

ControlNet NetChecker

Catalog Number 1788-CNCHKR

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Important User Information

Solid-state equipment has operational characteristics differing from those of electromechanical equipment. Safety Guidelines for the Application, Installation and Maintenance of Solid State Controls (publication [SGL-1.1](#) available from your local Rockwell Automation sales office or online at <http://www.rockwellautomation.com/literature/>) describes some important differences between solid-state equipment and hard-wired electromechanical devices. Because of this difference, and also because of the wide variety of uses for solid-state equipment, all persons responsible for applying this equipment must satisfy themselves that each intended application of this equipment is acceptable.

In no event will Rockwell Automation, Inc. be responsible or liable for indirect or consequential damages resulting from the use or application of this equipment.

The examples and diagrams in this manual are included solely for illustrative purposes. Because of the many variables and requirements associated with any particular installation, Rockwell Automation, Inc. cannot assume responsibility or liability for actual use based on the examples and diagrams.

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Throughout this manual, when necessary, we use notes to make you aware of safety considerations.



WARNING: Identifies information about practices or circumstances that can cause an explosion in a hazardous environment, which may lead to personal injury or death, property damage, or economic loss.



ATTENTION: Identifies information about practices or circumstances that can lead to personal injury or death, property damage, or economic loss. Attentions help you identify a hazard, avoid a hazard and recognize the consequences.



SHOCK HAZARD: Labels may be on or inside the equipment, for example, a drive or motor, to alert people that dangerous voltage may be present.



BURN HAZARD: Labels may be on or inside the equipment, for example, a drive or motor, to alert people that surfaces may reach dangerous temperatures.

IMPORTANT

Identifies information that is critical for successful application and understanding of the product.

European Communities (EC) Directive Compliance

If this product has the CE mark, it is approved for installation within the European Union and EEA regions and has been designed and tested to meet the following directive.

EMC Directive

This product is tested to meet the Council Directive 89/336/EC Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) by applying the following standards, in whole or in part, documented in a technical construction file:

- EN 50081-2 EMC—Generic Emission Standard, Part 2—Industrial Environment
- EN 50082-2 EMC—Generic Immunity Standard, Part 2—Industrial Environment

This product is intended for use in an industrial environment.

Additional Resources

These documents contain additional information concerning related products from Rockwell Automation.

Resource	Description
Industrial Automation Wiring and Grounding Guidelines, publication 1770-4.1	Provides general guidelines for installing a Rockwell Automation industrial system.
Product Certifications website, http://www.ab.com	Provides declarations of conformity, certificates, and other certification details.

You can view or download publications at <http://www.rockwellautomation.com/literature/>.

To order paper copies of technical documentation, contact your local Allen-Bradley distributor or Rockwell Automation sales representative.

Product Overview

The 1788-CNCHKR NetChecker is a hand-held tool for testing active ControlNet networks. It is pocket-sized and battery-powered for field use. The NetChecker helps commissioning and troubleshooting ControlNet installations by verifying signals on the ControlNet cabling. For example, installers are able to find shorts and termination faults by using the NetChecker. The tool is designed to evaluate the quality of the signal on the coaxial medium. It does not interpret the content of messages, except for the addresses of the nodes issuing messages.

The NetChecker checks several electrical characteristics of the signal:

- Level of distortion
- Noise or signal reflections
- Rising and falling edges
- Minimum message duration
- Minimum between-message duration
- Peak-to-peak amplitude
- Violations to Manchester signal encoding

An evaluation of the signal quality is made using a combination of criteria on all the above characteristics. Most of the criteria used are fixed by design and therefore cannot be modified by the user. The input signal from the network is converted to a 2-level digital signal using a voltage reference. This voltage reference (or threshold) is the only criteria that can be modified by the user by means of a slide switch (SW3). The results of the signal analysis are displayed by bi-color status indicators.

Additional features include a Node Finder and an oscilloscope output. The Node Finder detects the presence of a given node on the network. The user enters the node address on thumbwheel switches. The oscilloscope output provides a trigger and an electrically isolated network signal for displaying messages from a specified node on an oscilloscope.

The NetChecker is designed to be connected to a network via either a standard tap or the provided BNC T and cable. The NetChecker is a passive instrument. It does not send any signal on the network under test.

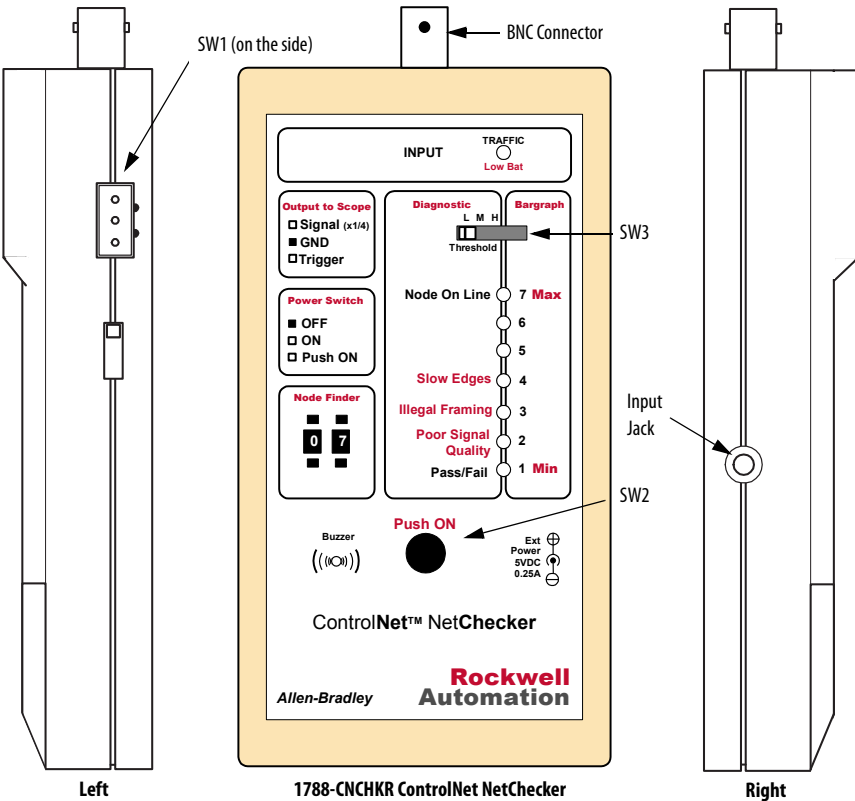


Table 1 - NetChecker Specifications

Attribute	1788-CHNHKR
Dimensions	152 x 83 x 33.5 mm (BNC connector not included) 164 x 83 33.5 mm (BNC connector included)
Weight (with batteries)	250 grams (8.18 oz.)
Environmental	Operating Temperature: 0...50 °C (32...122 °F) Storage Temperature: -40...85 °C (-40...185 °F)
Slide switch SW1	3-position power switch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OFF disconnects the batteries. • ON turns on the tool permanently. • Push ON provides momentary power.
Push switch SW2	Momentary switch to turn on the instrument when SW1 is in the Push ON position.
Slide switch SW3	4-position function switch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions L, M, H select the Diagnostic mode and low, medium and high thresholds. • The rightmost position selects the Bargraph mode.
BNC connector	Signal input. Connects to the network trunk cable via a standard tap or the provided cable and BNC T. The NetChecker is electrically isolated from the network by a transformer.
Display	8 bi-color (Red/Green) status indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status indicators numbered 1 to 7 are dual-function for Diagnostic or Bargraph modes. • Status indicators named TRAFFIC also indicates a low battery condition.
Thumbwheel switches	2-digit decimal switches for entering the address of the Node to find (0 to 99).
DC jack	External DC power from AC adapter (nominal 5V DC, max 5.5V @ 0.25A). Jack should have 3.5 mm external diameter (+) and 1.35 mm internal diameter (-).
Oscilloscope connector	3-pin Phoenix connector with Network, Ground, and Trigger signals.
Buzzer	Piezo Buzzer provides an audible indication of detected faults.
Batteries	2 alkaline batteries 1.5V AA/LR6 size located in the battery compartment on the back of the tool. Batteries are provided uninstalled with the tool. A screwdriver is required to install or replace the batteries.
Battery life	6 hours continuous use
Accessories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-pin plug connector to fit in the oscilloscope output • BNC T connector • BNC male to BNC female coaxial cable (1 meter long) • User Manual 1788-UM001
Agency certification (when product or packaging is so marked)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EN 55011, Radiated Emission Class A • EN 50204, Radiated immunity from digital radio • IEC 1000-4-2, ESD susceptibility • IEC 1000-4-3, Radiated immunity • IEC 1000-4-4, EFT/B immunity • IEC 1000-4-6, conducted RF immunity



TRAFFIC Status Indicator

This bi-color status indicator at the top of the instrument has two functions:

- **Green (network activity)**—When the NetChecker is connected to an active network and powered on this status indicator will turn green to indicate there is activity on the network. Only messages in which a Start Delimiter is detected in the header (and thus are considered valid) can cause this status indicator to turn green.
- **Red (low battery)**—If the batteries are low the status indicator will turn red, whether or not the tool is connected to a network.

Modes of Network Analysis

The NetChecker offers two modes of analysis to evaluate a network:

- **Diagnostic mode**—Provides a global network evaluation. It is selected when slide switch SW3 is in the L, M, or H position.
- **Bargraph mode**—Provides a quick view of the signal level on the network, either global (from all nodes) or from a selected node. It is selected when slide switch SW3 is in its rightmost position.

Diagnostic Mode

In Diagnostic mode positions L, M, and H on slide switch SW3 select one of three fixed voltage references (or thresholds) used by the NetChecker to convert the analog input signal to a binary signal.

Table 2 - Threshold Settings

Sensitivity to Noise	SW3 Position	Reference Voltage (mV)	Volts (peak-to-peak)
Most sensitive	L	300	0.6
Moderately sensitive	M	450	0.9
Least sensitive	H	600	1.2

The L (low) reference voltage setting is the most sensitive to input signal or noise. When the L position is selected any input signal exceeding $\pm 300\text{mV}$ will be converted to a logical “1” and processed by the NetChecker. All input signals between $\pm 300\text{mV}$ will be converted to a logical “0” and ignored. Note that this sensitivity range is deliberately set above the absolute minimum peak-to-peak voltage required by the ControlNet specification (510mVpp).

The M (medium) and H (high) positions provide higher voltage references and less sensitivity as shown in the table above.

Status Indicator Functions

When slide switch SW3 is in the Diagnostic (left) area of the front panel, the status indicators have the following functions:

- **Pass/Fail status indicator**—Indicates the overall quality of the signal on the coaxial cable. Green when the input signal is clean, this status indicator will turn progressively red if one or more of the criteria of quality are violated.
- **Poor Signal Quality status indicator** —Blinks red when the message signal is distorted and/or when the between-messages gap is polluted by noise so that the NetChecker is uncertain if the signal received is a valid message or noise. Distortion and noise are generally the result of reflections of signal on the cable caused by impedance mismatches. The Poor Signal Quality fault detection is dependent on the threshold settings L, M, and H on SW3.

Note that there area number of violations to the Manchester encoding in the ControlNet frame (in Start and End Delimiters). The NetChecker can detect if there are fewer or more violations than expected. In the case of very large distortion of the signal the NetChecker may interpret that there are unexpected violations although the message was generated correctly by the originator node.

- **Illegal Framing status indicator**—Blinks red when erratic message detection occurs. The NetChecker verifies the duration of messages and generates a fault if any message is shorter than 7 bytes (NULL message length). In addition, the time gap between messages must not be less than 6 bytes. These errors are generally caused by high noise level or signal reflection at the end of the messages or during the time gap between messages. These faults are the result of large impedance mismatches on the network. This fault detection is dependent on the threshold settings L, M, and H on SW3.
- **Slow Edges status indicator**—Blinks red when the NetChecker has identified a weak signal with poor rise/fall times. This may result from high signal attenuation caused by bad coaxial cable, excessive cable length, or an overloaded network. This fault detection is not dependent on the threshold settings on SW3.
- **Node On Line status indicator**—Turns green if a node having the address entered in the Node Finder is detected on the network and the signal received from it is good. The status indicator will turn red or appear yellow (rapidly flashing red and green) if the messages received from this node exhibit one or more of the faults signaled by the fault status indicators.

Note that when the Node On Line status indicator is red, it generally does not mean that the node itself is bad, but rather that the signal received by the NetChecker from this node is affected by a problem on the network. An impedance mismatch may cause some nodes to be received as good (Node On Line status indicator green) while others are received as bad (Node On Line status indicator red). Testing at another point on the network will show that nodes that were received as bad are now received as good or vice versa. If a Node really is bad it will appear bad everywhere on the network. The NetChecker can only rely on the signal it receives at one point on the network. That is why a network should always be checked at several points.

Buzzer

The Buzzer sounds any time a fault is detected.

Node Finder and Oscilloscope Output

The address (MAC ID) of the message originator is the only information from a message that can be decoded by the NetChecker. This address is compared to the address entered on the two thumbwheels (the possible node addresses range from 01 to 99). Depending on the setting of SW3, the comparator either activates the Node On Line status indicator (Diagnostic mode) or enables the display of the level of signal received from the node (Bargraph mode).

The Node Finder also provides a synchronization signal for viewing the messages from a given node with a digital storage oscilloscope (DSO). This signal (trigger) is provided on the 3-pin connector on the left side of the NetChecker. The connector pin labeled "Signal" delivers the signal from the network via an input transformer with a 1:4 isolation stage. The NetChecker ground is provided on the center pin.

The Trigger signal rises at the end of the transmission of the originator address (MAC ID) if the address matches the number on the thumbwheels (set the oscilloscope trigger to rising edge). We recommend fastening small pieces of solid copper wire (1 inch long 18-22AWG) to the terminal block for attachment of the oscilloscope's probes (preferably high impedance 10:1 probes). Also remember that the peak-to-peak voltage on the Signal pin is one fourth the peak-to-peak voltage on the network.

Bargraph Mode

When slide switch SW3 is in its rightmost position, the Bargraph mode is enabled and status indicators 1 to 7 function as a maximum/minimum signal level indicator. This indicator displays the level of the signal from the node selected by the Node Finder. When the Node Finder is set to 00, it provides a global view of the signal level (maximum and minimum) of all the messages seen on the network.

In Bargraph mode, the Poor Signal Quality and Illegal Framing detections are performed with the threshold defaulted to M (medium). If Poor Signal Quality or Illegal Framing are detected, they are signalled only by the buzzer. The Slow Edges detection is not performed in Bargraph mode.

Bargraph Scale

The Bargraph is not a precision voltmeter. The status indicators are numbered from 1 (lowest peak-to-peak voltage or Vpp) to 7 (highest Vpp). Also note that the scale is not linear. The following table shows the approximate peak-to-peak voltages indicated by each status indicator.

Status Indicator	Vpp Level	Status Indicator GREEN if	Status Indicator RED if
7	9.5	No green state	Signal level > 9.5Vpp
6	7.5	7.5Vpp < signal level < 9.5Vpp	No red state
5	5.75	5.75Vpp < signal level < 7.5Vpp	
4	4.5	4.5Vpp < signal level < 5.75Vpp	
3	3.25	3.25Vpp < signal level < 4.5Vpp	
2	2	2Vpp < signal level < 3.25Vpp	Signal level < 0.75Vpp
1	0.75	0.75Vpp < signal level < 2Vpp	

Status indicator 7 will turn red if the signal level exceeds 9.5Vpp. Otherwise, it will be off. Status indicator 1 can have one of three states: red if the signal input is less than 0.75Vpp, green if the signal input is between 0.75 and 2Vpp, and off under any other condition. Status indicators 2...6 can only be green or off.

Only two status indicators on the bargraph can be turned on at the same time, one indicating the maximum level and the other indicating the minimum. If the maximum and the minimum levels are the same, only one status indicator will turn on.

View a Node Signal Level in Bargraph Mode

To check the signal level from a particular node, set SW3 to the rightmost position and set the address of the node on the Node Finder thumbwheels. Note that the bargraph indication is the level seen at the point of test, so a low or high indication does not necessarily mean that the node itself is faulty. If all of the status indicators are off, the NetChecker does not detect any signal from a node having the address entered.

IMPORTANT	In networks in which repeaters are used, the level read on the bargraph for nodes that are behind a repeater, such as on another trunk cable than the one being tested, is the level of signal from the repeater .
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Perform a Global Survey of Signal Levels

To perform a global survey of the signal levels of all messages on a network, set SW3 to its rightmost position and set the Node Finder thumbwheels to 00. The NetChecker will display two green status indicators, indicating the strongest and the weakest levels encountered on the network. The maximum and the minimum levels indicated remain latched until NetChecker power is cycled.

Oscilloscope Output in Bargraph Mode

In Node Signal Level Bargraph mode, the oscilloscope output is operational in the same way as in Diagnostic mode. In Global Bargraph mode, however, no trigger signal is provided since there can be no ControlNet node at address 00.

Operation

This section describes how to operate your NetChecker device.

Install the Batteries

Use a screwdriver to remove the two screws from the battery cover on the back of the NetChecker. Install the two 1.5V AA batteries supplied as indicated in the compartment. Batteries installed incorrectly may damage the instrument. Use only alkaline batteries for replacement.

Conserve Battery Power

To conserve battery power when using the NetChecker, set power switch SW1 to the Push ON position, then press and hold the Push ON button for just the time necessary (a few seconds) to read the status indicators. If you need your hands free, set SW1 to the ON position (middle) so that the NetChecker remains powered on. Remember to put SW1 back to the OFF position when you are done.

Use a Wall Adapter to Power the NetChecker

The NetChecker may also be powered by a wall adapter connected to the External Power connector on the side of the tool. The adapter should produce a regulated 5V DC @ 0.25A (5.5 volts max). The internal batteries are disconnected when the adapter's jack is inserted in the connector. The NetChecker remains operating as long as power is provided (switches SW1 and SW2 are not active in the external power mode; however, it is better to leave SW1 in the OFF position).

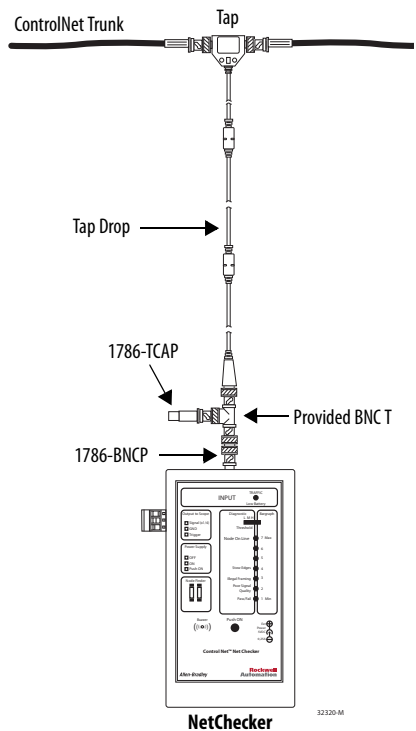
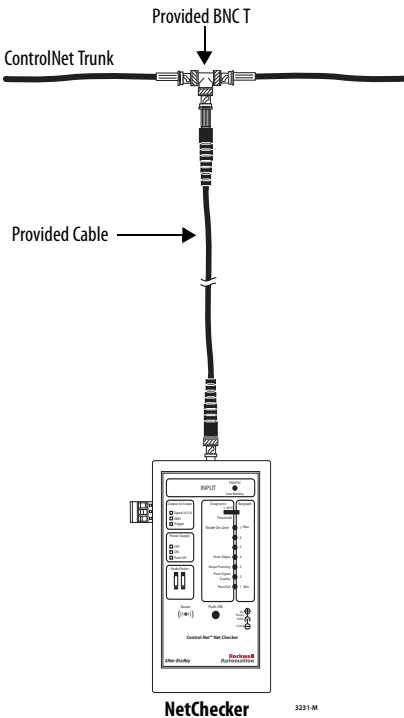


ATTENTION: Make sure that your adapter is CE compliant and that the system formed by the NetChecker plus the adapter is also CE compliant.

Connect to the Network

Connect the NetChecker to the network in one of these ways:

- Use the provided cable and BNC T, as shown in the left example. This method requires you to break the trunk to install the BNC T, which disrupts a running system. The BNC T is intended for temporary use only. We do not recommend leaving the BNC T installed.
- Use the provided BNC T with a 1786-TCAP tap and 1786-BNCP barrel connector, as shown in the right example. The tap, 1786-TCAP, and 1786-BNCP connector must be purchased separately. The tap can be left in the system for testing purposes, but the tap must not be left unconnected. Install a 1786-TCAP on all unused taps.



If you do not want to open the network, you can install some free taps for testing. With a redundant network, you can temporarily disconnect one of a node's taps from the network and test from this. Recognize, however, that you are removing a node from the network. Test that node later from a different location on the network.

When you press the ON switch, the TRAFFIC status indicator should turn green to indicate that messages are being detected. The greater the volume of traffic seen on the network, the brighter the status indicator will be illuminated. If the status indicator remains off, the network is either inactive or the tested segment of cable is disconnected from the network. Check the cable and the connectors.

Select Testpoints on the Network

Good diagnostic results verify that the network signal is clean at the **point of test** only. Because the defects caused by a single impedance mismatch are variable along the cable **and are also related to the node that is transmitting**, a network segment should be tested at several points. For example, test near the two ends of the cable and at one or more points along the cable, depending on the cable length and the number of nodes. If repeaters are used, every segment between repeaters should be checked. On a redundant network, check both of the cables.

The NetChecker can indicate that there is a problem on the tested network, but it cannot indicate where the problem originated. However, it can help to locate intermittent defects, as described in [Additional Tips on page 20](#). Keep in mind that the source of a problem may be far away from the point of analysis.

TIP A bad diagnostic result does not necessarily mean that the network is not functional. However, it may require a closer check of system components, such as wiring, component quality, connectors, and impedance matching.

Network Diagnostics


This section describes procedures for evaluating the quality of the ControlNet network.

How to Begin Checking Your Network

Start checking in Diagnostic mode. You can start checking at any of the three threshold settings (L, M, and H), but be sure to perform the test at all three settings. Then set SW3 to the bargraph (rightmost) position and examine the global signal level on the network by setting the Node Finder thumbwheels to 00.

If you obtained the following results, the NetChecker did not detect any problem at the testpoint.

Status Indicator	State
TRAFFIC	Green
Pass/Fail	Green
Fault	All Off
Buzzer	Does not sound
Bargraph indication	Within range of 2...6

for all thresholds: L, M, H

Refer to the table in the following section to determine the overall state of your network.

Faults and Their Origins

The NetChecker checks for Poor Signal Quality, Illegal Framing, and Slow Edges. If a fault is detected when checking in the Diagnostic mode, the buzzer will sound and one or more of the three fault status indicators will blink red.

The detection of Poor Signal Quality and Illegal Framing depends on the threshold setting on SW3. Generally, faults that are detected at the L (Low) threshold level will disappear or be seen less frequently as the threshold is increased. However, in some cases where the received signal has a low level (less than 2 on the bargraph scale), faults may appear or their recurrence may increase as the threshold is raised.

Use the table below as a guideline when evaluating your network.

Threshold (SW3)			Network quality at the point of test
L	M	H	
No fault	No fault	No fault	Very clean
Fault	No fault	No fault	Clean, acceptable
Fault	Fault	No fault	May be acceptable after cabling inspection
Fault	Fault	Fault	Network needs inspection

IMPORTANT If faults are reported for all three threshold levels, then it is highly probable that there is a severe problem on the network.

The third type of fault detection, Slow Edges, checks for a low signal with poor rising and falling edges caused by an abnormal attenuation of the signal. This fault detection is not dependent on the threshold setting of SW3.

When analyzing a network, the NetChecker indication may differ from one point of test to another. A network may be acceptable if the NetChecker reports faults with a low (or even medium) threshold setting at some points, but a network that exhibits faults everywhere should be inspected.

Try to evaluate residual problems using the Node Finder and an oscilloscope to ensure that the signals meet the ControlNet requirements. Examine the nodes that are reported faulted (the Node On Line status indicator appears red or yellow) and analyze the messages: the faults may come from signal distortion, signal weakness, poor edges, noise, or signal reflections.

TIP Remember that the purpose of the NetChecker is to alert for possible problems with network cabling and that its sensitivity is greater than required by the ControlNet specification.

Poor Signal Quality

Poor Signal Quality has the following indications.

Status Indicator	State
TRAFFIC	Green
Slow Edges	May also be blinking red
Illegal Framing	May also be blinking red
Poor Signal Quality	Blinking red
Pass/Fail	Yellow or red
Buzzer	Sounds

A blinking Poor Signal Quality status indicator often indicates that signal reflections are present on the network. If you receive this indication, check the network for impedance mismatches: inadequate coaxial cable used for all or part of the trunk cable, no termination or wrong termination, high contact resistance, or intermittent contact in BNC connectors near the taps. Generally, the faults are reported at the lower threshold settings and disappear or decrease at the higher settings.

Use the Bargraph mode to verify the minimum signal level. If the signal level is low (2 or less on the bargraph scale), check the trunk cable length versus the number of nodes and compare it to the ControlNet specification. Terminate any unused taps with a dummy load (1786-TCAP). Also ensure that no BNC connector is in contact with any conductive material such as a metal wireway or DIN rail.

IMPORTANT	An unused drop cable should be terminated by a dummy load (1786-TCAP). Do not use a 75 ohm termination along with a bullet connector. The impedance here is not 75 ohms.
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In disorders caused by impedance mismatches, Poor Signal Quality may be reported along with Illegal Framing (and possibly Slow Edges) for all the threshold settings. This indicates large impedance mismatches caused by an open trunk cable or a short-circuit. In such cases, the Node Finder may have difficulty detecting the presence of some nodes on the network because of the high amount of distortion.

In cases where the received signal has a low level (less than 2 on the Bargraph scale) with distortion and/or poor edges, the faults may appear or their recurrence may increase as the threshold is increased. Make sure that the cable length versus number of nodes does not exceed the ControlNet specification. Check for possible high signal attenuation caused by inadequate coaxial media used for the trunk cable or segments. High resistance at the contact points of the BNC connectors on the trunk cable may also add abnormal signal attenuation.

Illegal Framing

Illegal Framing has the following indications.

Status Indicator	State
TRAFFIC	Green
Slow Edges	May also be blinking red
Illegal Framing	Blinking red
Poor signal Quality	May also be blinking red
Pass/Fail	Yellow or red
Buzzer	Sounds

Illegal Framing occurs if short messages or short between-message gaps have been detected. Illegal Framing detection is dependent on the threshold setting (SW3). Generally, recurrence decreases as the threshold is made higher. This fault is often reported along with Poor Signal Quality.

Illegal Framing most likely indicates a high level of signal reflections on the network (see previous section), but can also be caused by a faulty node. A faulty node can be suspected in these scenarios:

- Only Illegal Framing is reported.
- It is not affected by the threshold setting.
- The fault is reported everywhere on the network but the bargraph shows correct signal levels.

In this case, try to identify the node with the Node Finder. Check the Node On Line status indicator for each of the known addresses of your network. The faulty node is signalled by the Node On Line status indicator turning red.

Slow Edges

Slow Edges has the following indications.

Status Indicator	State
TRAFFIC	Green
Slow edges	Blinking red
Illegal Framing	May also be blinking red
Poor signal Quality	May also be blinking red
Pass/Fail	Yellow or red
Buzzer	Sounds

Slow Edges is generally reported when a weak input signal with poor (slow) rising/falling edges is identified. This may occur with signals received from remote stations on long networks with a large number of nodes. In this case, Slow Edges detection is not influenced by the threshold setting on SW3.

Make sure that the cable length versus number of nodes meets the ControlNet specification. Check for possible high signal attenuation caused by inadequate coaxial media used for the trunk cable or segments. High resistance at the contact points of the BNC connectors on the trunk cable may add abnormal signal attenuation. A small amount of Slow Edges can be tolerated on long networks provided that the bargraph shows that the minimum level is correct.

Slow Edges may also be reported along with Poor Signal Quality and Illegal Framing in the case of strong impedance mismatches on the network causing a high amount of distortion. In this situation, the threshold setting may influence the recurrence of the faults.

Reporting Examples

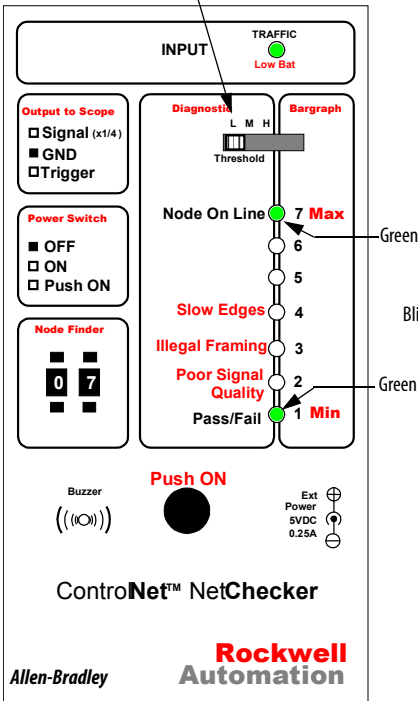
The figures below show examples of the reporting by the NetChecker.

Check the Signal Level by Using the Threshold Setting

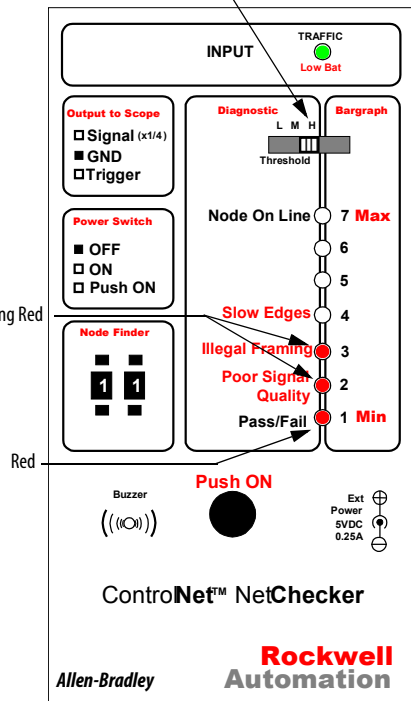
In the example at left, the NetChecker reports no fault at the highest sensitivity (low threshold). The network is OK at the point of test. The status indicator Node On Line is green because there is a node transmitting at address 07.

The example at right shows faults reported at High Threshold. Generally, this indicates a high level of reflections on the network: the network may not be correctly terminated, is accidentally open or shorted, or there is bad contact in a BNC connector. The status indicator Node On Line is Off because there is no node at address 11.

Low Threshold Setting (highest sensitivity level)

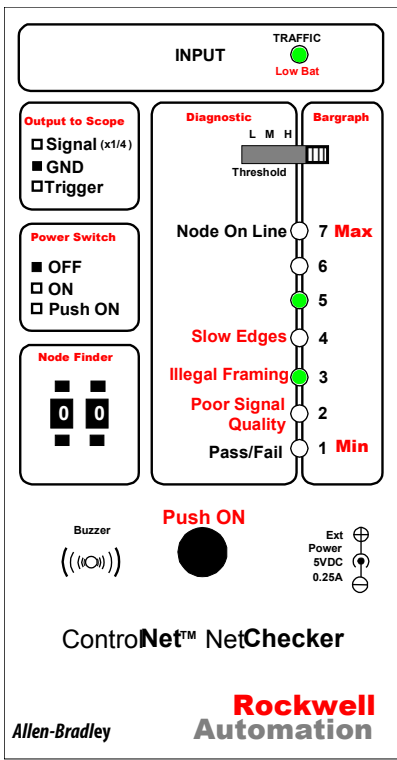


High Threshold Setting (lowest sensitivity level)

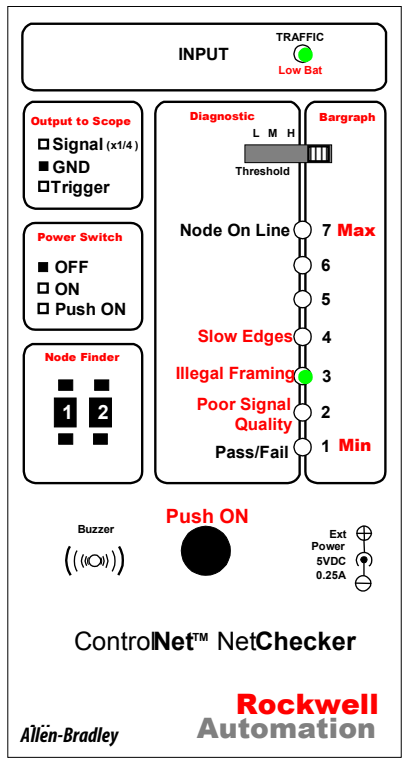


Check the Signal Level by Using the Bargraph

Set slide switch SW3 to its bargraph (rightmost) position and set the Node Finder to zero to get a global level indication. Press the ON switch and make sure that the TRAFFIC status indicator is green. Generally, the bargraph displays two green status indicators indicating the maximum and the minimum level of signal seen at the point of test on the network. Normally, these should be in the range of status indicators 2...6.



Bargraph: Global Mode



Bargraph: Node Level

If status indicator 1 is green, the minimum level is between 0.75Vpp and 2Vpp (this is still acceptable). If status indicator 1 is red, however, at least one signal is being received at a level less than 750mVpp. To identify the nodes that are producing the low signals scan all of the node addresses on the network with the Node Finder. If it is necessary to ensure that the signal at each node input meets the ControlNet Receive Mask specification (510mVpp at minimum), verify the minimum level with an oscilloscope connected to the NetChecker.

If status indicator 7 (top of the scale) turns red, a level of signal greater than 9.5Vpp was detected. This may indicate a strong mismatch on the network. Check if terminations are present.

Additional Tips

Use these tips to troubleshoot intermittent problems and maintain continuous network monitoring.

Intermittent Problems

Various intermittent problems are often caused by the BNC connectors on the trunk cable, such as the center pin not crimped causing an unreliable contact. The NetChecker in Diagnostic mode is a valuable tool to help locate such problems. Read the NetChecker while subjecting each trunk connector or tap to a moderate mechanical stress. If faults are reported, the BNC connector has not been mounted correctly and must be replaced.

Continuous Network Monitoring

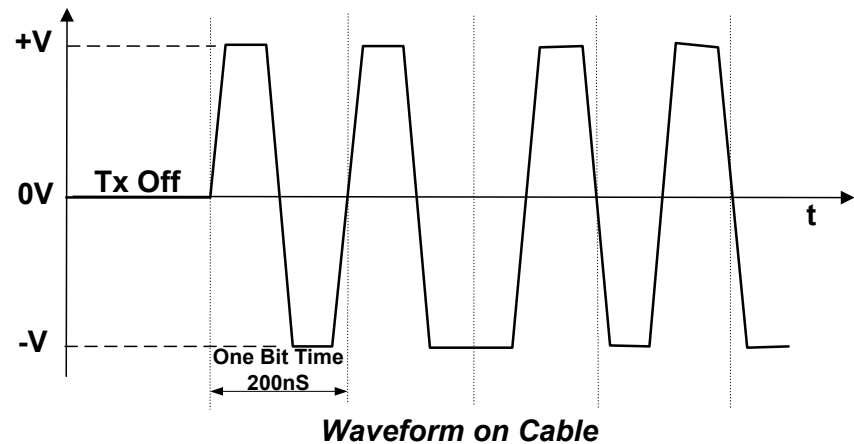
To provide continuous monitoring, the NetChecker powered by an AC wall adapter can be installed temporarily or permanently on the network. The NetChecker will signal immediately any degradation of the signal quality at the media level even if the network is still performing correctly. The NetChecker should be set in Diagnostic mode.

Waveform Examples

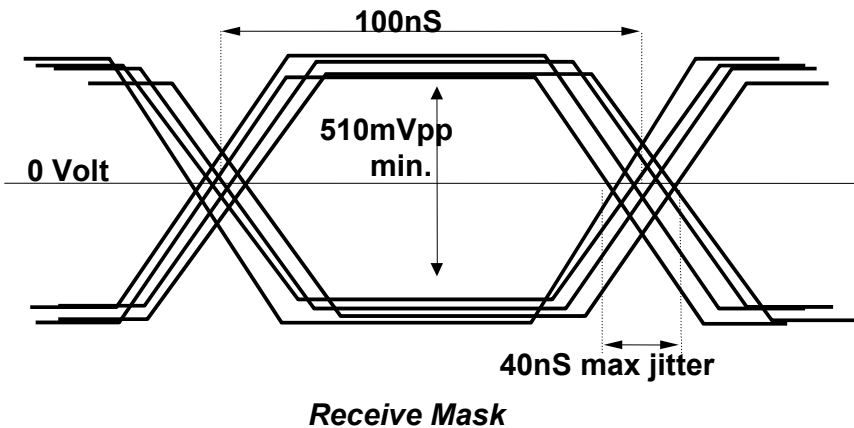
This section shows the types of waveforms that may be seen on a ControlNet network.

Ideal Transmitted Packet on ControlNet Network (as seen at transmitting node)

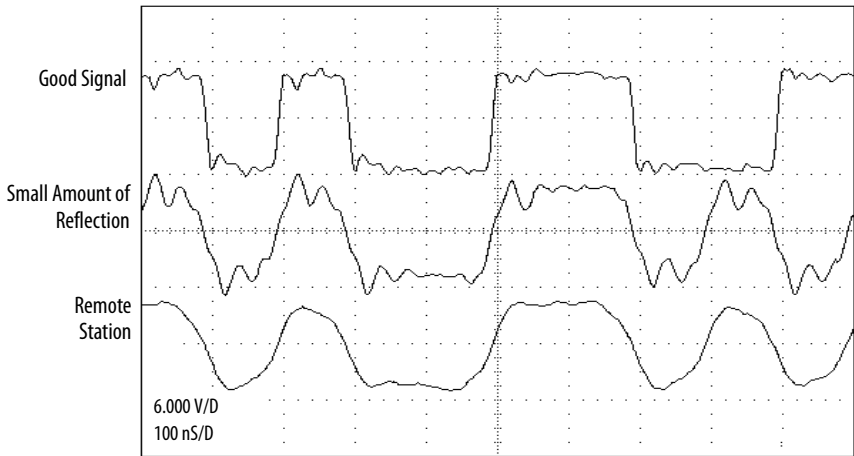
5 Mbps, Manchester Encoded
Transmit Level: 8.2Vpp +/-1.3V



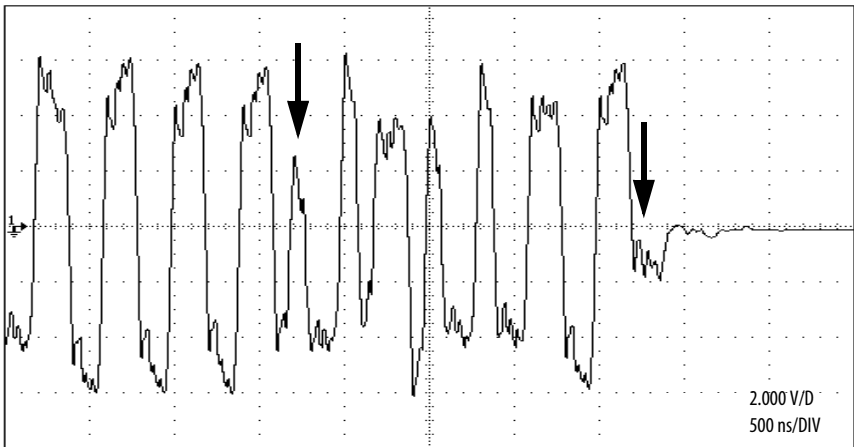
Ideal Received Packet on ControlNet Network (as seen at receiving node)



Typical Waveforms



Example of Waveform Seen When Network Is Improperly Terminated

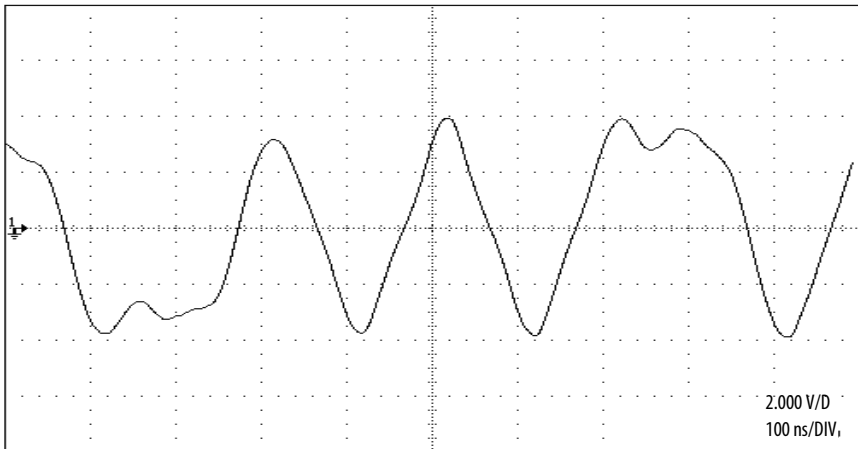


Impedance mismatches cause reflections on the media:

- Network not correctly terminated.
- Impedance of coaxial cable not equal to $75\ \Omega$.
- High resistance of contact in connectors.
- Incorrect network architecture.

IMPORTANT Each coaxial segment must be terminated with a 1786-TCAP terminator at each end.

Effect of Attenuation on Signal Edges



Excessive attenuation causes loss of signal:

- Poor quality coaxial cable
 - Resistance too high
 - Losses in dielectric
- Overloaded network
 - Too long trunk segment
 - Excessive number of nodes per segment
- Impedance mismatches

Rockwell Automation Support

Rockwell Automation provides technical information on the Web to assist you in using its products. At <http://www.rockwellautomation.com/support>, you can find technical manuals, technical and application notes, sample code and links to software service packs, and a MySupport feature that you can customize to make the best use of these tools. You can also visit our Knowledgebase at <http://www.rockwellautomation.com/knowledgebase> for FAQs, technical information, support chat and forums, software updates, and to sign up for product notification updates.

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Installation Assistance

If you experience a problem within the first 24 hours of installation, please review the information that's contained in this manual. You can also contact a special Customer Support number for initial help in getting your product up and running.

United States or Canada	1.440.646.3434
Outside United States or Canada	Use the Worldwide Locator at http://www.rockwellautomation.com/support/americas/phone_en.html , or contact your local Rockwell Automation representative.

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Rockwell Automation tests all of its products to ensure that they are fully operational when shipped from the manufacturing facility. However, if your product is not functioning and needs to be returned, follow these procedures.

United States	Contact your distributor. You must provide a Customer Support case number (call the phone number above to obtain one) to your distributor to complete the return process.
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