

Soft Gage user guide

Soft Gage Software install

All drivers and software required are downloadable from <http://www.marconilab.com/download.htm>

Only if the device driver is already installed you can proceed with this installation.

Double click on the Soft Gage file. The installation process will now begin and you will be guided into it.

At the end close installation, you will receive a splash screen confirming the successfully installation.

Important! during the installation process maybe your antivirus or system protection will prompt, this is normal. You have always to authorize all the operations.

How to use Soft Gage

Soft Gage is one of the Software tools available to enhance the features of your HE-FM.

The main purpose of **Soft Gage** is to replicate the HE-FM display on a PC monitor.

This is essential for mod. HE-FM Nano, where a display showing the result is not available.

In addition to display, this Software provides some more useful features to make your measurement work easier.

Start Soft Gage

After your Software installation (see Installation Manual) you can start the program by selecting it from the programs menu.

Initial searching for HE-FM device over USB ports is performed, then the device should be plugged in before startup.

During search, the display shows the message «Connecting»; once successfully connected the message will quickly switch to thickness display.

Reading the display

The status bar (E) at the bottom of the window constantly displays the connection status.

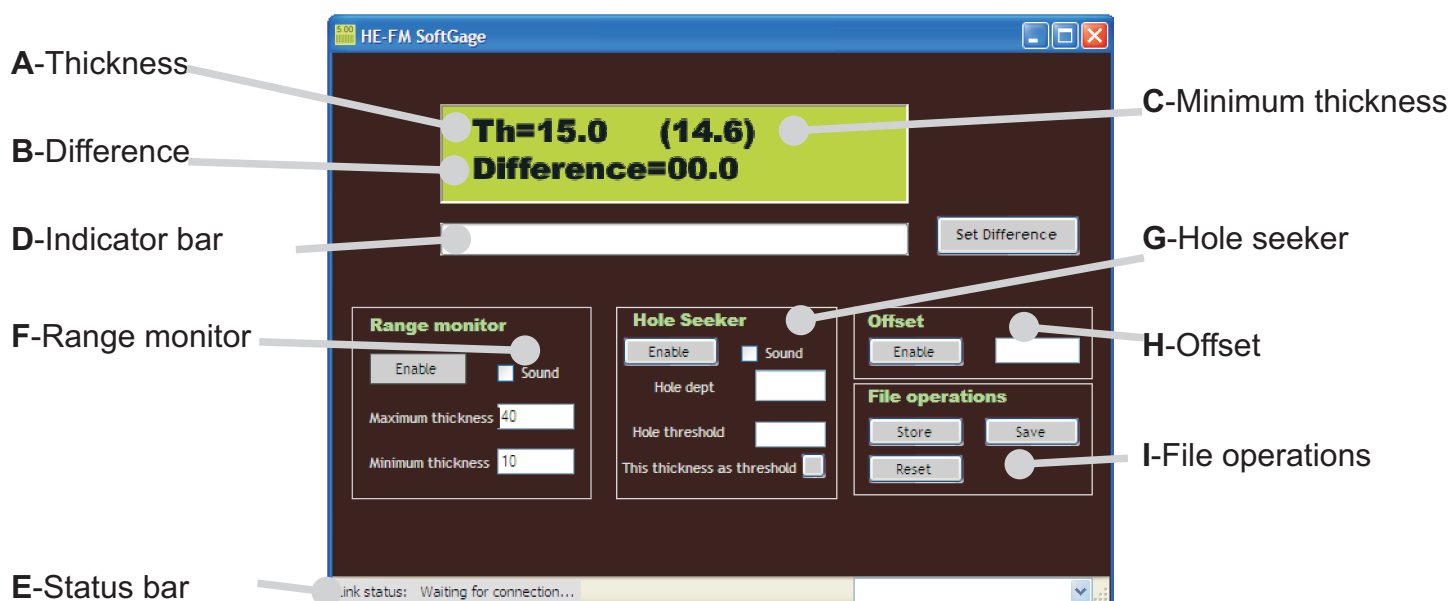
The virtual display shows the measurement results (refer to HE-FM Manual).

The A area of the display shows the instant thickness being measured at the same moment.

The C area shows in brackets the minimum thickness.

On the second line (B) you can read the differential thickness (mod. HE-FM 3 and HE-FM Nano 3 only).

The indicator bar (D) shows results quickly and analogically, as the colored segments number changes according to the measured thickness.



Tools

Soft Gage has further useful tools to ease and automate measurement procedures.

Range Monitor (F)

The purpose of Range Monitor is to warn visually and acoustically when the thickness lies below or above a preset threshold. Click the **Enable** button to activate the function: the message «Range monitor» will turn to red to

indicate the operation.

Enter minimum thickness in the **Minimum thickness** window and in the same way maximum thickness in corresponding window.

When the thickness is below the preset minimum or above the preset maximum the indicator bar (D) color changes from green to red.

If you enable the **Sound** feature you will hear a beep when the indicator bar is getting red: this allows you to keep your eyes focused on the musical instrument.

Click the **Disable** button before using other functions: the message will get back to green.

Hole Seeker (G) (mod. HE-FM 3 and HE-FM Nano 3 only)

The purpose of Hole Seeker is to identify any thickness holes in an area and measure its depth.

Click the **Enable** button to activate the function: the message «Hole seeker» will turn to red to indicate the operation.

Enter the minimum acceptable thickness in the **Hole threshold** box. From this moment on each time the taken measure falls below the set value, the box **Depth** will show the hole depth in tenths of a mm.

If you click the **Take this as threshold button** the measure currently on display is used as the minimum thickness and automatically fill in the Hole threshold box.

If you enable the Sound feature you will hear a beep when the indicator bar is getting red: this allows you to keep your eyes focused on the musical instrument.

Click the **Disable** button before using other functions: the message will get back to green.

Offset (H)

The purpose of the Offset function is to subtract or add a preset value to the measure. This is useful, for example, whenever you inserted a felt thickness on the feeler of the thickness gauge; knowing the thickness of the felt you are able to eliminate its effect from the measures.

Click the **Enable** button to activate the function: the message «Offset» will turn to red to indicate the operation.

Enter the number of tenths of a mm in the appropriate window. If the number is preceded by a minus sign (-) the correction will be made by subtracting the preset thickness from the actual measure; however it will be added if you do not insert the sign.

Click the **Disable** button before using other functions: the message will get back to green.

File operations (I)

The purpose of this section is to create a file of csv (comma separated value) type containing a set of measurements taken at different points of the musical instrument and create a downloadable map of the same instrument. that can be stored and used later.

Click the **Enable** button to activate the function: the message «File operations» will turn to red to indicate the operation.

During the measurements, whenever you press the **Store** button the thickness measurement is saved in a temporary file. You can store up to 999 measurements.

At any time you can restart the measurements and delete the contents of the temporary file by pressing the **Reset** button.

When all your measurements are over, press the **Save** file button: a dialog box will appear to let you choose the name and location of the saved file. Such a file can then be used by many Software tools, including MicroSoft Excel and Office Calc.

Click the **Disable** button before using other functions: the message will get back to green.