

Testo 870 thermal imager

Instruction manual



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1 Safety and waste disposal

1.1 About this document

- The instruction manual is an integral part of the instrument.
- Keep this document throughout the entire operating life of the instrument.
- Always use the complete original instruction manual.
- Please read this instruction manual through carefully and familiarise yourself with the product before putting it to use.
- Pass this instruction manual on to any additional or subsequent users of the product.
- Pay particular attention to the safety instructions and warning advice in order to prevent injury and damage to the product.

1.2 Safety

General safety instructions

- Only operate this instrument in the proper manner, for its intended purpose and within the parameters specified in the technical data.
- Do not apply any force to open the instrument.
- Do not operate the instrument if there are signs of damage on the housing, mains unit or connected cables.
- Always comply with the locally valid safety regulations when carrying out measurements. Dangers may also arise from objects to be measured or the measuring environment.
- Do not store the product together with solvents.
- Do not use any desiccants.
- Only perform maintenance and repair work on this instrument that is described in this documentation. Follow the prescribed steps exactly.
- Use only original spare parts from Testo.
- During operation, this instrument must not be pointed at the sun or other intensive sources of radiation (e.g. objects with temperatures exceeding 500 °C). This can lead to serious damage to the detector. The manufacturer does not provide any warranty for any such damage to the microbolometer detector.

Batteries

- Improper use of batteries may cause the batteries to be destroyed, or lead to injury due to current surges, fire or escaping chemicals.
- Only use the batteries supplied in accordance with the instructions in the instruction manual.
- Do not short-circuit the batteries.
- Do not take the batteries apart and do not modify them.
- Do not expose the batteries to heavy impacts, water, fire or temperatures in excess of 60 °C.
- Do not store the batteries in the proximity of metal objects.
- In the event of contact with battery acid: rinse affected areas thoroughly with water, and if necessary consult a doctor.
- Do not use any leaky or damaged batteries.
- Only charge the rechargeable battery in the instrument or in the recommended charging station.
- Immediately stop the charging process if this is not completed in the given time.
- Take the rechargeable battery out of the instrument or the charging station immediately if it is not functioning properly or if it shows signs of overheating. Rechargeable battery may be hot!
- When not in use for a long period of time, take the rechargeable battery out of the instrument to prevent exhaustive discharge.

Warnings

Always pay attention to any information denoted by the following warnings. Implement the precautionary measures specified!

Display	Explanation
	Indicates possible serious injury.
	Indicates possible minor injury.
ATTENTION	Indicates possible damage to equipment.

1.3 Waste disposal

- Dispose of faulty rechargeable batteries and spent batteries in accordance with the valid legal specifications.
- At the end of its useful life, dispose of the instrument via separate collection for electrical and electronic devices. Please observe local regulations regarding waste disposal, or alternatively return the product to Testo for disposal.

2 Technical data

Image output

Feature	Values
Infrared resolution	160 x 120 pixels (FPA, amorphous silicon)
Thermal sensitivity (NETD)	<100 mK @ 30 °C
Field of view (FOV) / min. focusing distance	$34^{\circ} \times 26^{\circ} / < 0.5 \text{ m}$ (fixed-focus lens)
Geometric resolution (IFOV)	3.68 mrad
SuperResolution (optional function)	320 x 240 pixels / 2.3 mrad
IR image refresh rate	9 Hz
Spectral range	7.5 - 14 μm

Image presentation

Feature	Values
Display	8.9 cm (3.5") TFT, QVGA (320 x 240 pixels)
Display options	Infrared image
	 Real image (only for testo 870-2)
Interface	USB 2.0 micro B
Colour palettes	4 options: iron, rainbow HC, grey, cold-hot

Measuring

Feature	Values
Measurement range	-20 to 280 °C
Accuracy	Information valid for specified measurement range + tolerance ±2 °C , ±2 % of reading (higher value applies)

Feature	Values
Extended display range	Values with no guarantee of accuracy, prefixed with a tilde (~) on the display. -40 to -22 °C 286 to 290 °C
Measurement	Single point measurementColdspotHotspot

Digital camera (only testo 870-2)

Feature	Values
File format	.jpg
Lens	34° x 26°

Image storage

Feature	Values
File format	.bmt and .jpgExport options in .bmp, .jpg, .png, .xls., csv
Memory capacity	Internal mass storage 1.6 GB, > 2000 images (without SuperResolution)

Power supply

Feature	Values
Battery type	Li-Ion rechargeable battery 2500 mAh / 3.7 V
Operating time	4 h @ 20 °C
Charging option	In instrument/in charging station (optional)
Charging time	approx. 5 h via mains unit
	approx. 8 h via a PC's USB interface

Ambient conditions

Feature	Values
Operating temperature	-15 to 50 °C
Storage temperature	-30 to 60 °C
Humidity	20 - 80 %RH, not condensing

Physical features

Feature	Values
Weight	550 g (including battery)
Dimensions	96 x 95 x 219 mm
Housing	PC/ABS
Protection class (IEC 60529)	IP 54
Vibration (IEC 60068-2-6)	2 G

Standards, tests, warranty

Feature	Values
EU Directive	2004/108/EC
Warranty	2 years, warranty conditions: see www.testo.com/warranty

3 Description of the instrument

3.1 Use

The testo 870 is a handy, robust thermal imager. You can use it to undertake the non-contact measurement and display of surface temperature distribution.

Areas of application

- Building inspection: Energy efficiency rating of buildings (heating, ventilation, air-conditioning trade, building engineers, engineering firms, experts)
- Production monitoring / quality assurance: monitoring of production processes
- Preventive maintenance / servicing: Electrical and mechanical inspection of systems and machines

3.1 Instrument / operating elements overview



	Element	Function
1	Display	Displays infrared and real images, menus and functions
2	Interface terminal	Contains micro USB interface for power supply and connection to the computer
3	- じ button - Esc button	Switch camera on and offCancel action
4	 OK button Joystick 	 Open menu, select function, confirm setting Navigate within the menu, select function, select colour palette
5	Quick select button ⊸	Opens the function assigned to the quick select button; the icon for the selected function is displayed bottom right
6	Infrared camera lens; protective cap	Takes infrared images; protects the lens
7	Digital camera (only testo 870-2)	Takes real images
8	Trigger	Saves the displayed image
9	Battery compartment	Contains the rechargeable battery

3.1 Displays overview



	Element	Function
1		Battery capacity / charge status: Eattery operation, capacity 75-100% Eattery operation, capacity 50-75% Eattery operation, capacity 25-50% Eattery operation, capacity 10-25% Eattery operation, capacity 0-10% Eattery ope
2	Image display	IR image or real image display (only testo 870-2)
3	°C or °F	Unit set for reading and scale displays
4	Scale	 Temperature unit Grey characters: Measurement range Black characters: temperature margin of the image displayed, showing the minimum/maximum reading (with automatic scale adjustment) or the selected minimum/maximum display value (with manual scale adjustment)
5	ⓐ or ₪	Automatic or manual scale adjustment activated
6	E	Emissivity set

3.2 Power supply

The power is supplied to the instrument via a replaceable rechargeable battery or the mains unit provided (battery must be inserted).

With an attached mains unit, power is supplied automatically via the mains unit and the rechargeable battery is charged (only at ambient temperatures from 0 to 40° C).

If the instrument is switched off when connected to a PC via the USB interface, the rechargeable battery is charged via the USB interface.

It is also possible to charge the battery using a charging station (accessory).

The instrument is equipped with a buffer battery to maintain the system data during an interruption in the power supply (e.g. when the battery is changed).

4 Operation

4.1 Initial operation

Please read the testo 870 1st steps commissioning instructions supplied (0970 8702).

4.2 Switching instrument on and off

Switching on the camera

Remove protective cap from the lens.

- 2 Press 🖱.
- The camera starts.
- The start screen appears on the display.



The camera carries out automatic zeroing approx. every 60 seconds in order to guarantee measuring accuracy. A "click" is heard when this happens. The image freezes briefly when this occurs. Zeroing is carried out more frequently during the camera warm-up period (takes approx. 90 seconds).

During the warm-up period no measuring accuracy is guaranteed. The image can already be used for indication purposes and saved.

Switching off the camera

- Press and hold down U until the progress bar is complete.
- The display goes off.
- The camera is switched off.



4.3 Getting to know the menu

1 - Press OK to open the menu.



2 - Move the Joystick down/up to highlight a function (orange border).



- 3 Press OK to select the function.
- 3.1 Move the Joystick to the right to open the submenu (indicated with ►).
 - Move the Joystick to the left to go back to the main menu.

4.4 Colour palette quick change

testo 870-2: this function is only available if the **Image type** is set to infrared image.

1 - Move the Joystick down/up to switch between the colour palettes.

4.5 Quick select button

The quick select button is another navigation option that you can use to call up certain functions simply at the touch of a button.

Quick select menu items

Menu item	Function
All Image type (only testo 870-2)	Alternately switches the image display between infrared and real image.
🖾 Image gallery	Opens an overview of saved images.
Scale (testo 870-2: this function is only available if the Image type is set to infrared)	Set scale limits.

Menu item	Function
Emissivity (testo 870-2: this function is only available if the Image type is set to infrared)	Set emissivity (E) and reflected temperature (RTC).
Adjustment (testo 870-2: this function is only available if the Image type is set to infrared)	Carries out manual zeroing.

Changing assignment

- 1 Move the **Joystick** to the right.
- The Configure key selection menu appears.
- ► The activated function is marked with a tick (✓).
- 2 Move the Joystick up/down until the orange box appears around the required menu item.
 - Press OK
- The quick select button is assigned to the selected menu item.
- The icon for the selected function is displayed bottom right.

Using the quick select button

- 1 Press 즓.
- The function assigned to the quick select button is carried out.





5 Performing the measurement

CAUTION

High thermal radiation (e.g. due to sun, fire, furnaces) Detector may be damaged!

- Do not point the camera at objects with temperatures exceeding 500 °C.

Ideal framework conditions

- Building thermography, investigating the building shell: Considerable temperature difference between inside and outside required (ideal: ≥ 15 °C / ≥ 27 °F).
- Consistent weather conditions, no intensive sunlight, no precipitation, no strong wind.
- To ensure maximum accuracy, the camera requires an adjustment time of 10 minutes after it is switched on.

Important camera settings

- Emissivity and reflected temperature must be set correctly in order to precisely determine the temperature. Subsequent adjustment is possible via the PC software, if required.
- When auto-scaling is activated, the colour scale is continuously adjusted to the min./max. values of the current measurement image. This means that the colour assigned to a specific temperature is changing constantly! To be able to compare multiple images based on the assigned colour, scaling must be set manually to fixed values, or must be subsequently adjusted to uniform values using the PC software.

5.1 Saving an image

- 1 Press trigger.
- The image is automatically saved.
- testo 870-2: regardless of the image type set, an infrared image is saved with an attached real image.



If a higher resolution is required: in the menu under **Configuration** select **SuperResolution** (optional function), for four times as many readings.

5.2 Setting measuring functions

- Open the Measurement submenu. Procedure: see Getting to know the menu, page 11.
- ▶ The submenu opens with the measuring functions:
 - Single point measurement: the temperature measuring point in the centre of the image is marked with white crosshairs and the value is displayed. In saved images the crosshairs can be moved using the joystick, in order to read the value of other measuring points.
 - **Coldspot**: the lowest temperature measuring point is marked with blue crosshairs and the value is displayed.
 - Hotspot: the highest temperature measuring point is marked with red crosshairs and the value is displayed.
 - Measurement range: temperature range of the readings displayed (for info).
- 2 Move the Joystick up/down to select the required function and then press OK.

5.3 Image gallery

Saved images can be displayed, analysed or deleted.

File names

i



	Designation	Explanation
1	-	Infrared preview
2	IR 000000	Infrared image, testo 870-2: with attached real image Consecutive number

File names can be changed via the PC, e.g. in Windows Explorer.

Displaying a saved image

Saved images can be viewed and analysed in the image gallery.

1 - Select Image gallery function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page 11.
All saved images are displayed in the form of an infrared preview.
2 - Move Joystick to select an image.
3 - Press OK to open the selected image.
The image is displayed.

Analysing an image

Saved images can be analysed using the Single point measurement, Hotspot and Coldspot measuring functions. In saved images the crosshairs, which mark the measuring point, can be moved using the joystick.

For a description of the individual functions, please read the information in the relevant sections.

Deleting an image



4.1 - Press Esc to cancel the process.

5.4 Image type

This function is only available for the testo 870-2 version.

The display can be switched between infrared image and real image (digital camera).

- 1 Select **Image type** function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page **11**.
- The image type displayed switches alternately between the infrared image view and real image view.

5.5 Setting the scale

Manual scaling can be activated instead of automatic scaling (continuous automatic adjustment to the current min./max. values). The scale limits can be set within the measurement range.

The activated mode is displayed bottom right: (A) automatic scaling, (M) manual scaling.

1

Auto-scaling continuously adjusts the scale to the readings presented, and the colour assigned to a temperature value changes.

In manual scaling fixed limit values are defined, and the colour assigned to a temperature value is fixed (important for visual image comparisons).

The scaling affects how the infrared image appears on the display, but has no effect on the recorded readings.

Setting automatic scaling

- 1 Select Scale function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page 11.
- 2 Move the Joystick to the left until Auto is selected and then press OK.
- Automatic scaling is activated. (A) is displayed bottom right.

Setting manual scaling

The lower limit value, the temperature range (upper and lower limit value simultaneously) and the upper limit value can be set.

1 - Select Scale function. For how to proceed see Getting to know the menu, page 11.

- 2 Move the Joystick to the left/right until II (lower limit value) is selected.
 - Move the Joystick up/down to set the value.
- 2.1 Move the Joystick to the left/right until I (lower limit value) and I (upper limit value) are selected.
 - Move the Joystick up/down to set the values.
- 2.2 Move the Joystick to the right until (upper limit value) is selected.
 Move the Joystick up/down to set the value.
 - 3 Press OK.
 - ▶ Manual scaling is activated. ^(M) is displayed bottom right.

5.6 Setting emissivity and reflected temperature

testo 870-2: this function is only available if the **Image type** is set to infrared image.

You can choose between user-defined emissivity and 8 materials with permanently set emissivity. The reflected temperature (RTC) can be set individually.

Other materials can be imported into the instrument from an existing list using the PC software.

Emissivity information:

The emissivity describes the capability of a body to emit electromagnetic radiation. This is material-specific and must be adapted for correct measurement results.

Non-metals (paper, ceramic, gypsum, wood, paints and coatings), plastics and food have high emissivity, which means that the surface temperature can be easily measured using infrared.

Because of their low or non-uniform emissivity, bright metals and metal oxides only have limited suitability for infrared measurement. Highly inaccurate measurements should be expected. A remedy for this is coatings that increase emissivity, e.g. paint or emission adhesive (accessory: 0554 0051), which must be applied to the object to be measured.

Material (material temperature)	Emissivity
Aluminium, bright rolled (170 °C)	0.04
Cotton (20 °C)	0.77
Concrete (25 °C)	0.93
Ice, smooth (0 °C)	0.97
Iron, emery-ground (20 °C)	0.24
Iron with casting skin (100 °C)	0.80
Iron with rolling skin (20 °C)	0.77
Gypsum (20 °C)	0.90
Glass (90 °C)	0.94
Rubber, hard (23 °C)	0.94
Rubber, soft grey (23 °C)	0.89
Wood (70 °C)	0.94
Cork (20 °C)	0.70
Radiator, black anodised (50 °C)	0.98
Copper, slightly tarnished (20 °C)	0.04
Copper, oxidised (130 °C)	0.76
Plastics: PE, PP, PVC (20 °C)	0.94
Brass, oxidised (200 °C)	0.61
Paper (20 °C)	0.97
Porcelain (20 °C)	0.92
Black paint, matt (80 °C)	0.97
Steel, heat-treated surface (200 °C)	0.52
Steel, oxidised (200 °C)	0.79
Clay, burnt (70 °C)	0.91
Transformer paint (70 °C)	0.94
Brick, mortar, plaster (20 °C)	0.93

The following table gives typical emissivities of important materials. These values can be used as a guide for user-defined settings.

Reflected temperature information:

Using this offset factor, the reflection is calculated out based on the low emissivity, and the accuracy of the temperature measurement with infrared measuring instruments is improved. In most cases, the reflected temperature is identical to the ambient air temperature. Only when objects with strong emissions at much lower temperatures (such as cloudless skies during outdoor readings) or much higher temperatures (such as ovens or machines) are in proximity to the object being measured should the radiation temperature of these sources be determined and used. The reflected temperature has little effect on objects with high emissivity.

- @ Further information can be found in the Pocket Guide.
- 1 Select Emissivity function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page 11.
- 2 Move the **Joystick** up/down to select the required material (with permanently set emissivity) and then press OK.
- 2.1 Move the Joystick up/down until User defined is selected.
 - Move the Joystick to the right until E is selected.
 - Manually set value.
 - 3 Move the Joystick to the right until RTC is selected.
 - Manually set value.
 - 4 Press OK.

5.7 Selecting the colour palette

testo 870-2: this function is only available if the **Image type** is set to infrared image.

- Select Palette function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page 11.
- 2 Move the Joystick up/down to select the required colour palette and then press OK.
- @ For further setting options, see Colour palette quick change, page 12.

5.8 Configuration

Fullscreen mode

The scale and the quick select button function indicator can be hidden.

- 1 Select Fullscreen Mode function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page 11.
- When Fullscreen Mode is activated, the scale and icon for the quick select button are hidden. When a key is pressed, these elements are displayed briefly.

SuperResolution (optional function)

SuperResolution is a technology to improve image quality. Each time an image is recorded, a sequence of images is saved on the thermal imager and used to calculate an image with four times more readings, with the aid of the PC software (no interpolation). The geometric resolution (IFOV) is improved by a factor of 1.6.



This function is available as an additional option (article no. 0554 7806) and must be activated before it can be used.

Activate function:



you will receive an envelope with an access code (**identification code**), which you should enter on the website **www.testo.com/upgrade**. When all necessary data has been entered, an **activation code** is generated, and this can be used to activate the function via the IRSoft PC software. Please observe the installation requirements and steps on the website or in the email sent to you.

To use the function, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- The camera is hand-held.
- The objects to be imaged do not move.

- 1 Open SuperResolution function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page **11**.
- 2 Press OK to enable or disable the function.
- 3 Move the Joystick until OK is selected.
- 4 Press OK.

Save JPEG

Infrared images are saved in BMT (image with all temperature data) format. The image can also be saved in JPEG format (without temperature data) at the same time. The image content corresponds to the infrared image shown on the display, including scale display and image marks for the selected measuring functions. The JPEG file is saved under the same file name as the associated BMT file and can be opened on the PC, even without using the IRSoft PC software.

- 1 Open Save JPEG function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page 11.
- 2 Press OK to enable or disable the function.
- 3 Move the Joystick until OK is selected.
- 4 Press OK.

Power-save options

The illumination intensity of the display can be set. A lower intensity increases the battery life.

- 1 Select Power-save options function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page **11**.
- 2 Move the Joystick up/down to select the required intensity level and then press OK.

Language

The user interface language can be set.

- Select Language function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page 11.
- 2 Move the Joystick up/down to select the required language and then press OK.

Temperature unit

The temperature unit can be set.

- 1 Open the **Temperature unit** submenu. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu.
- 2 Move the Joystick up/down to select the required unit and then press OK.

Set time/date

Time and date can be set. The time and date format are set automatically based on the selected user interface language.

- Select Set time/date function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page 11.
- 2 Move the Joystick to the right/left to select the required setting option.
- 3 Move the Joystick up/down to set the value.
- 4 After setting all values, press OK.

Reset counter



After a reset, the consecutive numbering of images starts again from the beginning. When saving images, already saved images with the same number are overwritten!

Back up all saved images before resetting the counter to prevent possible overwriting.

- 1 Select Reset counter function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page **11**.
- Reset counter? is displayed.
- 2 Press OK to reset the counter.
- 2.1 Press Esc to cancel the process.

Formatting

The image memory can be formatted.



When formatting, all data saved in the memory is lost.

Back up all saved images before formatting to prevent loss of data. Formatting does not reset the counter.

- 1 Select Format function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page **11**.
- Format memory? is displayed.
- 2 Press OK to format the memory.
- 2.1 Press Esc to cancel the process.

Factory settings

The instrument settings can be reset to the factory settings.



Time/date, country settings and counter are not reset.

- 1 Select Factory settings function. For how to proceed: see Getting to know the menu, page 11.
- Apply factory settings? is displayed.
- 2 Press OK to apply factory settings.
- 2.1 Press Esc to cancel the process.

6 Maintenance

6.1 Charging the rechargeable battery

- 1 Open the cover of the interface terminal.
- 2 Connect the recharger cable to the Micro-USB interface.
- 3 Connect the mains unit to a mains socket.



The charging process will start.

If the battery has been completely drained, the charging time is approx. 5 hours.

- The charge status is not displayed while the instrument is switched off.
- 4 Switch on the instrument to call up the charge status.
- @ For other battery charging options, see Power supply, page **10**.

6.2 Changing the rechargeable battery

1 - Switch the instrument off.



2 - Open the battery compartment.





3 - Release the battery and remove.

4 - Insert new battery and slide upwards until it clicks into place.

5 - Close the battery compartment.



6.3 Cleaning the instrument

Cleaning the instrument housing

- The interface terminal is closed.
 - The battery compartment is closed.
- 1 Rub down the surface of the instrument with a damp cloth. Use mild household cleaning agents or soapy water for this.

Cleaning the lens and display

- 1 If the lens is dirty, clean it with a cotton bud.
- 2 If the display is dirty, clean it with a cleaning cloth (e.g. microfibre cloth).

7 Tips and assistance

7.1 Questions and answers

Question	Possible cause / solution
Error! Memory full! is displayed.	Insufficient memory available: Transfer images to the PC or delete.
Error! Permissible instrument temperature exceeded! is displayed.	Switch off the camera, allow the instrument to cool down and observe the permissible ambient temperature.
~ is displayed before a value.	Value is outside the measuring range: extended display range with no guarantee of accuracy.
or +++ is displayed instead of a value.	Value is outside the measuring range and the extended display range.
xxx is displayed instead of a value.	Value cannot be calculated: check parameter settings for plausibility.
Automatic zeroing (audible "click" and brief image freeze) is carried out very frequently.	Camera is still in its warm-up period (takes approx. 90 seconds): Wait until the warm-up period has passed.

If we have not been able to answer your question, please contact your dealer or Testo Customer Service. You will find contact details on the back of this document or on the website **www.testo.com/service-contact**.

7.2 Accessories and spare parts

Description	Item no.
Battery charging station	0554 1103
Spare rechargeable battery	0515 0100
High-quality transport case	0516 8700
Emission tape	0554 0051
SuperResolution	0554 7806
ISO calibration certificates	
 Calibration points at 0 °C, 25 °C, 50 °C 	0520 0489
 Calibration points at 0 °C, 100 °C, 200 °C 	0520 0490
 Freely selectable calibration points in the range -18 °C to 250 °C 	0520 0495

For further accessories and spare parts, please refer to the product catalogues and brochures or look up at **www.testo.com**.



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