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Dissolved O_2 Probe Transducer — RXPROBE-02

The dissolved oxygen probe can be used to measure the concentration of dissolved oxygen in water samples tested in the field or in the laboratory. Use this sensor to perform a wide variety of tests or experiments to determine changes in dissolved oxygen levels, one of the primary indicators of the quality of an aquatic environment:

- Monitor dissolved oxygen in an aquarium containing different combinations of plant and animal species.
- Measure changes in dissolved oxygen concentration resulting from photosynthesis and respiration in aquatic plants.
- Use this sensor for an accurate on-site test of dissolved oxygen concentration in a stream or lake survey, in order to evaluate the capability of the water to support different types of plant and animal life.
- Measure Biological Oxygen Demand (B.O.D.) in water samples containing organic matter that consumes oxygen as it decays.
- Determine the relationship between dissolved oxygen concentration and temperature of a water sample.

Components
Dissolved O_2 probe
Replacement membrane cap
Calibration bottle & pipette
Sodium Sulfate calibration standard (2.0 M Na_2SO_3)
Dissolved O_2 electrode filling solution
Polishing strips

Interface
Use with BIOPAC BSL-TCI16 Transducer Connector to record with a BIOPAC MP36/35 data acquisition unit.

Usage
There are four steps to using the Dissolved O_2 probe:

1. Setup
2. Warm-up
3. Calibration — *optional*
4. Recording

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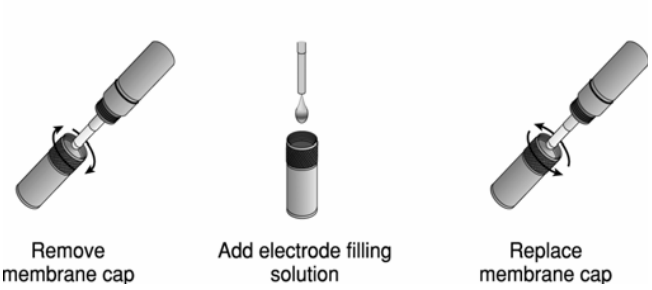
1. Setup
   a. Remove and discard the blue protective cap from the tip of the probe.
   b. Unscrew the membrane cap from the tip of the probe.
   c. Use a pipette to fill the membrane cap with 1 mL of the Electrode Filling Solution.
   d. Carefully thread the membrane cap back onto the electrode.
   e. Place the probe into a beaker filled with about 100 mL of distilled water.



2. Warm-up
   a. Insert the BT connector on the RXPROBEO2 into the BSL-TCI16 transducer connector.
   b. Connect the BSL-TCI16 transducer connector to the MP36 or MP35 data acquisition unit.
   c. Turn the MP unit ON and wait 10 minutes for the probe to warm up.
      - The probe must stay connected to the interface at all times to keep it warmed up. If the probe is disconnected for more than a few minutes, the warm-up routine will need to be repeated.

3. Calibration— optional

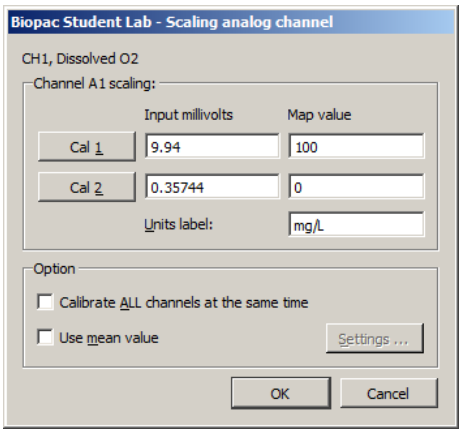
- Calibration is optional. To measure relative change, probe calibration is not essential. To improve accuracy for discrete measurements, probe calibration is recommended.

Calibration in BSL 4.x or AcqKnowledge 4.x software for MP36R

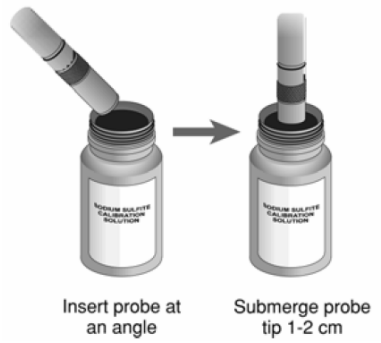
a. First Calibration Point (Zero-Oxygen)

i) Launch the BIOPAC software and open the scaling dialog for the probe channel.

(MP36/35 menu > Set Up Data Acquisition > Channels > Setup > Scaling Button.)



ii) Remove the probe from the water and place the tip of the probe into the Sodium Sulfite calibration solution as shown.



IMPORTANT: No air bubbles can be trapped below the tip of the probe or the calibration will be distorted. If the voltage does not rapidly decrease, tap the side of the bottle with the probe to dislodge any bubbles.

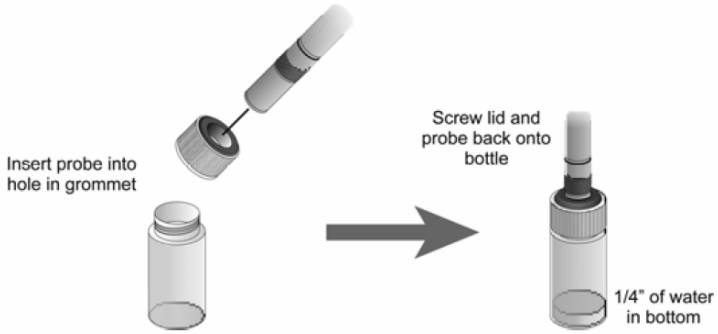
iii) Wait until the voltage stabilizes (~2 minutes), and press the CAL 2 button. The Map value result should be in the 0.2 - 0.5 mV range.

b. Second Calibration Point (Saturated Dissolved O_2)

i) Rinse the probe with distilled water and gently blot dry.

ii) Unscrew the lid of the calibration bottle and slide the grommet approximately 12 mm (1/2”) onto the probe body.

iii) Add water to the bottle to the depth of about 6 mm (1/4”) and screw the bottle into the cap as shown. **IMPORTANT:** Do not touch the membrane or get it wet during this step.



iv) Keep the probe in the position for about one minute and then press the CAL 1 button. The Map value result should be above 2 mV.

v) Enter a Saturated Dissolved O_2 value (in mg/L) from Table 1, based on the current barometric pressure and air pressure values. If necessary, use Table 2 to estimate the air pressure at the current altitude. The example scaling on the previous page (9.94) is based upon an ambient temperature of 16° C and a barometric pressure of 760 mm. (To calibrate and monitor using Percent Saturation, use the conversion formula on the following page.)

Calibration in BSL 3.7.x software

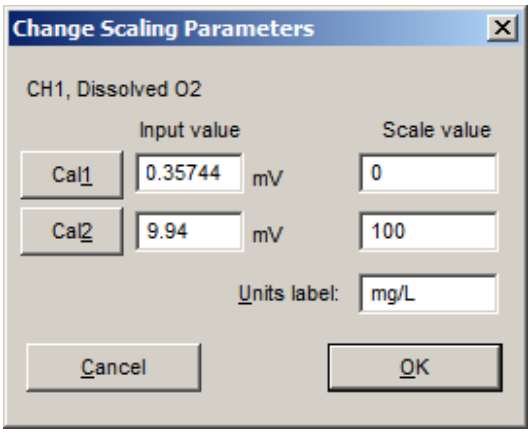
(CAL 1 and CAL 2 values are reversed from BSL 4, uses "Scale value" instead of "Map value")

a. First Calibration Point (Zero-Oxygen)

i) Launch the BIOPAC software and generate the scaling dialog for the probe channel.
(MP menu > Set Up Channels > View/Change Parameters > Scaling Button.)

ii) Enter 0 for CAL 1 Scale value.

iii) Remove the probe from the water and place the tip of the probe into the Sodium Sulfite calibration solution.



IMPORTANT: No air bubbles can be trapped below the tip of the probe or the calibration will be distorted. If the voltage does not rapidly decrease, tap the side of the bottle with the probe to dislodge any bubbles.

iv) Wait until the voltage stabilizes (~2 minutes), press the CAL 1 button. The Input value result should be in the 0.2 - 0.5 mV range.

b. Second Calibration Point (Saturated Dissolved O_2)

i) Rinse the probe with distilled water and gently blot dry.

ii) Unscrew the lid of the calibration bottle and slide the grommet approx. 12 mm (1/2") onto the probe body.

iii) Add water to the bottle to the depth of about 6 mm (1/4") and screw the bottle into the cap. **IMPORTANT:** Do not touch the membrane or get it wet during this step.

iv) Keep the probe in the position for about one minute and then press the CAL 2 button. The Input value result should be above 2 mV.

v) Enter a Saturated Dissolved O_2 value (in units of mg/L) from Table 1 as the CAL 2 scale value, based on the current barometric pressure and air pressure values. If necessary, use Table 2 to estimate the air pressure at the current altitude. The example scaling above right (9.94) is based upon an ambient temperature of 16° C and a barometric pressure of 760 mm. (To calibrate and monitor using Percent Saturation, use the conversion formula on the following page.)

Calibration and Monitoring Using Units of Percent Saturation

Instead of calibrating using units of mg/L (equal to parts per million or ppm), you may also choose to calibrate dissolved oxygen using units of % saturation. When doing a calibration for units of % saturation, the calibration point done in the sodium sulfite solution (zero oxygen) is assigned a value of 0%, and that for water-saturated air (or air-saturated water) is given a value of 100%. It must be noted, however, that 100% represents an oxygen-saturated solution only at that particular temperature, pressure, and salinity level. If you intend to compare your measured dissolved oxygen values with data collected under a different set of conditions, a preferable method would be to use units of mg/L.

To convert the $\%O_2$ to mg/L, use the following formulae:

% **Saturation** = (actual DO_2 result / Saturated DO_2 value from Table 1) x 100

For example, if the probe result is 6.1 mg/L at a temperature of 20º C and a pressure of 740 mmHg, the corresponding Table 1 value is 8.93 mg/L, so % Saturation = (6.1 / 8.93) x 100 = 68%

BSL 4.x: Set CAL 2 Map value to 0% and CAL 1 Map value to 100% and then press the CAL 1 button to map the probe voltage, proportional to dissolved O_2 to 100%.

BSL 3.7.x: Set CAL 1 Scale value to 0% and CAL 2 Scale value to 100% and then press the CAL 2 button to map the probe voltage, proportional to dissolved O_2 to 100%. (Set units label to mg/L)

Table 1

Dissolved O_2 (mg/L) in air-saturated distilled water (at various temp. & pressure)

	770 mm	760 mm	750 mm	740 mm	730 mm	720 mm	710 mm	700 mm	690 mm	680 mm	670 mm	660 mm	650 mm
0°C	14.76	14.59	14.38	14.19	13.00	13.80	13.61	13.42	13.23	13.04	12.84	12.65	12.46
1°C	14.38	14.19	14.00	13.82	13.63	13.44	13.26	13.07	12.88	12.70	12.51	12.32	12.14
2°C	14.01	13.82	13.64	13.46	13.28	13.10	12.92	12.73	12.55	12.37	12.19	12.01	11.82
3°C	13.65	13.47	13.29	13.12	12.94	12.76	12.59	12.41	12.23	12.05	11.88	11.70	11.52
4°C	13.31	13.13	12.96	12.79	12.61	12.44	12.27	12.10	11.92	11.75	11.58	11.40	11.23
5°C	12.97	12.81	12.64	12.47	12.30	12.13	11.96	11.80	11.63	11.46	11.29	11.12	10.95
6°C	12.66	12.49	12.33	12.16	12.00	11.83	11.67	11.51	11.34	11.18	11.01	10.85	10.68
7°C	12.35	12.19	12.03	11.87	11.71	11.55	11.39	11.23	11.07	10.91	10.75	10.59	10.42
8°C	12.05	11.90	11.74	11.58	11.43	11.27	11.11	10.96	10.80	10.65	10.49	10.33	10.18
9°C	11.77	11.62	11.46	11.31	11.16	11.01	10.85	10.70	10.55	10.39	10.24	10.09	9.94
10°C	11.50	11.35	11.20	11.05	10.90	10.75	10.60	10.45	10.30	10.15	10.00	9.86	9.71
11°C	11.24	11.09	10.94	10.80	10.65	10.51	10.36	10.21	10.07	9.92	9.78	9.63	9.48
12°C	10.98	10.84	10.70	10.56	10.41	10.27	10.13	9.99	9.84	9.70	9.56	9.41	9.27
13°C	10.74	10.60	10.46	10.32	10.18	10.04	9.90	9.77	9.63	9.49	9.35	9.21	9.07
14°C	10.51	10.37	10.24	10.10	9.96	9.83	9.69	9.55	9.42	9.28	9.14	9.01	8.87
15°C	10.29	10.15	10.02	9.88	9.75	9.62	9.48	9.35	9.22	9.08	8.95	8.82	8.68
16°C	10.07	9.94	9.81	9.68	9.55	9.42	9.29	9.15	9.02	8.89	8.76	8.63	8.50
17°C	9.86	9.74	9.61	9.48	9.35	9.22	9.10	8.97	8.84	8.71	8.58	8.45	8.33
18°C	9.67	9.54	9.41	9.29	9.16	9.04	8.91	8.79	8.66	8.54	8.41	8.28	8.16
19°C	9.47	9.35	9.23	9.11	8.98	8.86	8.74	8.61	8.49	8.37	8.24	8.12	8.00
20°C	9.29	9.17	9.05	8.93	8.81	8.69	8.57	8.45	8.33	8.20	8.08	7.96	7.84
21°C	9.11	9.00	8.88	8.76	8.64	8.52	8.40	8.28	8.17	8.05	7.93	7.81	7.69
22°C	8.94	8.83	8.71	8.59	8.48	8.36	8.25	8.13	8.01	7.90	7.78	7.67	7.55
23°C	8.78	8.66	8.55	8.44	8.32	8.21	8.09	7.98	7.87	7.75	7.64	7.52	7.41
24°C	8.62	8.51	8.40	8.28	8.17	8.06	7.95	7.84	7.72	7.61	7.50	7.39	7.28
25°C	8.47	8.36	8.25	8.14	8.03	7.92	7.81	7.70	7.59	7.48	7.37	7.26	7.15
26°C	8.32	8.21	8.10	7.99	7.78	7.78	7.67	7.56	7.45	7.35	7.24	7.13	7.02
27°C	8.17	8.07	7.96	7.86	7.75	7.64	7.54	7.43	7.33	7.22	7.11	7.01	6.90
28°C	8.04	7.93	7.83	7.72	7.62	7.51	7.41	7.30	7.20	7.10	6.99	6.89	6.78
29°C	7.90	7.80	7.69	7.59	7.49	7.39	7.28	7.18	7.08	6.98	6.87	6.77	6.67
30°C	7.77	7.67	7.57	7.47	7.36	7.26	7.16	7.06	6.96	6.86	6.76	6.66	6.56
31°C	7.64	7.54	7.44	7.34	7.24	7.14	7.04	6.94	6.85	6.75	6.65	6.55	6.45
32°C	7.51	7.42	7.32	7.22	7.12	7.03	6.93	6.83	6.73	6.63	6.54	6.44	6.34
33°C	7.39	7.29	7.20	7.10	7.01	6.91	6.81	6.72	6.62	6.53	6.43	6.33	6.24
34°C	7.27	7.17	7.08	6.98	6.89	6.80	6.70	6.61	6.51	6.42	6.32	6.23	6.13
35°C	7.15	7.05	6.96	6.87	6.78	6.68	6.59	6.50	6.40	6.31	6.22	6.13	6.03

Table 2

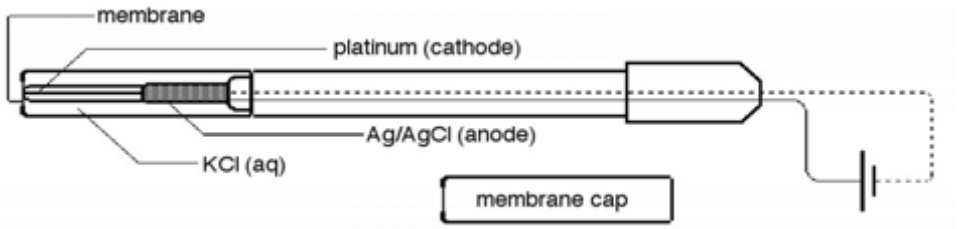
Elevation barometric pressure (based on barometric air pressure of 760 mmHg at sea level)

Elev. (feet)	Pressure (mmHg)	Elev. (feet)	Pressure (mmHg)	Elev. (feet)	Pressure (mmHg)	Elev. (feet)	Pressure (mmHg)
0	760	1500	720	3000	683	4500	647
250	753	1750	714	3250	677	4750	641
500	746	2000	708	3500	671	5000	635
750	739	2250	702	3750	665	5250	629
1000	733	2500	695	4000	659	5500	624
1250	727	2750	689	4250	653	5750	618

4. Recording
   a. Place the tip of the probe into the sample to be measured. Submerge the tip about 4-6 cm (2”).
   b. Gently stir the probe in the sample. **IMPORTANT:** Keep stirring the probe in the sample—water must always be flowing past the probe tip for accurate measurements. As the probe measures the concentration of dissolved oxygen, it removes oxygen from the water at the junction of the probe membrane. If the probe is left still in calm water, reported dissolved O_2 measurements will appear to be dropping.
   c. For this O_2 measurement to be valid, the sample must be at the same pressure and temperature as calibration solution.

How the Dissolved Oxygen Probe Works

The Dissolved Oxygen Probe is a Clark-type polarographic electrode that senses the oxygen concentration in water and aqueous solutions. A platinum cathode and a silver/silver chloride reference anode in KCl electrolyte are separated from the sample by a gas-permeable plastic membrane.



A fixed voltage is applied to the platinum electrode. As oxygen diffuses through the membrane to the cathode, it is reduced:

$$1/2\ O_2 + H_2O + 2e\text{-}\ 2 \rightarrow OH^-$$

The oxidation taking place at the reference electrode (anode) is:

$$Ag + Cl\text{-} \rightarrow AgCl + e^-$$

Accordingly, a current will flow that is proportional to the rate of diffusion of oxygen, and in turn to the concentration of dissolved oxygen in the sample. This current is converted to a proportional voltage, which is amplified and read by the MP hardware and BIOPAC software.

Storage

< 24 hours: Store the probe with the membrane end submerged in about 3 cm (1”) cm of distilled water

> 24 hours: Remove the membrane cap, rinse the inside and outside of the cap with distilled water, and then shake the membrane cap dry. Rinse the exposed anode and cathode inner elements, and then blot dry with a lab wipe. Reinstall the membrane cap loosely onto the electrode body for storage—do not tighten.

Polishing

The anode or cathode inner elements become discolored or appear corroded, use the polishing strips provided (once a year is generally sufficient). Contact BIOPAC for polishing details if necessary.

Maintaining and Replenishing the Sodium Sulfite Calibration Solution

The 2.0 M sodium sulfite ($Na2SO_3$) solution can be prepared from solid sodium sulfite crystals: Add 25.0 g of solid anhydrous sodium sulfite crystals ($Na2SO_3$) to enough distilled water to yield a final volume of 100 mL of solution. The sodium sulfite crystals do not need to be reagent grade; laboratory grade will work fine. Many high school chemistry teachers will have this compound in stock. Prepare the solution 24 hours in advance of doing the calibration to ensure that all oxygen has been depleted. If solid sodium sulfite is not available, substitute either 2.0 M sodium hydrogen sulfite solution, (sodium bisulfite, 20.8 g of $NaHSO_3$ per 100 mL of solution) or 2.0 M potassium nitrite (17.0 g of KNO_2 per 100 mL of solution).