

Leica Builder Series Frequently Asked Questions



Why should I acquire a Builder just to save stringing reference lines?

String lines are inexpensive, but very time consuming. Also, string is easily damaged and has to be set up again. The time the Builder saves, can very quickly pay for the acquisition.

Is it complicated?

No. The Builder was designed to be easy to use, even for those with little or no experience.

What is the purpose of the endless drive?

The endless drive eliminates the need for any locking knobs that get in the way, and may cause errors if not locked. The smooth endless drive securely holds the Builder steady while giving full 360 degree rotation and eliminates extra steps.

What are the advantages of an electronic theodolite over an optical-mechanical version?

Data is read from the highly visible and easy to read display, and the software enables automatic compensation of angle readings. Functions such as displaying values in varying scales cannot be implemented simultaneously in optical mechanical instruments.

Why should I invest in an electronic distance measurement tool instead of continuing to work with a simple measuring tape?

The combination of distance and angle measurements enables the Builder to calculate points e.g. for a rectangular layout, reducing possible errors and saving time. A single measurement with the Builder 200 often saves many conventional measurements.

How to exchange the data with the Builder 300?

Simply connect the USB cable (part of scope of delivery) to your PC and to the Builder. Before connecting the first time, install the USB driver on the PC.

Install the Construction Data Manager Software which is on a CD that comes in the red Builder Container. After install, the software asks for registration. You can skip registration and try it out first, later you can register at any time to use the program fully and free of extra charge.

What stands EDM for?

Electronic Distance Measurement

What means 'True Zero'?

A glass prism requires the laser beam from the EDM to pass the prism, and that results in a measurement that is typically longer than the true distance between the prism pole and the Builder. The difference to the true distance is called prism offset. The TrueZero Builder prisms have zero prism offset, they are made in a way that the measured distance always equals the true distance within the overall accuracy specification of the EDM.

What makes a Theodolite to become a Total Station?

The capacity to measure distances electronically (EDM) and to store them in a memory.

Some people call it 'Tachymeter'. What does that mean?

That's historical and was used for the first theodolites with inbuilt EDM. Later (but more than 25 years ago from now) when the memory was added people started to call it 'Total' Station because it was perceived to be the total solution at that time. But as the Leica 'SmartStation' shows, there is still a lot of room for technical innovations and thus for new names.

Typically only surveyors use total stations?

No, many people use Builder today, foremen, architects, all without having a surveying education in their personal record. That's because of the Leica PowerSite Software.

What makes Leica 'PowerSite' software so special?

First of all, it is the first software for Theodolites (Total Stations) that matches contractor needs because it wasn't at first hand made for a surveyor but for contractor. Second, the software runs on all Builder models, from 100 up to 500, that makes it unique because no other software in the market provides unique operation of a series of instruments ranging from theodolites up to Total Stations.