

Come Visit Us!

## **The TireMinder® TM-A1A TPMS Operating Manual**

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Congratulations, you've done your homework and decided on the best TPMS on the market (Motor Home Magazine "Reader's Choice" GOLD award 4 years in a row!). If you have read any "User Comments" on various web sites, you will know that it's not just the product that got us the awards. Minder has outstanding customer service. Call or write. You'll quickly become a believer. -*The Minder Team*

**Minder Research, Inc.**

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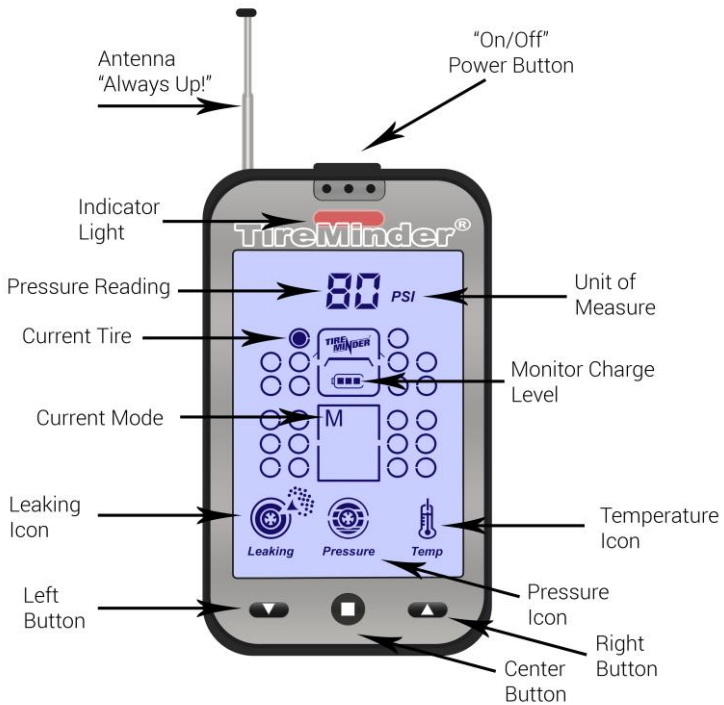
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If you need help, **please call us** before becoming too frustrated. We are available Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm Eastern Time.



The TireMinder® TM-A1A™ Tire Pressure Monitoring System (*TPMS*) allows for constant monitoring of a vehicle's Tire Pressure & Temperature. The system can receive wireless information from up to 22 wheels. Various levels of warnings are issued for pressure changes (*under & over*), high temperatures and low battery status.

We realize people rarely read instructions. The TM-A1A™ is a highly sophisticated product which requires unique programming and understanding.

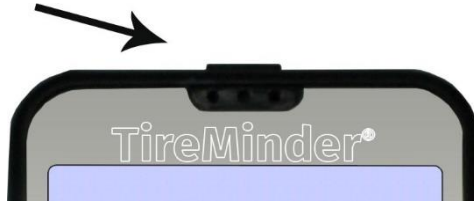
**YOU NEED TO READ THIS BOOK!!**

Whether you have installed this system or have had a dealer or friend install it for you, it is imperative that you read the "Things You Need to Know" starting at page 40.

You need to understand how the system works, so you can have peace of mind and **"Be Safe on the Road™"**. If you have questions or need help, check our web site for installation and operating videos. Of course you may always write or call us. Above all, keep this book. We guarantee you will need it.

## So, Let's Get Started!

The monitor should be partially charged so you may start programming right away. Press and release the **TOP button** to turn it on.



If the unit does not light up immediately, simply plug it into a live 12 volt power outlet using the cigarette lighter adaptor or the USB cable to any USB port. You may work with the unit while it is charging or after 15 to 20 minutes it will have sufficient power to do a complete installation without it being plugged in.

See page 35 & 36 for more charging details.

## Setting up the Booster:

The TireMinder A1A comes with a hardwired booster. The booster features simple power and ground (red and black) wires. It can be attached to any power source from straight to a battery, to a light source or any other line that provides always on 12/24V power. DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP.



### Tip:

The booster not only provides greater signal distance, but helps eliminate signal interference. Which is especially helpful in our ever growing, wireless world!  
See pages 30, 31 & 35 for more details.



**Setting up the A1A:** Install the CR1632 Batteries, plus side up, on each transmitter. Press and release the top button. The A1A will light up with a blue-backlit display.



### Monitoring Mode ("M" on the screen)

The first screen you will be presented with once the monitor is on is the Monitoring Mode (M). If this is the first time turning on the monitor, your monitor will look similar to the photo on the right.

"M" is the mode you will need to be in to receive updates and alerts! This will be 99% of the time after completing the initial set up.

Restarting the monitor will always bring you back to monitoring mode. (Pages 36 & 37 "Power On")



So, the monitor is on (charged), the booster is wired up, and the batteries are installed in the transmitters. You are now ready to attach the transmitters to the valve stems and “LEARN” them to your monitor.



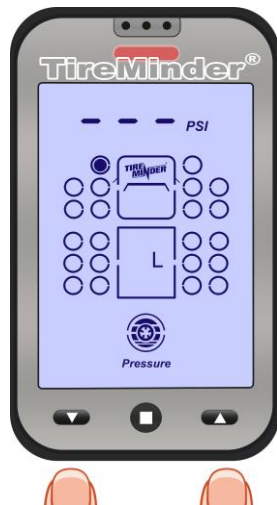
### LEARN MODE (“L” on the screen)

With an “M” showing on the screen, press and hold the right and left buttons for 5 seconds. When all 22 tire positions appear, let the buttons go. You will see an “L” on the screen. That stands for?? Right – Learn!

Pro-Tip: For better understanding, read page 22, 23 & 24 before proceeding.

Two things to note in this “L” mode are the solid blinking circle and the red light at the top. The solid blinking circle indicates the current tire position and the red light tells us no transmitter has been “Learned” to that location.

To “Learn” a transmitter, press the right or left button to scroll to the position you want. Once there, attach a transmitter to that tire’s valve stem. The light will turn green (within 5 to 20 seconds) and you will see that tire’s pressure on the top of the monitor. Congratulations!



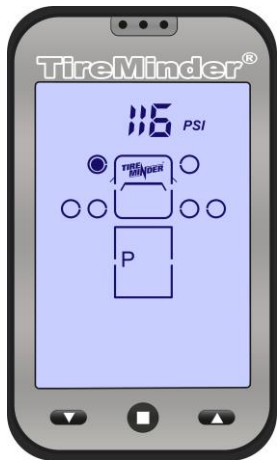
Using the **right or left buttons**, move to the next tire position you wish to monitor. Again you will have a red light which will turn green. Repeat this procedure until you have installed all the transmitters.

You must now EXIT from the “L” mode. Press and hold the **right and left buttons** until the 22 tires disappear and you see the letter “M” on the screen. You will now only see those tire positions to which you have “learned” transmitters.

Do not worry about the red light at the top of the screen. That will go away after the next step.

For slightly more info on the “L” mode, see pages 21 & 22.





## Setting Baseline Pressures (“P” on the screen)

It is now time to teach your monitor what pressures you run in your rig. From the “M” mode, press and hold the center button for 5 seconds. When you hear a beep or see the letter “P” appear on the screen, let the button go. In this mode you raise or lower the baseline pressures (customizing the monitor to your needs). Use the right or left buttons to adjust the numbers up or down. Press the center button to move to the next tire. After you have set the last tire’s baseline, press and hold the center button again for 5 seconds. When the “P” changes to “M”, you are finished. Any red flashing light will disappear after 10 to 20 minutes. This is an important step. We recommend you see pages 22 & 23 for more info.

**Congratulations!** You are good to go. Press the right or left button to see each tire’s pressure and temperature. This is what you will be able to do before you get on the road or at any rest stop along the way. Please do not check if you are driving (it’s just like texting and you know you are not allowed to text while driving!!).

The rest of this book contains lots of details, hints, facts and suggestions regarding tire pressure safety. PLEASE read it at some point. You’ll be glad you did as it will help you understand how the TM-A1A does what it does and more important why it may be alerting you to an abnormality.



# **“On the Road”**

Important Operating Information

## Multiple Alerts

A quick “overview” note here before we get to the details. When your TireMinder® alerts you of an abnormality, do not panic or get upset. It is only doing its’ job. You bought it to give you more information about your tires than you had before. Sooner or later it will need to tell you something. Again don’t panic.

Most important when traveling the monitor must always be in the “M” mode. It should always show your tire positions. The screen should never be blank.

The TireMinder® TPMS monitors tire pressure & temperature in real time (*that’s like every 6 seconds*). To save battery power, the REGULAR pressures and temperatures are updated on the monitor every 4 minutes if a change has occurred. Should a significant abnormality occur, the monitor will react within 6 seconds. There are multiple levels of alerts which vary in style & intensity depending on the severity of the abnormality. Alerts are activated whether moving or stationary.

Above all else folks, **DO NOT PANIC!** Also, the **DRIVER SHOULD NEVER** try to figure out what the problem is. Let **your husband (or wife), co-pilot, navigator, partner, etc.,** look at the monitor and try to determine the cause of the alert. You should both study the following icons below so you will recognize them when you are “on the road.”



## Rapid Air Loss (Blow Out)

If you have never seen this icon, simply loosen a transmitter. The below description will happen. Make a mental note of what it looks like. If convenient, why not do that right now (assumes you are parked)!

**Condition:** A tire loses 3 or more psi in less than 2 minutes.

Alert Description:

- Audible “Beep” 15 times
- White LCD screen lights up
- Red LED flashes
- Tire position icon flashes
- “Blow Out” icon appears in lower left corner
- Pressure at top is less than normal
- Center “Pressure” icon flashes

**Action Required:** Confirm there is a blow out icon in the lower left corner.

Press the center button on the monitor and note how much air is left in the tire. If you are running 110 psi (normal) and the alert has come on at 95 psi, you may decide to drive to the next rest stop. If the pressure drops significantly or more rapidly, cautiously bring the vehicle to a safe off-road location to check the offending tire.



## Semi Rapid Air Loss

**Condition:** A tire loses 6 or more psi in 2 to 10 minutes.

**Alert Description:**

- Intermittent “Beep Beep”
- Red LED flashes
- Tire position icon flashes
- 50% “Leaking” icon appears in lower left corner
- Pressure at top is less than normal
- Center “Pressure” icon flashes

This warning would most often occur should you pick up a nail or sharp object puncturing the tire causing a semi-rapid air loss. This alert may also be activated due to a rapid drop in temperature causing a corresponding drop in pressure.

**Action Required:** Same as above





## Normal Pressure Loss

**Condition:** Over a long period of time, pressure in a specific tire has dropped 15% below the “baseline” pressure you set up for this position. Example: You originally set up the system for this tire to contain 80 psi. If pressure drops to 68 psi (15% loss), the system will issue an alert.

Alert Description:

- Intermittent “Beep” every 15 (fifteen) seconds for 5 (five) minutes.
- Tire position icon will flash and displays lower than normal pressure
- Pressure icon (bottom center) will flash and show 75% full
- To turn off the alert, press right or left button. If the abnormality is not corrected, the alert will re-activate after 1 (one) hour.

**Condition:** If a tire drops 25% to 50% below the set basic pressure, the alert will be the same as above except the Icon will show 50% full.

**Condition:** If a tire drops below 50%, the Pressure Icon shows empty.

**Action Required:** Stop at the next rest area and check the offending tire with a gauge.



**Pressure**

## High temperature warnings 1 & 2

**Condition:** Internal Temperature of tire exceeds 167°F (75°C):

Alert Description:

- Intermittent “Beep”
- Red LED & “Temp” Icon will flash
- Exact digital temperature is displayed
- Tire position icon will flash
- Note: To de-activate alarm – press right or left button

**Condition:** Temperature exceeds 185°F (85°C)

Alert Description:

- Constant “Beep Beep”
- Others same as condition 1

**Action Required:** Obviously under either condition you need to cautiously “*get off the road*” & determine the cause of the overheating. In most cases, this will be due to a brake caliper that is sticking or a bearing which has overheated.



## High Pressure Alert

**Condition:** A tire's pressure rises 20% above the baseline pressure you had set for that position. Example, if the baseline in the position is 80 psi, the alert would sound if the pressure reached 96 psi (20% up).

### Alert Description:

- Intermittent "Beep Beep" w/Red LED
- Problem Tire position icon flashes
- Pressure is higher than normal
- Tire Pressure icon flashes showing an extra outside ring
- To silence alarm press right or left button
- Alert will re-activate after 1 (one) hour unless condition is corrected

**Action Required:** Cautiously bring the vehicle to a stop and check the offending tire. If the high pressure is "within reason" you may need to adjust your baseline pressures. Not sure what to do, call us!



# **“Setting Up”**

Important Setup Information

## “Learn Mode” (L) Detailed:

The following description describes a monitor with no tire positions “learned” (all tire position circles will be empty). If positions have transmitters already dedicated, they will be filled in.

From “M” Press and hold **Left and Right buttons** simultaneously (*that’s like at the same time – EH?*). When you see all 22 positions, release the buttons.

**The front left tire position will flash, the light on the top will be red and you will see a “- - - PSI” on the screen.** If you plan on monitoring this position, proceed below. If not, press the **Right button** and scroll to the first tire position as **you** laid out in pages 24, 25, & 26 (*Baseline Pressure Layout*).

Mount any transmitter on your desired location indicated on the screen. LED will **turn GREEN** and the PSI will be displayed within 30 seconds. If the screen has gone dark (*at any time*), simply press and release the **center button** to see the numbers.

If synchronization is not achieved (*light stays red*), remove the transmitter for 10 seconds and re-mount. It’s also a good idea to have the receiver close by with **ANTENNA FULLY EXTENDED**.

Press the **Left or Right button** to move to the next tire position.

### Quick-Tip:

Unlearned positions will have a red LED with a “- - - PSI” at the top. Learned positions will have a green LED and show you that tire’s pressure.

Repeat the above until all transmitters are mounted.

**You MUST EXIT after the last transmitter has been mounted.** Press and hold **Left and Right buttons** simultaneously until the 22 tires disappear and the “L” changes to “M”.

At this point you should only see the number of tire positions which have transmitters installed (4, 6, 8, etc.). All other positions will have disappeared.

The monitor is now in the “Monitoring Mode (M)”. To see the system in action, you may now press the **LEFT or RIGHT button** and scroll through all tire positions. You will likely have a red flashing light at the top. This will disappear after you have set the baseline pressures to match your RV, car, truck, etc.

### **“Pressure Setting Mode” (P) Detailed:**

From the “Monitoring Mode,”(M) press & hold the **CENTER button** for 5 seconds. The left front steering tire (or the first “learned” tire) will appear. *116 psi will show if the monitor is new* or a different baseline value if a transmitter had been learned previously. You will also see “P” on the screen.

Press **LEFT or RIGHT button** until your desired Baseline pressure is displayed.

Tip: Holding the **LEFT or RIGHT button** will make the numbers change rapidly.

When you reach your desired pressure, press the **center button** to confirm and move to next tire position. Repeat the above for all tire positions to be monitored.

After all baselines have been set, you **MUST EXIT**. Press & hold **center button** for 5 or 6 seconds. Display will “beep” and “P” will change to “M”.

### **Baseline Pressures Explained:**

We can only guide you here! Baseline pressures are what you should have in your tires when they are cold.

TIP: here’s a little goodie, “cold” means the ambient temperature before you take the rig on the road. So, yes, “cold” could be 95 degrees at 8:00 AM in Phoenix!

Your RV should have come with a permanently mounted placard (somewhere on the rig). Among other statistics, it would have the various tire pressures recommended by the manufacturer (you’ll find a similar placard on the door jamb of most cars). It should be understood that these pressures are recommended by the factory when the rig is new and empty. By the time you add your groceries, water, liquid refreshments, etc. etc., you have probably added several thousands of pounds (and it may not all be balanced).

Tire pressure is greatly affected by weight!

The best way to know exactly what pressures to run is by having your vehicle professionally weighed. There are many excellent resources on the web that can provide a wealth of information. One such site is [www.RVSafety.com](http://www.RVSafety.com).

### Where to Enter Baseline Pressures:

The TireMinder® TM-A1A™ allows you to temporarily disconnect the front or back half of the display. This feature will only be important to you if:

- A) You are monitoring tires on a Motor Home **AND** the tires on a towed vehicle, dolly or trailer.
- B) You are monitoring tires on a truck or SUV **AND** tires on a 5th wheel or trailer.

If the above (A or B) applies to you, it is important to program the baseline pressures in the correct positions on the monitor (front or rear of the display). The details of the disconnect mode are covered in pages 27 & 28.

Determine where on the display you would like your wheels to appear (see multiple wheel illustrations on the next page). These illustrations are the most common ones we see. There are endless configuration possibilities. If you have any questions, please contact one of our TPMS specialists.

Your tire configurations are the only tire positions you need to modify to your baseline pressures (any positions not used may be ignored). Using the following tire layout illustration write your baselines into the respective positions for future reference.



## Multiple Wheel Layouts



Camper with four wheels



Truck and 5th wheel  
with eight wheels



Coach and towed car,  
10 wheels



Coach with 6 wheels

## Baseline Pressure Layout

Highlight where you want the transmitter (layout) for your tires. Write the baseline PSI required for each tire.

**\* Send this in, filled out, for faster support.**

(That way we're on the same page)

The diagram shows a layout for a TireMinder transmitter. It features two rectangular boxes for transmitter placement. The top box is labeled "TIRE MINDER" and contains two horizontal lines for input. The bottom box is empty and also contains two horizontal lines for input. Surrounding these boxes are 22 numbered circles, arranged in two columns of 11. The top row of circles (1-2) is flanked by horizontal lines. The middle row (3-6) and bottom row (7-10) are also flanked by horizontal lines. The bottom row of circles (11-14) is flanked by horizontal lines. The bottom row (15-18) and bottom row (19-22) are also flanked by horizontal lines.

A1A

## “Disconnect/Reconnect Modes”(D):

This feature refers back to an earlier statement where we wrote:

“The TireMinder® TM-A1A™ allows you to temporarily disconnect the front or back half of the display. **This feature will only be important to you if:**

- A) You are monitoring tires on a Motor Home **AND** the tires on a towed vehicle/dolly or trailer.
- B) You are monitoring tires on a truck or SUV **AND** tires on a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel or trailer.”

For example, this will then allow you to temporarily disconnect the tires displayed for the motor home should you wish to take the towed vehicle into town (with the A1A monitor). Another example would be taking the A1A in a truck while leaving the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel in storage.

### Here’s how:

1. From the “M” mode, press and hold the **LEFT and CENTER buttons** for 3 or 4 seconds.
2. All 22 tire position circles will display empty O. Nothing will be at the top or bottom of the screen. “D” will be in the trailer.
3. **TIP: Anytime the backlight goes out, press and release the center button to bring the “D” display back.**
4. Press and release the **RIGHT button** and the back half (# 12-22) of the tire position circles will disappear.

5. Press and release the **RIGHT button** again and the front half (# 1-10) tire positions will disappear (back half will be visible).
6. Press and release the **RIGHT button** a 3<sup>rd</sup> time and all 22 positions will be back.
7. That was for “practice”! Do it a couple of time to get a better understanding (feel) for the procedure.
8. TIP: disconnecting one section can only be achieved while that section is missing (not visible).
9. So, with “D” on the screen, press and release the **RIGHT button** until the section you want to disconnect is missing.
10. At that point, press and hold the **LEFT and CENTER buttons** for 3 seconds. The normal “Monitoring Mode” display will be back with one section of tires missing.
11. Don’t worry, they are still there, you just can’t see them. They have been temporarily disconnected from the system.

## “Reconnect Mode”

So, when you return from your brief (*or lengthy*) sojourn, you will want to get these tires back on the screen.

1. From the “M” mode press and hold the **LEFT and CENTER buttons** for 3 or 4 seconds (“D” shows in the trailer).
2. Press and release the **RIGHT button** until all 22 tire positions are back...
3. Press and hold the **LEFT and CENTER buttons** again.
4. The previously disconnected tire positions will be back and the unit is back in the “M” mode.

5. The reconnected positions will be in the “Auto-Search Mode” (*if you scroll to them, you will see 0 PSI and 32°F*). It may take up to 20 minutes to update all the reconnected tire information.

### **Auto-Search Mode:**

This mode is really cool! It all happens with an “M” on the screen and can only be used after all transmitters have been installed. When implemented, all current pressures will go to 0 PSI and the temperatures reset to 32°F.

The monitor will then automatically search for updated pressures and temperatures from all tires. All should be recovered within 20 minutes.

### **When to use this mode:**

- After the rig has been in storage.
- If you see NO-S on the monitor.
- If you feel one or more positions are not updating.
- In the morning before getting back on the road as the monitor may still show yesterday's information.

**Quick-Tip:** The auto-search function will not work if the monitor is close to requiring a re-charge.

### Here's how:

1. Press and hold the **center and Right buttons** for 3- 5 seconds.
2. You will hear a double "beep". All wheel position circles will reset with the pressures showing 0 PSI. The temperatures will all be reset at 32°F (*or 0°C*).

As always when in use, the ANTENNAE SHOULD BE FULLY EXTENDED.

Updated pressures and temperatures will not all appear at the same time (be patient). If after 20 minutes, the monitor does not receive an update from one or more transmitters, the unit will beep several times and the missing position will flash and show NO-S. If this occurs, see pages 38 & 39.

### Booster Installation Detailed:

The TireMinder® booster is a simple 2 wire (*red & black*) 12/24v installation. A green LED glows when the unit is properly connected.

Don't worry if you get the wires backwards. The LED simply will not come on until you get it right.

### Common Connection Areas:

- Most of our users connect them straight to a house battery.
- Some connect them to the hot side of a closet light switch
- Others into an open fuse box slot.
- The rear battery compartment on diesel pushers is acceptable.

- Likewise on the underside of a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel king-pin works nicely.

#### TIPS:

- It must be powered 24/7.
- It should not be powered on by the ignition or any other switch. It only draws 24mA so is not a significant drain on your electrical system.
- We have seen some wired with a cigarette lighter adaptor but really do not recommend this as they are subject to slipping out of the socket due to vibration of the rig. This is not readily noticed and could cause a loss of signal due to the booster not being powered.
- If hauling a travel trailer, try locating it closer to the front of the trailer.
- The unit is fully weatherproof so external mounting is acceptable.

Check out our web site. There are several photos from some of our users which may help.

[www.MinderResearch.com](http://www.MinderResearch.com). If you have an idea you would like to share, please send it to us. You guys are the experts and we love to hear from you - good or bad (geeze can't believe that got in the book!!!).

#### **"Starting Over" Full Delete Mode:**

When implemented, this will delete computer codes from all transmitters that had been mounted. It is activated from the "Learn Mode (L)". When complete, all 22 tire position circles will be empty whereas previously the active positions were filled in.

TIP: Even though the transmitter codes will be deleted, your baseline pressures will remain unchanged.

## When to delete:

- If you think you've screwed up the installation and want to start over.
- If someone has removed all the transmitters and you don't know which goes where.
- If you are making a major change in RVs and the wheel positions need to be moved (*5<sup>th</sup> wheel to coach or reverse*).
- You've got nothing better to do and just want to re-install the system!

## Here's how:

1. From the "Monitoring Mode (M)," press and hold the **Left and Right buttons** for 5 seconds (*until all 22 positions appear*). The screen will show an "L".
2. You will see that all your currently active tire position circles are filled in.
3. Press and hold the **Center and Right buttons**. The unit will beep twice and the circles will be empty
4. Since you are already in the "Learn Mode," you may start the re-install process immediately (pages 21 & 22.)
5. If you are not ready, you should exit from this mode by pressing and holding the **Left and Right buttons** until all 22 positions disappear.
6. You will be back in the "M" mode from which you may start over at any time. All previously installed transmitter codes will have been erased. However, your previous baseline pressures will still be intact.



## Replacing a Single Transmitter:

If you need to replace a single transmitter, first enter the “L” mode.

From the “M” mode, press and hold the **Left and Right buttons** until you see all 22 positions and the letter “L” on the screen.

Press and release the **Right button** and navigate to the position you wish to replace. (Green light)

Press and hold the **Center button** until the green LED light at the top of the monitor turns red with a “- - - PSI.”

Attach the new transmitter (*assumes you have already removed the old transmitter*). The LED should turn Green within 10 to 15 seconds. If not, check that a fresh battery is installed in the replacement.

Exit from the “L” mode the same way you entered, press and hold both the **Left and Right buttons** until the 22 tires disappear and you see the letter “M” on the screen.

Voila, your new transmitter is installed!

## Units of Measure (PSI/BAR...)

The monitor is set up to measure tire pressure in PSI and temperature in Fahrenheit (°F). However if you live in Canada or Great Britain or Mexico, you are probably still trying to figure out which system you want to use.

Whatever you decide, the TireMinder® TM-A1A can be modified to your preferences. If you need to modify the units of measurement (like if you've been pushing buttons and are looking at BAR or kPa or °C, etc.), read on or call a TPMS specialist at Minder Research. It's a two minute fix - Really! If it's outside Minder's working hours or you really want to do this yourself, here's how:

1. From the "Monitoring Mode" (M):
2. Press & hold center button for 5 seconds to enter the "Pressure Setting Mode." (P)
3. Press & release center button to scroll through each tire position.
4. After the last tire, the pressure unit of measure will flash.
5. Press the DOWN or UP button to scroll through kPa, Bar, etc.
6. When the unit of measure you want is flashing, press and release the center button to confirm.
7. At this point the temperature unit will be flashing.
8. Press and release the DOWN or UP button to change to either °F or °C.
9. Press the center button again to confirm your choice.
10. Press and hold center button for 5 seconds & return to the "Monitoring Mode."(M)

## YES THE SIGNAL BOOSTER IS NEEDED (MANDATORY, NECESSARY, NOT AN OPTION.....)!

Along with the booster, the **ANTENNA MUST BE EXTENDED**.

Here are some estimated numbers. **This part is a “No Brainer”.**

- No Booster and Antenna DOWN, 50% chance of experiencing a signal loss (regardless of distance).
- With Booster and Antenna UP, 2% chance of experiencing a signal loss.
- These numbers consider electronic interference and distance only.

They do not take into account temperature, battery condition and types of material obstructions.

The point is, the booster and the extendable antenna are included in the kit.

USE THEM! If you don't and you lose the signal, you will have wasted your investment and defeated the purpose of the TireMinder® TM-A1A.

### Low Battery Indicator

The TM-A1A™ monitor has a built-in Lithium-Ion rechargeable battery which under normal use will function for over 2 weeks before requiring a re-charge. The level of charge is displayed in the center of the screen just under the TireMinder® logo. You may recharge the unit at any time if you feel it may be necessary (*recommend when only one bar is remaining*). If the last bar disappears, the unit will beep several times and the battery icon will flash with the word Monitor displayed underneath. If you don't plug it in soon, the monitor will shut down completely. To re-charge, simply use the supplied 12/24V car/USB charger.

A full charge takes approximately 8 hours using a cigarette type outlet or double that time using a USB outlet. Check the number of bars displayed on the battery icon. If you see three bars, the monitor is fully charged.

### **Transmitter Batteries**

Please dispose of any used lithium batteries properly. Take them to a hazardous waste recycler. Contact your local waste disposal company for drop off locations. You may also check our website or contact us for special battery pricing or (If you have registered your system) the free battery exchange program.

### **Auto "Sleep Mode" and Manual Power Off:**

It is not necessary to power off the system as it will shut itself down in "*Sleep Mode*" after 15 (*fifteen*) minutes of no activity. "No activity" means the vehicle is not running and there is nothing (*or no one*) moving about.

The monitor is vibration sensitive and will re-start automatically when you re-enter the vehicle or get out of bed, roll over or snore excessively. For these latter reasons, you should consider shutting the unit off manually overnight (or longer if you are not going anywhere for a while).

TIP: the auto re-start function will not work if the monitor is close to requiring a re-charge.

## To manually turn off the system

From any mode, press & hold the **TOP button** until the screen goes completely blank. This will take about 3 seconds.

To turn the system back on, just press and release the **TOP button**.

The system will be back in the "M" mode.

## Power On:

Press & Release the **TOP button** to turn on the receiver (will be in "M" mode).

The unit will now start to search for updated information. If you scroll through the positions after a lengthy shutdown (either powered off or asleep), the readings will be in the memory of the monitor from when it was last turned off (*the night before, the week before or whenever it was last active*). It will take approximately 20 minutes to update the pressures and temperatures.

You may also institute the Auto-search function (pages 29 & 30). In this case, all readings will go to 0 psi and 32F. If all is well, updated pressures and temperatures will be back within 10 to 20 minutes. Remember – antennae up!!!

TIP: If when you press and release the TOP button the unit does not light up, it simply needs to be re-charged.

## “no5 (S)” MEANS NO SIGNAL!!:

If this appears on the display, it means the monitor has lost the “S”ignal from one or more transmitters. Along with the no5 (S), you will see a red flashing LED and the word SENSOR on the screen. When the backlight turns off, the flashing no5 and “sensor” disappear but the red light will remain. This issue needs to be addressed when convenient (before leaving on a trip, at the next rest stop or campground, etc.).

**There are multiple possible causes for this warning.**

- a) **The booster** is not functioning. All TireMinder™ systems come with a booster included. If you have not installed it, then “shame on you.” If it is installed, check that the booster is powered correctly. You should see a green LED glow from one end of the unit. See “Signal Booster a Must” (page 35).
- b) **The antenna was not fully extended causing weak reception.**
- c) The system is over 9 months old and the transmitter **batteries** need to be replaced. One of the transmitters has been lost or damaged.
- d) **Electronic Interference:** With the constant addition of new wireless products (many running at 433 MHz), it is possible that the TireMinder® signal is being interrupted by electronic interference. If the signal comes back or is lost intermittently, you can rest assured the loss is due to such interference. 90% of this problem is cured by using the booster. Is yours installed with a green LED glowing? If YES, and all other possible signal loss reasons have been eliminated, consider moving the booster to a more central location.
- e) **Distance:** Under normal operating conditions, distance is not an issue if you have installed the booster. At the same time, extreme cold and low transmitter battery (under 3 volts) power will shorten the operating distance even with a booster installed.

- f) **Missing Vehicle – “no5 (S)”**: The appearance of the “no5 (S)” is inevitable when a towed vehicle/trailer is separated from the towing unit unless you implement the unique “Disconnect Mode” of the TM-A1A™.

If you do not use the “Disconnect Mode” but are aware you left the vehicle behind, you may simply ignore the warnings.

If you are not aware of the missing vehicle, we suggest you turn around and go find it!!!

When the two systems are re-united, the monitor will pick up the missing tires automatically. This usually happens within the first 20 minutes. If you need them to re-connect immediately, simply loosen (depressurize) and tighten (re-pressurize) the transmitters on any missing wheels.

OR

**OUR Recommended Alternative** is to put the unit in the full “Auto-search Mode” (See pages 29 & 30).

If you did use the “Disconnect Mode,” upon reuniting the two units, you may simply engage the automatic “Reconnect Feature” and let the TireMinder® do the work for you. See pages 27 & 28 for “Disconnect” and “Reconnect Mode” directions.

# **“Things You Need to Know”**

General Knowledge



## Aluminum Valve Stems & Galvanic Corrosion

Please note Minder Research makes two types of transmitters, the TM-2BRASS and the TM-2ALUM. The basic kits come with either 4 or 6 of the TM-Brass type transmitters. These will fit ALL Motor Homes (*Class A, B or C*), ALL 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailers and ALL towables.

**TIP: you ONLY need the special TM-2ALUM if you are towing a car or light truck which already has a built in Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS).**

- These will usually be 2007 or newer (*as mandated*).
- These valve stems will be dull silver (*vs. the shiny silver on your motor home*).
- The shiny ones are either stainless steel or chrome plated brass and do not require special transmitters.
- Don't bother with the "magnet test." Most stainless steel is not magnetic.
- What you are avoiding here is called "galvanic corrosion." This happens when dissimilar metals come into contact for a period of time. Moisture (*especially if salty*) will cause the two metals to become so corroded that they cannot be separated.

Remember, you may **only find aluminum valve stems** on a car or light truck which has a factory installed TPMS.

We gather from several phone calls that the above explanation is difficult to comprehend. For this we apologize and will try to put it in simpler words:

- If your towed vehicle (that's the thing you are hauling behind your motorhome) has metal valve stems, you need TM-2ALUM transmitters.
- If it has black rubber valve stems, you need TM-2BRASS transmitters.
- Your motorhome, 5<sup>th</sup> wheel, trailer or tow dolly will use what comes in all TireMinder® kits (Brass). Yes, even if you have those big 22.5" shiny aluminum wheels, you will need Brass transmitters.

If that's still not clear, well, you are just going to have to call us (we really don't mind).

If you have purchased or received the wrong type, simply contact Minder Research and we will arrange to exchange them at no charge.

## Valve Extenders:

These could be considered the “Necessary Evil” many RVers can’t live without. If you are installing new valve extenders, we highly recommend the solid steel type (*rather than the flexible mesh or rubber type*). If you are mounting TireMinder® transmitters to a valve extender, you must test for leakage using the latest high tech technique. It’s commonly called the “Soapy Water Test”.

- First attach the transmitter to the extender.
- Second, using a highly concentrated mix (*more soap than water*), soak the transmitter end as well the end attached to the original valve stem. If the extenders are the flexible type, soak them along their entire length (*not just the two ends*).
- Hopefully we do not need to tell you what you are looking for.

From experience, when users call or write complaining their TireMinder® transmitter is leaking, it invariably turns out the problem is with their valve extenders. It should be understood that most valve extenders (*especially the flexible ones*) are not pressurized until a gauge is pressed against the open end of the valve. They are then only pressurized for a few seconds (*long enough to take a reading on the gauge*).

When a TireMinder® transmitter is attached, the entire length of the extender becomes permanently pressurized (*until it is removed*). This is when a leak would appear. So, please check carefully.

## Accuracy of Pressure Gauges and TPMS:

No (*reasonably priced*) pressure gauge is going to be 100% accurate. Likewise, **NO** TPMS is going to be 100% accurate. What's important is that they are reasonably close and relatively consistent. You engineers and pilots probably have steam coming out of your ears after that last sentence!!

Maybe this will help.....

- The TireMinder® transmitters are accurate to  $\pm 3\%$ .
- TireMinder® brand pressure gauges (*mechanical or digital*) are among the most accurate on the market at  $\pm$  two psi.

So, if you are running 100 psi in your tires, you could have a gauge reading 2 psi high and a TPMS transmitter reading 3 psi low leaving a difference of 5 psi. This is not uncommon and is considered totally acceptable. We have had calls from customers doing their initial installation saying all 8 or 10 TireMinder® transmitters are reading 9 to 11 pounds low!!! Can you guess what the problem is?? What is important to understand is that the TireMinder® TM-A1A (*and any other brand for that matter*) is designed to warn you of changes. For example, it really does not care whether it starts at 97 psi or 108 psi. It is the changes and deviations from the baselines you need to know about.

So, please look at "the big picture". You may use your trusty pressure gauge as the "standard" or you can use the TPMS as the standard. The important point is that they are all relatively consistent.

## Checking Tire Pressures and Temperatures:

The TireMinder® TM-A1A™ TPMS will constantly monitor all tires which have been programmed. If you wish to check each tire pressure and temperature, press either a **RIGHT button OR LEFT button** while in the “M” mode.

The tire position will be displayed along with its exact pressure. Press again and that tire’s temperature appears. Press again to scroll to the next tire. If a tire position shows “no5 (S)”, it tells you that communication has been lost between that transmitter and the monitor. **This needs to be addressed ASAP (See pages 38 & 39).**

## System Expansion (adding a towed vehicle at a later date)

So, you’ve had the A1A™ installed for two trips and love it. Now you want to add four more transmitters for your towed vehicle.

- **Method A:** Install the new transmitters following the directions at the very beginning of this book (Learn mode “L” and Pressure Setting mode “P”). Follow these instructions and you’ll have the new transmitters installed in no time.
- **Method B:** Delete all the original tire positions and start over (See Full Delete see pages 31 & 32).
- **Method C:** Call a Minder TPMS specialist who will be happy to “walk you through it”.

This would be a good time to remove all transmitters and check the batteries (*3.0 v or higher*), check the O-rings and the black protective caps for damage.

## CR1632 Lithium Battery Installation:

Look at the illustration below. Note that the battery slides **UNDER** the aluminum “bridge”, “clip” or “bracket”. Do **NOT** place it on top!! Be sure the plus (+) side is up. Incorrect insertion will burn out the circuit or break the solder connection.



The cover should only be finger tight (*snug*) so as to remain waterproof. Please, DO NOT use pliers and a pipe wrench! Over tightening will damage the “O” ring.

Be sure to send in your warranty card to register for our FREE battery exchange program.

### “O”hhhh! Rings:

Transmitter “O” rings will also need to be replaced at some point. Their life varies greatly depending mostly on climate conditions. If you are not sure of their condition, consider changing them annually when you replace your batteries. Contact Minder Research (phone or web site to order). We can replace them at minimal expense. Please do not try to find them at Home Depot or Lowes. They will cost you more and will not be the right size. We know as we have tried!

### Transmitter Caps:

The TireMinder® caps are a crucial piece of the transmitter. The cap, along with the O-Rings, keeps the transmitter away from any weather and environmental damage. Like the O-Ring, their life depends mostly on climate conditions. The caps should be checked frequently. If one becomes broken or cracked, it should be replaced as soon as possible. Remember, caps are significantly cheaper than replacing a whole transmitter!

### Monitor locations:

Quite frankly, this is not something you should be watching constantly. If there is a problem the unit will beep and the red light will flash. Therefore place it somewhere within your peripheral vision.

- Try to keep the monitor away from other major electronics. We know this is not easy given how high-tech most of you RVers have become.
- Many of our Class A users have found the windshield is too far away to use the window mounting bracket.

- Most end up using Velcro and sticking it beside their left knee (*away from the dash and GPS!*).
- For 5<sup>th</sup> wheelers, we recommend mounting it in the bracket on the rear window (*assumes you have an extended cab type truck*). You will see it in the rear view mirror and if the red light flashes, your peripheral vision will pick it up instantly. This will get it away from the electronics in the dash and closer to the rear wheels at the same time.

## Monitor On

Whenever you are checking your tire pressures with a normal gauge (removing the TireMinder® transmitter) be sure the monitor is always turned on.

## Transmitters and Friction (DO NOT Let the Transmitter Rub Against the Wheel!)

Once a transmitter is mounted on the valve stem, be sure it does not touch any solid portion of the wheel or hub cap. This can cause the friction from constantly rubbing up against the wheel, damaging the transmitter.

## Tire Rotation

Once a transmitter is learned to a specific wheel location, they are dedicated to that position. Mark and remove your transmitters before a tire rotation. That way, they can be easily put back on. If your A1A seems to be acting strange after a tire rotation, start over. See “Start Over” pages 31 & 32.



## Technical Specifications TM-A1A™

### Sensor/Transmitter

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Working Temperature           | (-20°C--85°C) -4° F to 185° F   |
| Working Humidity              | 0 – 100%  |
| Dimensions                    | (23 x 21 x 21 mm) .8" x .8" x .9"   |
| Weight                        | (14,1 g) 0.5 oz.  |
| Battery Voltage               | 3V DC (CR1632)  |
| Battery Life                  | 1 year  |
| Standby Current               | 500mA   |
| Working Current               | 6mA   |
| Pressure Range TM-A1A         | (0 Bar – 10 Bar) 0 – 232 PSI  |
| Pressure Precision            | (±0.3 Bar) ± 2.7 % PSI  |
| Temperature Precision         | (± 3°C) ± 6° F Does not replace the Weather Channel.  |
| Signal Transmitting Frequency | 433.92 MHz  |
| Operating Distance            | Sorry, no hard number – varies with amount of electronic interference. Booster is mandatory as is antenna UP! If these conditions are met, 100 to 120 ft may be possible. Without the booster And antennae up, distance is extremely limited. |

### **Monitor/Receiver**

|                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Working Voltage            | 3V DC                            |
| Working Temperature        | (-20°C -- 60°C) -4°F to 140°F    |
| Working Humidity           | 0 – 90%                          |
| Standby Current            | 0.1mA                            |
| Working Current            | 15mA                             |
| Dimensions                 | 105 x 60 x 15 mm 4.25"x2.5"x0.6" |
| Signal Receiving Frequency | 433.92 MHz                       |
| Color of Backlight         | Blue/White                       |

### **Charger**

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Input Voltage   | 12/24 VDC |
| Output Amperage | 1.0 Amp   |
| Internal Fuse   | 3.0 Amps  |

### **Booster**

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Input Voltage                 | 12/24 VDC      |
| Red & Black hard wire connect | 3 ft. + length |
| Battery Draw                  | 14mA - 75mA    |

## TireMinder® Limited Warranty

In order for Minder to extend its' award winning customer service, it is extremely important that you complete and mail the enclosed warranty card along with a copy of your bill of sale. In addition to the warranty, this will register you for the FREE battery exchange program (CR1632 transmitter batteries only) valid through the end of 2018.

This TireMinder® TPMS is guaranteed against manufacturing defects for a period of **one year** from date of purchase. Should the unit not function as designed, The Minder Research Inc. will repair or replace the section at no charge to the owner.

Excluded are products that have been damaged through impact, water, fire, misuse or unauthorized service.

This warranty is limited to the replacement of the product only and does not extend to any incremental cost incurred. In no case shall Minder's liability exceed the purchase price. This warranty gives you specific legal rights which may vary from state to state or province to province.

If you have a question or a problem, please contact the TPMS specialist at The Minder Research Inc. (772.463.6522) before returning the product. Many issues can be resolved over the phone.

**Extended Warranty?** Check out [www.MinderResearch.com](http://www.MinderResearch.com) for cost and availability.

**If service is required return w/copy of bill of sale to:**

The Minder Research Inc.

3000 SE Waaler Street

Stuart, FL 34997

United States of America

(772) 463-6522

[www.MinderResearch.com](http://www.MinderResearch.com)

[info@MinderResearch.com](mailto:info@MinderResearch.com)

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