

PCT users can choose from 2 different operating modes

The PCT module can be use in 2 very different way. It can run under BA400WIN or it can be programmed to operate in a stand alone mode using PCTWIN. The PCT does not operate under both simultaneously. It must be one or the other. However you can move back and forth between the two modes.

Each mode offers very different features and benefits that will be obvious once you begin using your module. The following outline the various distinctions:

BA400WIN mode	PCT Mode
Module must be connected to computer at all times	PCT can operate without a computer connection
The computer running BA400WIN directs the operation of the module	The PCT micro-controller directs the operation of the module
You need to select and open a profile to begin a session each time the module is started.	The program is stored in non volatile memory. The session begins as soon as the PCT is powered on. No need to reload program.
Session proceeds forward using standard termination options during charge, discharge & pause functions	Sessions can loop back and forward using sophisticated IF and GOTO conditional statements.
Session always proceeds in the same manner	Session can proceed differently depending on measured parameters & battery performance.
LED's not programmable: Green = Charging Yellow = Discharging	LED's can be programmed to indicate progress: e.g. Flash Yellow 2 times = Cycle 2 or results: e.g.Green = Capacity > 90 %
No Beeper	On board beeper can be programmed to indicate events such as: Session Complete or a failure situation.
No conditional routing	Session can route to alternate steps based on multiple programmable conditions.
Results must be saved in the computer	Results are saved in the module (even with power off) and continue to be available until reset by the next session
Must be calibrated by user and calibration data is stored on the computer. Will need re-calibration if moved to a new computer.	Module is factory calibrated and does not require calibration by user. Calibration data is stored in the PCT and is always available.
Session must be started by user	Session can be started automatically when a battery is detected
Reports can be printed	Reports can be printed if connected to PC
Software includes a graphing feature	Graphing feature not included
System can collect large amounts of data in log files for lab type analysis	Collects & saves results but does not collect data files on voltage, current, time etc. during operation
Great for battery testing in a lab environment	Ideal for battery management in a production, shop, or maintenance environment

In order to use the PCT in BA400 mode simply open the BA400WIN program. Power on the PCT and ensure it is connected to the computer with the data cable. The BA400WIN program will detect the PCT module and allow it to go "Online". This will terminate the PCT program that is current running and control will be entirely with BA400WIN program. Refer to the BA400 Users Manual for details on how to use the BA400WIN program.

After using the PCT in BA400 mode, if you wish to use the module in PCT mode simply close the BA400WIN program. Then power the PCT off / on to restart the module in PCT mode running the installed bp3 program. The bp3 program is unaffected by the BA400 operation, however you do need to power the PCT off / on to revert back to PCT stand alone operation.

The PCT mode is a new technology that has just recently been released. Note that the older BA400 series analyzers cannot operate in PCT mode however a the new PCT modules will work in both. You must have the newer PCT to run bp3 files in stand alone mode. However the PCT modules are backward compatible with our BA400WIN software so that they enjoy the ability to work in BA400 mode as well as PCT mode.

Please note that calibration is handled differently in the two modes. In PCT mode the calibration data is stored in the PCT and as such there is no need for the user to calibrate it for use in PCT mode. However if you wish to use the PCT in BA400 mode you will need to calibrate it for BA400 operation in BA400WIN. In BA400 mode the calibration the data is stored on the computer. BA400WIN does not have any access to the PCT calibration data.

The BA400WIN software has been in widespread use for several years and as such has evolved and been adjusted to meet the requirements of a wide variety of users. However by being so general in nature it sometimes limits the possibilities. With the new PCT modules, users can now customize their own routines so the PCT system becomes a very flexible and powerful platform.

The BA400WIN software has had many years to stabilize and become bug free. The new PCT system is new and as such if you find any deficiencies please advise us so that we may correct them. This is also a good chance to make suggestions as to what features you would like added to PCTWIN to make it even better. Check our web site regularly for updates to the PCT software that you can download.

Since the PCT can be programmed to meet your specific requirements, feel free to inquire about getting units to meet your OEM requirements. We can produce modules with your own label and deliver them preloaded with your custom PCT routine. This can include locked modules that cannot be modified. Also inquire about different voltage and current specifications.