

**CASTLE GROUP**  
**USER MANUAL FOR**  
**ACOUSTIC CALIBRATORS:**  
**GA601 and 607**

## COMPANY INTRODUCTION

Thank you for buying a Castle product, we are sure you will find both the goods and the service to be of the highest quality but if not, then please feel free to contact us so that we can deal with any concerns you may have.

This manual is designed to show you the operation of the goods you have purchased. If you would like to become a competent person in the eyes of the law, then you may like to know more about our competent person training courses for the Noise at work regulations or Environmental noise assessments.

It is our aim at Castle Group Ltd to provide a complete range of Noise and Vibration products and Services of the highest standard. If you would like to know more about any of our other products and services then please telephone on: +44(0) 1723 584250 or visit our Website at [www.castlegroup.co.uk](http://www.castlegroup.co.uk).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Bull', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Bull MIOA  
Managing Director

## CONTENTS

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PAGE NUMBER</b>
INTRODUCTION	3
BATTERY CHECK AND REPLACEMENT	4
OPERATION	5
CORRECTION FACTORS	6
GA690 ELECTRONIC BAROMETER	8
SPECIFICATIONS	11
WARRANTY AND AFTER SALES SERVICE	13

## INTRODUCTION

When using any type of sound level meter it is highly recommended that the equipment is acoustically calibrated before and checked again after measurements are made.

The GA601/GA607 acoustic calibrators provide an accurate, stable and simple to use sound source for carrying out the acoustic calibration of a wide range of sound level meters. Both calibrators operate at 1kHz and thereby eliminate possible confusion regarding the frequency weighting selected on the Sound Level Meter (since A,B,C and D weightings all have unity gain at this frequency). Both calibrators feature non-latching toggle switch operation which engages the sound source for a continuous period of one minute before automatically turning off. The GA601 is a Class 2/C acoustic calibrator that produces a 94dB stable tone and the GA607 is a Class 1/C acoustic calibrator that produces both 94dB and 104dB tones.

Rugged, reliable and economic operation of the GA601/607 has been ensured by the use of a high-tech integrated circuit, a metal cone transducer, positive battery condition indication and readily available batteries. Their compact size and light weight permit convenient pocket carrying and hand-held calibration of instruments.

The GA601/607 calibrators are designed for use with Castle sound level meters as well as a variety of third party sound level meters that feature a nominal half inch microphone capsule.

## BATTERY CHECK AND REPLACEMENT

The battery condition of the GA601/607 is continuously indicated when the instrument is switched on, by means of a bright red LED (light emitting diode). If the LED does not illuminate when the unit is switched on then the batteries in the unit need replacing and levels output by the calibrator may fall outside the published tolerance limits.

The procedure for replacing the batteries is as follows:-

- 1 Pull off the black retainer ring surrounding the switch panel by pulling with a slight twist. If necessary use a screwdriver through the two holes in the ring to pull it off. The retainer is held in place by a rubber 'o-ring' and a fairly firm 'pull and twist' is required to remove it.
- 2 Remove the metal plate carrying the switch and PCB by pulling on the switch. Continue pulling gently until the entire PCB is outside the bodytube taking care not to pull too far or the wires connecting it to the transducer may break. - see figure 1
- 3 Unclip the lithium batteries from their holders by carefully prising them out from under their clips.
- 4 Insert the new batteries under the holder clip with the positive to the top (*the holder clip may require pushing back down to make good contact on the battery before you put the new batteries in*).
- 5 Insert the switch panel/PCB assembly back into the bodytube and fit the black retainer ring on top by pushing firmly until flush with the bodytube.
- 6 Turn on the GA601/607 and verify that the LED is illuminated.



Figure 1

## OPERATION

The Castle GA601 and GA607 acoustic calibrators feature non-latching toggle switches. The toggle switches turn the unit on. The units will automatically turn off one minute after the last operation of the toggle switch *(it is not possible to turn the unit off manually)*. To ensure an accurate calibration please ensure that the ambient noise level is at least 20dB lower than the chosen level of the calibrator e.g. 74dB if using a 94dB level. This check can be carried out with the Sound Level Meter prior to the calibration.

The following routine outlines a basic calibration check on a sound level meter using a Castle GA601/607 acoustic calibrator *(please refer to the sound level meter user manual for more specific information on carrying out a calibration check)*.

- 1 Check the battery condition of both the Sound Level Meter and the GA601/607 and replace if necessary.
- 2 Ensure the calibrator is attached to the microphone correctly by gently inserting the microphone into the cavity of the calibrator *(the cavity can be found on the opposite end of the unit to the toggle switch)*. A certain amount of resistance should be felt whilst inserting the microphone as the o-ring fitted to the cavity of the calibrator forms a seal around the microphone - *see figure 2*
- 3 Refer to the sound level meter user manual for information on setting the instrument ready for calibration.
- 4 Ensure that the calibrator is switched on and set to the chosen level and all correction factors for atmospheric pressure and microphone type have been accounted for.
- 5 Allow both units to settle for approximately 5 seconds before calibrating.



Figure 2

**CORRECTION FACTORS**

**Sound Pressure correction:**

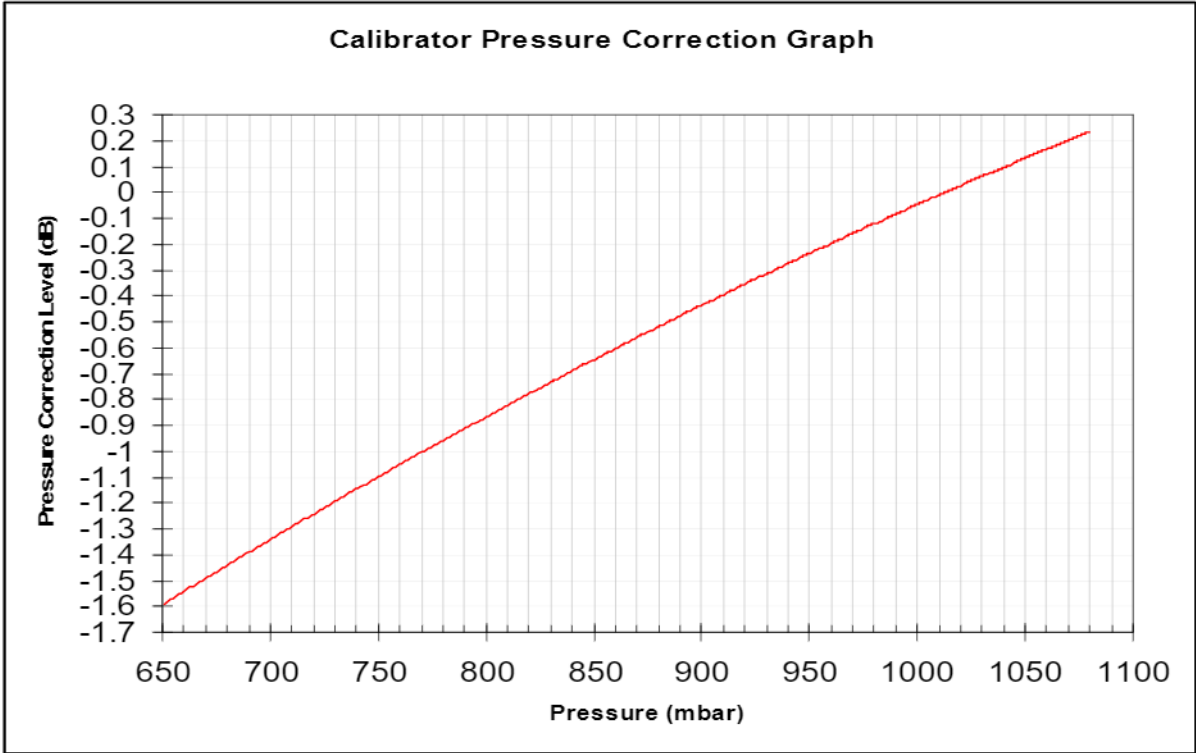
The nominal sound pressure level within the calibrator cavity varies from one microphone type to another. Refer to *Table 1* for the pressure to free field correction factor to be applied to the actual pressure level of the calibrator to obtain the correct free field reading with the microphone you are using:

Microphone Type	Correction factor to be applied
MK75 (ACO 7146)	-0.3dB
MK78 (MTG. MK250)	-0.2dB
MK79 (ACO 7052)	-0.2dB
MK80 (ACO 7146A)	-0.3dB
BK4133 (WS2 approved)	-0.2dB

*Table 1*

**Atmospheric Pressure correction:**

Variations in atmospheric pressure both at altitude and at sea level can affect the calibration level. The graph in *figure 3* highlights the correction factor to be applied when using Class 1 accuracy equipment depending on the atmospheric pressure at the time of calibration. The same factor can also be applied when using Class 2 accuracy equipment although this is optional. The Castle GA690 electronic barometer is recommended for accurately obtaining the atmospheric pressure.



\* The expanded uncertainty of measurement associated with the correction data for atmospheric pressure is  $\pm 0.03\text{dB}$

*figure 3*

### Altitude correction:

When barometric pressure figures are published on weather forecasts the figure quoted will usually have been adjusted down to sea level. This means that the pressure will be different in your location to the published figure depending on the altitude of your location. If you intend to use this published figure, the following corrections need to be applied:

An approximation for small height differences (<1000m) can be obtained by reducing the barometric pressure by 0.116mbar/metre increase in height above sea level.

For greater heights please refer to *Table 2* for barometric pressure adjustment

Altitude (0m = sea level)	Pressure Adjustment
-250m	+30.0 mbar
-100m	+12 mbar
-50m	+6 mbar
<b>0m</b>	<b>0 mbar</b>
50m	-6 mbar
100m	-12 mbar
250m	-29 mbar
500m	-58 mbar
750m	-87 mbar
1000m	-114 mbar
2500m	-266 mbar
5000m	-473 mbar
7500m	-630 mbar

*Table 2*

Please note that the Castle GA690 electronic barometer measures the absolute pressure at your location. When using the GA690 no correction for altitude needs to be applied.

### Example 1 (Without Using Castle GA690):

*You want to calibrate a GA215 sound level meter which features an MK79 (ACO.7052) microphone using a GA601 calibrator with a weather station pressure reading of 960 mbar. You are located 500m above sea level. To find the level you should be calibrating to you need to take the following stages into account:*

*Actual pressure level of the calibrator: 93.9dB  
Microphone correction (-0.2dB): 93.7dB*

*Pressure correction (960 mbar)  
less altitude correction (-58 mbar) = 902 mbar*

*902 mbar (-0.4dB): 93.3dB*

*Therefore the actual level that the calibrator will be outputting under these conditions is **93.3dB** so this is the level that you should set the instrument to for calibration.*

### Example 2 (Using Castle GA690):

*Obtain the barometric pressure using the Castle GA690 and use figure 3 to obtain the correction factor. The example below is for a GA690 reading of 1040mbar using a GA131M sound level meter which features an MK78 (MK250) microphone and a GA607 calibrator to calibrate the instrument.*

*Actual pressure level of the calibrator: 94.1dB  
Microphone correction (-0.2dB): 93.9dB  
Pressure correction (1040 mbar) 0.1dB*

*Therefore the actual level that the calibrator will be outputting under these conditions is **94.0dB** so this is the level that you should set the instrument to for calibration.*



## GA690 Electronic Barometer (where supplied)

The Castle GA690 electronic barometer can be used with both the GA601 and GA607 to accurately display the atmospheric pressure at your location.

The barometer measures the absolute pressure of the ambient atmosphere. The pressure measured is not necessarily the same pressure as would be published on weather forecasts etc as this figure is normally the pressure taken at sea level. The barometer can be set to display the figure at sea level by using the S.L (sea level correction) function if your altitude is known.

### Powering the barometer on:

To turn the barometer on simply press and release the ON/OFF key once. The barometer should then turn on and perform a segment test on the display. To turn the barometer off simply press and release the ON/OFF key once more.

### Configuration of the barometer:

1. **Auto power off (P.of)** - It is possible to set the barometer to automatically turn off after a preset time off between 1 and 120 minutes:
  - I. Press and hold the MODE key whilst powering on until 'P.of' is displayed
  - II. Press the MODE and ZERO keys to scroll up and down in minutes to select your desired power off time. It is also possible to have the barometer to stay permanently on by scroll down using the MODE key until 'off' is displayed. This disables the auto power off function.
  - III. Confirm your selection by pressing the ON/OFF key, 'uni' should then appear on the display.
  
2. **Display unit (uni)** - It is possible to change the units that the barometer displays in between hectoPascal (hPA) and mmHg (nHg). Please note that 1hPA = 1mbar.
  - I. Follow instructions for auto power off above.
  - II. Press the MODE and Zero keys to scroll between 'hPA' and 'nHg'.
  - III. Confirm your selection by pressing the ON/OFF key, 'S.L' should then appear on the display.
  
3. **Sea level correction (S.L)\*** - It is possible to correct the measured pressure back to the pressure value at sea level (zero altitude).
  - I. Follow instructions for display units above.
  - II. Press the MODE and ZERO keys to turn the sea level correction function 'on' or 'off'.
  - III. Confirm your selection by pressing the ON/OFF key. 'Alt' should then appear on the display if 'on' was selected or the barometer will restart with if 'off' is selected.

*\*Please note that this feature should be turned off when used for the calibration of a sound level meter*

4. **Altitude reading (Alt)\*** - If using the sea level correction function then you must set your altitude level in metres. It is possible to enter an altitude of between 1m and 1999m.

- I. Follow instructions for sea level correction above.
- II. Press the **MODE** and **ZERO** keys to scroll up and down in metres to select your current altitude.
- III. Confirm your selection by pressing the **ON/OFF** key, The barometer should now restart.

*Please note that if during the configuration no key is pressed within 20 seconds then the configuration will be aborted.*

*\*Please note that this feature should be turned off when used for the calibration of a sound level meter*

### **Offset and Scale Adjustment:**

The offset and scale adjustment function on the barometer is used for calibrating the barometer and therefore should only be altered under calibration conditions. The following outlines how to adjust the offset:

**The display value is given by the following formula:**

$$\text{DISPLAY} = [\text{measured value} - \text{offset}] * [1 + \text{scale adjustment} (\%)]$$

- I. Press and hold the **MODE** key whilst powering on until 'OFS' is displayed.
- II. Press the **MODE** and **ZERO** keys to select the required offset [-20 to +20 mbar].
- III. Confirm your selection by pressing the **ON/OFF** key, 'SCL' should then appear on the display.
- IV. Press the **MODE** and **ZERO** keys to select the required scale adjustment [-1.99 to +1.99%]
- V. Confirm your selection by pressing the **ON/OFF** key. The barometer should now restart.

*Please note that if during the adjustment no key is pressed within 20 seconds then the adjustment will be aborted.*

### **Zero Function:**

The zero function is used to take relative measurements.

- I. Turn on the barometer.
- II. Press and hold the **ZERO** key until 'nuL' is displayed. The display should then change to '0'. As the pressure changes this figure will either increase or decrease depending on whether the pressure is rising or falling.
- III. Press and hold the **ZERO** key again to return to absolute pressure.

### **MIN/MAX Value Memory:**

The barometer keeps a record of the minimum and the maximum pressures measured whilst the barometer is turned on (values are not retained after the barometer has been turned off).

- I. Ensure barometer is already turned on.
- II. Press and release the **MODE** key once. The display will now flash between 'Lo' and the minimum level recorded.
- III. Press and release the **MODE** key a second time and the display will now flash between 'Hi' and the maximum level recorded.
- IV. Press and release the **MODE** key a third time to return to absolute pressure.

*Please note that the MIN/MAX readings can be reset by pressing and holding the **MODE** key for more than 2 seconds.*

### **Low Battery warning:**

If the word 'BAT' appears on the screen at any time this indicates that the battery is low and needs replacing. The barometer uses a 9v alkaline battery type 6LR61 (PP3).

## SPECIFICATIONS

### Standards:

GA601	IEC 60942:2003 Class 2/C BS EN 60942:2003 Class 2/C
GA607	IEC 60942:2003 Class 1/C BS EN 60942:2003 Class 1/C

The range of environmental conditions over which the calibrators are specified to operate are:

GA601:	Air temperature: 0°C to +40°C Static Pressure: 65kPa to 108kPa (650 to 1080 mbar) Relative Humidity: 25% to 90%
GA607:	Air temperature: -10°C to +50°C Static Pressure: 65kPa to 108kPa (650 to 1080 mbar) Relative Humidity: 25% to 90%

The reference environmental conditions for specifying the performance of both calibrators are:

Air temperature:	23°C
Static pressure:	101,325kPa
Relative humidity:	50%

### Nominal sound pressure level(s):

GA601	94dB ±0.3dB
GA607	94dB*, 104dB ±0.3dB

\* Principal sound pressure level

**Principal Frequency:** 1 kHz ±1%

**Harmonic Distortion:** <3%

**Stabilising time:** 5 seconds

**The pressure correction formula** (see figure 3 on page 6):

$$\text{Corrected level} = -5.84448 + (7.91872\text{E-}02 * p) - (2.12112\text{E-}04 * p^2)$$

[Where  $p$  is the measured atmospheric pressure in kPa]

## EC Declaration of Conformity:

Castle Group Ltd declares that:

- *GA601/ GA607 Acoustic Calibrators*

In accordance with the following Directive:

- *89/336/EEC The Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive and its amending directives*

have been designed and manufactured to the following specification:

- *EN61326-1:1997 + A1:1998*

with the following Tests:

- *Radiated Emissions: EN55022:1995 Class: B*
- *ESD: EN61000-4-2:1995 Levels:  $\pm 4\text{kV}$  (C),  $\pm 8\text{kV}$  (A)*
- *Radio-frequency EM field amplitude mod: EN61000-4-3:1996 Level:  $3\text{V/m}$*

*All tests were carried out with the units in both vertical and horizontal orientations and the differences recorded were negligible. The units were tested at all operational levels and again the difference recorded was negligible.*

We hereby declare that the equipment named above has been designed to comply with the relevant sections of the above referenced specifications. The units comply with all essential requirements of the directive.

**Cavity Diameter :** To fit a WS2 nominal half-inch microphone according to IEC60194-4:1995.

### Uncertainty Figures:

For the measurement of pressure, the expanded uncertainty in the accuracy of the barometer reading used must be less than  $\pm 1.0$  kPa

For the measurement of temperature, the expanded uncertainty in the accuracy of the thermometer reading used must be less than  $\pm 5^\circ\text{C}$

For the measurement of relative humidity, the expanded uncertainty in the accuracy of the hygrometer reading used must be less than  $\pm 6\%$  RH.

*For the expanded uncertainties of measurement listed above, a coverage factor of  $k = 2$  has been used.*

**Batteries :** 2 x Lithium coin cells type - CR2032

**Battery Life:** Approximately 70 hours

**Dimensions :** Length = 140mm  
Diameter = 51mm

**Weight :** 230g

**GA690 Electronic Barometer:**

<b>Measuring Range:</b>	Absolute pressure - 0 to 1300mbar 0 to 975mmHg
<b>Resolution:</b>	1mbar, 1mmHg
<b>Accuracy:</b>	±0.25% FS hysteresis and linearity
<b>Battery:</b>	9V Alkaline type 6LR61 (PP3)
<b>Battery life:</b>	Greater than 2500 hours
<b>Dimensions:</b>	106 x 67 x 30mm (LxWxH)
<b>Weight:</b>	135g incl. battery

## WARRANTY AND AFTER SALES SERVICE

Castle Group design and manufacture precision instruments, which if treated with reasonable care and attention should provide many years of trouble free service.

In the event of a fault occurring, during the warranty period, the instrument should be returned to Castle Group Ltd., in its original packaging, or to an authorised agent. Please enclose a clear description of the fault or symptom.

Details of the warranty cover are available from Castle Group Ltd or an authorised agent.

All instruments are designed to meet rigid British and International Standards. An annual calibration is recommended to ensure that these high standards are maintained. This is particularly important for cases in which instrument readings are to be used in litigation or compliance work.

For warranty and service return to:

The Service Department  
Castle Group Ltd.  
Salter Road  
Cayton Low Road Industrial Estate  
Scarborough  
North Yorkshire  
YO11 3UZ

Telephone    UK: +44 (01723) 584250  
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Email:        techsupport@castlegroup.co.uk  
Internet:     www.castlegroup.co.uk

Any misuse or unauthorised repairs will invalidate the warranty.

Damage caused by faulty or leaking batteries is not covered by the warranty.