

QUICK SHEET

Solar Pathfinder

LOCATION of EQUIPMENT:

Hardware: See lab attendant

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

1. Use the diagrams and “Instrument set-up” page found in the instruction manual. You will begin by selecting one of two diagrams provided.
 - a. **Horizontal:** for applications requiring a 0-20 degree tilt. This diagram is generally used in ecological studies or flat-roof PVs
 - b. **Vertical:** also called “South facing” (North facing in the southern hemisphere). For applications requiring 20-90 degree tilt, and is generally used in solar application.
2. Assemble the instrument using page 7 of the instruction manual.

HELPFUL TIPS:

1. This device is analog, so follow the instructions carefully to get the best results. If you are not sure about how to use the device, talk with a staff member.

OVERVIEW:

The Solar Pathfinder is used for shade analysis(solar or canopy/habitat studies). Any trees, buildings, or other objects that could cast shadows are reflected in the plastic dome, clearly showing shading patterns at the site. The underlying diagrams are latitude specific and are engineered with data for the entire year. A wax pencil can be used to trace around the reflected shadows on the sunpath diagram, providing a permanent record of each reading. A compass and a bubble level are built into each Pathfinder, making it easy to keep the instrument level and facing in the right direction. The rubber tipped legs on the tripod telescope out, allowing a person to use the pathfinder on sloping roofs and other rough sites.

By combining the site-specific shading data of the Solar Pathfinder™ with the published global weather data, an accurate solar site analysis can be made. This insolation data, on an hourly and monthly basis can then be applied to architectural, engineering, solar, and ecological applications. All of this data is integrated in the Solar Pathfinder Assistant software, sold separately.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS:

- Look at the available daylight for a site
- Look at solar heat gain
- Site specific shading strategies

RELEVANT TOPICS:

Site Insolation Studies, Daylighting Studies, Glazing Strategies, Ecological Studies, Flat-roof PVs

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