

miniDiSC application note #10: Resetting the calibration data

The miniDiSC can “forget” its calibration data for reasons that we do not understand. This document explains how you can restore the calibration data without having to send the instrument back. This is done with a small tool which only runs under Windows.

- 1) Download and install the miniDiSC USB driver
(<http://www.fierz.ch/minidisc/USBdriver/USBdriver.zip>)
- 2) Download and install (run setup.exe) the .NET-tool to reset the calibration data
(http://www.fierz.ch/minidisc/minidisc_reset.zip)
- 3) Please note: the .NET-tool requires the .NET framework 4.0 to be installed on your Windows PC. If it is not installed yet, the setup program will install the framework first, and then attempt to install the tool. However, for reasons only known to Microsoft, it will fail. Simply run setup.exe a second time, and it will work
- 4) Connect the miniDiSC with a standard USB cable to your PC and run the .NET-tool
- 5) On the left, choose the correct COM port for your miniDiSC (usually the highest COM port on your system) and press the connect button. If you are unsure which COM port to choose, you can first run the tool without connecting the miniDiSC, note which COM ports are available, then connect the miniDiSC, and restart the tool. There should now be an additional available COM port which is the one you should choose
- 6) After connecting to the miniDiSC you will see a data stream in the large text field labeled “communication”
- 7) Press the recall button, and send what appears in your “recalled” field to me so that I can learn something
- 8) Enter the proper calibration string in the top text field labeled “calibration string”. Note that there is a string there, which is incorrect for your device! If you don’t know what string to enter, contact me
- 9) Press the reset button
- 10) Press the recall button – the recalled calibration should now be identical to the one you entered
- 11) Disconnect the miniDiSC, restart it, and record a short data file. Check whether the file header looks like previous file headers that you produced before the calibration data was lost
- 12) If possible: compare the miniDiSC with another particle instrument (CPC, SMPS; other miniDiSC)