**MKE-5 Digital Indicator**

**USB Installation**

**Manual**

*[READ BEFORE PLUGGING THE SCALE TO COMPUTER]*



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# NOTES ON REMOTE INDICATOR SOFTWARE

We strongly recommend to use a supported, professional 3rd party data collection software for all your data collection needs, especially for large scale production environments. Software such as WinWedge ([www.taltech.com/winwedge](http://www.taltech.com/winwedge)) are fully supported, with an excellent customer service and support staff. They are very familiar with our type of equipment and will be willing to help you integrate our scales to your systems. These software packages are very stable and constantly updated to meet the ever-changing world of technology.

If you still wish to use our Remote Indicator software, the following terms apply.

* The software is not supported. Some features have not been fixed, may be outdated.
* Some features, even if shown in this document, may not be present in the current version of the software.
* Some features may not work with your computer.
* The software is provided AS IS. Arlyn Scales cannot and will not provide technical support for this software. Arlyn Scales has provided this software as a service to customers.
* Arlyn Scales is not responsible for any issues that may arise from installing this software.

These terms are not limited to these items. These terms and others are provided in the next section - [License Agreement – Technical Support Section](#_LICENSE_AGREEMENT_–_1).

# LICENSE AGREEMENT – TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Before installing this software, please read, understand and accept the following agreement:

This software and its drivers are only available through Arlyn Scales’ Web Site at <http://www.arlynscales.com>. Arlyn Scales doesn’t normally provide “Installation Disks”. All drivers and software should be downloaded from this site.

This software package is supplied free of charge “as is”. Arlyn Scales cannot, and will not offer technical support for the Remote Indicator Software. It was provided simply as a service to our customers.

The drivers and their authors dictate the system requirements. Arlyn Scales has no control over the update path or future availability of these drivers, Remote Indicator Software or any given software available for this feature. Given that the drivers were written elsewhere, we cannot support them to any realistic degree. We have found that the people at FTDI or Silicon Labs are very cooperative with technical issues. For driver related technical issues, we generally have to defer to them.

Arlyn Scales does not warrant, guarantee or make any representations regarding the use, or results of the use of the Software or accompanying materials in terms of correctness, accuracy, reliability, timeliness or otherwise. You assume all responsibility concerning selection of the software, and the ability to achieve the results you intend.

Arlyn does not guarantee that any features presented in this document may be present in the current or future versions of the software. Some features may be removed without notice. Features may also be added that may interfere with other features currently present with the software. Features maybe added without notice.

In no event shall Arlyn Scales, related companies, or its suppliers are liable for any damages whatsoever arising out of the use, or inability to use this software, even if Arlyn Scales has been advised of the possibilities of such damages.

These terms may be changed without notice.

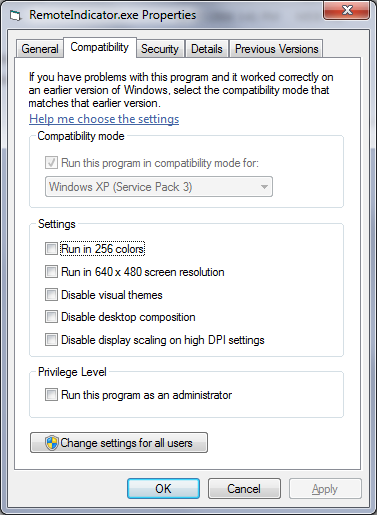
By installing this software, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to be bound by all of the terms of this agreement.

# INSTALLING REMOTE INDICATOR SOFTWARE

You can download the Remote Indicator software from the website or if you have a CD, the drivers will be present in that CD.

## Windows 7 Installation

1. Open the CD drive and then **right click** on Setup.exe. Then select “Run as Administrator.”
2. Click next until you complete the wizard.
3. You might receive some error messages about registration warnings. Please ignore them and click OK when applicable.
4. When installation completes, the Remote Indicator program **will still not run**. For Windows 7, you need to run the software in Windows XP Compatibility mode. To do this:
   1. Go to Start->Computer
   2. Click on the C:\ icon.
   3. Go to the Program Files->Arlyn Scales->Remote Indicator.
   4. Right click the RemoteIndicator.exe file and chose “Properties”
   5. Click on the Compatibility Tab



* 1. Click on “Change settings for all users.”
  2. On the resulting dialog box, check the box on “Run this program in compatibility mode for:” and select Windows XP (Service Pack 3)” in the drop-down list.
  3. Click OK and then click OK again.

1. You can now run Remote Indicator software without any hitches in Windows 7.
2. Go to Start->All Programs-> Arlyn Scales -> Remote Indicator 2.65-> Remote Indicator to start the program.

## Troubleshooting

#### Runtime Error 339

When installing in Windows 7 environments, you might encounter Runtime Error 339 during installation. To fix this issue, please browse the included USB CD for the “Runtime Error 339” folder. Inside the folder, there is a file called “ReadMe”. Read the text in this file on instructions on how to fix this issue.

## Windows XP Installation

1. Open the CD drive and click on Setup.exe.
2. Click next until you complete the wizard.
3. There are no additional steps to take in Windows XP.
4. Go to Start->All Programs-> Arlyn Scales -> Remote Indicator 2.65-> Remote Indicator to start the program.

# OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

## Configuration Screen

You can access this screen by selecting the View menu, then Setups, then Communications. It is pretty self-explanatory.

***The current USB scale, (all scale versions 6.116 and above) uses a Virtual COM port technology for USB implementation. Due to this fact, the Remote Indicator is configured to be for RS232 communication.***

Make sure that “Comm Type” is set to RS232 and that the baud rate is 9600. The program is limited to 8 data bits, one stop bit with no parity.

**IMPORTANT!!**

In the COM port field, enter the value of the COM port number determined in “[Virtual COM Port Usage (Serial Emulation)](#_VIRTUAL_COM_PORT)*”* section of this manual. You can also use the drop-down list for the COM port and select the correct COM port.

Once you have set these settings, click the Close button. And then press the **Activate Remote Screen** option to start Remote Indicator.

# RUNNING REMOTE INDICATOR

When the USB Remote Software is first started, you will be shown a blank screen with a number of menu items available. The software is now in its “Standby State”. The three menus that are available are **File**, **Activate Remote Screen, Tools,** **Help and Exit.**

***When Remote Indicator is run at first, you might get an error that the COM port is currently in use or not present. Regardless whether this error appears or not, the first thing you need to do is map the COM port for your USB device in Remote Indicator configuration.***

***Read the section in “RS232 Configuration Screen” above to get information on how to configure Remote Indicator for USB use. Proceed through this section once you have done that.***

Click on the menu item called **Activate Remote Screen**. When you do this, a number of things happen. First, the USB is scanned for any Arlyn Scales that may be attached to it. The program will then search its configuration records to find records, whose serial numbers match those that were scanned on the USB. If it finds those records it will load them, examine the previous configuration that was stored in that record and then configure the scale and the USB appropriately.

If this is the first time that the scale has been attached to the USB, there will be no configuration record for it. The program will then add a configuration record for this scale and assign it default values. Then it will link up with the scale and configure it appropriately. The default values for new scale configuration records can be modified and saved. This will be covered later.

The Scale screen is similar to the one shown here. You will notice that it has a keyboard and display almost identical to the scale, and live readings will be displayed.

To the right of the weight display there is a dropdown box listing all of the Arlyn Scales that were detected on the USB. To switch from one scale to another simply pull down the list and select the desired scale. The description of each scale, in part, is its serial number. This number can be found on the rear face of most Arlyn indicators. The serial number of the scale is automatically uploaded to the USB port on start-up.

Below the dropdown list, there is a frame box describing the Operating Mode.

## Operating Mode

The Operating mode frame has four specifications; *Single, Network, Enable Polling* and *Poll/Net Time*.

* *Single* – Choose Single if you have a single scale connected to your USB port. If you have a network of scales connected to your USB port, choose this option if you only want to poll one scale in that network.
* *Network* – Choose Network ONLY if you have a network of scales connected to your USB port.
* *Enable Polling*
  + Placing a checkmark in front of this specification will continuously update the weight on the screen in intervals specified under Poll/Net Time specification. Once a checkmark is placed here, no further action is required from the user to update the weight screen.
  + Removing a checkmark in front of this specification will enable manual update of the weight screen. Now the weight will only be updated if the user presses the Print Key on the Arlyn Scale Front Panel.
* *Poll/Net Time –* This is how often the USB Software requests readings from the scale. This specification is synonymous with the *Enable Polling* specification. The time specified here is the interval time between two subsequent readings. It will determine how fast the scale will be polled for new readings.

## Weight Recording

Below the Operating mode frame, there is an *Enter Weight* button. Pressing this button will record the current weight on the screen on to a table displayed on the left of the panel. New Readings will be added to the table each time the Enter Weight button is pressed.

In Remote Indicator version 2.4, a checkbox is available above the *Enter Weight* button named *Auto Entry Mode*. When this checkbox is marked, and the *Enable Polling* checkbox is also marked, the weight will be entered automatically in the table each time the weight screen is updated. The timing of this feature also depends on the *Poll/Net Time*. This feature is yet to be implemented in the new release of the software (version 2.5).

The collection record includes the scale’s ID, the weight, the time and the date that the reading was taken. If time and date are important in your application, ensure that the system time and date on your computer is set accurately.

## Exporting Data

Clicking on *Export Table* will export the table shown in to a Comma Separated List file (.CSV). This file can be opened using Microsoft Excel or any Spreadsheet Application of preference.

On the other hand, clicking on the *Clear Table* button will clear the table completely.

## Remote Keypad

The keyboard shown will emulate all normal keystroke presses as if they were pressed on the scale’s indicator itself. This keyboard, although fully functional will sometimes behave sluggishly depending on how the scale is configured and the rate at which the software requests readings from the scale. Just click on them slowly with your mouse and the key will activate. You may also key your way into the scale’s menu system and navigate around within it. The screen on your computer will not show the menu, and it must be viewed on the scale itself. The display update will stop while any menu is activated.

# DATA COLLECTION

When activated for a particular scale, data will be collected and saved to a Microsoft Access database file located in the USB Software’s installation directory. The name of the file is RIDATA.MDB. RIDATA.MDB contains only a single table called DataCol.

There are five fields within DataCol. These are ID (record counter), ScaleID (scales description), Reading, Time and Date. This MDB file is not protected or encrypted in any way. One may import this table into any database application that is compatible with Microsoft Access to generate data queries, reports and the like.

Access, although updated many times throughout the years, was chosen specifically for this software. This allows anyone running later versions of Access to easily attach to, or import the table without having to worry about version conflicts. Microsoft Access has been upward compatible since its inception.

Clicking the Clear List button will completely empty the table.

# AUTOMATIC POLLING VS. PRINT AT STABILITY

As mentioned above, data from the scale is requested on a timed basis. This is not ideal in every situation. There are two other possibilities regarding initiating data transfers between scale and computer.

## Print on Demand

If you would like the data to be transmitted only when needed, you can set it up to not poll automatically, and instead the Print Button on the scale can be used to initiate the transfer. Simply go into the scale configurations in this software and set the poll time for the desired scale to 0 and save. The next time you go to the remote window you will not see any readings until you press the print button on the scale’s faceplate.

## Print at Stability

There is a motion detect function in all Arlyn indicators that will transmit only if there is a stable weight on the platform that is greater than some preset threshold. This can be used to have the scale transmit the weight once the scale generates a stable reading.

The threshold weight along with two other configuration parameters can be setup in the scale’s menu system. Consult the main instruction manual for details on how to do this.

# USING RS232 CAPABLE SCALES WITH THIS SOFTWARE

Any Arlyn scale with an RS232 option installed can communicate with this software. This gives RS232 scales the capability of using the data collection and remote-control features of this software. There are some points and limitations:

* Only one scale may be attached and recognized by the software.
* RS232 scales and USB scales cannot be used together.
* No special drivers are required for the RS232 interface. In fact, if you never plan to attach a USB scale to the system you may disregard installing USB drivers.
* The RS232 communications parameters as set in the scale’s option menu must be duplicated in the remote software package. The baud rate must match and the scale needs to be set to 8 data bits, 1 stop bit with no parity or echo.
* A pre-defined scale configuration already exists in the software, there is nothing to add.
* Time and date is recorded in the data collection database. The source of the time and date may be from your PC, or if the scale is equipped with a time and date option, it may come from the scale itself.
* Even though a pre-defined print frame is set in the scale prior to shipping, you may feel free to add to or modify it. The software will automatically pick up the weight reading (and time and date if configured) no matter where it is located in the output frame. You do need to avoid using any ASCII ‘+’ or ‘-’ sign in your defined print frame (not including the one that prints with the reading). This will confuse the software rendering it incapable of finding the reading. If you must use it, then it must be output after the reading. This also applies to the time and date. In this case you can not use the ASCII characters ‘/’ or ‘:’, and if so must be located after the time and date.