



# PH60Z-SA Smart pH Meter for Strong Alkaline Solutions and High Salinity Solutions

pH | mV | Temperature

## User Manual



ISO 9001:2015



IP67

# Table of Contents

1. What's in the Kit.....	4
2. Keypad Functions .....	4
3. Preparation before Use.....	5
4. pH Calibration .....	7
5. pH Measurement.....	9
6. Electrode Cleaning.....	10
7. Electrode Storage.....	10
8. Parameter Settings.....	10
9. Instrument Technical Specifications .....	12
10. Electrode Technical Specifications .....	12
11. Electrode Replacement .....	13
12. Battery Replacement.....	14
13. Self Diagnosis Function.....	15
14. Troubleshooting Guide .....	16
15. Appendix .....	18
16. Limited Warranty .....	19

Thank you for choosing Apera Instruments. The PH60Z-SA Smart pH Meter with LabSen® 845 pH/temp. electrode is made for professional pH measurement of strong alkaline solutions (>pH 12) and high salinity solutions (>5 ppt). It also works well in general water solutions. The recommended measurement range is pH 1 to 14.

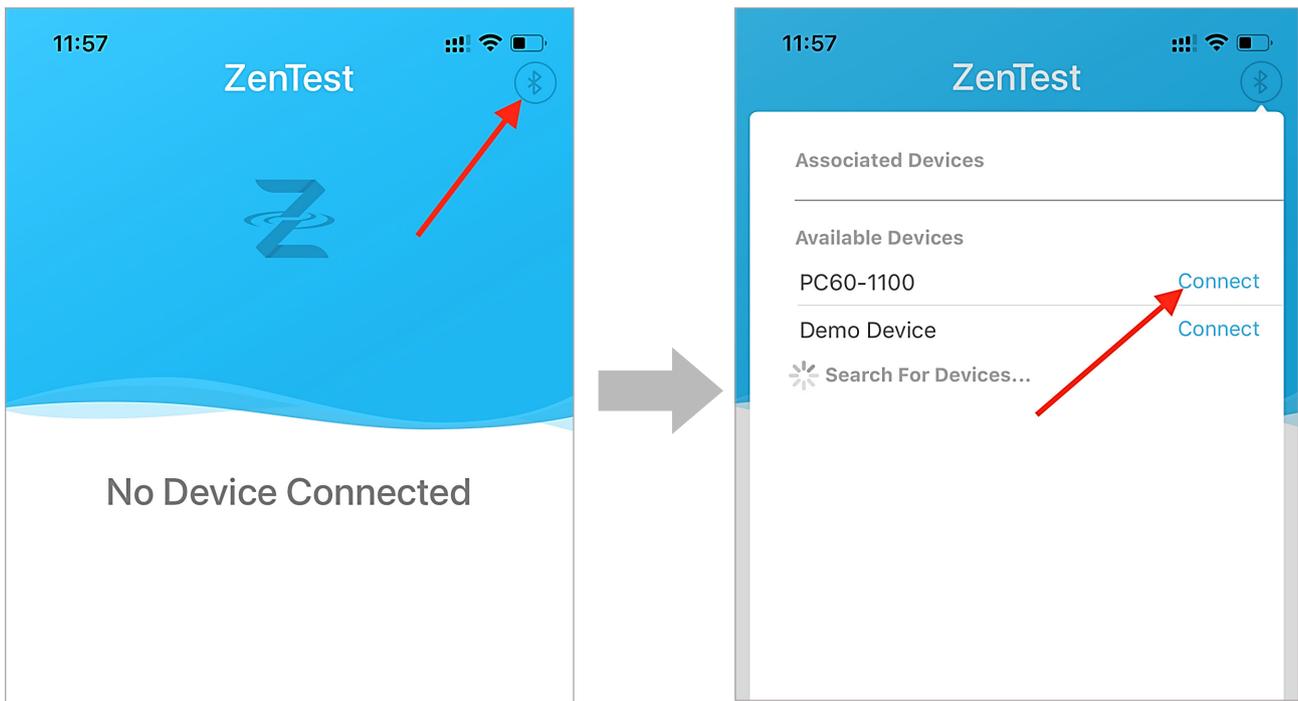
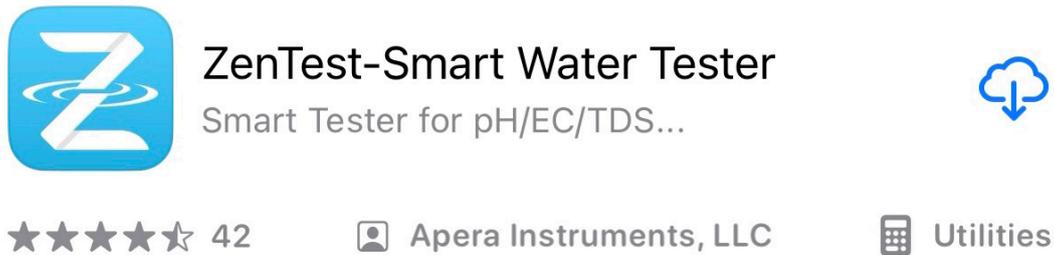
Please read this manual carefully before use in order to get the best result.

## ATTENTION

- **NEVER** use the product when it's freezing cold. Let it warm to room temperature before using.
- **NEVER** use your finger to touch the pH glass membrane or use other materials to rub it. Doing so could generate static electricity and cause measurement errors. To remove extra water on electrode, just shake it off or blot dry with Kimwipe or clean tissues.
- **Handle the pH electrode with care.** The sensor tip is made of glass, and will break if dropped or bumped against hard objects.

# How to Connect with ZenTest<sup>®</sup> Mobile App

Search “**zentest**” in Apple App Store or Google Play App Store to download the latest App for your meter. Make sure the Bluetooth of your phone is turned on, then go to ZenTest App, tap  on the upper right corner, then select your meter to connect (NOT the Demo device).



The content of this user manual focus on how to operate through the meter's keypad. For the guides on how to use the ZenTest App to achieve more functions, please refer to the video tutorials by scanning the QR code below.



# 1. What's in the Kit



## What's included

1. User Manual 2. LabSen 845 pH Electrode 3. PH60-Z Meter Body  
 4. CalPod Solution Organizer 5. pH 4.00 Solution 6. pH 7.00 Solution  
 7. pH 12.45 Solution 8. 3M Soaking KCL Solution 9. Protective cap

# 2. Keypad Functions

**Short Press** — 1 second

**Long Press** — 3 seconds

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When turned off, short press to turn on the tester; long press to enter parameter setting.</li> <li>• In calibration mode or parameter setting, short press to return to measurement mode.</li> <li>• In measurement mode, long press to turn off the tester, short press to turn on/off backlight.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In measurement mode, long press to turn on/off Bluetooth® receiver. When it's turned on,  will be flashing; when it's connected to smartphone,  will stay on.</li> <li>• In parameter settings, short press to change parameter (Unidirectional).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long press to enter calibration mode.</li> <li>• In calibration mode, short press to confirm calibration.</li> <li>• In measurement mode, when Automatic Hold is turned off, short press to manually lock or unlock readings; when Automatic Hold is triggered, short press to unlock the reading.</li> </ul>

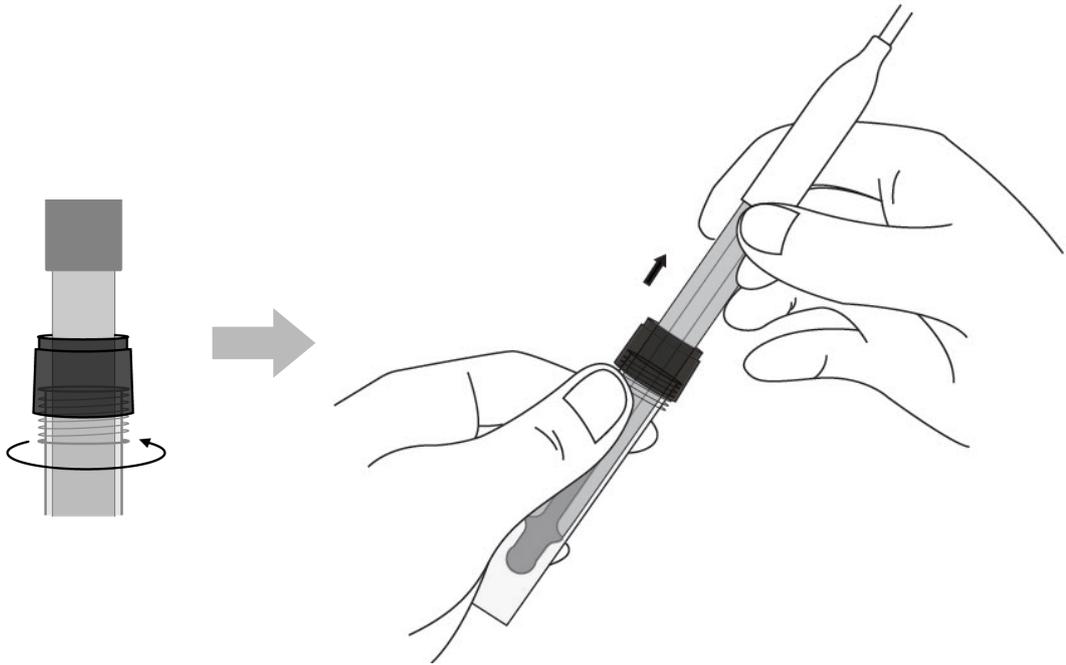
# 3. Preparation Before Use

## 3.1 LabSen 845 Electrode Structure

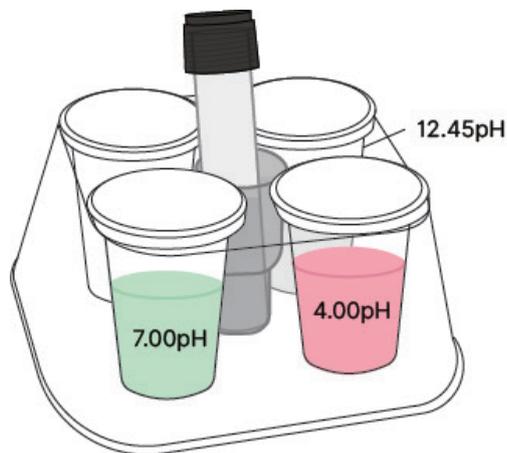


3.2 Pull out the battery insulation paper.

3.3 Loosen the storage vial locking ring by twisting it counterclockwise. Then pull out the electrode slowly.



3.4 Let the storage vial (containing soaking solution) stand in the center of the CalPod solution organizer just in case it spills.



3.5 Rinse off the electrode with pure water (preferably distilled or deionized water. RO water is the alternative) , then blot dry the electrode with Kimwipe or clean tissues to remove excess water (**Make sure NOT to rub the glass membrane**).

3.6 Perform at least a 2-point calibration before first-time use. For calibration details, refer to Section 4.

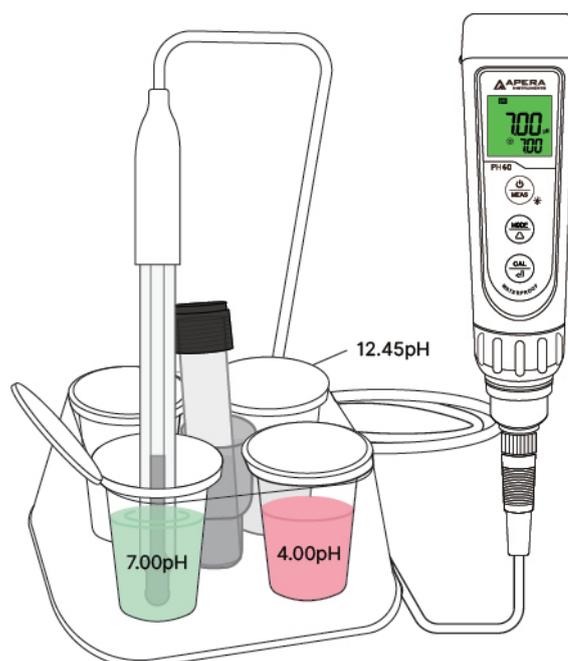
## 4. pH Calibration

### 4.1 How to Calibrate

4.1.1 Short press  to power on the meter. Remove the storage sleeve and rinse off the electrode in pure water (refer to Section 3.3 to 3.5).

4.1.2 Pour pH buffer solutions into CalPod. Dip the electrode into pH 7.00 solution first, and make a quick stir in the solution, then let it stand.

4.1.3 Long press  to enter calibration mode, the screen will turn green (Short press  if you decide to quit calibration and return to measurement mode).



4.1.4 Wait for the reading to stabilize (when  stays on the screen), then short press  again to finish the first point calibration (**pressing  too early could lead to Er2 error**). "7.00" will be flickering and the meter will return to measurement mode. Icon  (the middle point) will appear at the bottom left, indicating a successful 1-point calibration.

4.1.5 To calibrate the 2nd point, rinse off the electrode with pure water and remove excess water. Dip the electrode into pH 12.45 solution and repeat Step 4.1.3 to 4.1.4. "12.45" will be flickering and  (the high point) will show up next to , indicating a successful 2-point calibration.

4.1.6 To calibrate the 3rd point (if estimated sample pH <7), rinse off the electrode with pure water and remove excess water. Dip the electrode into pH 4.00 solution and make a quick stir, then repeat Step 4.1.3 to 4.1.4. "4.00" will be flickering and  (the high point) will display next to  and , indicating a successful 3-point calibration.

### 4.2 Notes about Calibration

4.2.1 **Always start calibrating with pH 7.00 first.** Perform the 2nd and 3rd point calibration immediately after the 1st point is finished. **Do NOT turn off the meter before you calibrate the second or third point.** Otherwise, after you restart the meter and perform calibration in other buffers, **Er1** error will be generated and you will have to calibrate with pH 7.00 again. For more troubleshooting tips with calibration, refer to Section 14.

4.2.2 The **pH 4.00 and pH 7.00** buffer solutions poured into the CalPod can be used for **up to 10 times** as long as they are not contaminated and the CalPod is capped when not in use. **pH 12.45** can only be used for **up to 5 times** as it will lose its accuracy much faster. After that, replace the buffer solutions in the calibration vials with new ones to keep the accuracy. Keeping the freshness and cleanliness of calibration buffers is essential for accurate pH measurement.

4.2.3 Isothermal Measurement Principle — The automatic temperature compensation of pH meters is not sufficient in compensating all pH measurement errors caused by temperature changes. To obtain the most accurate measurement, the meter should be calibrated in the buffer solution at a similar temperature as the sample solution, especially when the sample solution temperature is far away from room temperature.

4.2.4 The tester can perform 1 to 3 points of automatic calibration and can recognize 5 types of pH standard solutions. For details, please refer to the following table:

Calibration	USA Standard Series		NIST Standard Series		Icon	Recommended
1-point	7.00 pH		6.86 pH		(M)	Accuracy requirement $\geq 0.1$ pH
2-point	Option A	1st pt: 7.00 pH 2nd pt: 4.00 pH or 1.68 pH	Option A	1st pt: 6.86 pH 2nd pt: 4.01 pH or 1.68 pH	(L)(M)	Range < 7.00 pH
	Option B	1st pt: 7.00 pH 2nd pt: 10.01 pH or 12.45 pH	Option B	1st pt: 6.86 pH 2nd pt: 9.18 pH or 12.45 pH	(M)(H)	Range > 7.00 pH
3-point	1st pt: 7.00 pH 2nd pt: 4.00 or 1.68 pH 3rd pt: 10.01 or 12.45 pH		1st pt: 6.86 pH 2nd pt: 4.01 or 1.68 pH 3rd pt: 9.18 pH or 12.45 pH		(L)(M)(H)	Range: 0 to 14.00 pH

### 4.3 How Often to Calibrate the Electrode?

The frequency that you need to calibrate your pH Electrode depends on many factors such as the nature of test samples, condition of electrodes, and the requirement of the accuracy. For high-accuracy measurements ( $\leq \pm 0.02$  pH), the electrode should be calibrated before every test; For general-accuracy measurements ( $\geq \pm 0.1$  pH), calibrate the electrode every 1-2 weeks.

#### In the following cases, the electrode must be re-calibrated:

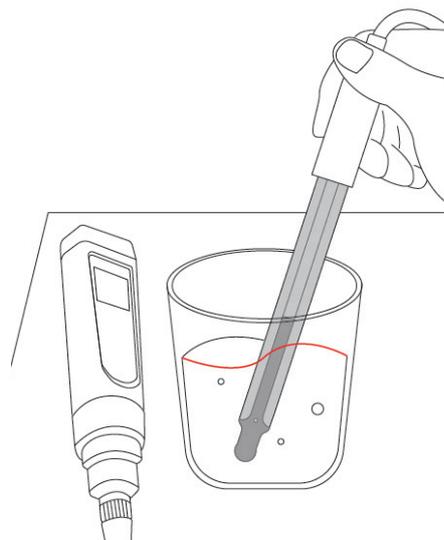
- The electrode hasn't been used for a long time or a different electrode is connected.
- After measuring strong acid (pH<2) or strong base (pH>12) solutions.
- After measuring fluoride-containing solution and strong organic solution.
- There is a significant temperature difference between the test sample and the buffer solution.

## 5. pH Measurement

### 5.1 How to Take pH Measurement

5.1.1 Short press  to power on. Remove the storage sleeve and rinse the electrode in distilled/ deionized water, then shake off the excess.

5.1.2 Submerge the electrode into your sample solution at least 1 inch deep, make a quick stir and hold still. Record the reading as the pH measurement when it is stabilized (  comes up and stays on screen).



5.1.3 If necessary, turn on the Auto-Hold function (refer to Section 8.3.3), the reading will be automatically locked when it's stable for more than 10 seconds. Short press  to cancel the Auto-Hold and keep measuring.

## 6. Electrode Cleaning

The meter is only as accurate as the electrode is clean. Always thoroughly rinse off the electrode before and after each measurement with distilled water or deionized water in a container or with a wash bottle.

To remove excessive water, just shake them off or blot dry with Kimwipe or lint-free cloth. **Never rub** the glass membrane of the electrode. Otherwise static electricity will be generated and cause measurement error.

For tough contaminants staying on the glass membrane or junction, refer to the following table for cleaning procedures:

Type of Contamination	Cleaning Agent	Soaking Time
Lipophilic substances, e.g. oil and fat deposits	Home dish soap water	5 - 10 minutes
Proteins	Apera Electrode Cleaning Solution (SKU: AI1166)	30 - 60 minutes
Inorganic coatings such as hydrocarbons	commercially available glass cleaning solutions	5 - 10 minutes
Hard, scale-type calcium deposits	Apera Electrode Cleaning Solution (SKU: AI1166)	5 - 10 minutes

Type of Contamination	Cleaning Agent	Soaking Time
Alkaline coatings	Apera Electrode Cleaning Solution (SKU: AI1166)	5 - 10 minutes
Acidic coatings	0.1M NaOH solution	5 - 10 minutes
Sulfide-containing substances	Thiourea	30- 60 minutes, leave until junction discoloration disappears.
Unknown substances	Apera Electrode Cleaning Solution (SKU: AI1166)	30 - 60 minutes

Use a soft brush to help thoroughly clean off the contaminants. After the cleaning procedure, the pH electrode should always be soaked in 3M KCl solution for 12-24 hours for rehydration. A re-calibration is also necessary before a new pH measurement.

## 7. Electrode Storage

7.1 Add 3M KCL soaking solution to the electrode storage vial and store the electrode in it. Twist on the vial locking ring tightly. If the 3M KCL soaking solution is contaminated, replace it with fresh solution. As a rule of thumb, replace the soaking solution on a monthly basis.

7.2 If you ever find white crystals outside the storage vial, it is perfectly normal. It is the 3M KCL soaking solution that crystallizes over time by its nature. Just rinse them off and add in new soaking solution. This chemical is not poisonous or dangerous, and the electrode's performance will not be affected.

7.3 **NEVER** store the electrode in pure water like tap, RO, distilled, or deionized water as they could damage the pH electrode. If this happens, immediately soak the pH electrode in 3M KCL soaking solution overnight, then re-calibrate it before use.

## 8. Parameter Settings

### 8.1 Settings Menu

Symbol	Parameter Setting Contents	Content	Factory Default
P1	Temperature Unit	°C - °F	°F
P2	Automatic Hold	5-20 seconds - Off	Off
P3	Automatic Backlight Off	1-8 minutes - Off	1
P4	Automatic Power Off	10-20 minutes - Off	10
P5	pH Buffer Series Selection	USA - NIST	USA
P6	pH Resolution	0.1 - 0.01	0.01
P7	pH Calibration Reminder	H-hours D-Days (set up in ZenTest App)	/
P8	Back to factory default	No - Yes	No

## 8.2 Parameter Settings

When the meter is turned off, long press  to enter parameter settings → Short press  to navigate between P1-P2-P3...P7 → Short press  to select the parameter (starts flickering) → Short press  to change the parameter → Short press  to confirm the change → Long press  to return to measurement mode.

## 8.3 Parameter Setting Instruction Examples

**8.3.1 Reading Auto-Hold (P02)** – You can set the reading auto-hold time from 5 to 20 seconds. For example, if 10 seconds is set, when the reading is stable for more than 10 seconds, it will be automatically locked, and the HOLD icon will be displayed. Short press  to cancel the lock. When the setting is "Off" , the Auto. lock function is turned off, that is, the reading can only be manually locked. Short press  to lock or unlock the reading. The HOLD icon will be displayed when reading is manually locked.

**8.3.2 Auto. Backlight (P03)** – You can set the automatic backlight time for 1 to 8 minutes. For example, if 3 minutes is set, the backlight will turn off automatically after 3 minutes; when the "Off" is set, the auto. backlight function will be turned off, and short press  to manually turn the backlight on or off.

**8.3.3 Auto. Power off (P04)** – The auto. power off time can be set to 10 to 20 minutes. For example, if 15 minutes is set, the meter will automatically shut down after 15 minutes if no operation; when "Off" is set, the auto. power off function will be turned off. Long press  to manually shut down the meter.

**8.3.4 pH Calibration Reminder (P07)** – set X hours (H) Or X days (D) in ZenTest mobile app – settings – Parameter – pH – Calibration Reminder. On the meter, you can only check the values that's been set up on ZenTest App. For example, if 3 days is set up, *Er6* will appear in the lower right corner of the LCD screen in 3 days to remind you to perform calibration, also in ZenTest App there will be a pop-up reminder. After calibration is finished or the reminder setting is cancelled in the ZenTest App, *Er6* will disappear.

**8.3.5 pH Back to Factory Default (P08)** – Select "Yes" to recover instrument calibration to theoretical value. This function can be used when instrument does not work well in calibration or measurement. Calibrate and measure again after setting the instrument back to factory default.

## 9. Instrument Technical Specifications

pH	Range	-2.00 – 16.00 pH
	Resolution	0.01 pH
	Accuracy	±0.01 pH ±1 digit
	Calibration Points	1 – 3 points
	Automatic Temperature Compensation (ATC)	0 – 100°C (32 to 122°F)
Temperature	Measuring Range	0 – 100°C (32 to 122°F)
	Resolution	0.1°C (0.1°F)
	Accuracy	±0.5°C (1°F)
Screen	3-color LCD screen, Blue: Measurement; Green: Calibration; Red: Alarm	
Reading Lock	<b>HOLD</b> comes up on screen	
Low-Voltage Warning	☐ flashing, reminder of battery replacement needed	
Auto. Power-Off	In 8 minutes without operation	
Waterproof Rating	IP67	
Power	DC3V, AAA alkaline batteries×4	
Battery Life	Operation up to 2000 hours	
Dimension& weight	Tester: 40×40×178mm/133g; Case: 255×210×50mm/700g;	

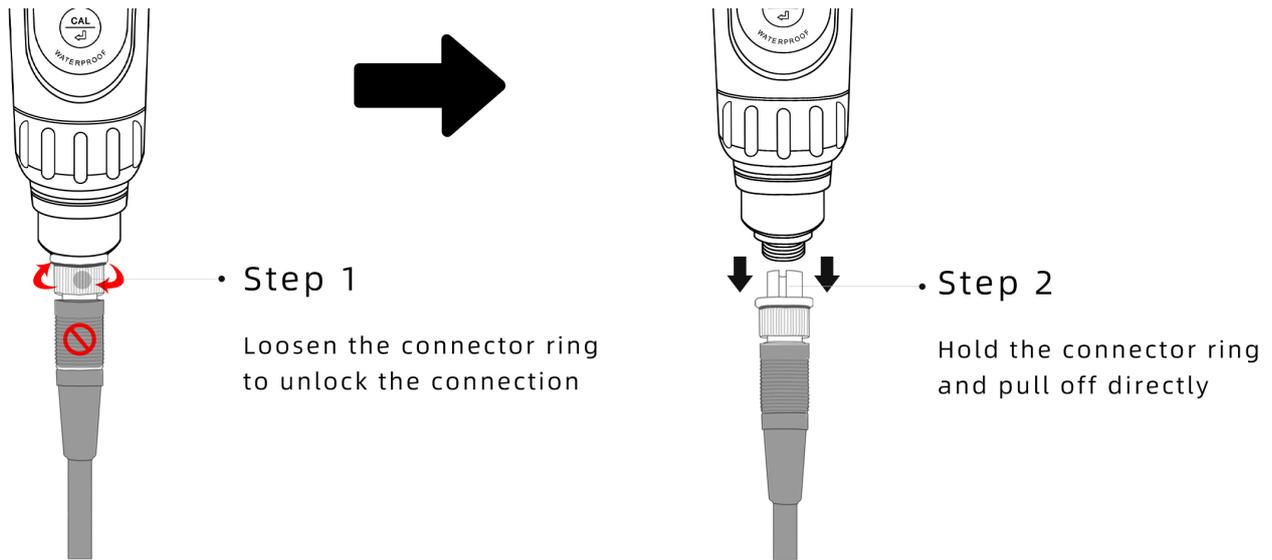
## 10. Electrode Technical Specifications

Measurement Range	1 – 14 pH
Temperature Range	0 to 130°C (32 to 266°F)
Reference System	Silver Ion Trap System
Junction	Open
Reference Electrolyte	Polymer
Shaft Dimension	ø12*120mm
Membrane Impedance	<500MΩ
Temperature Sensor	30KΩ NTC

# 11. Electrode Replacement

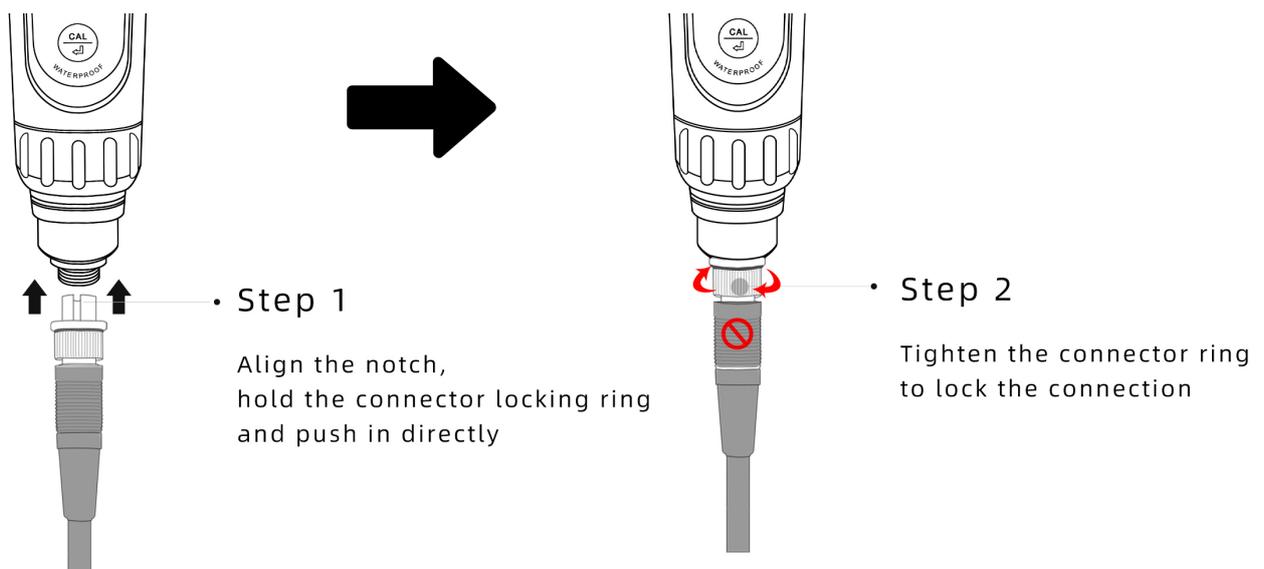
**11.1** Every pH electrode gradually ages and will eventually fail. A typical service life of a pH electrode is 1-2 years depending on many factors such as frequency of use, nature of test samples, how well it is maintained, and etc. We recommend replacing your pH electrode every 1 to 2 years to guarantee the optimal performance.

## 11.2 Disconnect the old electrode



**Never twist the black rubber part to prevent damage.**

## 11.3 Install the new electrode



**11.4** After installing the new electrode, please at least perform a 2-point calibration. Refer to Section 4.1 for how to calibrate.

## 11.5 pH Electrodes Compatible with the Meter for Other Applications

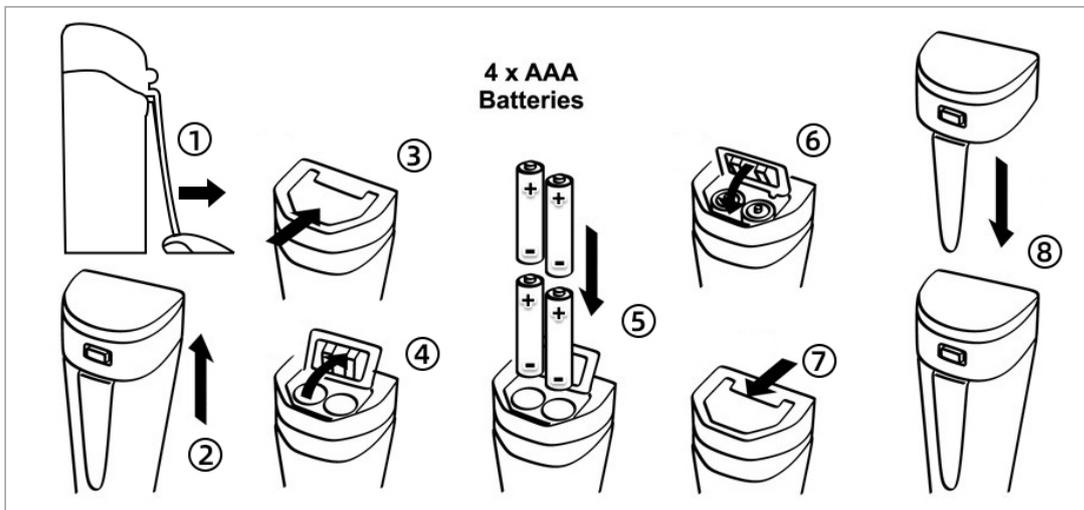
- LabSen 335 pH/Temp. Electrode for wastewater, suspensions, and emulsions
- LabSen 246-5 pH/Temp. Electrode for small-volume solutions and test tubes
- LabSen 845 pH/Temp. Electrode for strong alkaline and high-salinity solutions
- LabSen 835 pH/Temp. Electrode for HF-containing and strong acidic solutions
- LabSen 865 pH/Temp. Electrode for high temperature and caustic solutions
- LabSen 855 pH/Temp. Electrode for viscous samples
- LabSen 765 pH/Temp. Electrode for meats
- PH60S-DE spear probe for foods e.g. cheese, sauce, milk, fruits, dough, etc.
- GS2-E spear probe for soil direct test
- PH60F-DE flat probe for surface test

## 12. Battery Replacement

Please install batteries according to the following steps. \*Please note the correct direction of battery installation: **The "+" OF EVERY SINGLE Battery MUST FACE UP.**



**(WRONG INSTALLATION OF BATTERIES WILL CAUSE DAMAGE!)**



- ① Loosen the pocket clip
- ② Pull off the battery cap
- ③ Slide and unlock battery compartment
- ④ Open the battery compartment
- ⑤ Insert the batteries (**all "+" FACE UP**)
- ⑥ Press down the battery compartment
- ⑦ Slide and lock the battery compartment
- ⑧ Close on the battery cap (make sure it's tightly closed with the O-ring. Otherwise the waterproof rating could be compromised.)

# 13. Self-Diagnosis Function

Error Symbol	Self-Diagnosis information
<i>Er 1</i>	The pH calibration solution cannot be recognized by the meter.
<i>Er 2</i>	 is pressed before measurement is fully stabilized.
<i>Er 3</i>	During calibration, readings being unstable for over 3 minutes.
<i>Er 4</i>	pH electrode offset out of range (<-60mV or >60mV)
<i>Er 5</i>	pH electrode slope out of range (<85% or >110%)
<i>Er 6</i>	The calibration reminder is triggered. It's time to perform a new pH calibration.

For how to fix these errors, refer to Section 14 Troubleshooting Guide.

# 14. Troubleshooting Guide

Trouble	Reason	How to Fix
Calibration Error	Incorrect calibration order <b>(Er1)</b>	Always calibrate pH 7 first, then pH 4 or pH 10. Refer to Section 4.2.1.
	Calibration solutions are in poor condition <b>(Er1)</b>	Make sure your calibration standard solutions are fresh and clean, and made by a legitimate manufacturer.
	Contaminated electrode <b>(Er1/Er4/Er5)</b>	Thoroughly clean off the electrode. Refer to Section 6.
	Aged electrode <b>(Er1/Er4/Er5)</b>	Replace the electrode.
	Dried-out electrode <b>(Er1/Er4/Er5)</b>	Soak in the soaking solution overnight to restore.
	Electrode is not in full contact with solutions <b>(Er1/Er4/Er5)</b>	Make sure the storage vial is taken off and the pH glass membrane is fully immersed in the solution (above the junction).
	Air bubbles around the sensor <b>(Er1/Er4/Er5)</b>	Make a quick stir in the solution to remove air bubbles.
	Pressing  too fast <b>(Er2)</b>	Wait for the reading to be fully stabilized before pressing  to finish the calibration
Reading is always slowly changing, won't stabilize.	Contaminated electrode <b>(Er3)</b>	Thoroughly clean off the electrode. Refer to Section 6.
	Clogged junction <b>(Er3)</b>	Refer to Section 6.2 to thoroughly clean off the junction.
	Aged electrode <b>(Er3)</b>	Replace the electrode.
	Testing pure water e.g. distilled water, RO water or deionized water	Before test, soak the probe in pH 4.00 buffer solution for half a minute.
Display similar readings in any solutions or stuck at 7.00	Broken electrode <b>(Er4/Er5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you don't see any physical damage of the electrode and it's within the 6-month electrode warranty, contact us for warranty fulfillment;</li> <li>If there is visible damage, replace the electrode.</li> </ul>
	Instrument defect	Contact us for warranty fulfillment

# 14. Troubleshooting Guide

Trouble	Reason	How to Fix
Jumping Readings (generating random numbers)	Electrode is not in full contact with solution	Make sure the storage vial is taken off and the electrode is fully immersed in the solution (above the junction).
	Air bubbles around the sensor <b>(Er1/Er4/Er5)</b>	Make a quick stir in the solution to remove air bubbles.
	Electrode is not properly connected or the connector is broken.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check the electrode's connector, make sure it's not broken and is correctly connected. Refer to Section 11.3.</li> <li>• Screw on the connector cap to protect the connector when no electrode is connected.</li> </ul>
Calibration is successful, but I think the measurement is not accurate	Aged electrode	Replace the electrode.
	Wrong buffer standard is selected	Match the buffer standard series with the pH buffers you actually use by changing the setting in P1.
	Comparison with other meters, test strips, or drop tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To compare with other meters, make sure to perform a 2-point calibration for all meters in the same standards, then measure a 3rd standard solution. Whichever gives more accurate reading in the 3rd standard solution is the more accurate meter.</li> <li>• Test strips or drop tests' accuracy is not comparable to pH meters'.</li> </ul>
	Calibration solutions are in poor condition	Make sure your calibration standard solutions are fresh and clean, and made by a legitimate manufacturer.
	The electrode is not suitable for your test sample or testing environment	Refer to Section 11.5 or contact us to find the most appropriate electrode for your specific application.

# 15. Appendix

## Function Comparison of PH60Z Meter and ZenTest<sup>®</sup> Mobile App

Functions	PH60Z Meter	ZenTest Mobile App
Display	Basic digital display	1.Basic Mode: digital display+calibration info (with manual data logger available)
		2.Dial Mode: see reading change with reading alarm range (with manual data logger available)
		3.Graph Mode: see the trend of reading changes (with auto. data logger available)
		4.Table Mode: see real time measurement data by every second (with auto. data logger available)
Calibration	Press buttons to operate	Operate on smartphone following graphic tutorial
Self-Diagnosis	Er1 - Er6 icons	Detailed problem analysis and solutions
Parameter Settings	Press buttons to set up (except for P7)	All parameters can be set up in Settings.
Reading Alarm	The screen turns red when alarm triggered; cannot be setup	Alarm display in all measurement modes, and alarm range can be set up.
Data Management	N/A	Manual or Auto. Datalogger; notes can be added to saved data
Data Output	N/A	Share data on your smart phone via email or other apps

## 16. Limited Warranty

We warrant this instrument to be free from defects in material and workmanship and agree to repair or replace free of charge, at option of APERA INSTRUMENTS, LLC, any malfunctioned or damaged product attributable to responsibility of APERA INSTRUMENTS, LLC for a period of TWO YEARS (SIX MONTHS for the electrode) from the delivery.

This limited warranty does NOT cover any damages due to:

- Accidental damage,
- transportation,
- storage,
- improper use,
- failure to follow the product instructions or to perform any preventive maintenance
- unauthorized repair or modifications,
- normal wear and tear,
- or other external causes or actions beyond our reasonable control

To get the fastest warranty fulfillment, go to [support.aperainst.com](http://support.aperainst.com) and click "New Support Ticket" on the upper right corner. Then fill in the form and click Submit. Our customer care specialists will be in touch and help you fulfill the warranty as soon as possible.

**APERA INSTRUMENTS, LLC**

Address: 6656 Busch Blvd, Columbus Ohio 43229

Tel: 1-614-285-3080

Email: [info@aperainst.com](mailto:info@aperainst.com)

Website: [aperainst.com](http://aperainst.com)