



Update 6th February 2019

Hi, Jonas here the designer of Alkatronic. In response to your much-appreciated feedback we are about to launch a new user manual 5.5 which we hope will make the ownership of the device easier and for you to enjoy the benefits that this cutting-edge technology brings to our hobby! We've listened and we have made significant changes to the Android app which now works flawlessly.

So, for the newbies or those who still struggle with the android lite app (or router overall), be sure to take a look at the updated instructions. Its important to remember that first command from lite can take up to 60 secs, but after that only 1-2 seconds. It's the same with cloud.

In addition to the new user manual we have also created some "Frequently Asked Questions", in our experience these seem to be the most common questions that are asked so here they are with the correct answers.

Please don't stop asking questions but please be sure to read the manual and cast your eye over these FAQ's, they help!

Happy reefing!

Jonas Roman



Frequently Asked Questions

These FAQ's are designed to answer many of the basic questions regarding Alkatronic. Please read carefully to see if your question has been answered here, if not then please feel free to pose a question to the group, other expert users will normally be able to help you with the designers of Alkatronic also on hand to help too.

Please remember to read your instructions for the device as most of the answers to many questions are contained within this document.

Table of Contents

<i>Can I put the used test reagent back into the sump or will it harm my fish and or corals?</i>	3
<i>What's the best way to measure and mix the reagent and RODI water mix?.....</i>	3
<i>My Android phone application is not stable, why?</i>	3
<i>What should my DKH levels be in the tank and what should I set the parameters to on the device?....</i>	3
<i>Does Alkatronic come with the calibration fluids for the probe?</i>	3
<i>Does Alkatronic come with a BNC cable so I can connect to Apex?.....</i>	3
<i>What spares may I need for maintenance and where can I purchase them from?.....</i>	4
<i>Do I need to make an allowance for the live rock in my tank when it comes to tank volume?</i>	4
<i>How will Alkatronic know how much to dose depending on the type of alkalinity solution I use?</i>	4
<i>What is the best way to calibrate Alkatronic?.....</i>	4
<i>My Alkatronic is not giving me same values as my manual test (Like Salifert, Hanna etc). Why?</i>	4
<i>Why can't I get a router connection?</i>	5
<i>My machine sounds quite loud. How do I fix that?</i>	5
<i>My iOS app is not connecting when I am outside home. Why?.....</i>	5
<i>How do I connect to my app when not home?</i>	5
<i>How do I know if my unit is online to the router?</i>	5
<i>My machine is constantly "retesting" and has many black dots in the graph. Why?</i>	5



[Can I put the used test reagent back into the sump or will it harm my fish and or corals?](#)

Yes, you can. The reagent is biologically harmless and only contains natural substances that exist in huge amounts in natural seawater. The designer of Alkatronic disposes of his used reagent into his sump tank with no ill effects!

[What's the best way to measure and mix the reagent and RODI water mix?](#)

RODI water and pharmaceutical distilled water can be used to mix the reagent. Measurements must be exact, Alkatronic recommends using a volumetric flask for this. Electronic kitchen scales can be used but again these need to be exact. The ratio is 4:1, i.e 4 parts water and one-part reagent.

[My Android phone application is not stable, why?](#)

We advise that if you can then select an Apple device to set up your Alkatronic device. If you use an Android device then use the Android LITE app to overcome any issues. The LITE app uses only the Bluetooth to set the SSID and Password, and after that the LITE App runs on the internet and not Bluetooth. In short, the LITE app is an extension of the cloud functionality.

When set up the LITE app for the first time, just open the LITE app, enter " Update Wi-Fi settings" and enter the SSID and Password for your home router then save. The app will prompt you to restart Alkatronic (Power off-on the Alkatronic). Then open app again and enter " View" and you have access to Alkatronic.

Please note that the first command from the LITE / CLOUD (Web) may take around 1 minute to show up on the LCD but subsequent commands will take a couple of seconds only.

When doing settings during this learning curve, it is a good practice to view the LCD of the Alkatronic as confirmation of the settings saved. This is the same with using iOS, Android or Cloud.

[What should my DKH levels be in the tank and what should I set the parameters to on the device?](#)

Your dKH levels in the tank are entirely your own preference and is based on the type of environment you are maintaining. Normal recommendations are within 7.00-9.00 dKH. The most important is not the value itself, but the stability.

[Does Alkatronic come with the calibration fluids for the probe?](#)

No, you will need to buy these separately and calibrate the probe before using.

[Does Alkatronic come with a BNC cable so I can connect to Apex?](#)

No this is an after-market product that you will need to source.



What spares may I need for maintenance and where can I purchase them from?

Most of your spares can be sourced from your LFLS or on line, they are all general and widely available parts:

- Silicon hose 3.2mm and 1.6mm
- Male Luer Lock to 1/16" Hose Barb Fitting
- Male Luer Lock to 1/8 Inch Hose Barb Fitting
- Peristaltic tubing (for around the pumps)

Do I need to make an allowance for the live rock in my tank when it comes to tank volume?

Yes, but the exact volume is not that crucial, as Alkatronic will just correct the dKH as required.

How will Alkatronic know how much to dose depending on the type of alkalinity solution I use?

Different alkalinity solution has different concentration recipes, Alkatronic uses the classic Balling recipe which is (1L of RO water mixed with 81g of NaHCO₃). If the solution you are using has a different concentration, you will need to adjust the tank volume based on the suggested table KH Solution Table.

What is the best way to calibrate Alkatronic?

Refer to document link at owner's club (Time to Calibrate) or the user manual. www.focustronic.net/media/wysiwyg/User_manual_public_5.4.pdf

My Alkatronic is not giving me same values as my manual test (Like Salifert, Hanna etc). Why?

It's always a matter of calibration and its highly likely you haven't calibrated the Alkatronic machine correctly or the reagent hasn't been mixed correctly.

Just follow the instructions in the latest user manual that you will find at www.focustronic.net, and redo the calibration. We recommend that after "Calibrating" the pumps and probe you perform a "Test Pump Accuracy" test too. Alkatronic should be providing you with 10.0 ml for the pump C and 50.0 ml for pump A.

Also remember that each line in the small calibration cylinder (for pump C) corresponds to 0.5 ml! For pump A you use the large cylinder and every line corresponds to 1 ml.

Bear in mind that a manual test such as Salifert has an inaccuracy of 0.3 dKH, so DON'T look for Alkatronic to mirror the test result values!

If there continues to be a variance of greater than 0.3 DKH then fine tune with the Baseline Calibration (See manual) www.focustronic.net/media/wysiwyg/User_manual_public_5.4.pdf



Why can't I get a router connection?

For the very first time sometimes you will need to follow the 9 steps in the user manual under " No Wi-Fi connection". This solves 99.9% of Wi-Fi cases and in most cases, you will only have to do this once.

My machine sounds quite loud. How do I fix that?

Due to transport reasons the screws can be sometimes be overtightened in the factory. Just open the back door. Loosen the 2 screws to pump A and C, no more than a 1/4 turn, the unit should be far quieter.

My iOS app is not connecting when I am outside home. Why?

iOS-app works only with Bluetooth and needs to be within BT range. The BT transmitter in Alkatronic is very strong and works up to a distance of 20 m.

How do I connect to my app when not home?

Android LITE app works with internet so you can access data from your machine from any location (as long as you have established router connection). If you are using the iOS app and want remote access to configure your device for cloud instead, address is:

<https://alkatronic.focustronic.club/login>

How do I know if my unit is online to the router?

Open cloud (see link above), and check text "Last online", and it should say something between "Just now"-"3 min".

My machine is constantly "retesting" and has many black dots in the graph. Why?

To avoid potential error measurements, the machine will always compare a new measurement with the previous measurement (If wash out mode is enabled). If the difference is more than 0.20 dKH, the machine will redo the measurement for safety reasons. It could of course be a true deviation from the previous measurement, for example if your measurement interval is very long and you could have actually had that big of a deviation. In that case, Alkatronic will re-measure and accept that the second value as true. The main principal of the wash out mode is that the machine will redo a measurement if the difference in alkalinity is more than 0.20 dKH from the previous measurement, and when the difference is ≤ 0.20 , accept that value and set it for true.

The washed-out value/s will not be shown in either the graph or the history as we interpret them as false. But, as an indication that a value was proceeded by a wash out sequence, that value will be marked with a black dot. There are 2 reasons that the wash out sequence will kick in. One is, and that is the main goal of this algorithm, when the machine performs an error measurement. The other reason could be that the value is actually correct, but the time between 2 measurements is that big that the alkalinity has actually changed that much.



So, some black dots, maybe 2-5 a week, is normal. But if you have very many black dots, like several every day, you can go through this check list:

1. If the time-tag after a washed-out measure ends with something close to XX:24, that means that the value was correctly measured by Alkatronic but that the difference compared to previous measured value was $>0.2\text{dKH}$, and therefore Alkatronic only redo the measure once and then settle the value. In this case, everything is correct in all aspects, but consider increasing measure frequency.
2. If the time-tag after a washed-out measure ends with something close to XX:36 or more, that means that the first value was incorrectly measured by Alkatronic and therefore, Alkatronic redo the measure twice or more, and then settle the correct value. If this "XX:36-measurements", happens only 1-2 times a week, you do not have to do anything, but if it happens more often: Check user manual under "A lot of black dots in graph" and "Bad Precision".