

Blokey Stuff

For the men in your life, or the boy within.



Blokey Stuff Newsletter

July 2008

Thermometer Maintenance

With our recent cold weather, many of us are keen to know how cold it gets each day. We sell a lot of various weather instruments, so now seems timely to give some advice about thermometers.

Mercury thermometers are a sealed glass tube part filled with mercury, with the remaining void in vacuum. The mercury expands and contracts in direct proportion to the temperature, allowing gradations to indicate the temperature. They are very reliable and accurate.

However, there is a common problem which can arise. Sometimes gaps appear in the mercury bead, making readings incorrect. This separation is often caused by vibrations during transit.

If you clip the kitchen bench whilst twirling around, the glass tube will suffer even more than your knuckles...

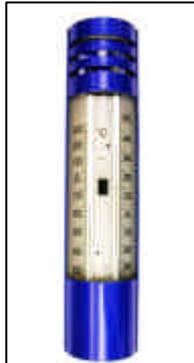
There is a simple remedy; shake the mercury back together.

Be careful. Swinging a thermometer around may well create the force to reconsolidate the

mercury, but if you clip the kitchen bench whilst twirling around, the glass tube will suffer even more than your knuckles. Grip the thermometer at its top end and carefully but vigorously shake the instrument, to send the all the mercury back down to the base. It may take several attempts to complete this. Remember mercury is toxic and can be absorbed through contact with your skin.

For the less brave, another somewhat slower method also works. Rest the thermometer in a warm place, such as near a heater. The mercury will expand and surface tension will rejoin the beads as they touch.

A special type of thermometer is a minimum maximum thermometer (Min/Max). These may appear to have 2 glass tubes, but are actually a single bead of mercury with an iron pin and vacuum at each end of a bent glass tube. As the mercury moves in the glass, it pushes the iron pins but does not pull the pins back. This means the pins get left at the minimum and maximum temperature readings.



Min/Max
Blue
Aluminum
\$49.95

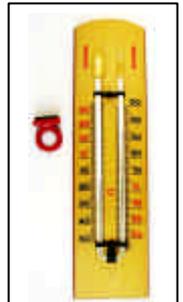


Min/Max
Die Cast
Metal
\$79.95

The base of the pins will read the min and max temperature since last reset and on both sides the mercury will read the current temperature. Note that the scales are reversed from the min to the max side, so that the min (left) side has low temperatures at the top. The pins can be reset back to the mercury by a reset button or the application of a magnet.

Minimum maximum thermometers can take a bit of learning how to use, but the quality German made instruments we offer will give years of reliable readings.

We also have other types of thermometers, including alcohol, electronic, Galileo and metal spring dial styles. We have specialist thermometers for frothing milk, serving wine, even thermometer cufflinks.



Min/Max
Wood
\$24.95



Weather stations are units with instruments including more than just thermometers. We supply barometers (measure pressure), hydrometers (measure humidity), rain gauges, aerometers (wind speed) and other instruments. We have electronic models from the simple LCD display to full computer interface, kids' toys to laboratory instruments.



Phone or visit us for help selecting the best thermometer for your application.

Ph: 02 9687 0407

www.blokeystuff.com.au

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Recently Arrived Stuff

There is always more stuff flowing through our shop. As deliveries arrive we consider it a perk of the job to open the parcels and see what has come. Check out our stuff...



Futurama: Bender Original
Original Bender, as a tin wind-up robot, he swings his arms as he walks. 23cm tall. He features a manually rotating antenna that changes his mouth expressions, and has poseable eyes. This robot comes with a can of Old Fashion Robot Oil and cigar. \$44.95

Starbug Electronic Playset

When the crew leave Red Dwarf on their jaunts they fly in Starbug. They have crashed (sorry-landed) her many times, she has been burnt, frozen and lost. However, here is Starbug along with Lister, Rimmer, Kryten and Cat to scale, and sound grabs from the TV show. \$129.95



Doctor Who: Judoon Scanner Torch
The Judoon work as police for hire. The Doctor and Martha encountered and defied them in the episode where Martha meets the Doctor. This torch allows you to scan for aliens, just as the Judoon do. \$19.95

Fire Knife Folding lock knife with firestarter. Scrape the notch of the blade along the included magnesium firestarter flint and sparks will fly, even when wet. Body of knife includes whistle, lanyard hole, and belt clip. \$69.95



Guppie Tool

A cute little multi tool, with driver bits in a removable magnetic tool carrier. Adjustable wrench, Knife blade, Bottle opener, LED



torch, Screwdriver with four hex bits in magnetic bit holder. \$59.95

Robot Arm kit

Wired control robot arm kit for budding robot enthusiasts. Once assembled it is capable of 5 separate movements and can easily perform complex tasks. Individual control is available for opening and closing the illuminated gripper plus control of wrist, shoulder, elbow and base rotation. \$59.95



Robot Beetle Kit

Infra-Red remote control beetle with claw supplied as a kit of parts and once assembled, will scurry around and can pick up small objects with its controllable claw. It has forward and reverse drive and can be steered around obstacles. It has four separate control channels so up to four beetles can be used in the same area. \$59.95

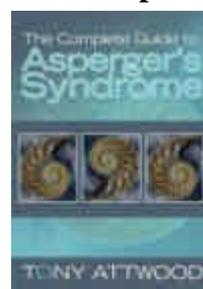


Torch: P7 Tactical

Very impressive light output from this new generation LED torch. 167 lumens and up to 130 hours of battery life from standard AAA batteries. Single hand focus system. \$99.95



The Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome



Tony Attwood's new book, is the definitive handbook for anyone affected by Asperger's syndrome. It brings together a wealth of information on all aspects of the syndrome, from children through to adults. A valuable resource for people with Aspergers, their partners and parents. Invaluable for professionals including psychologists and teachers. \$49.95

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