserve the right to repair, exchange or supply an equivalent substitute. TQC is not liable for handling or transport costs. Warranty on the purchase price is limited, all liability for consequential damages or changes in technology is expelled.*



This product meets the IEC 61326-1 Electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use – EMC requirements.



This product is RoHS 2 compliant (2011/65/EU).

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## 1. Getting started with the TQC CurveX 3 Basic

The CurveX 3 Basic is an intelligent temperature data logging system that was specially designed to control curing processes in the coating industry. This manual describes how to use the CurveX 3 Basic logger and how to download the measurements to your computer with the Ideal Finish Analysis software. For the software installation instructions see the software manual.

### 1.1 Quick start

The information in the following steps should be sufficient to allow you to operate the CurveX 3 Basic without further use of this manual. For more detailed information we refer you to the remainder of the manual. See Figure 1 for more information about the interface positions.

- Step 1.** Set the paint type and other parameters of the CurveX 3 Basic with the Ideal Finish Analysis software:
- Start Ideal Finish Analysis on the computer and connect the logger
  - Choose **User settings** in the **Logger** menu and follow the wizard. See the Ideal Finish Analysis help for details on the options.
  - Disconnect the logger from the computer
- Step 2.** Connect the thermocouple probes to the input points at position 7 of the CurveX 3 Basic.
- Step 3.** Attach the sensors to the object to be measured.
- Step 4.** Press and hold down the POWER button (position 1) for one second to switch on the CurveX 3 Basic.
- Step 5.** Start the recording process by pressing the START button (position 2). The logging, paint and battery leds (position 4, 5 and 6) will blink once. The logging led will blink blue at the specified logging interval.
- Step 6.** Place the CurveX 3 Basic logger inside the insulation box. Make sure the insulation system is set up properly, as specified in the manual of the insulation box chosen. The cables are guided through the cable outlet and the cover is closed securely, using the gasket to ensure optimal heat protection.
- Step 7.** Send the system through the oven and then remove the instrument from the box as soon as possible. The paint led (position 5) blinks green after a full cure or red after a partial cure. The cure specification is set in the software, see the Ideal Finish Analysis help for more details (Logger menu – User settings).
- Step 8.** Stop the recording process by pressing the STOP button (position 3).
- Step 9.** Download the results with Ideal Finish Analysis:
- Choose **Download all data to PC...** in the **Logger** menu of Ideal Finish Analysis and follow the wizard.

Figure 1



1.	POWER button	Press one second to power on
2.	START button	Press to start logging
3.	STOP button	Press to stop logging
4.	Logging led	Blue led indicates CurveX 3 Basic is logging
5.	Paint led	Red partial cure, Blue active, Green full cure
6.	Battery led	Shows battery status when powered on: Red <25%, Blue 25% to 75%, Green > 75%
7.	Thermocouple connectors 1 - 4	Connect up to four probes
8.	USB type B port	Connect USB cable to charge and/or download data

1.2      **Memory - batches**

The memory of the CurveX 3 Basic can store a total of 160,000 readings. The memory is divided into 10 memory blocks of 16,000 readings each.

For each new batch, the CurveX 3 Basic will always start at the beginning of the next memory block, even if the previous block was only partly used. Loggings that take longer than 16,000 readings are stopped at reading number 16,000. The maximum number of batches that can be stored is 10.

1.3      **CurveX 3 Basic tasks**

This table below describes the most frequently performed tasks:

Task	Action on logger	Ideal Finish software menu	Option
Power on	Press POWER button		
START logging	Press START button		
STOP logging	Press STOP button		
Power off	Press POWER button		
Download data		Logger	Download all data to PC
Change settings		Logger	User settings

## 2. Downloading data and configuring the CurveX 3 Basic

The CurveX 3 Basic is a logger without a display. You will have to use Ideal Finish Analysis to download data and change the settings of the logger. The license key and memory stick with the Ideal Finish Analysis software are part of the CurveX 3 basic package. For the installation of the software you are referred to the software manual. To obtain your CurveX 3 Basic license key you are referred to the Ideal Finish Analysis Quick Start Manual.

After the installation of the software you can connect the logger to your computer and access the **Logger** menu where the following options are available. For information about installing the software and connecting the logger you are referred to the software manual.

**Step 1.** Power on the data logger by pressing the POWER button (see figure 1, position 1) and start the Ideal Finish Analysis software.

**Step 2.** Connect the USB connector to the CurveX 3 Basic (see figure 1, position 8).

**Step 3.** Connect the other side of the USB cable to the PC.

**Step 4.** Choose Logger from the menu. The following options are available:

- *Download all data to PC*
- *Download Express*
- *Real Time...*
- *User settings*
- *Configure & test*

### 2.1 **Logger menu — Download all data to PC...**

After selecting this menu option a wizard appears where you can:

- Set the download folder.
- Select a template in which the settings of the oven, the probe layout and the paint type are defined.
- Select the batches to be downloaded.

### 2.2 **Logger menu — Download Express**

Ideal Finish Analysis can speed up the printing of a report at the click of a single button. Switch TQC Ideal Finish Analysis to advanced mode to enable your line operators to print a report based on a template for specific processes.

### 2.3 **Logger menu — Real Time...**

Use this option to view and analyze data the moment they are measured.

## 2.4 **Logger menu — User Settings...**

Use this option to specify the following settings in Ideal Finish Analysis.

- Select the logging interval time
- Specifying the time
  - Check the Synchronize check box. This will set the data logger time to the PC time
- Setup the batch names
  - Double click on the current name to enter a new batch name
- Set the paint types in your logger
- Set the cure specifications for the report
- Configure the properties when logging data in Real Time.
  - Enter a description of the object you are measuring and enter a description of the location where the measuring takes place.

## 2.5 **Logger menu — Configure & Test...**

In order for the data logger to communicate with a computer, use the USB cable to connect it to an available port on the computer. Once connected, communication can be tested by taking the following steps:

**Step 1.** Connect the data logger to the computer using the cable that comes with the logger.

**Step 2.** Choose Configure & Test...<sup>1</sup> from the Logger menu.

**Step 3.** The logger starts measuring automatically, displaying the measurements<sup>2</sup> in a pop-up window.

**Step 4.** Click More to see information about the connected logger, click OK or Cancel to close the pop-up window.

<sup>1</sup> If an error message is displayed, switch to another USB port. If all ports display an error message, make sure that the rechargeable battery is charged and the data logger is powered on.

<sup>2</sup> Measurements will be shown even when no probes are connected. This is normal behavior and are the internal cold junction temperature measurements.

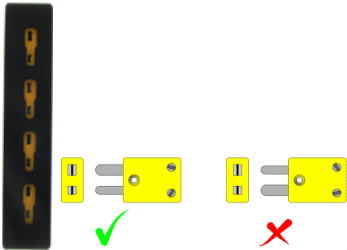
### 3. The CurveX 3 Basic thermocouple connectors

The CurveX 3 Basic is equipped with four thermocouple (K-type) connectors. The connectors are numbered 1 to 4. See the front of the data logger.

#### 3.1.1 Connecting the probes

To measure the ambient temperature and the temperature of a product up to four probes can be connected to the connectors. The logger automatically detects the connected probes. To ensure accurate measurements, use only the K type sensors (+: NiCr / -: NiAl). The pins on a thermocouple plug are of different widths and can only be plugged in one way. See figure 2 Common probes as clamp, ring-type, and wire probes can be used but also special infrared probes.

Figure 2.



The position of the sensors on the object can be stored in Ideal Finish Analysis. The position will then also be available in the reports.

*Remark:* Make sure that the probe cables are free from objects and the oven walls, floor, sealing and burners, etc. to prevent them from snagging, as this may cause serious damage to the probe and the instrument. Also check whether the probes have been placed securely so that they do not fall off during the process.

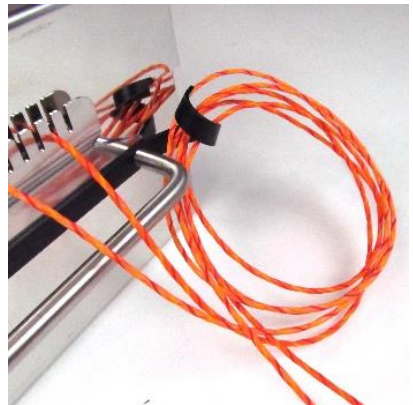
#### *Options:*

When there is too much cable length you can connect the extended cable length to the gray loop on the side of the insulation box next to the grip.

#### *Precautions:*

Use heat protective gloves when removing the sensors. Remove the probes carefully; do not pull the cables.

To prevent tears in the cable sheath and broken cores, do not wind the probe wires too tightly.



### *The magnet surface probe*

This probe can be placed on any ferrous steel object. The sensor element is located exactly in the middle of the probe.

- Take the probe between your thumb and forefinger at the metal cable support just above the magnet and place the probe at the preferred location on the object.



### *The clamp surface probe*

Use the clamp to place this probe on any object. The sensor element is located inside the jaw of the clamp, insulated by a small piece of ceramic. There is some friction on this part in order to align the sensor element with the surface to ensure good contact.

- Take the clamp between your thumb and forefinger. Check which jaw has the sensor element and place the probe at the preferred location on the object. The maximum reach of the clamp is 20mm.



### *The clamp air probe*

This fast-responding probe has its sensor element inside the small steel protective tube.

- Connect the probe to the object or conveyor belt in the same way as specified for the clamp surface probe.



### *The wire probe*

This universal probe can be used for either air or surface temperature measurements. The measuring element is an open thermocouple that can be attached with adhesive tape or by other mechanical means.



## 4. CurveX 3 Basic protection — using the insulation box

The data logger itself may not exceed a temperature of 60°C (140°F). Since the logger is used inside high-temperature curing ovens, the CurveX 3 Basic thermal barrier system is used to protect it. The CurveX 3 Basic thermal barrier box protects the data logger from the high outside temperatures.

Either a single bracket or a heat absorber can be used to increase the heat resistance. The heat absorber contains material that absorbs the energy that penetrates the box.

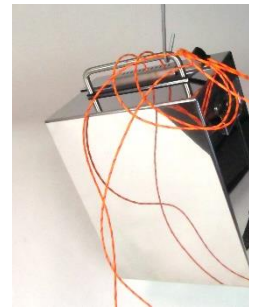
*N.B. Prior to run any oven temperature recording, it is very important that both the insulation box and the heat absorber temperatures are below 20 °C (68 °F) before the system is sent through the oven. Always refer to the insulation box datasheet for the maximum time and temperature use.*

### 4.1.1 Preparing for measurement

- Step 1.** Make sure the box is at room temperature.
- Step 2.** Place the CurveX 3 Basic data logger, with the probes already connected, inside the box.
- Step 3.** Lead the probe cables over the gasket and edge of the box at the cable outlet point.
- Step 4.** Start the logger.
- Step 5.** Mount the cover on the box and make sure the stainless steel edge slides a few millimeters over the box on all sides. Also check whether the cutout of the cable outlet of the cover is facing the same cutout in the box and whether the probe cables are positioned properly.
- Step 6.** Tighten the cover with the four latches and check again whether the box is properly closed on all sides.

The system is now ready to be sent through the oven. Use the grip to hang the box, if necessary.

The isolation box has a ferrous steel plate on top, which can be used for mounting the magnetic probes while transporting the set.



#### **4.1.2 Handling precautions**

Since the heating process inside the box is not stopped instantly after the box has left the oven, we strongly advise you to take the following precautions:

- Always wear heat protective gloves when handling the box and the probes after a run because the box will be hot after a measurement.
- Open the box as soon as possible after the test in the oven.
- Take the logger and bracket / heat absorber out of the box so that they can cool down. Note that the heat absorber needs quite a long time to cool down once it gets hot.
- When storing the box, do not lock the cover with the latches. This will extend the life span and preserve the elasticity of the rubber gasket!

## 5. Specifications TQC CurveX 3 Basic

<b>CurveX 3 Basic logger</b>	
Measuring range	0 °C to 500 °C / 32 °F to 932 °F
Operating temperature:	0 °C to 60 °C / 32 °F to 140 °F
Accuracy	±1 °C / 1.8 °F
Channels	4
Sample interval time	1 s to 60 min
Memory	10 batches with 16000, or 1 batch with 160000 readings
Display	Three multi-colour LED's
Interface	USB
Housing material	Anodised Aluminium
Dimensions (D x W x H)	100 x 85 x 16 mm / 3.94 x 3.35 x 0.63 inch
Power supply	Rechargeable battery
Battery life time	1200 hour continuous use, 27 years in stand-by
Weight	190 g / 6.7 oz.
<b>TQC Ideal Finish Analysis software</b>	
Supported Operating Systems	Windows Vista, Windows 7 and Windows 8 / 8.1
Platform	32 b or 64 b
Memory	32 MB
Required Hard Disk space	128 MB

### 5.1 CurveX 3 Basic package

The TQC CurveX 3 Basic comes with the following items:

- CX3005 CurveX 3 Basic Oven Logger with TQC Ideal Finish Analysis Software
- CL0018 Factory calibrated, calibration certificate included
- CX5010 Ideal Finish Analysis License Key
- CM1105 USB Cable
- GL0103 USB Memory Stick
- CX3060 Plastic Carrying Case

### 5.2 Accessories

- CX2005 CurveX insulation box (H=140 mm, T=300 °C / 572 °F)
- CX3050 Insulation Box Logger Bracket
- CX2011 CurveX heat-absorber
- CX2100 CurveX Basic probe identification kit (1-6)
- CM1105 USB Cable





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