

**GUIDELINE**GEO | MALÅ

# **MALÅ Easy Locator Core User Manual**

## Our Thanks...

Thank you for choosing Guideline Geo and MALÅ! The very core of our philosophy is to provide our users with great products, support, and services. Our team is committed to providing you with the most efficient and easy-to-use solutions with the capability to meet your needs for efficiency and productivity.

Whether this is your first MALÅ product, or addition to the MALÅ collection, we believe that small investment of your time to familiarize yourself with the product by reading this manual will be rewarded with a significant increase in productivity and satisfaction.

Please let us know about your use and experience of our products as well as the contents and usefulness of this manual. We're excited to be part of your journey!



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Guideline Geo AB

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

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# Preface

## About this Manual

This manual is written for the end user of the product and explains how to set up and configure the product, as well as providing detailed instruction on its use.

## Additional Resources

Training: [www.guidelinegeo.com/training-gpr-resistivity-seismics-tem/](http://www.guidelinegeo.com/training-gpr-resistivity-seismics-tem/)

Downloads: [www.guidelinegeo.com/support-service-advice-training/resource-center/](http://www.guidelinegeo.com/support-service-advice-training/resource-center/)

Applications: [www.guidelinegeo.com/application-areas/](http://www.guidelinegeo.com/application-areas/)

## Feedback

Feedback regarding the contents of this manual or the product may be sent using any of the contact details found at [www.guidelinegeo.com](http://www.guidelinegeo.com)

# Safety and Compliance User Notices

This GPR-device is certified according to FCC, subpart 15, IC RSS-220 and ETSI EN 302 066-1&2.

You are cautioned that changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures: —Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna. —Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver. —Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected. —Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

## **According to the regulations stated in ETSI EN 302 066-1 (European Telecommunication Standards Institute):**

The control unit should not be left ON when leaving the system unattended. It should always be turned OFF when not in use.

The antennas should point towards the ground, walls etc. during measurement and not towards the air.

The antennas should be kept in close proximity to the media under investigation.

## **Canadian and US regulations state that whenever GPR antennas are in use the following notes apply:**

This Ground Penetrating Radar device shall be operated only when in contact with or within 1m of the ground.

Only law enforcement agencies, scientific research institutes, commercial mining companies, construction companies and emergency rescue or firefighting organizations shall use this Ground Penetrating Radar Device.

This device complies with Industry Canada license-exempt RSS standards. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause interference and (2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

**French translations:**

Cet instrument de Géoradar se devra d'être opéré seulement en contact à même le sol ou en deça d'un mètre du sol.

Cet instrument de Géoradar se devra d'être utilisé seulement par les agences chargées de l'application de la loi, les instituts de recherches scientifiques, les compagnies minières à buts lucratifs, les compagnies de construction et les organisations responsables pour le sauvetage et la lutte contre les incendies.

Cet instrument répond aux exigences de la licence avec Industrie Canada- exempt des standards RSS. L'opération est sujette aux deux conditions suivantes : (1) Cet instrument ne peut pas causer une interférence et (2) cet instrument se doit d'accepter quelque interférence que ce soit, incluant une interférence qui pourrait causer une opération non-souhaitable de l'instrument.

**Radiation Exposure Statement**

To comply with ISED RF exposure compliance requirements, a separation distance of at least 20cm should be maintained between the EUT and all persons during normal operation.

Pour se conformer aux exigences de conformité d'exposition ISDE RF, une distance de séparation d'au moins 20 cm doit être maintenue entre l'EST et toutes les personnes pendant le fonctionnement normal.

## About Easy Locator Core

MALÅ Easy Locator Core is a state-of-the-art Swedish quality product built on the latest research and innovation. It includes unique MALÅ features, such as MALÅ AI, Dynamic grid, Dynamic Menu, and direct access to MALÅ Vision connecting all MALÅ products.

Together with the data acquisition software MALÅ Controller App and the data processing software MALÅ Vision, Easy Locator Core creates a streamlined chain, from fieldwork to the office and delivery of results. Data collected with the Easy Locator Core can instantly and securely be uploaded and directly be processed and interpreted at any office around the world.





# Unpack. Inspect. Register

Great care should be taken when unpacking the equipment. Be sure to verify the contents shown in the packing list and inspect the equipment and accessories for any loose parts or other damage.

**Note:** The packing list that is included with the shipment should be read carefully and any discrepancy should be reported to our sales department at [www.guidelinegeo.com](http://www.guidelinegeo.com).

**Note:** All packing material should be kept in the event that any damage occurred during shipping.

File any claim for shipping damage with the carrier immediately after discovery of the damage and before the equipment is put into use. Any claims for missing equipment or parts should be filed with Guideline Geo within fourteen (14) business days from the receipt of the equipment.

## Repacking and Shipping

The Guideline Geo packing kit is specially designed for shipping MALÅ Easy Locator Core. The packing kit should be used whenever shipping is necessary. If original packing materials are unavailable, pack the instrument in a box that is large enough to allow at least 80 mm of shock absorbing material to be placed all around the instrument. This includes top, bottom and all sides.

**Warning:** Never use shredded fibres, paper or wood wool, as these materials tend to pack down and permit the instrument to move inside its packing box.

Please read our shipping instructions before returning instruments to Guideline Geo. These instructions can be found on our website at:  
<https://www.guidelinegeo.com/service-and-repairs/>

## Registering MALÅ Easy Locator Core

By registering your equipment, you ensure that you will receive important information, such as manual updates, software upgrades and other product information, which all helps to optimize the utilization of the equipment and realize the maximum return on your investment.

To register your equipment, simply visit – [www.guidelinegeo.com/product-registration](http://www.guidelinegeo.com/product-registration)

**Note:** The serial number is found on the antenna.

# Assembly and Start-up

## Assembly

The Easy Locator Core is delivered mounted and folded.

Unfold the handle by pressing the black button and releasing the quick lock knob.

Fit the two handle parts to each other and, when in upright position, secure the silver-colored knob on the mid part.



*Press the button and pull the quick lock knob to unfold the handle. Secure the silver-coloured knob when in upright position.*

Attach a tablet for data acquisition (and if needed an external GNSS device or a Total Station prism).

The rear left wheel has an internal encoder for data triggering and precise distance measurements.



*The tablet is attached to the tablet holder on the top part of the handle. The GNSS device or Total Stations prisms (on top of an extension pole) is attached to the GNSS bracket with a quick release mechanism.*

**Note:** The EL Core is delivered with four axle sealing plugs. These should be saved and used when the EL Core is used without wheels, for instance in a RTC Mini. See *RTC Mini Quick guide* for further information.

Make sure the batteries are charged. See section *Power* below.

Open the battery compartment and insert the batteries.

Press the ON/OFF button to start the Easy Locator Core.

**Note:** When powering OFF; press and hold the ON/OFF button.



*The batteries are found under the black lid. It is possible to hot-swap, one battery at time, during measurements.*

The ON/OFF button will blink to indicate start/boot. When the light turns steady, the Easy Locator Core is ready to be connected to the MALÅ Controller App.

**Note:** If the light is blinking very fast, this indicates a problem with the unit. Please contact the Guideline Geo support team for further assistance.

## Start measurements

Make sure MALÅ Controller App is installed on your mobile device.



APP-ENABLED



MALÅ Controller App can be downloaded from <https://www.guidelinegeo.com/product/mala-controller-app/> or by using the QR code.

Set up a mobile hotspot for communication between your mobile device and the Easy Locator Core. The Easy Locator Core serial number is found on the label on the back-right corner.

For hotspot, change the network name (SSID) to **MALAXXXXXXX**, where **XXXXXXX** refers to the serial number and change the password for the mobile hotspot to **mala0123**

For further instructions see; *MALÅ Controller App User Manual* or *MALÅ Controller App Quick Guide*.



*Label with information on serial number and QR code.*

## Wireless connection

To communicate between the EL Core antenna and MALÅ Controller App, Wi-Fi (mobile hotspot) is used. When communication is working, the antenna model is displayed to the left in the status bar in MALÅ Controller App together with battery and GPS status.



Successful connection



No connection

It is important to have a stable Wi-Fi connection between the mobile device and GPR antenna for effortless data collection. The MALÅ Controller App has advanced features to minimize the impact of difficult Wi-Fi conditions while you measure such as automatic sync to recover data from interruptions.

Unstable Wi-Fi connections are typically caused by wireless interference. This can occur in apartment complexes or other dense areas, where several Wi-Fi networks are active nearby.

If you have troubles with the wireless connection, see section *Troubleshoot and Maintenance*.

## System parts

### Antenna box and wheels

The antenna box contains two antenna elements, a transmitter (Tx) and a receiver (Rx). The location of the measurement point is defined as the point in between these two antenna elements. This is clearly marked on the antenna itself (on three sides of the antenna box).

For easy lifting, there are larger handles (countersinks) on all sides of the antenna box.

The wheels are made of solid durable rubber and are easily detachable by pressing and holding the quick release button on the wheel hub and then pulling the wheel and axle out.

The rear wheel, on the left-hand side, is equipped with a pulse encoder for precise distance measurements during a survey. When this wheel is re-attached, make sure the wheel axle is firmly attached and secured. Dirt can prevent proper locking of the wheel.

The encoder wheel is factory calibrated. Make sure to choose the correct wheel type in the MALÅ Controller App settings before starting a measurement.

### Power

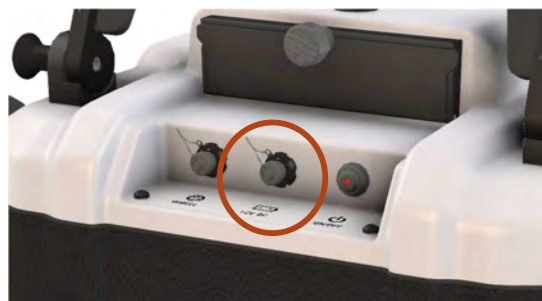
The Easy Locator Core is powered by two internal Li-Ion batteries, 10.8V and 6.9Ah. The batteries are located in the battery compartment behind the black lid. Make sure the lid is properly closed and secured, to prevent water and dust to enter.

Hot swap, of one battery at a time, is possible. The Easy Locator Core can also be run on only one battery.

The batteries are charged in an external RRC charger. Both batteries can be charged at the same time.

If needed there is also an additional option for the RRC charger to charge the batteries from a 12V outlet.

The 12V connector on the Easy Locator Core can be used to power the Easy Locator Core from an external power source such as a MALÅ battery bag.



*Power connector for external power source.*

## Handle

The handle can be folded for transportation but also completely detached from the Easy Locator Core antenna. The handle is attached with four quick release bolts. Release these and the handle can be removed.



*Release the four bolts by pulling and rotating a quarter turn.*

The soft part of the handle is interchangeable, to any ordinary bike-handles and can be purchased as spare parts.

## External wheel

The Easy Locator Core can be used with an external encoder wheel as well, as together with a RTC Mini. The external encoder is connected on the back side of the Easy Locator Core. If an external wheel is connected, the EL Core GPR system will automatically detect this.



*Connector for external encoder found to the left.*

## Positioning

The Easy Locator Core has an internal DGPS inside the antenna box.

The Easy Locator Core also works with an external GNSS device, such as an RTK-GPS. The external GNSS needs to be able to communicate a NMEA0183 string by Bluetooth.

The Easy Locator can also be positioned with a Total Station communicating a pseudo-GGA string by Bluetooth or serial cable.

It is recommended to attach the external GNSS or Total Station prism using the GNSS holder on the handle. This position of the external GNSS antenna or Total Stations prism is a preset in the MALÅ Controller App to get the correct position for each trace.

Read more in the *MALÅ Controller App User Manual*.



*The GNSS device or a Total Station prism is attached to the GNSS holder on the Easy Locator Core handle. This gives a location at the measurement point of the GPR antenna. The extension pole is attached with a quick release.*

## Data acquisition software

Data collection from the Easy Locator Core system is made with the MALÅ Controller App. This is a simple and straight forward application designed to collect, view, and save Easy Locator Core data on a mobile device. For more information, see the [MALÅ Controller App User Manual](#).



## RTC Mini

The EL Core can also be used with the RTC Mini for easy investigations in rougher terrain. See *RTC Mini Quick Guide* for further information.



# Troubleshoot and Maintenance

As with all electronic equipment it is important to handle the Easy Locator Core with great care and to avoid harsh handling and bumps against the antenna box or the tablet. During transport of the equipment the Easy Locator Core should be packed properly and firmly in a transport box. When finishing a survey, the equipment should be checked and packed properly before transport. Below troubleshoot for connectivity issues is given, together with some good maintenance procedures to make your Easy Locator Core last.

Always check our website [www.guidelinegeo.com](http://www.guidelinegeo.com) for latest news and updates and if needed, please contact Guideline Geo support (support@guidelinegeo.com) or your closest Guideline Geo sales representative.

## Troubleshoot connectivity issues

If you can't connect to the antenna at all make sure you follow the workflow described in the section *Start Measurement* or the *MALÅ Controller App Quick Guide* or *MALÅ Controller App User Manual*. Make sure everything is configured exactly as described.

1. Ideally set up your system in an **area with minimal Wi-Fi interference** to reduce potential problems.
2. Make sure that there is **no other hotspot** with the same network name (SSID) running on another mobile device. Do this by disable the hotspot and search for Wi-Fi networks. Make sure there is no other Wi-Fi network with the same SSID as you have set up.
3. **Disable Wi-Fi** on your mobile device and then **turn off and turn on the hotspot**.
4. Make sure you're using the **correct SSID** for the hotspot (MALAxxxxxxx). The xxxxxxxx indicate the serial number of your GPR antenna. Also check the password, which should be **mala0123**
5. Make sure that the antenna **batteries are charged**. For Easy Locator Core, the indicator on the batteries should have at least two bars. The LED may be on even though there is not enough battery power to initiate connection to MALÅ Controller App.
6. If that doesn't work, **restart the MALÅ Controller App** on your mobile device and wait for at least 30 seconds. This is done by "Close all" or swipe off the app in the Recent view (button with three lines or a square).
7. If you still cannot get connection, or if you for some reason would lose connection to the antenna, press the **ON/OFF** button on the antenna **5 times** within 5 seconds. This will reinitialize the antenna and reset the connection. Please note that this may take up to 2 minutes.
8. If that doesn't work press and **hold the ON/OFF** button to turn the antenna off completely, then power it on again.



## Maintenance

### The following actions are advisable to carry out prior to measurements:

Make sure that the batteries are charged.

Make sure that the battery compartment is firmly closed.

Make sure that the connector lids for external wheel and power are firmly closed, if not in use.



### The following actions are advisable to carry out after measurements:

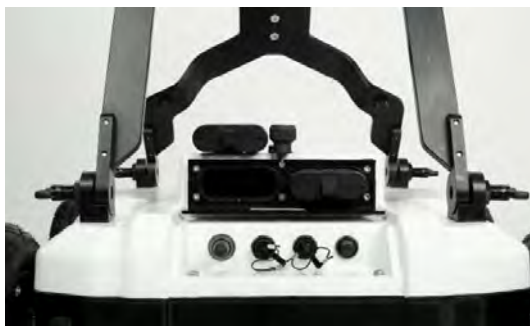
Check the button to release the handle from the antenna. Dirt can collect on the backside of the button (on the handle) and prevent proper locking.

To clean, apply 5-56, WD40 or similar in the locking mechanism and wipe out using a cloth or Q-tip. Repeat until clean and the button is locking as expected again.



Also check the GNSS-pole quick lock for dirt.

Check the O-rings around the battery compartments. These should be changed if broken.



Batteries should be kept charged (40-60%) and if stored away for longer time they should be charged now and then. It is not recommended to leave the batteries uncharged longer than 1 month and do not store batteries without charging for more than a year.

The wheel axles must be sprayed with 5-56/WD40 or similar at least every 6 months for a continuous smooth function.



**Note:** Use the axle sealing caps (provided at delivery) when wheels are removed, to prevent ingress of dirt.