Helixa-í
Precision Torque Testing System
Helixa - Overview

Mecmesin’s Helixa torque tester provides the ideal solution for measuring low and medium torque variations on a variety of delicate or finely-engineered products. Its sensitivity and precise alignment make it suitable for testing high quality assemblies such as those found in the cosmetics, jewellery, electronics, pharmaceutical and medical industries.

Why choose Mecmesin?

Mecmesin has been designing, manufacturing and supplying precision force and torque testing systems and instruments for over 35 years. The full range of Mecmesin torque testing equipment includes simple hand-held sensors and displays right through to PC-controlled test stands driven by powerful control and acquisition software.

With an unrivalled network of distributors in over 50 countries, we are able to provide local technical expertise with full training and after-sales support.

Interchangeable intelligent torque cells

Helixa torque cells (HTC) are quick and easy to fit to the Helixa test frame.

The capacity and calibration details of the individual torque cell are auto-detected by the Emperor control software, ensuring that set-up and use of the system is simplicity itself.

Choose from a range of 5 different HTC torque cells allowing you to measure from a few mN.m up to 6 N.m with an unrivalled accuracy of ±0.5% of full scale.

Each HTC is supplied complete with a calibration certificate, traceable to national standards.
**Key features**

- **Counterbalance** for eliminating the weight of a grip being applied to a sample. Significant when testing precise torque at low forces.

- **Load tray** for applying a predefined axial load e.g. when push-off twist testing child-resistant closures.

- **Interchangeable Helixa torque cell (HTC)**. Quick and easy to fit. Models from 0.1 N.m to 6 N.m capacity.

- **Controlled by Mecmesin’s powerful Emperor™ software.** Comprehensive programming and results analysis to suit your test requirements.

- **Protective bellows** prevents ingress.

- **Precision fixtures** for securing even the lightest samples. Custom fixtures also available.

- **Easy positioning crosshead** for quick adjustment and locking when changing test sample.

- **Precision alignment with torque cell** for optimum accuracy, and repeatability, adjustable to each fixture combination. Essential when testing at extremely low torque.

- **High quality construction** Manufactured under ISO 9001 quality standards with a two-year warranty and CE declaration of conformity.

- **Emergency Stop Button** for safety and compliance.

- **LED power indication** Fused mains power inlet at back with on/off rocker switch.

- **Direction control keys** for quick orientation of sample.

* PC not supplied
Emperor™ Software has been specifically designed to work with Mecmesin test frames for ultimate test performance. It combines ease of use with powerful programming tools, making it equally suitable for simple, routine analysis in the QC laboratory and sophisticated test routines in the design department. Emperor™ controls the entire test sequence, acquires the data measurement, performs calculations, returns and reports results.

Flexible – Choice of 2 Program Modes

Console Testing Mode

The Console Testing Mode is designed for ease-of-use by operators on the production floor, ideal for repetitive, routine testing.

- Easy-to-use with minimal training - ‘Simplicity itself’ one button launches the test
- Fast access to 5 favourite tests - customised icons ensure instant test selection

Program Testing Mode

Using the Program Testing Mode, the true power of Emperor™ software becomes evident. This mode has an intuitive interface, which makes the whole test process easy to manage:

- Setting-up the test method
- Running the test
- Making a test report
- Storing & exporting data

With Emperor™ software’s comprehensive programming and calculation commands, it becomes a simple task to create customised test programs to evaluate the mechanical strength of components, products and materials.

Creating a Program

Using Emperor™ you can create basic tests through to sophisticated cyclic, event-triggered and conditional programs

- Design & tailor your torque test to your precise needs
- Intuitive, easy-to-learn user interface
- Create pass/fail criteria for test samples

The test creation wizard is extremely user-friendly, with fully comprehensive commands to control the Helixa from test start to finish. Full parameters of measurement, including data acquisition rate and system behaviour, are set and saved with each test program.
Performing a Test

- Select from a library of test procedures
- Samples & operators can be tagged for traceability
- Restricted levels of access between supervisor and operator avoids accidental tampering with test programs
- Toolbars allow quick access to commonly-used functions

Digital I/O ports can be used to start, pause or stop a sequence, enabling tests to be semi-automated. An external ‘event input’ is also available to detect the torque/angle at which an electrical connection is made or broken, particularly useful when testing rotary switches.

Data Analysis

Examine measurement data by using a wide range of calculations within Emperor™ to report test results. Detect and evaluate sample characteristics and compare against tolerance criteria for acceptability.

- Extensive range of user-definable calculations
- Easy-to-read, comprehensive display of test results with colour-coded Pass/Fail notification
- Real-time graphs with overlays in multiple colours and legends
- Simple print function provides an instant record
- Video replay facility to help identify critical points. Ideal for post-test analysis of product and component testing

Samples can be viewed and analysed individually or as a batch. For more sophisticated R&D analysis new calculations can be added to identify material characteristics.
Applications

The Helixa is designed for precision torque applications, where torque forces may be very small and where accuracy is paramount.

A selection of applications include:

- Luer lock connectors
- Cosmetics packaging
- Watch components
- Precision medical devices
- Rotary electronic components and controls
- Light torsion springs
- Precision bearings
- Cosmetics containers (e.g. lipstick barrels)
- Medical devices (e.g. Luer fittings and dosage devices)
- Light torsion springs
- Rotary electronics controls and components
- Watch components

Reports & Exporting

- Automatic export of data to Microsoft Excel® and SPC packages
- Select standard reports or create your own customised templates
- Use ‘Print PDF’ icon to create quick PDF report
- Collect data at 1000 times per second for detailed records and results with every sample
Unlike the Helixa-\(i\) controlled by a separate PC, the Helixa-\(xt\) is fitted with a touch-screen console for full measurement control.

### Helixa-\(xt\)

**Features and Benefits**

Where throughput and ease-of-use are paramount, it combines precision with the simplicity and convenience afforded by a touch-screen display.

1. Single button program selection for running your 5 most popular tests
2. Compact size takes up minimal space in lab.
3. Ideal for repeated, routine testing
4. Rapid throughput saves time and money
5. Security settings to limit user access for ‘master’ or ‘operator’ use

#### Quick Test
Run an elementary test without having to create a full program

#### Program Test
Select from a library of standard programs with load and position control

#### Advanced Test
Upgrade to full programming capability to create and run sophisticated test routines

#### Ergonomic Design
Adjustable console, pivots and tilts for comfortable use and easy viewing

#### USB Ports
Connection to networks, memory stick, printers and other USB devices

#### 5 ‘Favourites’
Customised icons aid selection of your 5 ‘favourite’ tests
Standards

Whether testing using international standards and methods, or against your own design standards, the accuracy and repeatability of the Helixa will always give you reliable results.

The Helixa is an ideal tester for assessing new product development against specification. Its precision alignment adjustment for specific fixtures and samples will give reliable and repeatable testing. The Emperor™ test control and analysis software is powerful and flexible enough for everything from simple single-turn events through to sophisticated and cyclic test profiles under defined axial load.

The Helixa is also the perfect solution for standard methods where axial force is also applied, such as in security closures.

Frequently, it is not just a peak torque or event that is required, but a full and detailed extended profile. The precision of the Helixa combined with the Emperor™ data presentation can fully characterise the torque and friction in the rotation of parts.

**Typical Standards**

- BS EN 1707 / ISO 594 (ISO 80369): Conical fittings with a 6% (Luer) taper for syringes, needles and certain other medical equipment. Slip and lock fittings
- ISO 11608: Needle-based injection systems for medical use
- ASTM D3810: Minimum application torque of type IA child-resistant closures
- ASTM D3968: Monitoring of rotational torque of type IIIA child-resistant closures
- ASTM D3198: Application and removal torque of threaded or lug-style closures

... and many more
Mecmesin engineers have many years experience in designing and manufacturing custom-built fixtures and can provide you with a bespoke solution for the Helixa.

**Standard Accessories**

The Helixa has a set of standard accessories for testing straightforward applications (to be ordered separately):

- Upper Plate
- Lower Plate
- V-jaws
- Lightweight Chuck
- Self-centring Vice
- X-Y Positioning Stage

**Custom Accessories**

In most situations the Helixa will be used on smaller and precision-engineered components that cannot be held in standard fixtures due to their unique form.

Concentricity in a torque test is only as good as the least precisely-held part. Plastics components especially must be carefully fixtured to prevent distortion by the grip.

Whilst we can supply a wide range of standard fixtures, for precision torque testing it is likely that you will require customised fixtures. At Mecmesin we have experienced engineers who can work with you to design and manufacture custom solutions specifically for your applications, or integrate fixtures you already have.

The examples shown below are representative of our capability, showing upper and lower fixtures for specific products.

**Helixa mounting plate**

Threaded holes allow fitting of sample holding fixtures

- Upper Plate = part no: 432-601
- Lower Plate = part no: 432-600

* shown with V-shape jaws
  part no: 432-602
### Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Torque Transducer (HTC) Range</th>
<th>0.1 N.m</th>
<th>0.3 N.m</th>
<th>1.5 N.m</th>
<th>3.0 N.m</th>
<th>6.0 N.m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N.m</td>
<td>0 - 0.1</td>
<td>0 - 0.3</td>
<td>0 - 1.5</td>
<td>0 - 3.0</td>
<td>0 - 6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kgf.cm</td>
<td>0 - 1</td>
<td>0 - 3</td>
<td>0 - 15</td>
<td>0 - 30</td>
<td>0 - 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lbf.in</td>
<td>0 - 0.9</td>
<td>0 - 2.7</td>
<td>0 - 13.3</td>
<td>0 - 26.5</td>
<td>0 - 53.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Axial Alignment

| Total Runout (without fixtures) | Better than ±0.25 mm |

### Speed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed Range</th>
<th>0.1 to 30 rev/min (clockwise or anticlockwise)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speed Accuracy</td>
<td>±0.1% of indicated speed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed Resolution</td>
<td>0.1 rev/min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Torque Measurement (using Emperor™)

| Torque Accuracy | ±0.5% of full scale |
| Torque Resolution | 1:6500 |
| Torque Units Display | mN.m, N.cm, N.m, kgf.cm, gf.cm, ozf.in, lbf.ft, lbf.in |
| Sampling Rate | 1,000 Hz, 500 Hz, 100 Hz, 50 Hz, 10 Hz |

### Displacement

| Maximum Displacement (from tared position) | 2500 revs |
| Displacement Accuracy | ±0.1° |
| Displacement Resolution | ±0.2° |

### Dimensions

| Height | 758 mm |
| Width | 290 mm (Helixa-i) |
| Depth | 586 mm (Helixa-xr) |
| Depth | 414 mm (without external weight hanger) |
| Headroom (without fixtures) | 505 mm (with external weight hanger and weights) |
| Crosshead Travel | 350 mm |
| Throat Depth | 292 mm |
| Throat Depth | 127 mm (without bellows) |
| Throat Depth | 111 mm (with bellows) |
| Weight | 28 kg (Helixa-i) |
| Weight | 32 kg (Helixa-xr) |

### Static Weights (Max Allowed)

| Rear Counterbalance | 40 N (maximum) |
| Torque Cell Mass Platen | 60 N (maximum) |

### Communications

| Digital I/O | 6 input, 6 output (TTL) |
| Printer/datalogger outputs, and results file transfer (Helixa-xr only) | RS232 and USB |
| Network communications (Helixa-xr only) | Ethernet RJ45 |

### Power Supply

| Maximum Input Power | 120 W |
| Voltage | 230 V AC 50 Hz, or 110 V AC 60 Hz |

### Operating Environment

| Recommended Temperature Range | +10° to +35° C (50° to 95° F) |
| Humidity | Normal industry and laboratory conditions, non condensing |

### Noise Emissions

| Less than 70 db (A) |

Mecmesin reserves the right to alter equipment specifications without prior notice. E&OE
**Note: Throat depth can be increased by removing bellows assembly**

**Helixa-xt Dimensions**
Mecmesin - a world leader in affordable force and torque testing solutions

Since 1977, Mecmesin has assisted thousands of companies achieve enhanced quality control in design and production. The Mecmesin brand represents excellence in accuracy, build, service, and value. In production centres and research labs worldwide, designers, engineers, operators, and quality managers endorse Mecmesin force and torque testing systems for their high performance across countless applications.

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The Mecmesin global distribution network guarantees your testing solution is rapidly delivered and efficiently serviced, wherever you are.

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