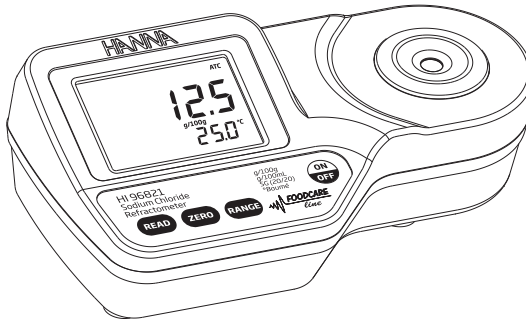


# Instruction Manual

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## HI 96821 Refractometer for Sodium Chloride Measurements



[www.hannainst.com](http://www.hannainst.com)

Dear Customer,  
Thank you for choosing a Hanna Instruments product.  
Please read this instruction manual carefully before using this instrument.  
This manual will provide you with the necessary information for correct use of this instrument, as well as a precise idea of its versatility.  
If you need additional technical information, do not hesitate to e-mail us at [tech@hannainst.com](mailto:tech@hannainst.com) or view our worldwide contact list at [www.hannainst.com](http://www.hannainst.com).

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## PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

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Remove the instrument from the packing materials and examine carefully to ensure no damage has occurred during shipping. If any damage has occurred, notify your Dealer or closest Hanna Customer Service Center.

Each HI 96821 instrument is supplied with:

- 9 V battery
- Instruction manual

**Note:** Save all packing material until you are sure that the instrument functions correctly. A defective instrument must be returned in its original packing.

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The **HI 96821 Digital Refractometer** is a rugged portable, water resistant device that benefits from Hanna's years of experience as a manufacturer of analytical instruments.

The **HI 96821** is an optical instrument that employs the measurement of the refractive index to determine sodium chloride concentration in aqueous solutions used in food preparation. It is not intended for sea water salinity measurements. The measurement of refractive index is simple and quick and provides the user an accepted method for NaCl analysis. Samples are measured after a simple user calibration with deionized or distilled water. Within seconds the instrument measures the refractive index of the solution. The digital refractometer eliminates the uncertainty associated with mechanical refractometers and is easily portable for measurements where you need them.

The instrument utilizes internationally recognized references for unit conversion and temperature compensation. It can display the measurement of NaCl concentration 4 different ways: g/100 g, g/100 mL, Specific Gravity, and °Baumé.

Temperature (in °C or °F) is displayed simultaneously with the measurement on the large dual level display along with icons for Low Power and other helpful message codes.

Key features include:

- Waterproof models offers IP65 waterproof protection
- Automatic Temperature Compensation (ATC)
- Battery operation with Low Power indicator (BEPS)
- Automatically turns off after 3 minutes of non-use

## SPECIFICATIONS

|                    | g/100 g | g/100 mL | Specific Gravity | °Baumé  | °C (°F)                   |
|--------------------|---------|----------|------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| <b>Range:</b>      | 0 to 28 | 0 to 34  | 1.000 to 1.216   | 0 to 26 | 0 to 80 °C (32 to 176 °F) |
| <b>Resolution:</b> | 0.1     | 0.1      | 0.001            | 0.1     | 0.1 °C (0.1 °F)           |
| <b>Accuracy:</b>   | ±0.2    | ±0.2     | ±0.002           | ±0.2    | ±0.3 °C (±0.5 °F)         |

Temperature Compensation: Automatic between 10 and 40 °C (50 - 104 °F)

Measurement Time: Approximately 1.5 seconds

Minimum Sample Volume: 100 µL (cover prism totally)

Light Source: Yellow LED

Sample Cell: SS ring and flint glass prism

Case Material: ABS

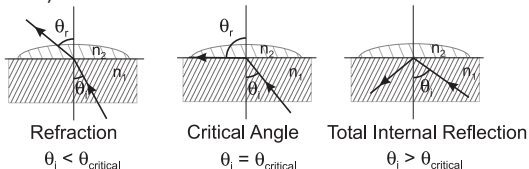
Enclosure Rating: IP 65

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Battery Type / Life: | 1 X 9V / 5000 readings        |
| Auto-Off:            | After 3 minutes of non-use    |
| Dimensions:          | 19.2(W) x 10.2(D) x 6.7 (H)cm |
| Mass:                | 420g                          |

## PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION

Aqueous NaCl determinations are made by measuring the refractive index of a solution. Refractive Index is an optical characteristic of a substance and the number of dissolved particles in it. Refractive Index is defined as the ratio of the speed of light in empty space to the speed of light in the substance. A result of this property is that light will “bend”, or change direction, when it travels through a substance of different refractive index. This is called refraction.

When passing from a material with a higher to lower refractive index, there is a critical angle at which an incoming beam of light can no longer refract, but will instead be reflected off the interface.

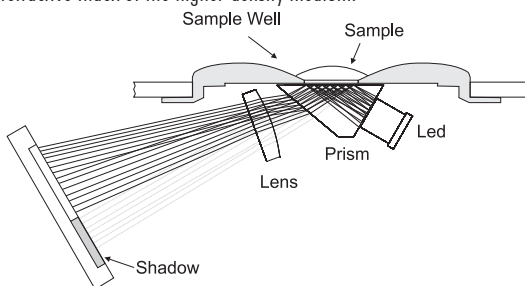


$\theta_i$  = angle of incidence  
 $\theta_r$  = angle of refraction  
 $n_1, n_2$  - refractive index

The critical angle can be used to easily calculate the refractive index according to the equation:

$$\sin(\theta_{critical}) = n_2 / n_1$$

Where  $n_2$  is the refractive index of the lower-density medium;  $n_1$  is the refractive index of the higher-density medium.



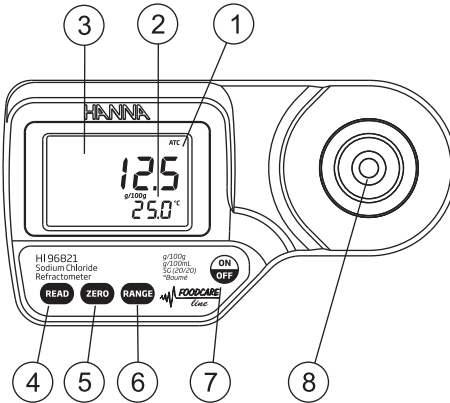
Linear Image Sensor

In the **HI 96821** refractometer, light from an LED passes through a prism in contact with the sample. An image sensor determines the critical angle at which the light is no longer refracted through the sample.

Specialized algorithms then apply temperature compensation to the measurement and convert the refractive index to: g/100 g (% by mass), g/100 mL, Specific Gravity (S.G. 20/20), or °Baumé.

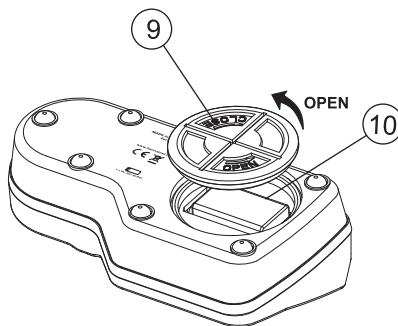
## FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

### TOP VIEW



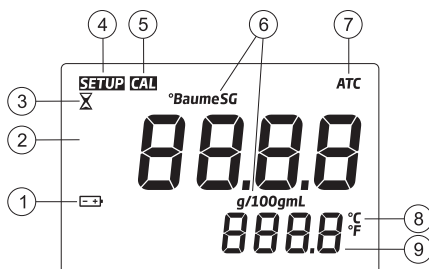
1. Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)
2. Secondary Display
3. Primary Display
4. **READ** Key (User Measurement)
5. **ZERO** Key (User Calibration)
6. **RANGE** Key (User Measurement Unit)
7. **ON/OFF**
8. Stainless Steel Sample Well and Prism

### BOTTOM



9. Battery Cover
10. Battery Compartment

## DISPLAY ELEMENTS



1. Battery (blinks when low battery condition detected)
2. Primary Display (displays measurement and error messages)
3. Measurement in Progress Tag
4. SETUP: Factory Calibration Tag
5. CAL: Calibration Tag
6. Measurement Unit
7. Automatic Temperature Compensation  
(blinks when temperature exceeds 10-40 °C/ 50-104 °F range)
8. Temperature Units
9. Secondary Display (displays temperature measurements; when blinking, temperature has exceeded operation range: 0-80 °C/ 32-176 °F)

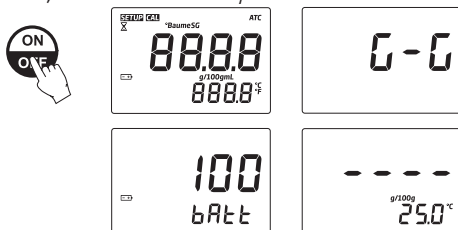
## MEASUREMENT GUIDELINES

- Handle instrument carefully. Do not drop.
- Do not immerse instrument under water.
- Do not spray water to any part of instrument except the “sample well” located over the prism.
- The instrument is intended to measure sodium chloride solutions. Do not expose instrument or prism to solvents that will damage it. This includes most organic solvents and extremely hot or cold solutions.
- Particulate matter in a sample may scratch the prism. Absorb sample with a soft tissue and rinse sample well with deionized or distilled water between samples.
- Use plastic pipettes to transfer all solutions. Do not use metallic tools such as needles, spoons or tweezers as these will scratch the prism.
- Cover sample well with hand if measuring in direct sun.
- To reduce the effects of evaporation or absorption of water when taking readings over a period of time, the prism and sample well can be covered with plastic wrap.

## CALIBRATION PROCEDURE

Calibration should be performed daily, before measurements are made, when the battery has been replaced, between a long series of measurements, or if environmental changes have occurred since the last calibration.

1. Press the **ON/OFF** key, then release. Two instrument test screens will be displayed briefly; all LCD segments followed by the percentage of remaining battery life. The meter will then briefly display an indication of the measurement units set. When LCD displays dashes, the instrument is ready.



2. Using a plastic pipette, fill the sample well with distilled or deionized water. Make sure the prism is completely covered.



**Note:** If the ZERO sample is subject to intense light such as sunlight or another strong source, cover the sample well with your hand or other shade during the calibration.

3. Press the **ZERO** key. If no error messages appear, your unit is calibrated. (For a description of ERROR MESSAGES see page 11).



**Note:** The 0.0 screen will remain until a sample is measured or the power is turned off.

4. Gently absorb the ZERO water standard with a soft tissue. Dry the surface completely. The instrument is ready for sample measurement.

**Note:** If the instrument is turned off the calibration will not be lost.



## MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE

Verify the instrument has been calibrated before taking measurements.

1. Wipe off prism surface located at the bottom of the sample well. Make sure the prism and sample well are completely dry.

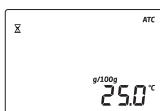


2. Using a plastic pipette, drip sample onto the prism surface. Fill the well completely.



**Note:** If the temperature of the sample differs significantly from the temperature of the instrument, wait approximately 1 minute to allow thermal equilibration.

3. Press the **READ** key. The results are displayed in unit of interest.



**Note:** The last measurement value will be displayed until the next sample is measured or the instrument is turned off. Temperature will be continuously updated.

**Note:** The **ATC** tag blinks and automatic temperature compensation is disabled if the temperature exceeds the 10-40 °C / 50-104 °F range.

4. Remove sample from the sample well by absorbing with a soft tissue.
5. Using a plastic pipette, rinse prism and sample well with distilled or deionized water. Wipe dry. The instrument is ready for the next sample.





## TO CHANGE MEASUREMENT UNIT

Press the **RANGE** key to select measurement units. The instrument toggles between the four measurement scales each time the key is pressed and the primary display indicates "G-G" for g/100 g, "G-L" for g/100 mL, "S.G." for Specific Gravity and "bAU" for °Baumé. When the instrument displays the screen with 4 dashes, the instrument is ready for measurement.



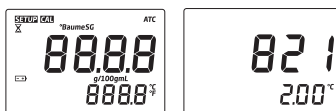
## TO CHANGE TEMPERATURE UNIT

To change the temperature measurement unit from Celsius to Fahrenheit (or vice versa), follow this procedure.

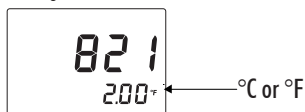
1. Press and hold the **ON/OFF** key continuously for approximately 8 seconds. The LCD will display the "all segment" screen followed by a screen with the model number on the primary display and the version number on the secondary display. Continue pressing the **ON/OFF** key.



8 seconds



2. While continuing to hold the **ON/OFF** key, press the **ZERO** key. The temperature unit will change from °C to °F or vice versa.



## MAKING A STANDARD SODIUM CHLORIDE SOLUTION

To make a Standard NaCl Solution (g/100 g), follow the procedure on the next page:

- Place container (such as a glass vial or dropper bottle that has a cover) on an analytical balance.
- Tare the balance.
- To make an X NaCl solution weigh out X grams of high purity dried Sodium Chloride (CAS #: 7647-14-5; MW 58.44) directly into the container.
- Add distilled or deionized water to the container so the total weight of the solution is 100 g.

Example with g/100 g NaCl:

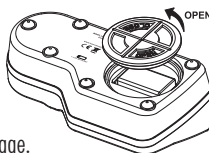
| <u>g/100 g NaCl</u> | <u>g NaCl</u> | <u>g Water</u> | <u>g Total</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 10                  | 10.000        | 90.000         | 100.000        |

## BATTERY REPLACEMENT

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To replace the instrument's battery, follow these steps:

- Make sure the instrument is off.
- Turn instrument upside down and remove the battery cover by turning it counterclockwise.
- Extract the battery from its location.
- Replace with a new 9V battery making sure to observe polarity.
- Insert the back battery cover and fasten it by turning clockwise to engage.



## WARRANTY

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HI 96821 is guaranteed for two years against defects in workmanship and materials when used for their intended purpose and maintained according to instructions.

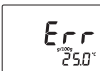




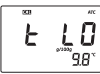

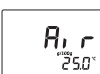




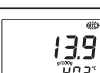
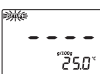
This warranty is limited to repair or replacement free of charge.

Damage due to accidents, misuse, tampering or lack of prescribed maintenance is not covered.

If service is required, contact the dealer from whom you purchased the instrument. If under warranty, report the model number, date of purchase, serial number and the nature of the problem. If the repair is not covered by the warranty, you will be notified of the charges incurred. If the instrument is to be returned to Hanna Instruments, first obtain a Returned Goods Authorization number from the Technical Service department and then send it with shipping costs prepaid. When shipping any instrument, make sure it is properly packed for complete protection.

To validate your warranty, fill out and return the enclosed warranty card within 14 days from the date of purchase.

## ERROR MESSAGES

| Error Code  |   | Description   |
|---|---|---|
| "Err"   |    | General failure. Cycle power to instrument. If error persists, contact Hanna.         |
| "LO" primary display  |    | Sample exceeds minimum measurement range.   |
| "HI" primary display  |    | Sample exceeds maximum measurement range.   |
| "LO" primary display<br>Cal segment ON                      |    | Wrong solution used to zero instrument. Use deionized or distilled water. Press ZERO. |
| "HI" primary display<br>Cal segment ON                      |    | Wrong solution used to zero instrument. Use deionized or distilled water. Press ZERO. |
| "t LO" primary display<br>Cal segment ON                    |    | Temperature exceeds ATC low limit (10.0 °C) during calibration.                       |
| "t HI" primary display<br>Cal segment ON                    |    | Temperature exceeds ATC high limit (40.0 °C) during calibration.                      |
| "Air"   |   | Prism surface insufficiently covered.   |
| "ELt"   |  | Too much external light for measurement. Cover sample well with hand.                 |
| "nLt"   |  | LED light is not detected. Contact Hanna.   |
| Battery segment<br>blinking                                 |  | <5% of battery life is remaining.   |
| Temperature values<br>are blinking<br>"0.0 °C" or "80.0 °C" |  | Temperature measurement out of range (0.0 to 80.0 °C).                                |
| ATC segment<br>blinking                                     |  | Outside temperature compensation range (10.0 to 40.0 °C).                             |
| SETUP segment<br>blinking                                   |  | Factory calibration lost. Contact Hanna.  |



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**Local Sales and Customer Service Office**

