



## ABOUT THIS GUIDE


This guide gives instructions for loading the Tinytag Explorer software program on to a personal computer (PC), and the basic setup of a data logger.

When you have installed the system, use the **Help** file of Tinytag Explorer to obtain full instructions on operating Tinytag Explorer and the data loggers.

## WHAT YOU NEED

Before installing Tinytag Explorer, check that you have the following equipment:

- Tinytag Explorer CD.
- Software activation code.
- One or more data loggers.
- Download cable or inductive pad for connecting the data loggers to the PC.
- External probe (only for data loggers that use a probe).

 *The activation code for Tinytag Explorer is printed on the back of the CD box. Do not lose or destroy the activation code.*

If any equipment is missing, please contact your Tinytag distributor.

## OTHER MANUALS AND GUIDES

Versions of manuals and guides in other languages are available at [www.tinytag.info](http://www.tinytag.info).

# INSTALL TINYTAG EXPLORER ON A PC

Tinytag Explorer must be installed on the PC that you intend to use to download the information collected by the data loggers.

1. Start the PC.
2. Insert the Tinytag Explorer CDROM into the CD drive of the PC.  
The Windows installer wizard should open after a few seconds. If it does not:
  1. Open Windows Explorer and navigate to your CDROM drive. The drive is usually labelled **CD-RW Drive**, **DVD/CD-RW Drive** or **Compact Disk**.
  2. Open the CD and find the **setup.exe** file (if you can't find it, look for **tinytag.msi**).
  3. Double-click on **setup.exe** (or **tinytag.msi**): the installation should now start.
3. When the installer wizard opens, click **Next**. Then follow the on-screen instructions.
4. Read the Licence Agreement, then click **Accept**.
5. At the Select Installation Folder dialog box, accept the default choice then click **Next**.
6. At the Ready to Install dialog box, click **Install**.
7. At the Finished dialog box, click **Finish**.

## PC firewall

If the PC is equipped with a firewall program, a warning message may appear during the installation of Tinytag Explorer. Simply instruct the firewall to always allow this connection.

## ACTIVATE TINYTAG EXPLORER

1. Click the Windows **Start** button.
2. At the Start Menu, click **Programs** or **All Programs**, then choose **Tinytag Explorer** from the pop-up menu.  
Tinytag Explorer launches and the Main Window opens. Then the Activate Tinytag Explorer dialog box opens.
3. When prompted, type the activation code into the blank field of the dialog box.
4. Click **Confirm Code** to activate Tinytag Explorer. If the program does not activate, please contact your Tinytag distributor.

## CHOOSE A COM PORT

The com (communications) port is the PC socket to which data loggers are connected. Most PCs have more than one com port - so you must tell the PC which port to use.



*If you are using a USB cable or inductive pad, you should follow the instructions in the Tinytag USB User Guide (supplied with the device) to install it and to determine which communications port it has been assigned.*

1. At the Tinytag Explorer Main Window, click the **Options** menu and choose **Communications Options**.
2. When the Communications Options dialog box opens, click the tick box beside each port that you want to use. Leave the other tick boxes unchecked.



3. Click OK to close the Communications Options dialog box. If you have selected more than one com port, a drop-down menu appears on the toolbar of the Tinytag Explorer Main Window. The menu lists all the available com ports.



4. Choose the desired port.

## CONNECT A DATA LOGGER

Each Tinytag data logger has a download cable for connection to the PC. Several different cables are available, depending on the type of logger you are using.

1. The PC end of the download cable can terminate in 9-pin D-type plug or a USB plug.
2. The logger end of the cable can terminate in a 3-pin plug or a 3.5 mm jack plug.
3. Some types of data logger use an inductive pad. The PC end of the pad cable terminates in a 9-pin D-type socket or a USB plug.

### Connecting a D-type download cable to the PC

1. Make sure that the 9-way, D-type plug is the right way up with respect to the socket at the back of the PC. Then push the plug firmly into the socket.
2. Tighten the two fixing screws until the D-type plug is secure. Do not over-tighten the screws.



### Connecting a USB cable to the PC

1. Insert the USB plug into the USB port of the PC. The USB plug only fits in one way, so do not force the plug into the port.



## Connecting an inductive pad

The cable of a Tinytag inductive pad terminates in a D-type plug or a USB plug and connects to the PC as described above.

Do not position the pad on top of electrical equipment such as a PC or monitor, or on metal surfaces. This will disrupt communications between the pad and the data logger

## Connecting a 3-pin download cable to the data logger

Some types of data logger have a weatherproof cap that protects the connection socket. Remove the cap before connecting the download cable.

1. Align the locating slot on the cable plug with the corresponding key in the data logger's socket and push home firmly.



## Connecting a jack plug to the data logger

1. Remove the lid from the logger.
2. Carefully insert the jack plug into the jack socket of the data logger until the plug clicks into place.




## Connecting the data logger to an inductive pad

1. To connect the data logger, just place the logger in the centre of the pad.


# CONFIGURE A DATA LOGGER



If the data logger has already been used, download and save the data in the logger before you launch it, otherwise the previously recorded data will be lost. See page 15.

1. With the data logger connected (or positioned correctly on its inductive pad), select the correct com port as described on pages 4 and 5.
2. In the **Logger** menu, choose **Launch**, or click  on the toolbar.

## Enter a description

When the Erase, Configure and Launch dialog box opens, click the  expand icon in the **Description** panel.

Click in the text field and type a suitable description for the logger or measurement.

**Description**  This description is stored inside the logger, and will be displayed when the data is finally offloaded.


## Set the logging interval

The logging interval is the time that elapses between recorded measurements. This parameter must be set, otherwise you cannot launch the data logger. There are two logging interval modes:

**Seconds Mode** is used for short intervals where readings may fluctuate rapidly. In this mode, you cannot take maximum and minimum readings or download data while the logger is recording.

**Minutes Mode**, the desired logging interval must be in multiples of one minute. In this mode you can check the current reading of the data logger at any time, take maximum and minimum readings, and download data while the logger is running.

### Setting the logging interval in Seconds

1. Click the expand icon  in the **Logging Interval** panel. Then click **Seconds Mode**.
2. Click in the hours, minutes and seconds text boxes and type the total duration of the logging interval, or use the arrows in each box.

**Logging Interval**  Logger time units:


Seconds Mode

Minutes Mode

How often should the logger store a measurement?

0 days  0 hours  1 minutes  0 seconds

### Setting the logging interval in Minutes

1. Click the expand icon  in the **Logging Interval** panel. Then click **Minutes Mode**.
2. Click in the days, hours and minutes text boxes and type the total duration of the logging interval, or use the arrows in each box.

**Logging Interval**  Logger time units:

Seconds Mode

Minutes Mode


How often should the logger store a measurement?

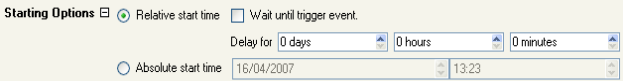
0 days  0 hours  1 minutes  0 seconds


## Set the starting options

There are two starting options - **Relative start time** and **Absolute start time**. They are alternatives - by default the logger will start immediately if these settings are not changed. See Tinytag Explorer Help.

### Setting a relative start time

1. Click the expand icon  in the **Starting Options** panel. Then click **Relative start time**.
2. Click in the days, hours and minutes text boxes and type the time at which you want logging to start, relative to the present date and time, or use the arrows in each box.




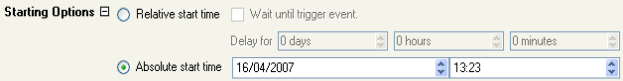
Starting Options   Relative start time  Wait until trigger event.


Delay for  days  hours  minutes

Absolute start time

### Setting an absolute start time

1. Click the expand icon  in the **Starting Options** panel. Then click **Absolute start time**.
2. Click in the left text field and type the day, month and year on which you want logging to start, or use the arrows in the box to set the date.
3. Click in the right text field and type the hours and minutes at which you want logging to start, or use the arrows in the box to set the time.



Starting Options   Relative start time  Wait until trigger event.

Delay for  days  hours  minutes

Absolute start time

### Starting a logger immediately

To start a logger immediately, choose **Relative start time** and set the day, hours and minutes to zero (0).

## Triggered start

Some data loggers are triggered by passing a magnet close to the logger or pressing a switch. This is a special feature that does not apply to all types of logger. When the option is available, the **Relative start time** parameter includes a **Wait until trigger event** tick box.

To select a triggered start:


1. Click the **Wait until trigger event** tick box.
2. If desired, set a delay period as described in **Setting a relative start time**. The delay starts from the time at which the logger is triggered by the magnet.

## Select the measurements option

There are three measurements options:

- **Condition measured at the end of each interval** - an instantaneous value measured at the end of each logging interval, also known as a spot measurement.
- **Minimum Condition during each interval** - the lowest value measured during each logging interval.
- **Maximum Condition during each interval** - the highest value measured during each logging interval.

Some types of data logger support the spot measurement option only. Other types of logger support all three measurement options.


1. Click the expand icon  in the Measurements panel.
2. Choose the measurement option(s) that you want to use. If supported, you can choose all three options or any combination of them.

## Measurements

- Temperature measured at the end of each interval
- Minimum Temperature during each interval
- Maximum Temperature during each interval

## Set the stop option

There are three ways of stopping a recording session automatically:

- **Run indefinitely** - the logger records continuously, taking readings until its memory is full and then overwriting old readings.
  - **Stop after N readings** - the logger takes a set number of readings and then stops.
  - **Stop when full** - the logger takes readings until its memory is full and then stops.
1. Click the expand icon  in the Stop Options panel.
  2. Choose the stop option that you want to use. If you select the Stop after N readings option, click in the text box and type the required number of readings, or use the arrows to select the number.

## Stop Options What should happen when the logger fills up?


- Run indefinitely. Overwrite oldest readings
- Stop after  readings
- Stop when full

## Set the alarm options

Some types of data logger have an alarm feature which sets a visual indicator on the logger if a reading above or below a preset alarm limit is detected. There are four alarm types:

- **Above** - an alarm is indicated only whilst the measured value exceeds the value entered. When the measured value falls below the entered value, the alarm will switch off.
- **Below** - an alarm is indicated only whilst the measured value is below the value entered. When the measured value exceeds the entered value, the alarm will switch off.
- **Latching Above** - an alarm is indicated when the measured value exceeds the value entered. When the measured value falls below the entered value, the alarm remains on until it is reset by the user.
- **Latching Below** - an alarm is indicated when the measured value falls below the value entered. When the measured value exceeds the entered value, the alarm remains on until it is reset by the user.

### Setting the alarm options

1. Click the expand icon  in the Alarm Options panel.
2. Click one of the **Enabled** tick boxes.
3. Choose a condition from the **Property** menu. The menu options are determined by the type of logger in use.
4. Choose an **Alarm Type** as described in **Set the alarm options** above.
5. Click in the **Level** text box and type the level at which you want the alarm to be triggered - or use the arrows to select the level.  
Tinytag Explorer automatically rounds the alarm level up or down to match the resolution of the logger in use.
6. Repeat steps 2 to 5 to set another alarm level.

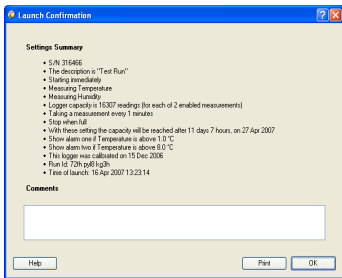
Alarm Options  Note that alarm levels will be rounded to logger resolution steps

Enabled	Property	Alarm Type	Level	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Temperature	Above	1.0	°C
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Temperature	Above	8.0	°C

You can now launch the data logger.

# LAUNCH THE DATA LOGGER

1. Click **Launch** on the Erase, Configure and Launch dialog box.
2. When the Launch Confirmation dialog box opens, check that the information in the **Settings Summary** is correct.




*If a setting is incorrect and you want to change it, you must stop the logging session and configure the data logger again.*

3. To enter notes about the data logger and/or the logging session, click in the **Comments** text field and type your comment.
4. To print the configuration settings summary, click **Print**. Then click **OK**.
5. Disconnect the data logger from the PC and place it in the area to be monitored.

## DOWNLOAD DATA FROM A LOGGER

When a data logger has recorded sufficient information, you connect it to the PC and download the data.


1. Connect the data logger to the PC and, if necessary, choose a com port in Tinytag Explorer. See pages 4 and 5.
2. In the **Logger** menu, choose **Get Data**, or click  on the toolbar.
3. The downloaded data is displayed in Graph View.



*If the logging interval of the data logger is set to **Seconds** mode, the logger cannot download data while still running. In this event, you are prompted to stop the recording process before downloading the data.*


## SAVE DATA FROM A LOGGER

We recommend that, when you have downloaded the data from your logger, you should save the data. Data can be saved to the hard disk of a PC, to a network folder, or to removable media. We recommend that you create a folder specifically for your saved data.

1. In the **File** menu, choose **Save**, or click  on the toolbar.
2. Navigate to the folder in which you save your data logger files.
3. In the **File name** field, type a suitable name for the new data file.
4. Click **Save**.

## STOP A DATA LOGGER

You can stop a launched data logger at any time. If the logging interval is set to **Seconds** mode, you must stop the logger before you can download data.

1. Connect the data logger to the PC and, if necessary, choose a com port in Tinytag Explorer. See pages 4 and 5.
2. In the **Logger** menu, choose **Stop**, or click  on the toolbar.
3. When the confirmation message opens, click **OK**.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on using Tinytag Explorer - including more details about the instructions in this Quick Start Guide - please see Tinytag Explorer's **Help** file. To view this:

1. At the Tinytag Explorer Main Window, click the **Help** menu and choose **Contents**.
2. Choose a topic and follow the instructions.

If you have any questions that are not covered in the **Help** file, contact your distributor or:

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