

OPERATION MANUAL

WARNING/AGREEMENT: Because of the variables involved in the timing of alcohol consumption, individual metabolism, and self-administration, the user of this product agrees (1) not to hold the manufacturer, dealer, wholesaler, or distributor responsible for the consequences of any decision, based on the use of this product, to operate a vehicle, boat, or aircraft or other equipment and (2) to hold them harmless from the claims of others arising out of any such decision. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE, YOU SHOULD PROMPTLY RETURN THIS PRODUCT TO THE PLACE OF PURCHASE, UNUSED, FOR A FULL REFUND.

Alc Alert



BREATHALCOHOLTESTER

MODELS BT5500 & BT5300

Intended Use:

The **AlcAlert** Breath Alcohol Detector is a screening test device for the rapid detection of alcohol in the breath. The test is used to obtain a visual quantitative result that approximates the level of alcohol concentration in the blood stream, and is intended for over the counter sale to the home user.

Making Ordinary Products Extraordinary

BEFORE USING THE UNIT

The **AlcAlert** Breath Alcohol Tester uses advanced semi-conductor gas sensor technology to approximate the percent of blood alcohol concentration (BAC) from your breath. Please take a few moments to review the entire manual before using the unit.

Before using the AlcAlert:

- When inserting batteries (not included with all models), please note the correct polarity on the inside of the battery case. Inserting the batteries with the incorrect polarity may damage the unit.
- Do not blow smoke or fluids into the

mouth vent, as this may damage the sensor. Similarly, certain gases such as silicone compounds, sulfur, and freon gases can also damage your sensor. Keep the unit away from all liquids and store in a safe environment.

- If the **AlcAlert** needs to be cleaned, wipe gently with a soft cloth. Do not use any cleaning agents.
- Allow 30 minutes after consuming alcohol or smoking before using the unit. This helps to ensure the breath sample is taken from your lungs, and not from the alcohol within your mouth, which may

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result in a higher reading. In some cases, it may take up to one hour to reach the highest blood alcohol level after the last consumption of alcohol.

- Each individual's body responds to the consumption of alcohol differently. Consequently, a person's ability to drive safely may be impaired at a point well below the legal blood alcohol limit.

Using the unit

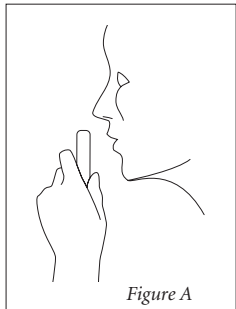
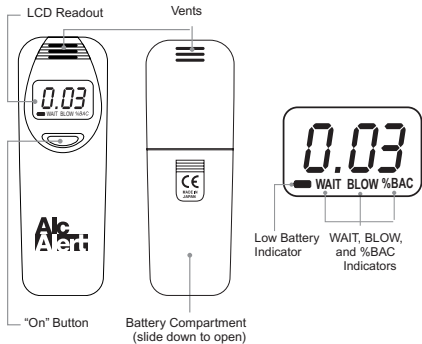
1. Press the "On" button

The unit beeps once, the "WAIT" indicator flashes, and the unit begins a "warm-up" countdown from 14-to-0 or 6-to-0 (see

Additional Information). You must wait until the countdown is completed. Proceed with step 2 only when the unit beeps twice and the "BLOW" indicator flashes.

NOTE: If "SAT" (saturation) flashes after the countdown is completed and the unit turns off, the sensor is saturated. Simply reactivate the unit to perform another warm-up countdown cycle. If "SAT" appears again, repeat this process as many times as necessary until "SAT" no longer appears. In most instances, 2 or 3 reactivation cycles should clear the "SAT" message. More reactivation

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cycles may be required if saturation is extensive (see Additional Information).

2. Blow into the vent

Blow continuously for about 5 seconds, until the unit beeps 3 times before displaying the results. Immediately as you start to blow, “Err” (Error) flashes until the unit beeps 3 times. Blow very gently from between your lips, as if cooling a spoonful of soup. A distance of about one inch (2-3 cm) between the vent and the mouth is suggested. (See figure A.)

Note: If you do not blow at all, or if you stop blowing before you hear 3

beeps, the LCD flashes “Err” to indicate that you did not apply any or sufficient breath through the vent. If so, ignore the results and repeat the process.

3. Read the results

The %BAC results are displayed on the LCD for about 5 seconds after the reading is taken. The results then flash for a few seconds until the unit turns off automatically.

The results are shown in increments of 0.01, ranging from 0.00 to 0.12. Results greater than 0.12 %BAC are displayed as “+.12”.

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Understanding the results


The BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) represents the amount of ethyl alcohol in a given volume of blood. For instance, having a %BAC of 0.10 means that a person has 1 part alcohol per 1,000 parts blood in the body.

The most commonly used measurements are grams of ethanol per milliliter of blood (g/ml), used in the United States (also expressed as %BAC) and milligrams of ethanol per milliliter of blood (mg/ml), used in much of Europe (also expressed as promille).

For example, a reading of 0.05 %BAC on the **AlcAlert** is the same as 0.05 g/ml or 50 mg/ml or 0.5 g/l or 0.5 promille.

Additional information:

- The normal warm-up countdown is from 6-to-0. However, if it has been more than 1 hour since the last operation, the unit begins a 14-to-0 warm-up countdown.

 **The sensor must be warmed up properly to report accurate readings. Therefore, for maximum accuracy, each time you start to use the unit after it has**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

been idle for a time, always disregard the results following the initial 14-to-one countdown, as well as the next three 6-to-0 countdowns.

- The “SAT” (saturation) message feature prevents the unit from displaying inaccurate %BAC readings in the case of sensor saturation by contaminating agents. For example, saturation often occurs when excessive alcohol moisture is deposited on the sensor from multiple consecutive uses, or by the accumulation of air contaminants on the sensor after a long period of inoperability, such as upon first


use. In such instances, the unit requires additional warm-up cycles to properly recondition the sensor.


- If the low battery indicator flashes then remains on, replace the batteries.
- The **AlcAlert** Model BT5500 includes a backlight. The backlight turns on and off automatically.
- Always blow into the unit in a consistent manner. Different blowing conditions may produce different results.
- Your unit is more accurate when your true blood alcohol concentration is between


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0.02 %BAC and 0.08 %BAC and less accurate as your blood alcohol concentration is over 0.08 %BAC.

- When tested with a standard 0.08% BAC solution, the unit may read in the range from 0.06 to 0.10. Thus, a reading of .06 may well indicate a level of 0.08% BAC.

 **Each individual's body responds to the consumption of alcohol differently. Consequently, a person's ability to drive safely may be impaired at a point well below the legal blood alcohol limit.**

 **The AlcAlert should be used only to give an indication of the possible presence of alcohol in the blood. Do not rely upon it as the sole basis to determine intoxication or whether it is safe to drive a vehicle, operate equipment, or engage in dangerous activities.**

 **PNI Corporation does not recommend drinking and driving. If you are going to drink alcohol, always have a non-drinking designated driver. Do not drink and drive!**

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Dimensions/Weight:** 3½ x 1¼ x ½ inches / 1.6 oz.; (90 x 31.5 x 16.5 mm / 50 grams)
- **Sensor:** Semiconductor gas sensor
- **Accuracy*:** ±20% at 0.08 %BAC for 2 years, under normal operating conditions and factors**
- **Display:** %BAC in 0.01 increments ranging from 0.00 to 0.12
- **Power/Battery life:** 2 AAA alkaline batteries for over 300 uses
- **Product lifetime:** Two years, under normal operating conditions and factors
- **Temperature range:**
Storage: -4° to 158°F (-20° to 70°C)
Operating: 32° to 104°F (0° to 40°C)
- * *Accuracy varies depending on individual metabolism, blowing conditions, humidity, and the condition of the sensor.*
- ** *Normal operating conditions and factors means an ambient temperature range of 50°F to 95°F; a relative humidity range of 40% to 60%; a clean air environment (no contamination or poisoning agents), and normal usage (less than 20 operations/day).*

SERVICE AND REPLACEMENT

Customer Service

For customer service questions, please contact our customer service department by e-mail at customerservice@pnicorp.com, or call us between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (PST), Monday through Friday.

Warranty Service

For the fastest service, it is best to contact or return your unit to the place of purchase within 30 days of the purchase. If you wish to return the unit for replacement or repair to PNI Corporation, please follow the following procedures:

1. Obtain a return merchandise authoriza-

tion (RMA) number by contacting PNI Corporation.

- By phone: (888) 422-6672 (toll-free within the U.S.A. only) or at (707) 566-2260
- By fax: (707) 566-2261
- By e-mail: techsupport@pnicorp.com

2. Provide a proof of purchase, such as a mechanical reproduction or carbon copy of a sales receipt. If you send your original receipt, it cannot be returned. Proof of purchase must show printed date of purchase, model number, and place of purchase. There will be a charge

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for repair or replacement if no proof of purchase is provided or if the unit is past the warranty period.

Once you have acquired an RMA number, pack the unit securely to prevent damage in transit. If possible, use the original packing material and box. Be sure to send the entire product.

3. Ship prepaid and insured by way of a traceable carrier, such as United Parcel Service (UPS), Roadway Parcel Service (RPS), or First Class Mail to avoid loss in transit.
4. Write the issued RMA number on the

outside of your package and send your proof of purchase and description of the problem to the following address:

PNI Corporation

Attn: RMA# _____

5464 Skylane Blvd., Suite A

Santa Rosa, CA 95403-1084

Type or print your name and address where the replacement should be delivered. After receipt of your documents and unit, a replacement unit will be sent to you. Please allow 2 to 3 weeks from receipt of your returned product to delivery of your replacement.

LIMITED WARRANTY; LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

PNI Corporation ("PNI") manufactures its products, which include accessories, from parts and components that are new or equivalent to new in performance and expressly warrants to the original retail purchaser who is also the original user that this product will be free of defects in workmanship and materials for ninety (90) days from the date of purchase. Implied warranties are limited to such person for the same period.

If the product is found by PNI to be defective, PNI's entire liability and your exclusive remedy for breach of warranty, express or implied, shall be that PNI will repair or replace the product and return the product or its replacement to you at no charge, provided that you ship the product to PNI at your expense with a description of the defect and subject to the other conditions of this warranty. Should the product prove to be irreparable, PNI may substitute an equivalent product of the same or similar style and of a value not in excess of the

original purchase price of your product. PNI warrants the repaired or replacement product to be free from defects in material and workmanship for the balance of the original warranty period, extended by the time period from your shipment to PNI for repair or replacement until the repaired or replaced product was received by you.

This warranty will be void if the serial number or other identification marks on the product or its accessories have been defaced, damaged or removed. This warranty does not cover wear and tear due to normal use, or damage to the product as the result of improper usage, neglect of care, alteration, accident or unauthorized repair, nor does this warranty apply to the battery necessary to operate the product.

This warranty is extended only to the original retail purchaser who is also the original user and may not be transferred or assigned to subsequent owners. In order to validate your warranty, you must pro-

LIMITED WARRANTY; LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

vide proof of purchase acceptable to PNI, together with the product shipped for warranty repair or replacement. Products returned to PNI must be pre-authorized by PNI with an RMA (return material authorization) number marked on the outside of the package. Please refer to the Service and Replacement section for PNI Corporation contact information.

THE FOREGOING WARRANTY IS GIVEN IN LIEU OF AND PNI DISCLAIMS ALL OTHER EXPRESS WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS IN FACT OR IN LAW WITH RESPECT TO THIS PRODUCT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTY OR REPRESENTATION THAT USE OF THE PRODUCT WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR ERROR FREE.

Except for the breach of warranty remedies set forth herein, or for personal injury, PNI shall have no liability for any indirect or speculative damages

(including, but not limited to, consequential, incidental, punitive and special damages) relating to the use of or inability to use this product, whether arising out of contract, negligence, tort, or under any warranty theory, or for infringement of any other party's intellectual property rights, irrespective of whether PNI had advance notice of the possibility of any such damages, including, but not limited to, loss of use, revenue or profit. In no event shall PNI's total liability for all claims regarding the product exceed the price paid for the product. PNI neither assumes nor authorizes anyone to assume for it any other liabilities.

Some states and provinces do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts or the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may have other rights that vary by state or province.

Your Opinion Matters!

Please take a few minutes to register and let us know about yourself. It will help us serve you better in the future, and all information will remain confidential.

To register, log on to:

www.pniservice.com



PNI Corporation

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