# SKF Belt Frequency Meter user manual

User manual box edition



# General safety tips

Safety first – read and understand this manual before operating the SKF Belt Frequency Meter.

Never use your SKF Belt Frequency Meter on moving belts.

Switch off and isolate any belt drive system prior to taking tension measurements or attempting any other installation work.

Do not drop the meter or subject either the meter or the optical sensor to other sharp impact.

Do not put water, solvents (including cleaning solutions) or any other liquid on the unit. Clean meter and sensor with dry cotton cloth.

Do not pull on sensor cord. Disconnect sensor from meter by grasping the connector grip only.

Do not leave the unit in places that are humid, hot, dust filled or in direct sunlight.

Hint: When SKF Belt Frequency Meter is not used for a while, remove batteries and store unit in the case provided.

Do not use your SKF Belt Frequency Meter in any potentially explosive environment.

Do not disassemble or attempt to modify either the meter or the sensing head.

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## 1.0 Device description

The SKF Belt Frequency Meter is a two component system consisting of a hand-held meter attached to an optical sensor via an electronic cable. The sensor uses an infrared beam to detect the vibration of a belt strand and sends a signal to the meter. (The sensor includes an LED that produces an orange light beam to help aim the invisible infrared ray.) Comparing this input to the vibration of a quartz crystal, the meter computes the natural frequency of the belt. The result is shown in the display window as hertz (oscillations per second). The internal programming of the meter is also able to report the belt tension in units of force (either newton or pounds-force) provided the operator has entered the belt mass and span length using the manually operated key pad.

The meter operates on four "AA" batteries. Battery life is approximately 20 hours. The battery compartment is accessible at the back of the meter. This manual, a tuning fork for checking calibration and a storage case are included with the complete kit.



# 2.0 Quick start



## 3.0 Functions

#### 3.1 Keys



This key switches the meter on or off. If the meter is on and sits idle for more than 3 minutes, it automatically switches off to preserve battery life. When the meter is first switched on a battery check is made see Section 3.4 for a description of the visual and audible low battery signal.



This key is used to enter the belt span length. The span key is held down while the UP or DOWN keys are used to set the belt span in metres. Releasing the SPAN key results in an audible beep to indicate the setting has been accepted. Pressing the SPAN key alone, shows the current setting.



This key is used to enter the belt mass. The mass key is held down while the UP or DOWN keys are used to set the belt mass in kg/m. Releasing the MASS key results in an audible beep to indicate the setting has been accepted. Pressing the MASS key alone shows the current setting.

#### Important Note:

Belt span and belt mass are required entries if tension results in force units (N or lbf) are desired. Entries must be in SI units (m and kg/m)



This key has two functions. The first is to increase either the SPAN or MASS parameters when used in conjunction with these keys. The second use is to toggle between the Hz and the newton measurement modes.



This key has two functions. The first is to decrease either the SPAN or MASS parameters when used in conjunction with those keys. The second use is to toggle between the Hz and the pound measurement modes.



The memory keys allow up to 3 sets of belt parameters to be stored in the meter registry. Pressing the MEM 1 key recalls the first set of belt parameters and likewise for MEM 2 and MEM 3.



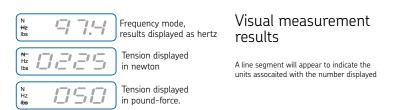
To store the belt parameters to a key, the belt span and mass parameters must first be entered and then immediately after release of either the SPAN or MASS keys the appropriate MEM key should be pressed. Two beeps indicate that the parameters have been successfully assigned to the key.



#### 3.2 Audio/visual display

The SKF Belt Frequency Meter is an interactive tool. It provides both visual and audible communication with the operator. Each signal or combination of signals has a meaning. While all these signals are discussed in other sections of this manual, a compilation of all the available signals will be presented here.

Generally visual signals alone give measurement results while audible signals, either alone or in combination with a visual signal, indicate some operational step.



#### Audible signals

Signal	When	Means
One Beep	Upon release of "Span" key	Input accepted
One Beep	Upon release of "Mass" key	Input accepted
One Beep	While sensor is aimed at vibrating belt	Measurement taken
Two Beeps	Upon pushing "Memory" key after releasing "Span" key	Span data has been stored
	Upon pushing "Memory" key after releasing 'Mass' key	Mass data has been stored
Four Beeps	Combined with "0000" N display	Newton result is out of range
	Combined with "0000" lb display	Pound result is out of range
	After pushing "On" key combined with "zero" countdown	Low battery condition

#### 3.3 Optical sensor

The sensor uses an invisible infrared beam to detect vibrations of the belt. A narrow angle orange LED generated beam is provided to guide the aiming of the sensor.

The very best signal from the belt is seen when the sensor is held perpendicular to the belt at the centre of the span at 9,5 mm (3/8 in) distance.

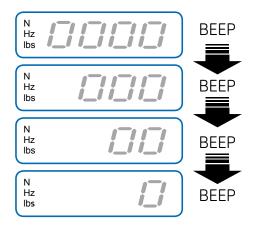
When physical restrictions are present, it is possible to get useable readings with the sensor up to 50 mm (2 in) distance from the belt and/or tipped up to 45° from perpendicular.

It is possible to take measurements from the edge of the belt. The toothed side of a belt is equally acceptable as a target for the sensor. The sensor LEDs should be kept clean by wiping with a soft cotton cloth. Solvents are never to be used.



#### 3.4 Battery condition

When the SKF Belt Frequency Meter is first switched on, a battery condition check is automatically performed. A low battery condition is signalled both visually and audibly. The display window will flash an array of zeros, starting with four and progressing to only one. There will be an audible signal of four "beeps" as the display changes



If these signals are seen and heard, batteries should be replaced. Batteries are accessed through the removable cover on the back of the meter. New batteries should be inserted within 30 seconds of removal of old batteries. Taking longer risks loss of any data stored by the memory keys. Batteries are expected to provide approximately 20 hours of continuous operation before replacement is required.

#### 3.5 Charging batteries

Do not charge batteries with the sensor head attached to the meter. Do not attempt to use the meter while batteries are being charged. Damage to the optical sensor could result.

The SKF Belt Frequency Meter is compatible with user supplied rechargeable batteries and charging unit. A convenient 3,5 mm, positive center charging socket is located on the bottom end of the meter body adjacent to the sensor cable plug-in port.

Batteries: 1 300 mAh minimum (user supplied)
Charging unit: 12 to 15 volt DC output (user supplied)
Connection: 3,5 mm positive tip mini plug/socket

The built in circuit of the meter controls the charging current. Charging current is internally limited to 100 mA. Charging time is typically 12 to 14 hours for a full charge.

You may turn the unit on while charging. The meter's software will then signal that the batteries are charging. The display window will flash an array of zeros, starting with only one and progressing to four. There will be an audible signal of four 'beeps' as the display charges.

Suitable rechargeable batteries and charger may be obtained directly from the manufacturer Integrated Display Systems Ltd., UK (www.clavis.co.uk).

# 4.0 Setup and use procedure

1. Plug sensor head into meter body. This is a keyed plug. Line it up, do not use force!



- 2. Turn unit on using ON/OFF
- 3. Load span and mass data or recall previously loaded data.

To load span data simply hold down

SPAN (m)

while using

UP Or DOWN (Lbs)

to set the number.

When the correct number appears in the display window, simply release the span key. The unit will beep once to acknowledge acceptance of this setting.

To load mass data simply hold down

MASS (kg/m)

while using

UP (Hz/N) or DOWN (Lbs)

to set the number.

When the correct number appears in the display window, simply release the mass key. The unit will beep once to acknowledge acceptance of this setting.

To save individual entries into memory, press appropriate key

MEM 1 , MEM 2



As soon as the span or mass keys have been released, the meter will beep twice to acknowledge the entry into memory.

To recall stored span and mass data simply press MEM 1, MEM 2 or MEM 3, depending upon where you stored the data for this specific drive. Afterwards press span or mass key in order to display the appropriate saved value (mass or span).

4. Aim sensor at centre of selected belt span. Tap or pluck the belt. The meter will beep once to indicate that a measurement was taken.



- 5. Display window will show frequency result.
- 6. Press UP

to toggle to newton.

7. Press

DOWN (Lbs)

to toggle to pounds.







Note: Pressing the same key a second time will return display to the hertz value.

8. Re-adjust belt tension and repeat measurement until target tension results are attained.

# 5.0 Operating tips

Here are some procedures and "best" practices that may ease use or help increase the reliability of your belt tensioning efforts.

Take your tension reading as close to the centre of the selected span as practical.

Use the longest belt span that can be readily accessed. Minimum useable span length is equal to 20 times the belt tooth pitch for synchronous belts and 30 times the belt top width for "v" configuration belts. Using too short a span yields indicated tensions that may be much higher than actual belt tension due to effects of belt stiffness.

When possible, orientate the sensor head with the long edge of the sensor parallel to the centre-line of the belt. This tends to eliminate any non-reading conditions due to aiming error.

On new installations, rotate the system by hand at least one full revolution of the belt to seat and normalize the components.

If the top surface of the belt is not accessible, try to beam the sensor against the edge of the belt. The inside surface of the belt is equally acceptable.

The meter will not give a measurement for a belt under extremely low tension. Simply increase the drive tensioning until the meter responds. The meter will beep to indicate that a reading has been taken.

It is good practice to take three successive readings. This will show the consistency of your methods. If the readings vary by more than 10% re-assess your measurement technique.

Taking multiple readings at different belt orientations may help you identify problems with other drive components. Tension excursions are indicative of component problems such as a bent shaft, poorly mounted sprocket or pulley or an irregular pulley groove.

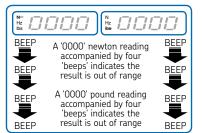
When tensioning an array of multiple V-belts, use a single belt toward the centre of the array. Please, also check the tension of the belts on each side of the array in order to secure that there is no angular misalignment between the pulleys.

# 6.0 Meter range

The SKF Belt Frequency Meter is capable of measuring belt vibration frequencies between 10 Hz and 400 Hz.

If the measured frequency is below 10 Hz, the meter will display "10.00" briefly and then change to "000.0".

If the measured frequency is above 400 Hz, the meter will display "400" briefly and then change to "000".



On multi-shaft (three or more shafts) it may be possible to get valid measurements by selecting a different belt span for measurement. If the measured frequency is below 10 Hz choose an available shorter span. If the measured frequency is above 400 Hz choose a longer span if available

Based upon the measured belt frequency, the meter is capable of calculating belt tensions up to 9 990 N (2 200 lb.). When these limits are exceeded the meter will react as previously described.

Belt tensions greater than these values are unusual. It is therefore advisable to check that the span and mass parameters have been entered correctly. If they are found to be correct then check the calculation of your target values. If everything looks correct then this drive is simply beyond the capacity of the SKF Belt Frequency Meter. The drive will have to be tensioned by traditional force and deflection techniques.

#### Special Note:

Tensioning a drive generally involves moving one component shaft with respect to another. On some drives, especially larger installations, tensioning the drive will involve sufficient movement that the span length is appreciably altered. Frequency (Hz) values will remain accurate but if a precise tension value is to be calculated it may become necessary to update the span input to reflect the new shaft spacing.

## 7.0 Calibration

#### 7.1 Spot check

The measurement system of the SKF Belt Frequency Meter is based upon a very stable quartz crystal that should never wander. However, a precision mechanical resonator (tuning fork) is included with the meter so that a calibration check at a spot frequency of 250 Hz may be performed at any time.



Results within  $\pm 1\%$  are acceptable. There is no adjustment possible. If greater variance is experienced, the meter should be returned for calibration. See section 7.2 for manufacturer's contact information.

#### 7.2 Annual certification

Technical support relating to calibration certification and/or operation of the SKF Belt Frequency Meter can be obtained from SKF:

The meter may be returned to SKF for repair or recalibration at any time.

A factory calibration certificate is included with each meter. Although the very stable solid-state quartz crystal based system is not likely to go out of calibration, some operating procedures call for annual gauge certification. For certification/calibration purposes the meter may be returned to SKF at yearly intervals to have the meter recalibrated and certified to NAMAS/ UKAS (National Accreditation of Measurement and Sampling/United Kingdom Accreditation Standards, standards.

Please, contact your local SKF representative for detailed costs and shipping procedures prior to any return.

# 8.0 Technical specification

Measurement range Frequency range	± 1 significant digit ± 1% 0,001 to 9,990 kg/m 0,001 to 9,99 m
Environmental conditions Operating temperature	50 to +70 °C
Sensor Type IR wavelength Visible aiming beam Housing Cable length	970 nm Narrow angle orange LED Machined aluminium
Power supply Battery type Number Expected life. Compartment location	4 20 hrs
Optional rechargeable batteries Battery type Charger Socket/polarity	12 to 15 V DC output

# 9.0 Formulae and conversions

Force conversion constants

newton x 0,2248 = lb pound x 4,4482 = N kilogram x 9,8067 = N

Length conversion constants

inch x 0.0254 = mmetre x 39.3701 = inmm x 0.001 = m

Span length calculation

$$S = \sqrt{CD^2 - \frac{(D - d)^2}{4}}$$

where:

S = Span length (mm) CD = Center distance (mm)

D = Large pulley diameter (mm)

d = Small pulley diameter (mm)

Weight (for mass calculation use)

ounce x 0.02835 = kgpound x 0.45359 = kg

Reminder: Belt span and mass inputs to the meter must be in SI units, m for the belt span and kg/m for the belt mass.

# **Appendix**

#### 1.0 Theory of operation

There is a direct relationship between belt tension and a belt's natural frequency of vibration. As the tension is increased, the vibration frequency also increases. The relationship between tension and frequency has been determined to be:

 $T = 4ml^2 f^2$ 

#### Where

T = Belt tension (N)

m= mass per unit length (kg/m)

l = span length (m)

f = vibration frequency (Hz)

The SKF Belt Frequency Meter is a dual function tool. The optical sensing head uses an invisible infrared beam to detect vibration while the integral calculator determines the time base and performs the necessary calculations to support the results shown in the display window.

The meter may be used with all power transmission belts regardless of type or construction.

### 2.0 Weights and tension values

The values listed in the tables on following pages provide a guideline for belt tensioning. More accurate values for your specific belt drive can be obtained from belt drive calculations on skfptp.com.

Belt type	Belt type	Belt Tension		Mass
	•	New belt	Run in belt	
		N	N	kg/m
HiTD	5M 9 5M 15 5M 25 8M 20 8M 30 8M 50 8M 85 14M 40 14M 55 14M 85 14M 115 14M 170	99 174 311 372 593 1 037 2 044 1 297 1 912 3 142 4 480 7 139	71 124 222 266 424 741 1 460 926 1 366 2 244 3 200 5 099	0,037 0,061 0,102 0,128 0,192 0,320 0,545 0,429 0,590 0,911 1,233 1,823
STPD	S8M20 S8M30 S8M50 S8M85 S14M40 S14M55 S14M85 S14M115 S14M170	390 620 1 110 2 030 1 340 1 925 3 165 4 465 6 975	279 443 793 1 450 957 1 375 2 261 3 189 4 982	0,111 0,167 0,278 0,473 0,462 0,634 0,981 1,327 1,962
Timing belts	XL 025 XL 037 L050 L075 L 100 H075 H100 H150 H200 H300 XH 200 XH 300 XH 400 XXH 400 XXH 400 XXH 500	13 24 51 87 122 220 311 485 667 1 045 907 1 428 2 019 1 130 1 748 2 478 3 198	11 20 41 70 98 176 249 388 534 836 726 1 142 1 615 904 1 398 1 982 2 558	0,014 0,020 0,043 0,065 0,087 0,084 0,112 0,168 0,223 0,335 0,572 0,858 1,144 0,809 1,213 1,617 2,022

rom nm	t pulley r incl.	from	<b>je</b> incl.	Belt tensio single belt		Mass	
nm 10			incl.			Mass	
0	40	rnm		New belt	Run in belt	Single belt	Belt in a band**
	40	трии		N	N	kg/m	
	60	1 000 2 501 1 000	2 500 4 000 2 500	104 121 176	69 81 116	0,051	n/a
JI OVEI		2 501	4 000	174	116		
'5	90	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	332 254	222 169	0,115	0,150
1	120	1 000	2 500	391	261		
.21	175	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	469 411	313 274		
.05	140	860	2 500	469	313	0,193	0,260
.41	220	2 501 860 2 501	4 000 2 500 4 000	391 567 528	261 378 352		
.75	230	500	1 740	1 017	678	0,320	0,417
231	400	1 741 500 1 741	3 000 1 740 3 000	841 1 251 1 115	561 834 743		
805	400	200	850	2 210	1 473	0,669	0,870
01	510	851 200 851	1 500 850 1 500	1 877 2 698 2 268	1 251 1 799 1 512		
6	79	1 000	2 500	338	226	0,076	n/a
80	95	2 501 1 000	4 000 2 500	262 383	175 255		
6 over		2 501 1 000 2 501	4 000 2 500 4 000	415 477 438	276 318 292		
1	105	1 000	2 500	575	383	0,134	0,155
.06	140	1 000	2 500	696	464		
.41 ove	r	2 501 1 000 2 501	4 000 2 500 4 000	628 872 876	418 581 584		
.07	159	860	2 500	978	652	0,223	0,272
.60	250	860	2 500	1 255	837		
251 ove	r	2 501 860 2 501	4 000 2 500 4 000	1 116 1 496 1 275	744 997 850		
7 (2 ) (2 ) (3 ) (4 ) (4 ) (4 ) (4 ) (4 ) (4 ) (4	1 1 221 221 221 221 221 221 221 221 221	5 90 1 120 21 175 05 140 41 220 75 230 31 400 05 400 01 510 6 79 0 95 6 over 1 105 06 140 41 over	1 over	1 over	1 over	1 over	1 over

Wrapped V, wedge and banded belts									
Belt type	Smallest pulley diameter		Speed ran	ige	Belt tension	Belt tension per			
91-	from	incl.	from	incl.	New belt	Run in belt	Single belt	Belt in a band**	
	mm		rpm		N	N	kg/m		
SPC	200	355	500 1 741	1 740 3000	2 026 2 043	1 350 1 362	0,354	0,394	
	356 ov	/er	500 1 741	1 740 3 000	2 305 2 671	1 537 1 781			
3V	61	90	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	313 274	209 182	0,076	0,099	
	91	175	1 000 2 501	2 500 4000	430 391	287 261			
5V	171	275	500 1 741	1 740 3 001	1 134 997	756 665	0,223	0,272	
	276	500	500 1 741	1 740 3 001	1 369 1 291	912 860			
8V	315	430	200 851	850 1 500	2 933 2 386	1 955 1 590	0,504	0,654	
	431	570	200 851	850 1 500	3 520 3 129	2 346 2 086			

<sup>\*</sup> Multiply the belt tension required for a single belt by the number of the belts in the banded belt unit to get total tension to apply.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Multiply the mass of one belt in a band by the number of the belts in the banded belt unit to get total mass to apply.

Belt type	pe Smallest pulley diameter		Speed ra	inge	Belt tensi single bel		Mass	
	from	incl.	from	incl.	New belt	Run in belt	Single belt	Belt in a band**
	mm		rpm		N	N	kg/m	
SPZ-XP	56 80	79 95	1 000 2 501 1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000 2 500 4 000	372 288 421 457	249 193 281 304	0,079	-
	96 over		1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	525 482	350 321		
SPA-XP	71	105	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	633 576	421 384	0,122	-
	106	140	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	766 691	510 460		
	141 over		1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	959 964	639 642		
SPB-XP	107	159	860 2 501	2 500 4 000	1076 1035	717 690	0,202	-
	160 251 over	250	860 2 501 860 2 501	2 500 4 000 2 500 4 000	1381 1228 1646 1403	921 818 1097 935		
SPC-XP	200	355	500 1 741	1 740 3 000	2229 2247	1485 1498	0,350	-
	356 over		500 1 741	1 740 3 000	2536 2938	1691 1959		
3V-XP	61	90	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	344 301	230 200	0,079	-
	91	175	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	473 430	316 287		
5V-XP	171	275	500 1 741	1 740 3 001	1247 1097	832 732	0,202	-
	276	500	500 1 741	1 740 3 001	1506 1420	1003 946		
8V-XP	315	430	200 851	850 1 500	3226 2625	2151 1749	0,520	-
	431	570	200 851	850 1 500	3872 3442	2581 2295		

<sup>\*</sup> Multiply the belt tension required for a single belt by the number of the belts in the banded belt unit to get total tension to apply.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Multiply the mass of one belt in a band by the number of the belts in the banded belt unit to get total mass to apply.

Belt type						Belt tension per single belt*		
.,,,,	from	incl.	from	incl.	New belt	Run in belt	Single belt	Belt in a
	mm		rpm		N	N	kg/m	
ZX	40	60	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	119 139	80 93	0,051	n/a
	61 ove	er	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	199 199	133 133		
AX	75	90	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	372 293	248 196	0,115	0,153
	91	120	1 000	2 500	450	300		
	121	175	2 501 1 000 2 501	4 000 2 500 4 000	391 508 450	261 339 300		
вх	85	105	860	2 500	430	287	0,193	0,225
	106	140	2 501 860 2 501	4 000 2 500 4 000	372 626 547	248 417 365		
	141	220	860 2 501	2 500 4 000	763 645	508 430		
CX	175	230	500 1 741	1 740 3 000	1 310 1 056	873 704	0,320	0,398
	231	400	500 1 741	1 740 3 000	1 408 1 291	939 860		
XPZ	56	79	1 000	2 500	362	241	0,076	n/a
	80	95	2 501 1 000 2 501	4 000 2 500 4 000	299 438 418	199 292 279		
	96 ove	er	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	499 469	332 313		
XPA	71	105	1 000	2 500	657	438	0,134	0,156
	106	140	2 501 1 000 2 501	4 000 2 500 4 000	598 796 718	399 531 478		
	141 o	ver	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	997 897	665 598		
XPB	107	159	860 2 501	2 500 4 000	1 116 1 075	744 717	0,223	0,279
	160	250	860	2 500	1 435 1 330	957 886		
	251 o	ver	2 501 860 2 501	4 000 2 500 4 000	1 596 1 455	1 064 970		

Cogged raw edge V, wedge and banded belts									
Belt type	Smallest pulley diameter		Speed ra	ange	Belt tension	Belt tension per			
Эрс	from	incl.	from	incl.	New belt	Run in belt	Single belt	Belt in a band**	
	mm		rpm		N	N	kg/m		
XPC	200	355	500 1 741	1 740 3 000	2 313 2 333	1 542 1 555	0,354	0,548	
	356 ov	/er	500 1 741	1 740 3 000	2 632 3 050	1 755 2 034			
3VX	55	60	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	293 254	196 169	0,076	0,102	
	61	90	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	372 332	248 222			
	91	175	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	469 430	313 287			
5VX	110	170	1 000 2 501	2 500 4 000	899 489	600 326	0,223	0,252	
	171	275	500 1 741	1 740 3 001	1 310 1 212	873 808			
	276	400	500 1 741	1 740 3 001	1 525 1 486	1 017 991			

Multiply the belt tension required for a single belt by the number of the belts in the banded belt unit to get total tension to apply.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Multiply the mass of one belt in a band by the number of the belts in the banded belt unit to get total mass to apply.

Ribbed belts									
Belt type	Smallest pulley diameter	Speed range	Belt tension New belt	on per one rib* Run in belt	Mass** Single belt				
	mm	rpm	N	N	kg/m				
РJ	<80 >80	n/a	67 90	45 60	0,010				
PK	<95 >95	n/a	139 178	93 119	0,018				
PL	<150 >150	n/a	216 312	144 208	0,057				
PM	<250 >250	n/a	672 912	448 608	0,120				

Multiply the belt tension required for one rib by the number of the ribs in the ribbed belt unit

to get total tension to apply.

\*\* Multiply the mass of one rib by the number of the ribs in the ribbed belt to get total mass to apply.

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