

LTL-X - Calibration

Reference

The road marking is simulated by a piece of white ceramic (the reference) mounted on an aluminum profile. Ceramics have very stable optical properties because of the smooth surface.

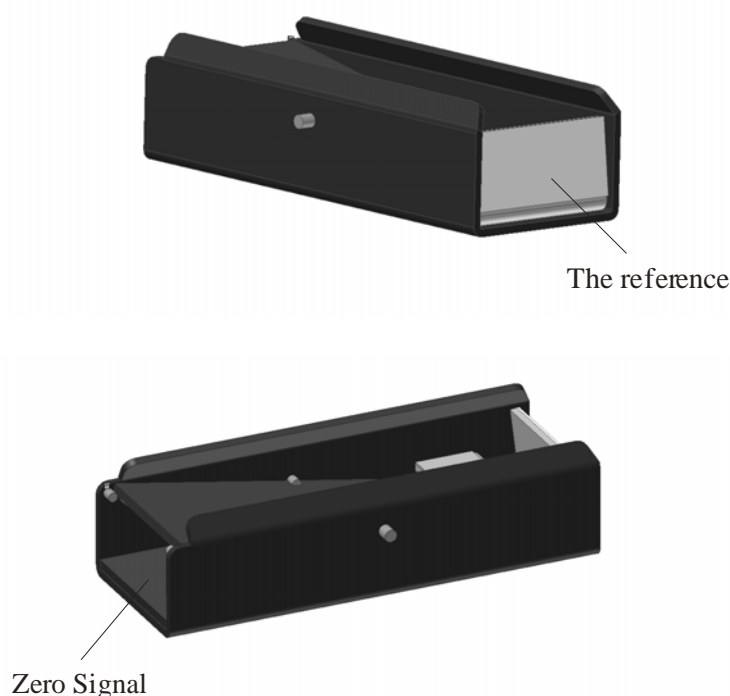


Figure: Calibration normal

To make sure that calibration of the retroreflector is correct it is important that the ceramics and light trap on the calibration unit is clean and undamaged. Always keep the calibration unit well protected.

If the ceramic is stained, scratched or broken, the calibration unit has to be replaced and calibrated. In case of dust on the ceramics surface of the traceable reference, the use of compressed air is recommended for removal. To clean the ceramic reference on the field calibration unit, the use of a soft damp cloth is recommended if compressed air fails to remove the dirt. If necessary, use a mild household detergent. A calibration transfer must always be completed after the field reference is cleaned. It is necessary to have the traceable reference available to perform the transfer prior to cleaning the field reference.

To ensure reliable measurements, it is recommended that the calibration unit be periodically recalibrated to a traceable standard. DELTA Light & Optics offers calibration traceable to PTB (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt). For information contact your distributor or DELTA.

Light trap

The zero signal is simulated by a light trap mounted in the calibration unit in the opposite end of the reference. It is made of two glossy and black plastic sheets mounted at an acute angle. If clean this will provide very efficient light absorbing device.

It is necessary to disassemble the light trap to clean it efficiently. Using a fine brush, clean pressurized air or a soft paper tissue/cloth and some window cleaning liquid can do the cleaning.

Calibration

The LTL-X is factory calibrated and very stable but a calibration should always be carried out before starting a new series of measurements.

The instrument is supplied with two calibration units, a reference calibration unit (black) and a field calibration unit (red). The reference calibration unit is factory calibrated and traceable to PTB. The field calibration unit must be calibrated against the reference calibration unit by the user at suitable intervals. The reference calibration unit is stored in the black protection box, and the field calibration unit in the gray protection box.




Figure: 6 – Calibration

Calibration

Two steps are required for a complete calibration, *zero calibration* and *reference calibration*. The instrument will guide you through the procedure.

Calibration procedure

- *Zero calibration*

Press the CALIBRATION button  once. Mount the instrument upon the calibration unit. This is done by tilting the instrument slightly backward and then insert the unit underneath the front end of the instrument. Make sure that the pins on the side of the unit fit into the slots in the LTL-X.

It is important that the calibration unit faces with the dark opening towards the instrument tower. The display will show the correct orientation of the calibration unit. Make sure that the calibration unit and the light trap are clean. Press the OK button to start *zero calibration*. During calibration the lamp will flash a number of times.

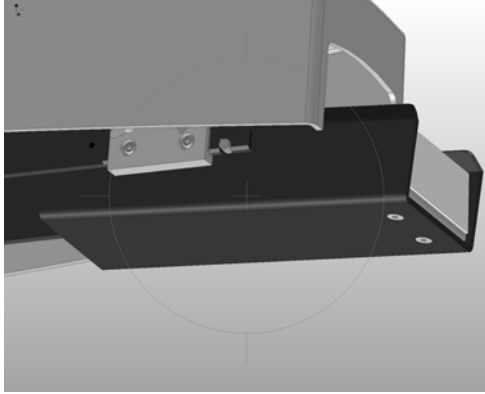


Figure: 7 – Placing the calibration normal.

- *Reference calibration*

Now the instrument is ready for the next step and the display will tell you to rotate the calibration unit so that the white face is facing the instrument tower. Again it is important that the pins on the side of the unit fit into the slots in the LTL-X. Press OK to begin the reference calibration. Check the value displayed and if necessary adjust the calibration value shown in the display so it matches the value stamped on the calibration unit. Press the OK button to perform the calibration.

The calibration procedure is now complete. Remove the calibration unit and store it properly. Press OK to return to the measurement display.

The instrument automatically compensates for zero signal, leakage and other known errors, and calculates a calibration factor. This process is fully automatic. If the calibration routine is followed precisely the retrometer will now display '**true**' RL.

Always store the calibration unit in a dry and clean environment.