



## USER GUIDE

Kestrel 5500 Fire Weather Pro  
Kestrel 5400 Fire Weather Pro with WBGT

[www.kestrelinstruments.com](http://www.kestrelinstruments.com)



**Your Kestrel Weather/Environmental Meter is designed to provide accurate measurement of current and historical conditions only. Depending on your location and environment, conditions may change rapidly.**

*Rapid temperature and humidity changes (i.e., moving your meter from indoors to outdoors) may cause temporarily inaccurate readings of temperature and humidity as well as all readings that rely on either of these values. Before relying on temperature readings from your Kestrel Meter, be sure to let it equilibrate or force air flow over the sensors by waving or slinging your meter through the air. For Humidity readings, wait until your unit's readings have stabilized, indicating it has equilibrated to its new environment. Humidity readings may take more than 15 minutes to equilibrate to a new environment.*

To maximize the accuracy and reliability of your readings:

- **Ensure that your Kestrel Meter is in good repair and within factory calibration.**
- **Take readings frequently and carefully according to the guidelines above.**
- **Allow your meter's readings to stabilize after significant changes in temperature or humidity (i.e., changing location from indoors to outdoors).**
- **Allow a margin of safety for changing conditions and reading errors (2-3% of reading is recommended).**

**Use care and good judgment when referring to your Kestrel Meter to make any decisions regarding safety, health or property protection.**



**To reduce the risk of injury or death to persons, read and follow these guidelines!**

*Your Kestrel Weather/Environmental Weather Meter may provide one or more of these measurements relating to estimation of danger of injury to people or animals from heat or cold: Heat Stress Index, Wind Chill Index, Wet Bulb Globe Temperature ("WBGT"), Thermal Work Limit ("TWL"). Note that guidance tables based on these values are based on typical physiological response. Certain individuals or animals may be more susceptible to harm relating to environmental conditions and require additional precautions. For example, very young or elderly individuals, individuals with asthma, and individuals who have not become acclimatized to hot conditions are likely to be more prone to heat injury.*

- **Know yourself and the individuals and items you are responsible for.**
- **Where appropriate, seek the guidance of a medical professional.**
- **Know what to do in the event of heat or cold injury and be prepared with supplies.**
- **In the case of heat illness, remember the rule – "Cool first, transport second." An inexpensive ice bath can mean the difference between life and death.**

**Your Kestrel Weather/Environmental Meter is not a medical device. It is only one source of information and must be employed with care and good judgment.**

## CONTENTS

Contact .....	4	Weather Glossary.....	21
Batteries .....	4	Impeller Replacement .....	23
Measurements And Features .....	5	Warranty Certificate .....	24
Getting To Know Your Kestrel.....	7		
Buttons .....	8		
Kestrel Options Menu .....	8		
Weather Mode Screens.....	9		
Kestrel Menu Navigation .....	10		
Getting Started .....	11		
Probability of Ignition and Fine Dead Fuel Moisture....	12		
Configure WBGT.....	13		
Custom Flag Settings .....	14		
Measuring Direction .....	14		
Altimeter And Barometer.....	15		
Using Min/Avg/Max .....	16		
Connecting To Devices Using LiNK.....	16		
Creating, Viewing, & Exporting Data Logs.....	18		
Thermal Work Limit (TWL) .....	20		

## CONTACT

This User Guide contains only the information you need to get started using your Kestrel meter. For FAQ's, chat and e-mail support, visit [www.kestrelinstruments.com](http://www.kestrelinstruments.com).

**For more information on regional, sport, or organizational WBGT guidelines, or for more information on heat stress safety, visit us as**

**[www.heatstress.com](http://www.heatstress.com). For questions about your Kestrel Heat Stress Tracker, contact us at (800) 784-4221 Toll Free North America (610) 447-1555  
Email: [support@kestrelinstruments.com](mailto:support@kestrelinstruments.com)  
Facebook: [Fb.com/KestrelMeters](https://www.facebook.com/KestrelMeters)  
Twitter: [@KestrelWeather](https://twitter.com/KestrelWeather)**

**⚠ WARNING:** This product and/or its included or branded accessories can expose you to chemicals, including lead, lead compounds and phthalate DEHP, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and lead and lead compounds, bisphenol A (BPA), and phthalate DnHP, which are known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information, go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov)

## BATTERIES





We recommend that ONLY Lithium AA batteries be used in your Kestrel Weather/Environmental Meter to provide the widest operating temperature range and to avoid damage caused by leaking lead-acid batteries. If you must use conventional AA batteries, please do not store your Kestrel Meter with the batteries in place. Damage caused by battery corrosion is not covered under warranty.

**⚠ WARNING:** Lithium is a toxic substance and ingestion may cause serious injury or death. Keep lithium batteries out of the reach of children. If swallowed, immediately seek medical help. Have doctor phone 24-hour hotline at (202) 625-3333, call collect if necessary. Dispose of batteries properly and according to local regulations. Do not puncture or burn batteries. If the battery compartment does not close securely, stop using the product and keep it away from children.

**⚠ WARNING:** Utilizing the alert light and buzzer in your Kestrel Heat Stress Tracker places a higher demand on the battery. To ensure the alert light and buzzer operate when needed, replace the battery when a third or less of battery life remains, as indicated on start up.

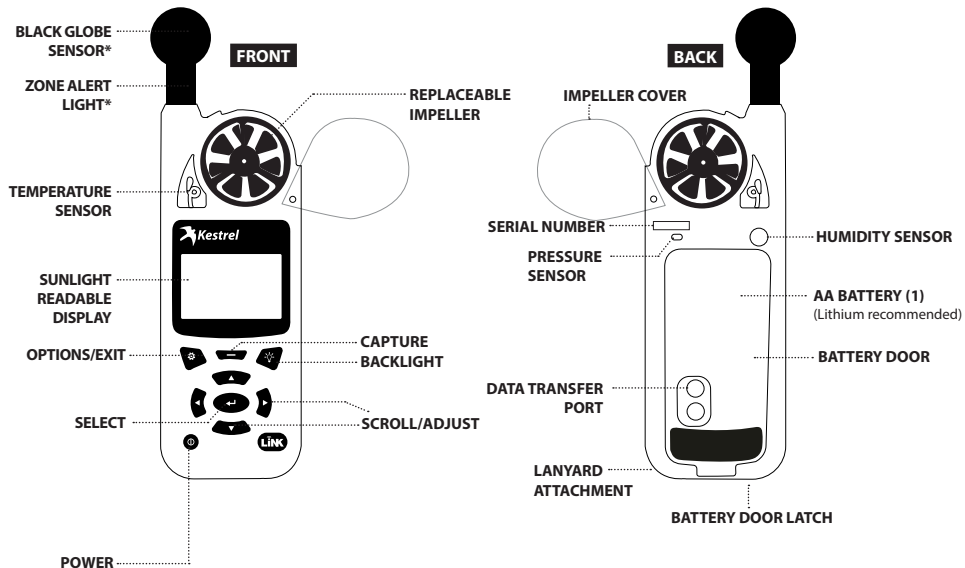
MEASUREMENTS	Icon	5000 Environmental	5500 Weather	5400 HST	5500 Fire	5400 Fire
Wind Speed   Air Speed (mph   fpm   Bft   m/s   km/h   kt)		•	•	•	•	•
Temperature (°F   °C)		•	•	•	•	•
Wind Chill (°F   °C)		•	•	•	•	•
Relative Humidity (%)		•	•	•	•	•
Probability of Ignition					•	•
Fine Dead Fuel Moisture	FDFM				•	•
Heat Stress Index (°F   °C)	HI	•	•	•	•	•
Dewpoint Temp (°F   °C)	DP	•	•	•	•	•
Wet Bulb Temp (°F   °C)	WB	•	•	•	•	•
Station Pressure (inHg   hPA   psi   mb)		•	•	•	•	•
Barometric Pressure (inHg   hPA   psi   mb)		•	•	•	•	•
Altitude(m   ft )		•	•	•	•	•
Density Altitude (m   ft)	DA	•	•	•	•	•
Wind Direction (Cardinal Points, Degrees)			•	●	•	•
Crosswind (mph   fpm   Bft   m/s   km/h   kt)			•	●	•	•
Headwind   Tailwind (mph   fpm   Bft   m/s   km/h   kt)			•	●	•	•

● *optional*

MEASUREMENTS		Icon	5000 Environmental	5500 Weather	5400 HST	5500 Fire	5400 Fire
Wet Blub Globe Temperature (WBGT) (°F   °C)					•		•
Thermal Work Limit (TWL) (°F   °C)					•		•
Globe Temperature (°F   °C)					•		•
Naturally Aspirated Wet Bulb Temp (°F   °C)					•		•
FEATURES			5000 Environmental	5500 Weather	5400 HST	5500 Fire	5400 Fire
LiNK Connectivity & Kestrel LiNK Mobile App	N/A		•	•	•	•	•
Backlit Display switchable white or Night-Vision preserving red	N/A		•	•	•	•	•








• *optional*

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR KESTREL




\*Only available on 5400 Fire Weather Pro WBGT.

## BUTTONS

Button	Name	Function
	POWER	Turns Kestrel on and off. Press for on, hold for two seconds to turn off.
	OPTIONS/ EXIT	Enter the main Options menu or exit a menu.
	SELECT	Access Settings on any measurement screen or select a menu option to enter its submenu or confirm a task.
	UP/DOWN	Scroll up and down through measurement screens or menus. Adjust values when entering text in name menus.
	LEFT/ RIGHT	Scroll options left and right. Adjust values in combo menus and setting submenus.
	CAPTURE	Manually capture all environmental values.
	BACK- LIGHT	Turn backlight on or off. (Also turns off automatically after one minute.)

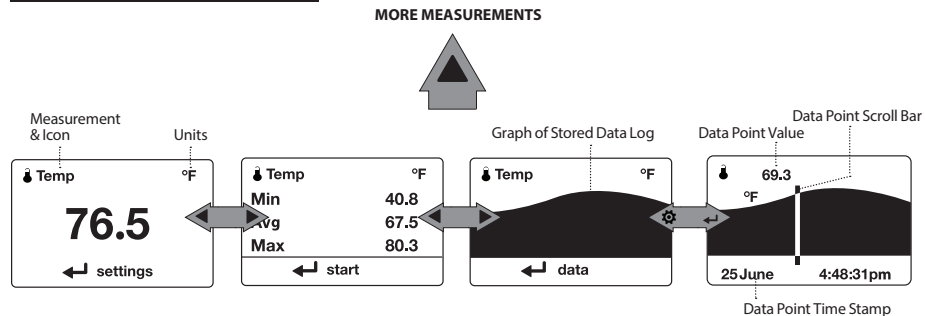
## KESTREL OPTIONS MENU

Most system-wide and weather setup options are accessed from the main Options menu by pressing the  button from any Weather Measurement Screen.

- **BLUETOOTH**
  - » Bluetooth On/Off
  - » Conct
- **DATA PORT**
- **MEMORY OPTIONS**
  - » Clear Log
  - » Auto Store
  - » Store Rate
  - » Overwrite
- **GRAPH SCALE**
- **DISPLAY**
  - » Auto Shutdown
  - » Contrast
  - » Backlight
- **SYSTEM**
  - » Time & Date
  - » Compass Cal
  - » Measurements
  - » Units
  - » Lang
  - » Batt
  - » Factory Restore
- **ABOUT**
  - » Version
  - » Legal



## WEATHER MODE SCREENS



### Current Measurement Screen

Press **←** SELECT to enter settings menu for that measurement.

### Min Avg Max Screen

Press **←** SELECT to start, stop and clear the Min/Avg/Max tracking.

### Data Graph Screen

Press **←** SELECT to enter the Data Log Detail Screen to view logged data points.

### Data Points Screen

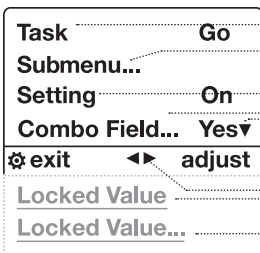
Press LEFT/RIGHT to scroll through data points. Press **OPTIONS** to exit Data Log Details Screen.

## MORE MEASUREMENTS

- » The **▲▼** UP/DOWN buttons navigate between all weather measurements set to "On" in Options|Measurements.
- » The **◀▶** LEFT/RIGHT buttons scroll between the three display screens for the measurement.
- » The **⚙** **OPTIONS** button exits the **settings** submenu and Data Log Detail Screen.

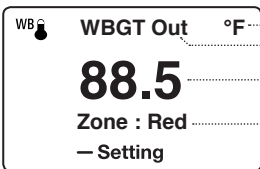
## KESTREL MENU NAVIGATION

### TYPES OF MENU ITEMS




- » Tasks are executed by highlighting the field and pressing Select.
- » The presence of a submenu is indicated by a "... " following a field.
- » Highlight the field and press Select to enter a submenu.
- » Adjust a setting by pressing left or right.
- » An arrow indicates there are additional fields off screen.
- » Adjust the value of a Combo Field by pressing left or right.
- » Enter the Combo Field sub menu by pressing select.
- » Navigation buttons indicate available actions on the current screen.
- » Locked values are either driven by another value or cannot be edited on the current screen.
- » Locked values may have submenus which are entered by pressing select.

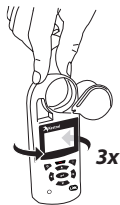
### WBGT MEASUREMENT SCREEN




- » Units
- » Indoor/Outdoor Setting
- » WBGT Measurement
- » Zone/"Selected Guideline": Current Zone
- Note! While WBGT is measured in Fahrenheit and Celsius, the scale of WBGT values is not comparable to standard temperature readings.

## GETTING STARTED


- 1. INSTALL BATTERY.** Slide the battery door latch and open door. Insert the provided AA lithium battery as indicated by the label. Replace the battery door, ensuring it “clicks” fully into place.
- 2. ENTER OPTIONS MENU.** Press  to enter the Options Menu.
- 3. SET DATE AND TIME.** Scroll to and select **System**. Scroll to and select **Time & Date**. Adjust the time and date.
- 4. SET AUTO STORE RATE.** Scroll to and select **Memory Options**. Scroll to **Auto Store** and ensure it is set to **ON**. Scroll to **Store Rate** and adjust to desired frequency of automatic weather data logging.
- 5. SET OVERWRITE.** Scroll to and select **Memory Options**. Scroll to **Overwrite** and set to **On** to allow the data log to wrap once full and to **OFF** to stop logging when full.
- 6. SET GRAPH SCALE.** Scroll to and select **Graph Scale**. Scroll to and select the desired measurement type. Adjust the **Set High** and **Set Low** values to bound the desired



- display values.
- 7. SET AUTO SHUTDOWN.** Scroll to and select **Display**. Scroll to **Auto Shtdwn** and choose a time window after which the Kestrel will shut down without any button presses.
  - 8. CALIBRATE THE COMPASS.** Scroll to and select **System**. Scroll to and select **Compass Cal**.

 *Note: Ensure that date and time are set correctly when using PIG or FDFM or measurements will be incorrect. Date and time need to be reset after removing the battery.*

Follow the on-screen instructions:

- » Place the base of the Kestrel on a flat surface at least 3 feet from any large metal objects.
  - » Start the calibration routine. Rotate the Kestrel around its vertical axis 3 times, keeping the unit as vertical as possible and taking approximately 10 seconds per full rotation. You may need to restart the routine a few times until you get the timing correct.
-  *Note: When taking compass readings, keep the Kestrel as vertical as possible for maximum accuracy.*
- 9. SET BACKLIGHT COLOR.** Scroll to and select **Display**. Scroll to **Backlight** and set to either **White** or **Red**. White is very bright and ideal for any dim light use. Red is reduced brightness and a wavelength selected to preserve adapted night vision for true dark operations.
  - 10. TURN MEASUREMENT SCREENS ON/OFF.** Scroll to and select **System**. Scroll to and select **Measurements**. Set measurement screens to either **On** or **Off** as desired.
  - 11. SET UNITS.** Scroll to and select **System**. Scroll to and select **Units**. To change all units select **Global**, then set **Global to Imperial** or **Metric**, and then scroll to **Apply** and select **Go**. To set units individually, scroll to each measurement type in the **Units** submenu and set to the desired units. Units can also be set in the **Settings** menu for each measurement.
  - 12. SET LANGUAGE.** Scroll to and select **Lang**. Adjust to desired language: **English**, **Deutsche**, **Francais**, **Espanol**.

## PROBABILITY OF IGNITION AND FINE DEAD FUEL MOISTURE

The Probability of Ignition (PIG) and Fine Dead Fuel Moisture (DFFM, also known as Reference Fuel Moisture or 1 Hour Fuel Moisture) measurements in the Kestrel Fire Weather Pro meters come from the tables in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, Incident Response Pocket Guide, 2014, with nighttime measurements following the recommendation from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, Fire Behavior Field Reference Guide, 2014.

### Setting User Inputs for PIG and FDFM

1. In the settings menu of the PIG Current Measurement Screen, scroll to Shade and set it to match the shade conditions of the location of interest.
2. Scroll to Aspect and set it to match the primary direction the slope of the location of interest is facing. Alternatively, the direction can be captured by selecting Aspect and then scrolling to Capture and following the on screen instructions. Hold the Kestrel vertically and face the back of the Kestrel away from the slope face, then press Select.
3. Scroll to Slope and set it to match the slope of the location of interest.
4. Scroll to Fire Elevation and set it to match the relative position of the location of interest.

*Warning! It is important to ensure the Date and Time settings in your Kestrel are correct when using PIG and FDFM measurements. After removing the battery, Date and Time will need to be reset. If Date and Time are not set correctly, PIG and FDFM measurements will be incorrect.*

- *Note! When the time set in the Kestrel is earlier than 08:00 or later than 19:59, The Shade Setting will be locked to 50%-100% per the recommendations in the Fire Behavior Field Reference Guide. Between 08:00 and 19:59, Shade will return to the previous value set by the user.*
- *Note! When Temperature values are outside the extreme high or low values listed in the PIG and FDFM tables, the nearest extreme temperature value displayed on the table will be substituted to derive PIG and FDFM.*
- *Note! It is not necessary to set the Date and Time format to 24 hour format when using PIG or FDFM.*
- *Note! The Data Graph Screen for the PIG measurement only displays a log of PIG measurements. FDFM measurements are not logged.*

## CONFIGURE WBGT

- 1. POWER ON KESTREL.** Press **Ⓚ** to power on Kestrel.
- 2. CONFIGURE WBGT SETTINGS.**
  1. Scroll to the WBGT Current Measurement Screen and press select.
  2. Set **Type** to either **Indoor** or **Outdoor**, depending on your environment.
  3. To use the colored WBGT zones (also known as Flag Settings), scroll to **Zones...** and set to **On**. The zones increase from White to Black in order of severity of risk of heat injury.
  4. To access one of the pre-saved WBGT guidelines, scroll to **Zones...** and press select, then scroll to **Guide...** and press select. Follow the menu options to find your organization's WBGT guidelines. If additional workload or clothing inputs are required, set **Workload** and **Clothing** to appropriate values for your situation.
  5. For information on setting custom threshold flag settings see page 13.
  6. To receive light or buzzer alerts when WBGT is above a zone threshold, scroll to and select **Alerts...** in the WBGT Settings menu. You may set **Light** and **Buzzer** individually. Selecting a zone for **Light** or **Buzzer** will cause that alert to activate when conditions reach the threshold for the selected zone.

*Warning: In addition to monitoring WBGT values, please refer to your state or organization's requirements for measuring WBGT, heat acclimatization guidelines, work/rest ratios and water consumption.*

- *Note: To highlight the severity of conditions, if the Red Warning Zone is reached, the line indicating the current zone will flash. If the Black Warning Zone is reached, the measurement value will flash inverted.*
- *Note: If an alert is activated, pressing **⬅** on the WBGT Measurement Screen will deactivate the alert until the next higher threshold is reached or until the WBGT measurement dips below the threshold and then raises above it again.*
- *Note: In the Options Menu under **Display**, there is an **Alerts Test** function which will activate the light and buzzer. When using the unit in a new situation, test the alerts to familiarize yourself with their intensity.*

### HOW TO MEASURE WBGT ACCURATELY:

- » When changing environments (moving from an air conditioned room to outdoors or removing the unit from your pocket) the unit may require more than 15 minutes to equilibrate to its surroundings before taking readings.
- » Take measurements at least 3 feet off the ground and in the same wind or air flow conditions as the people you are monitoring. Ensure the Kestrel is oriented into the wind and able to measure the full wind value. A tripod or pole mount and the Kestrel Rotating Vane Mount are ideal for ensuring accurate measurements.
- » Differences in the reflectivity of ground surfaces such as grass or asphalt will impact measurements. Be sure to take measurements in the same solar/radiant heat environment as the people you are monitoring.

## CUSTOM FLAG SETTINGS

If you do not wish to follow one of the WBGT guidelines pre-loaded into the Kestrel Heat Stress Tracker, you may set custom zones and zone thresholds. Your Kestrel Heat Stress Tracker allows you to activate and set up to six customized heat stress warning zones identified by color names on screen.

### SETTING CUSTOM WBGT ZONES:

1. In the Settings Menu of the WBGT Current Measurement Screen, scroll to and select **Zones**.
2. Scroll to the colored zones you wish to edit and press select. Editing any value from a preset guideline in the Zone Settings Menu will automatically change the name of the guideline to **Custom**.
3. In the Zone submenu you can turn zones on or off by setting **Status** to **ON** or **OFF** as well as change the lower temperature bound of the zone by adjusting the **Threshold** value.
4. The threshold for a zone cannot be greater than the zone above or less than the zone below it.
5. Zone thresholds cannot be adjusted if the **Status** is set to **Off**.
6. If the **Status** of a zone is set to **OFF** and the thresholds of the zones above and below are set one tenth of a degree apart (the minimum resolution available) the **Status** of the intermediary zone cannot be set to **On**.

*Warning: While the Kestrel LiNK app for mobile devices (compatible with LiNK enabled units only) does have a threshold alerts feature, it does not currently synch with the zone thresholds set in the Kestrel 5400 which must be set separately.*

## MEASURING DIRECTION

- » The Kestrel's compass is intended for measuring wind direction. The Kestrel must be held vertically with the back of the unit pointed towards the direction to be determined.
- » Using a Kestrel Vane mount adjusted to level will provide the most accurate wind and direction measurements.

## ALTIMETER AND BAROMETER

The Kestrel employs a stable, accurate pressure sensor to measure station pressure, the unadjusted air pressure in your location.

- » To use your Kestrel to measure barometric pressure (station pressure adjusted for local elevation), you must enter a correct reference value for your altitude. Accurate barometric readings require that no elevation changes be made while taking measurements.
- » To use your Kestrel to measure altitude changes (changes in station pressure associated with changes in elevation), you must enter a correct reference value for your starting barometric pressure. Accurate altitude readings depend on stable, weather related barometric air pressure while measurements are taken.
- » Synched values between the Altitude and Barometer measurement screens allow reference value updates on either screen to automatically update reference values on the other.

□ *Note! You cannot use your Kestrel as a barometer and altimeter simultaneously.*

### SETTING REFERENCE VALUES ON BARO MEASUREMENT SCREEN:

- » Scroll to the **Baro** measurement screen and select **Settings**.
- » Adjust either the Altitude or the Barometric Pressure value to a local, known value obtained from a mapping reference, GPS, or accurate weather station in the same location.

### SETTING REFERENCE VALUES ON ALTITUDE MEASUREMENT SCREEN:

- » Scroll to the **ALTITUDE** measurement screen and select **Settings**.
- » Adjust either the Altitude or the Barometric Pressure value to a local, known value obtained from a mapping reference, GPS, or accurate weather station in the same location.

□ *Note! You should enter new reference values whenever you are using the Altimeter or Barometer functions and your reference value is no longer accurate (Ref Baro for Alt, Ref Alt for Baro) due to a change in weather or location.*

## USING MIN/ AVG/ MAX

Pressing the right scroll button from any Current Measurement Screen will open the Min/Avg/Max Screen. The capture process is linked for all measurement screens, capturing Min/Avg/Max values on one measurement screen will capture Min/Avg/Max values over the same time period for all measurements. Each new Min/Avg/Max capture overwrites the previously captured value from all measurements.

### CAPTURING MIN/AVG/MAX VALUES:

- » Scroll to the Min/Avg/Max Screen of the desired measurement. This can be done by scrolling right from the desired Current Measurement Screen or scrolling vertically from another measurement's Min/Avg/Max Screen.
- » Press Select to **Start** a new Min/Avg/Max capture.
- » Press Select to **Stop** the capture time period and view Min, Avg, and Max values.
- » Press Select to **Clear** the Min/Avg/Max values.

## CONNECTING TO DEVICES USING LiNK

If your Kestrel is marked LiNK on the bottom front label, it can be connected wirelessly to other LiNK-compatible devices. LiNK is powered by *Bluetooth Smart*®, also known as *Bluetooth*® LE, which is available in most iOS devices released after 2014 and Android devices released after 2015, as well as in a USB Dongle available from Kestrel that supports connectivity to Windows and Mac OS devices. LiNK-enabled Kestrel units can connect to mobile devices running Kestrel LiNK to install firmware updates. LiNK-enabled units can be run wirelessly to computers using the Kestrel Dongle.

### CONNECTING TO A COMPUTER, MOBILE PHONE OR TABLET:

- » On your phone or tablet, follow the links at **[www.kestrelinstruments.com](http://www.kestrelinstruments.com)** to locate Kestrel LiNK for iOS or Android in the App or Play store and install on your mobile device.
- OR**
- » On your computer, follow the links at **[www.kestrelinstruments.com](http://www.kestrelinstruments.com)** and install on your computer. Insert your Kestrel USB Dongle (available separately) into an open USB port.
  - » On the Kestrel, open the Options Menu and select **Bluetooth**. Set **Bluetooth to On**.
  - » On your Kestrel select **Conct** from the Bluetooth Options menu and set to **PC/Mobile**. In **PC/Mobile mode**, the Kestrel's Status will change to **Available**, indicating that it is available for pairing with a computer or mobile device.



- » Ensure the computer or mobile device is searching and in range. When **Status** changes from **Available** to **Connected**, the pairing is active and your Kestrel is ready to communicate.

#### CONNECTING TO A NEW LiNK-COMPATIBLE DEVICE:

- » Follow directions for your LiNK-compatible Device to power it on and put it in pairing mode.
- » On the Kestrel, open the Options Menu and select **Bluetooth**. Set **Bluetooth** to **On**.
- » Set **Conct** to **Device**.
- » Scroll to **Name** and select **New**, then wait for the list of available devices in range to populate.
- » Select a device from the available list. Once connected, the settings menu for that device will open, allowing you to manage the device's settings.
- » Exit to the Bluetooth menu. **Status** should indicate **Connected**, meaning the pairing is active and your Kestrel is ready to communicate.

#### CONNECTING TO/ADJUSTING A PREVIOUSLY PAIRED LINK-COMPATIBLE DEVICE:

- » Follow the directions for connecting to a new device except instead of selecting **New** in the **Name** field, scroll left or right to find the desired device.
- » **Status** will change to **Searching**. If the device is in range and in active pairing mode, a

connection will be made and **Searching** will change to **Connected**, indicating that the pairing is active and your Kestrel is ready to communicate.

□ *Note! LiNK range is typically 100 ft/30M line of sight. Shorter distances should be expected if there are obstacles such as walls or metal enclosures. Range is also impacted by the signal strength of the other device.*

#### CONNECTING TO COMPUTERS USING USB CABLE:

All Kestrel 5 Series units can connect to a computer via the Data Transfer Port using the USB Data Transfer Cable available separately. Kestrel LiNK software is available for Windows and Mac for downloading logged weather data and installing firmware updates.

## CREATING, VIEWING, & EXPORTING DATA LOGS

In addition to taking live measurements, your Kestrel 5 Series weather meter is a powerful data logger. The Kestrel will automatically create a time stamped data log of all measurements at the logging interval you set. Additional log points can also be captured manually. Logged data can be accessed four ways:

- » Viewed on the Kestrel Meter on the Data Graph Screen and Data Log Detail Screens.
- » Exported to an iOS or Android mobile device using the Kestrel LiNK mobile apps available in the App Store and Google Play Store. Requires a Kestrel LiNK-enabled meter and a compatible Bluetooth® Smart/LE devices.
- » Exported to a PC or Mac using Kestrel LiNK software and a Kestrel USB Dongle (available separately). Requires a Kestrel LiNK-enabled meter
- » Exported to your Windows or Mac computer using Kestrel LiNK software and a Kestrel USB Data Transfer Cable (available separately). All 5 Series Kestrel meters can connect to Kestrel LiNK using a Kestrel USB Data Transfer Cable.

### TURNING ON AND ADJUSTING AUTOMATIC DATA LOGGING:

- » In the main Options menu, scroll to and select **Memory Options**. Scroll to and select **Auto Store** and set to **ON**. Scroll to **Store Rate** and adjust to desired frequency of automatic weather data logging.
- » In the Memory Options sub menu scroll to **Overwrite** and set to **On** to allow the data log to wrap once full and **Off** to stop logging when full.
- » When **Auto Store** is set to **On**, the Kestrel unit will automatically begin logging at the rate set in **Store Rate**.

### MANUAL DATA LOGGING:

- » Individual data points can be added to the log at any time by pressing the Capture button.
- » Manual capture simply adds every measurement to the data log at the capture time/date.

### VIEWING LOGGED DATA ON THE KESTREL METER:

- » Scroll to the Graph Data Screen of the desired measurement. This can be done by scrolling right from the desired Current Measurement Screen or scrolling vertically from another measurement's Graph Data Screen.
- » A graph of the most recently logged data points will be displayed and continue to grow at the selected store rate.
- » To view individual data log points, or to view graph data older than what is shown in the Graph Data Screen, press Select to open the Data Log Detail Screen. Scrolling left or right will move the bar highlighting individual data points. Log values are shown in the upper left and the time stamp is shown along the bottom. Press Exit to return to the Graph Data Screen.
- » To change the resolution of the graph, scroll to and select **Graph Scale** in the Options menu. Scroll to and select the desired measurement type. Adjust the **Set High** and **Set Low** values to bound the desired display values.

### EXPORTING DATA LOGS TO A MOBILE DEVICE:

- » Follow the links at [www.kestrelinstruments.com](http://www.kestrelinstruments.com)

to locate Kestrel LiNK in the App or Play store and install on your mobile device.

- » Follow the directions in the Kestrel LiNK app and in the section of this manual titled Pairing with a Computer, Mobile Phone or Tablet: to connect the mobile device to the Kestrel.
- » The Kestrel's new logged data will automatically be added to the app's log whenever the devices are connected.
- » To export logged data to a .csv file for further analysis, go to the **Stats** page of the app or the **Manage Data Logs** screen on the **Manage** page.
- » Hit the **Export Data** button. Choose a method for exporting the data and follow the in-app prompts to send.

#### **EXPORTING DATA LOGS TO A COMPUTER:**

- » Follow the links at **www.kestrelinstruments.com** to download Kestrel LiNK to a PC or Mac computer. Install.

**Use one of the following two methods to connect your Kestrel to your computer.**

#### **1. Connect your LiNK-enabled Kestrel Meter to your computer wirelessly:**

- » Purchase a Kestrel LiNK Dongle and install in your computer's USB port.
- » Follow the instructions in the "Pairing with a Computer, Mobile Phone or Tablet" section of this manual along with the Kestrel LiNK program to pair the Kestrel and your computer.

#### **2. Connect your Kestrel 5 Series Meter to your computer using a Kestrel USB Data Transfer Cable:**

- » Purchase a Kestrel USB Data Transfer Cable.
- » In the main Options menu, scroll to and select **Data Port** and set to **On**.
- » Insert the USB Data Transfer Cable into an open USB port and the Data Transfer Port on the back of the Kestrel unit.

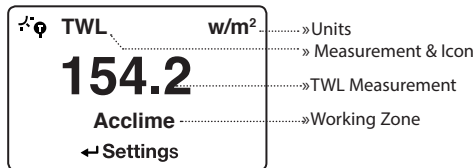
#### **Once connected**

- » Follow the directions in the Kestrel LiNK program to confirm the connection.
- » In the Kestrel LiNK software, choose a data log from the Logs window and click on the Export to File button.
- » Choose a file export directory on your computer and click on the Ok button.

## THERMAL WORK LIMIT (TWL)

The Kestrel 5400 also displays a measure of human heat stress known as “Thermal Work Limit,” or “TWL.” Unlike WBGT, which is a measure of the environment, TWL is an estimate of the cooling capacity of a human body in given conditions. Accordingly, a higher TWL is safer because a person is able to eliminate more heat from their body. TWL provides four work level recommendations (Unrestricted, Acclimatization, Buffer, and Withdraw) to help guide work management in thermally dangerous conditions.

## TWL CURRENT MEASUREMENT SCREEN



TWL (w/m <sup>2</sup> )	> 220	140-220	115-140	< 115
Working Zone	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Acclimatization</b>	<b>Buffer</b>	<b>Withdrawal</b>
Interventions	<p>No limits on self-paced work for trained, hydrated workers.</p>	<p>No restriction for acclimatized workers with uncertain acclimatization status should not work alone in this zone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Be aware of increased risk of heat illness</li> <li>-Dehydration test for first shifts back from leave.</li> </ul>	<p>Buffer zone exists to identify situations in which environmental conditions may be limiting to work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any practicable intervention to reduce heat stress should be implemented e.g. provide and share, improve ventilation ect.</li> <li>-Working alone to be avoided if possible</li> <li>- Unacclimatized* workers not to work in this zone</li> <li>- Use the technical information sheets 'Work-rest cycling - sample schedules' and 'Fluid requirements for working in heat' to prescribe maximum exposure time, work/rest cycling and fluid intakes appropriate for type of work and conditions</li> </ul>	<p>Work limited to essential maintenance or rescue operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No person to work alone</li> <li>- No unacclimatized* person to work</li> <li>- Documentation required authorising work in hostile thermal conditions for specific purpose</li> <li>- Specific induction required emphasizing hydration and identifying signs of heat strain</li> <li>- Apply 20 minutes of work - 40 minutes rest schedule</li> <li>- Required fluid intake exceeds 600 ML per 30 minutes</li> <li>- Personal water bottle (2 liter capacity) must be on the job at all times</li> <li>- Mandatory dehydration testing at end of shift</li> </ul>

\*Unacclimatized workers are defined as new workers who have been off work for more than 14 days due to illness or leave (outside the tropics).

TWL values, working zones, and interventions. Source: health Authority, Abu Dhabi. If available, refer to TWL standards for your organization or for more information see <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/104732202753438261>.

**CONFIGURING TWL:**

- » In the Settings Menu of the TWL Current Measurement Screen, scroll to and select the clothing setting that most closely reflects the clothing worn by the people you are monitoring. A check mark will appear next to the chosen clothing setting.
- » Clothing Setting Options:
  - » Men's business suit: Long sleeve shirt/tweed suit jacket & long, loose trousers
  - » Short sleeve shirt/denim shorts
  - » Work Clothes: Short sleeve shirt/long trousers (denim)
  - » Work Clothes & Coveralls
- » Pressing select a second time will open a sub menu displaying the preset values defining that clothing setting.
- » If none of the four provided clothing settings reflect the clothing worn by the people you are monitoring, a custom clothing setting can be configured. To create a custom clothing setting, scroll to Custom and press select.
- » Press select a second time to open the custom setting submenu. Scroll to the parameter you wish to customize and adjust it up or down to match your situation.

□ *Note: To highlight the severity of conditions, when the meter detects that Acclimatization is the current recommendation zone, **Acclim** will flash on the TWL Current Measurement Screen. In the Buffer or Withdrawal zones, the measurement value will flash inverted.*

**DIRECTION** – Compass heading in true or magnetic

**WIND SPD** – Wind Speed is the measurement of the wind passing through the impeller. For greatest accuracy, point the back of the Kestrel directly into the wind.

**CROSWND** – Crosswind uses the internal compass and a user selected heading to calculate the crosswind component of the full wind.

**HEADWND** – Headwind uses the internal compass and a user selected heading or target direction to calculate the headwind component of the full wind.

**TEMP** – Ambient Temperature is the temperature measured at the thermistor. For best results, ensure the thermistor is not exposed to direct sunlight and is exposed to good airflow.

**CHILL** – Wind Chill is a calculated value of the perceived temperature based on temperature and wind speed.

**HUMIDITY** – Relative Humidity is the amount of moisture currently held by the air as a percentage of the total possible moisture that the air could hold.

**PIG** – Probability of Ignition yields an estimate of the probability that a defined release of a flammable material will ignite if exposed to an ignition source.

**DFM** – Fine Dead Fuel Moisture, also known as 1 Hr Moisture Content, is an estimate of the moisture content of dead fuel between 0-1/4” in diameter.

**HEAT INDEX** – Heat Index is a calculated value of the perceived temperature based on temperature and relative humidity.

**GLOBE TEMP** – Globe Temperature is defined as the temperature measured inside a 6-inch copper globe painted black. On the Kestrel HST, the temperature inside the 1-inch|25 mm globe is converted to the equivalent temperature for a standard globe. The closest equivalence will be obtained with airflow greater than 2.2 mph|1 m/s.

**NWB TEMP** – Natural Wet Bulb Temperature is a measure of evaporative cooling in an environment with unforced, naturally occurring air flow.

**WBGT** – Wet Bulb Globe Temperature is a measure of human heat stress resulting from the combination of effects due to temperature, humidity, wind speed (wind chill), and visible and radiant heat. Outdoor WBGT is calculated from a weighted sum of Natural Wet Bulb Temperature, Globe Temperature and dry bulb Temperature.

**TWL** – Thermal Work Limit is a measure of the heat energy a person can dissipate from their surface area in Watts per square meter (w/m<sup>2</sup>). For more information on TWL see <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/104732202753438261>.

**DEW POINT** – Dew Point is the temperature at which water vapor will begin to condense out of the air.

**WET BULB** – Wet Bulb is the lowest temperature that can be reached in the existing environment by cooling through evaporation. Wet Bulb is always equal to or lower than ambient temperature.

**BARO** – Barometric Pressure is the local station (or absolute) pressure with the pressure differential associated with the locations altitude above sea level subtracted. An accurate reading depends on an accurate initial altitude input and unchanging altitude while measuring.

**ALTITUDE** – Altitude is the change in vertical distance associated with a change in atmospheric pressure. An accurate reading depends on an accurate initial barometric pressure input and stable barometric pressure while measuring.

**STATION** – Station Pressure (Absolute Pressure) is the pressure exerted by the earth’s atmosphere at any given point.

**DENS ALT** – Density Altitude is the altitude at which the density of the theoretical standard atmospheric conditions (ISA) would match the actual local air density.

## IMPELLER REPLACEMENT

- Press only the sides of the impeller when removing and inserting to avoid damaging the precision hub bearing. [Figure 1].
- » Press **FIRMLY** on the impeller module to remove it.
- » Insert the new impeller so the side that has the small triangle (close to the perimeter) faces the front of the Kestrel when installed.

Figure 1



- » Orient one “arm” of the module straight up . [Figure 2]. The impeller can be pushed in from either side.

Figure 2



## WARRANTY CERTIFICATE

Your Kestrel Weather/Environmental Meter is warranted to be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of FIVE YEARS from the date of its first consumer purchase. NK will repair or replace any defective meter or part when notified within the warranty period, and will return the meter via domestic ground shipping or NK's choice of method of international shipping at no charge. The following are excluded from warranty coverage: damage due to improper use or neglect (including corrosion); damage caused by severe or excessive impact, damage caused by failed or leaking batteries, crushing or mechanical harm; modifications or attempted repairs by someone other than an authorized NK repair agent; impeller failure not caused by a manufacturing defect; normal usage wear and failed batteries. Measurement accuracy is warranted to be within the specifications on the supplied Certificate of Conformity including specified drift since date of manufacture. If no warranty registration or proof of purchase is provided, the warranty period will be measured from the meter's date of manufacture.

**Except for the warranties set forth herein, NK disclaims all other warranties, expressed, implied or statutory, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Any implied warranties that may be imposed by applicable law are limited to the term of this warranty. In no event shall NK be liable for any incidental, special or consequential damages, including, but not limited to, loss of business, loss of profits, loss of data or use, whether in an action in contract or tort or based on a warranty, arising out of or in connection with the use or recalibration, performance of an NK product, even if NK has been advised of the possibility of such damages. You agree that repair, and (upon availability) replacement, as applicable, is your sole and exclusive remedy with respect to any breach of the NK Limited Warranty set forth herein.**

All product liability and warranty options are governed exclusively by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.













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**Kestrel® Weather and Environmental Meters are  
designed and manufactured in the USA**

**Please register your Kestrel Meter at [www.kestrelinstruments.com](http://www.kestrelinstruments.com)**



## Getting Started

# Table of Contents

3	Getting Started with Your Kestrel DROP
4-5	Connecting your DROP to the Kestrel LiNK Application
6	Uploading and Exporting your Data
7	Using Your Kestrel DROP
8	DROP Connection Guidance
9	Battery Replacement
10	Getting More from Your DROP
11	Glossary of Measurements

# Getting Started with Your Kestrel DROP

Please note: You will need to remove the battery tab prior to using the DROP.



**Please remove tab prior to operation.**

Note: Tab can be removed without opening battery door.

## Overview

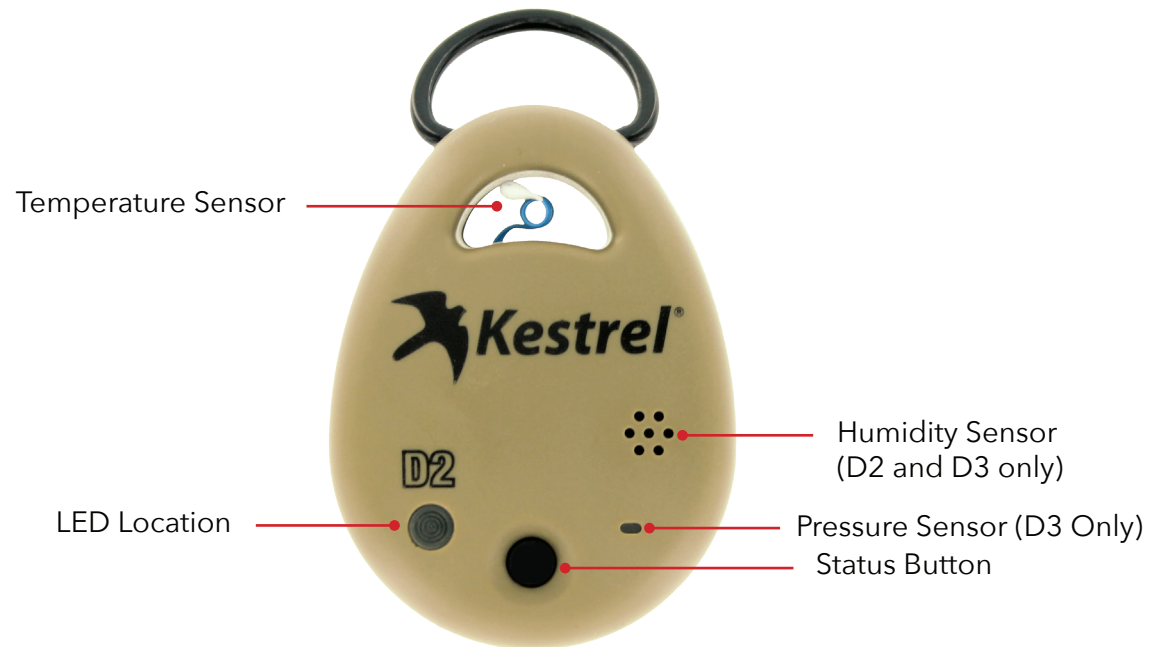
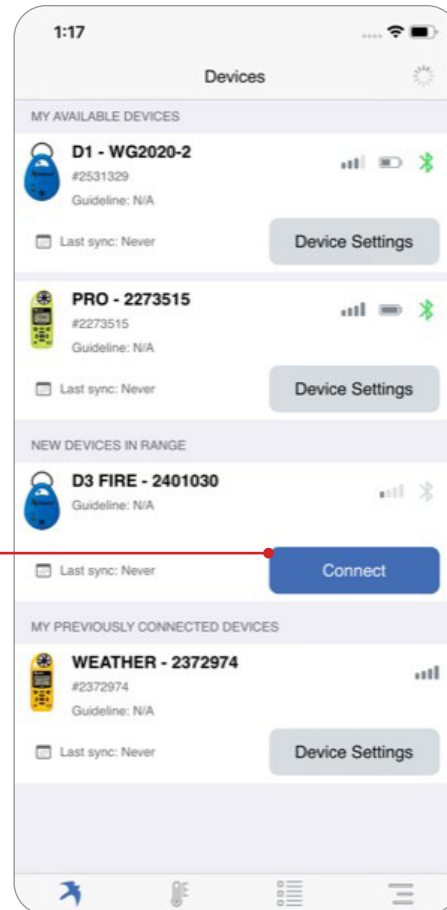


Figure 1: Overview

# Connecting your DROP to the Kestrel LiNK Application

Please note: You must connect the DROP to our Kestrel LiNK application PRIOR to using it in the field to ensure the date and time are updated on the DROP and the settings are correct.

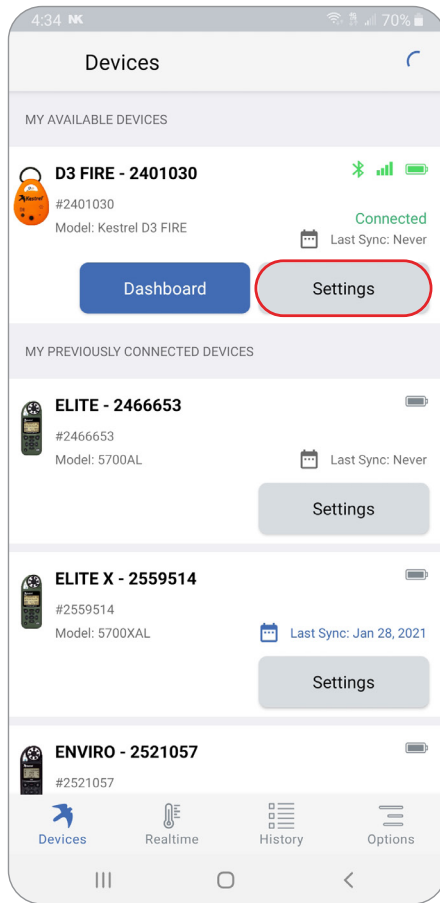
- To begin, download Kestrel LiNK for Android or iOS from the Play Store (icon shown).
- Make sure Bluetooth is enabled on the mobile device you are using.
- Open the Kestrel LiNK app and when your device appears, select the Connect button.



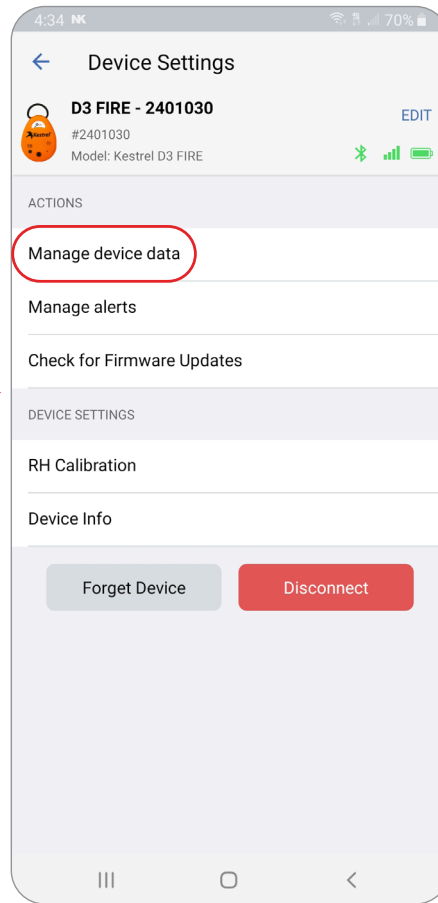


# Connecting your DROP to the Kestrel LiNK Application

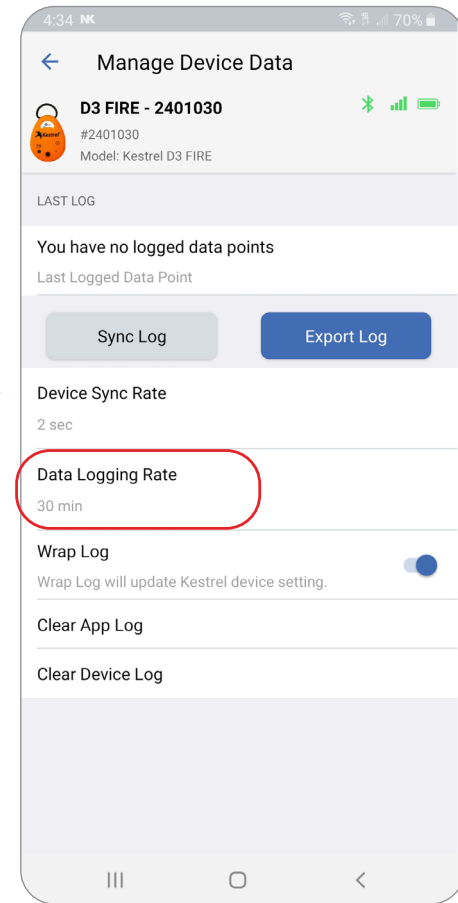
Please note: You must connect the DROP to our Kestrel LiNK application PRIOR to using it in the field to ensure the date and time are updated on the DROP and the settings are correct.



From the Devices screen, select the Settings button.

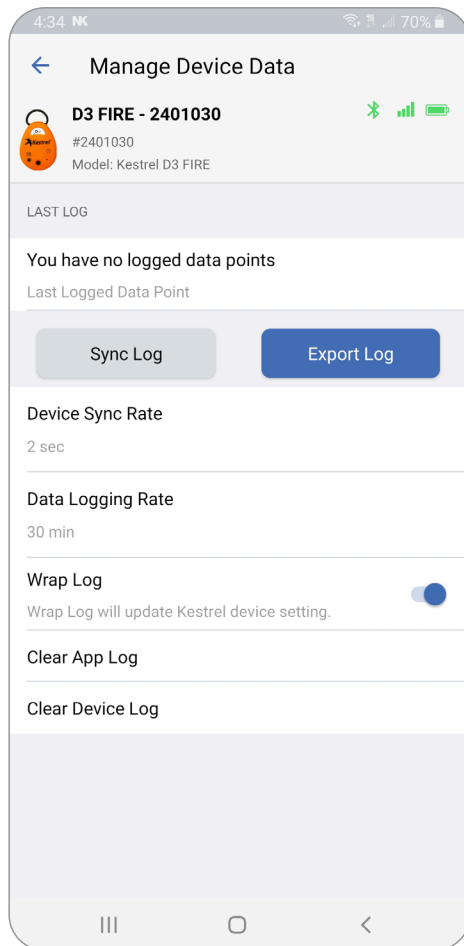


Navigate to the Manage Device Data Screen.



Here you can set the Data Logging Rate on the DROP. Time and Date are updated upon connecting.

# Uploading and Exporting your Data



## From Manage Device Data Screen:

- Press Sync Log to manually upload all the data on the DROP.
- Press Export Log to export the data log as a CSV file.
- You can view and export all saved data on the History tab.

## More Information

For detailed instructions of all the features of the Kestrel LiNK App, please review our Kestrel LiNK instructions found here:


<https://kestrelinstruments.com/mwdownloads/download/link/id/1083/>

# Using Your Kestrel DROP

- As soon as the battery supplies power to the DROP, it begins logging data. Battery life will depend on logging rate, amount of time connected to Kestrel LiNK app and ambient temperature. The only way to stop a DROP from logging is to remove the battery.
- The DROP will log at the default of once per hour unless the user changes the logging rate with the Kestrel LiNK app.
- The DROP will continue logging until the memory is full or if “wrap log” is enabled, it will log until the battery runs out.
- Status Button and LED functions: status button will promote a DROP to the top of the devices list in the LiNK app. “Beacon Mode” on the app will cause the LED to blink.

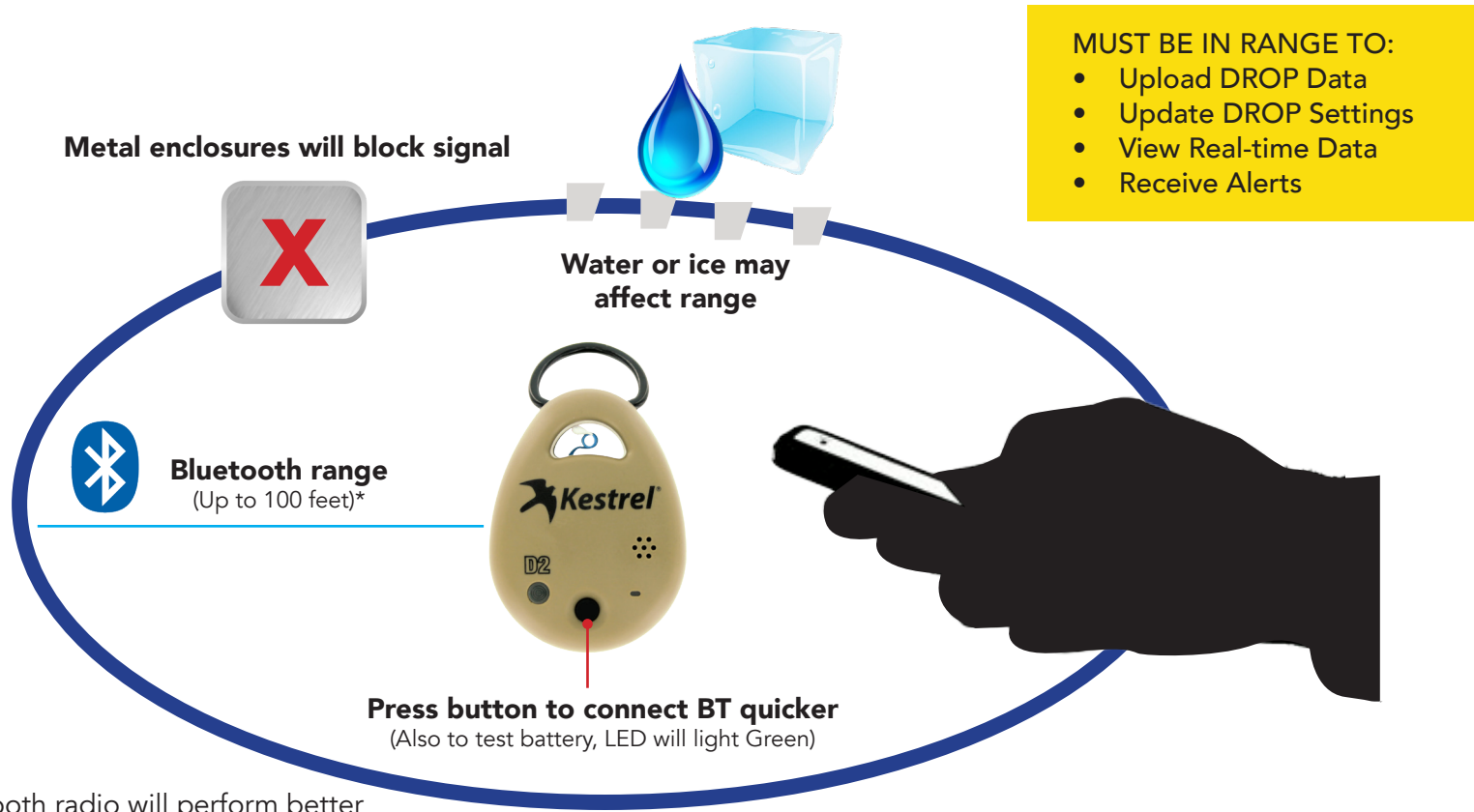
<b>If Battery Is Inserted</b>	Unit is on. (Only powers off if battery is removed)
	Bluetooth is on.
	DROP is logging data.

## LED Indicators

LED Condition	Status Button	Possible Conditions
	Pressed	Unit is functioning normally.
	Not Pressed	Battery was inserted. Bluetooth has connected successfully. Bluetooth has disconnected successfully.

*Note: Status button can be used to immediately send a connection signal to your iOS/Android device.*

# DROP Connection Guidance



\* Bluetooth radio will perform better if the DROP is elevated above ground level.

# Battery Replacement

(Please note: After battery replacement, you MUST reconnect to the Kestrel LiNK application to ensure time and date are updated for logging purposes.)

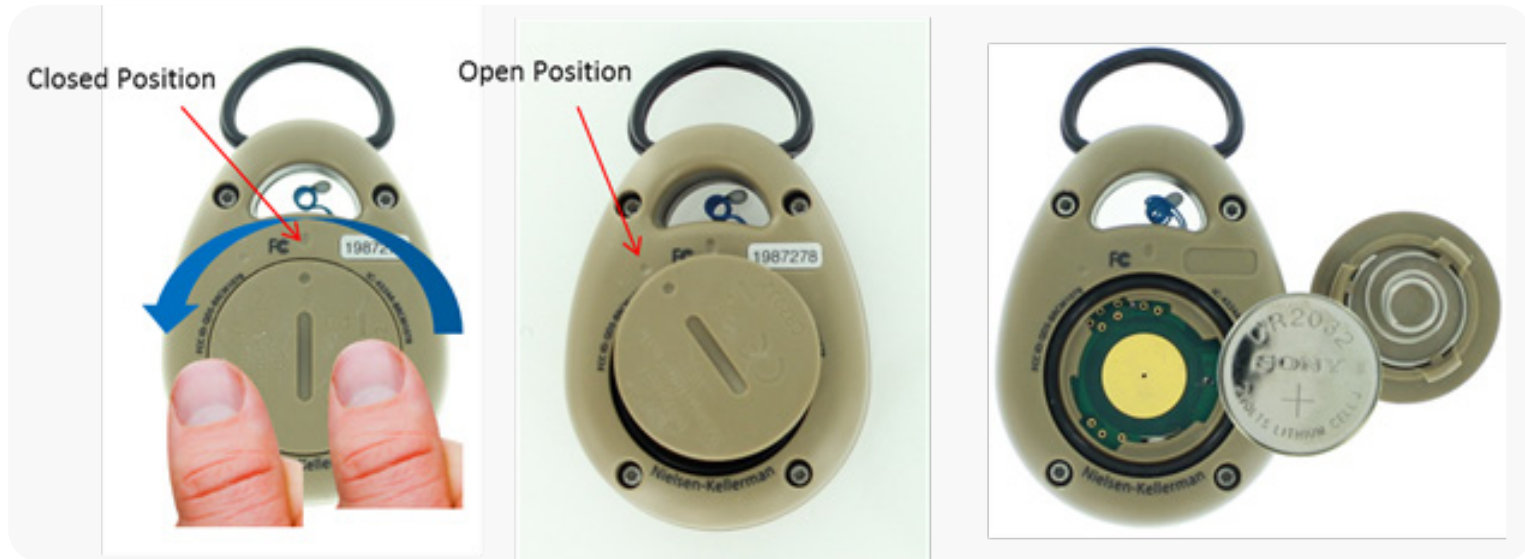


Figure 2: Battery Replacement

Note: Please inspect the o-ring when opening battery door and ensuring it is clean before replacing door. Also ensure it is properly aligned when closing battery door.

# Getting More from Your DROP

## Temperature

- A slight air flow of 2 mph or more will speed up temperature response times.
- DROP can be used to measure water or snow temperature by submerging the thermistor.
- DROP can withstand being in 1 meter of water for up to 30 minutes.

## Humidity

- For accurate humidity readings, allow the DROP to equilibrate to its environment. Depending on the temperature and humidity differential between environments, this can take between 20 and 90 minutes.  
Note: Users can use the graph in the Kestrel LiNK app to monitor when the humidity reaches equilibrium as the humidity graph will trend flat when it reaches this point.
- After submersion in a liquid, humidity readings, if available on your DROP, will be impacted until the humidity sensor area has fully dried. Gently blowing on the sensor area (the small grid of holes in the front case) can speed this process.
- After exposure to temperatures over 80°C/176°F, an offset in humidity may be present for a period.

## Connectivity

- Typical range is 100 ft but longer ranges can be achieved. Metal enclosures, ice, submersion in liquids, obstructed lines-of-site and ground level or non-vertical logging positions will reduce connection range.
- If more than 3-4 DROPs are present, turning off auto connect and manually connecting one at a time will help the app connect successfully. Typically, a maximum of 8 DROPs can be connected to a device at a time.
- The DROP uses Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) to connect to devices.








## Operating Temperature

- The DROP will operate without restriction from 14°F/-10°C to 131°F/55°C. Operation at lower temperatures will be limited by the available power and life span of the coin cell battery. Downloading a full data log in temperatures below 14°F/-10°C may tax the battery to the point where the DROP will not operate until the battery has been replaced. For best results below 14°F/-10°C, use a fresh battery, keep data log downloads short (1000 data points or fewer), or allow the DROP to warm to above 14°F/-10°C before connecting or attempting to download logs. The DROP can generally be expected to continue to log data points down to 0°F/-18°C with these limitations.

## Battery Life

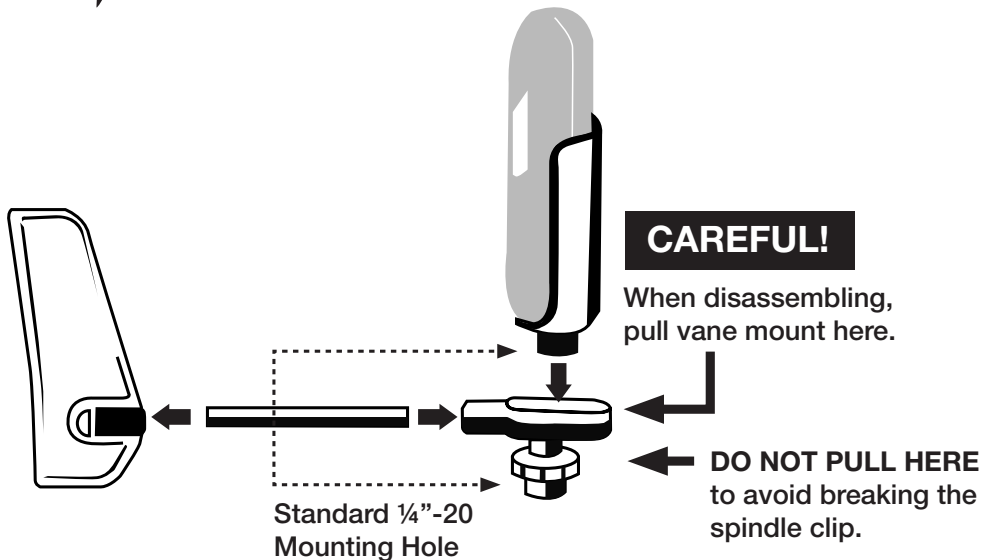
- Cold conditions, frequent logging rates, and frequent log downloads will all shorten battery life.
- When downloading extremely large data logs or making firmware updates, avoid using low batteries and conditions below 32°F/0°C.
- Estimated battery life at the baseline settings programmed into your DROP when shipped from the factory (10 min logging rate, 5 sec connection rate) and room temperature (77°F/25°C) is about 4 months. Intensive logging and connection settings (2 sec logging rate, constant connection) can reduce battery life to as little as 11 days.

# Glossary of Measurements

- WB**  **Wet Bulb:** The lowest temperature in the ambient atmosphere yielded by evaporating water from a wet muslin-covered bulb of a thermometer.
-  **Absolute/Station Pressure:** The actual measured pressure of the weight of air above the measurement point. Often called station pressure.
- D**  **Density Altitude:** The equivalent altitude in the ICAO standard reference atmosphere for the measured temperature, relative humidity and air pressure. A measure used primarily by pilots, high-performance engine mechanics and long-range shooters.
- HI**  **Heat Stress Index:** A measurement of the air temperature in relation to the relative humidity, used as an indicator of the perceived temperature.
-  **Relative Humidity:** The ratio of the amount of water vapor in the air at a specific temperature to the maximum amount that the air could hold at that temperature, expressed as a percentage. Relative humidity is a function of temperature and therefore changes as the temperature changes, even if the amount of moisture in the air remains constant.
- DP**  **Dew Point:** The temperature at which the water vapor in the atmosphere begins to condense. Any further cooling causes condensation (fog and dew). This is also the temperature of saturation at which the dry-bulb, wet-bulb and dew-point temperatures are all the same.
-  **Temperature (Air/Water/Snow):** Air temperature is the ambient temperature of the air and water vapor as measured by a thermometer or other measuring device in which the thermal element is dry and shielded from radiation. Water and snow temperature are measured with a measuring device in direct contact with the environment. Available units are Fahrenheit – a temperature scale where water at sea level has a freezing point of +32° F, and a boiling point of +212° F; and Celsius – a temperature scale where water at sea level has a freezing point of 0° C and a boiling point of +100° C.



## ROTATING VANE MOUNT







**WARNING:** This product and/or its included or branded accessories can expose you to chemicals, including lead, lead compounds and phthalate DEHP, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and lead and lead compounds, bisphenol A (BPA), and phthalate DnHP, which are known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information, go to [www.P65Warning.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warning.ca.gov) and [www.Kestrelinstruments/prop65](http://www.Kestrelinstruments/prop65).