

FORNEY TEST MACHINES

CA-0397-VFD AUTOMATIC RETROPAK

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CONTROL SYSTEM

RetroPak

DESIGNED & BUILT BY FORNEY

Exceeds ACI Recommendations



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GET A CONNECTED MACHINE AND SAVE \$1,500

NATIVE TWO-WAY INTEGRATION WITH CMT SOFTWARE

Connected Testing Machines allow technicians to get more done faster with minimal human error through a two-way integration with ForneyVault. Resulting in 99.9%+ fewer manual errors, 66%+ increase in productivity, and 100% unalterable, unquestionable data.

- ▲ “One-touch” test starts and automatic controls
- ▲ Pre-test “Smart Checks” to validate test parameters
- ▲ Automatic preload calculations, notifications for individual and average low breaks and excessive variance, automatic data transfer, and more

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HARDWARE

Designed and built by Forney, the CA-0397 RetroPak converts any manual machine to an automatic machine.



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Forney RetroPak™ is an automatic control system that easily retrofits to most manual testing machines. It allows seamless conversion of a manual machine to fully automatic. It arrives pre-wired and pre-assembled making installation and connection quick and simple. RetroPak is the easiest way to upgrade a testing machine to fully automatic operation. It's also the only one that works with ForneyVault.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Forneylink TA-1258 touchscreen HMI, hydraulic pump and Automatic (VFD) control system. The entire system is incorporated into a single console to allow easy field retrofit to existing manual compression testing machines. Comes assembled.

CONVERT TO EASY AUTOMATIC TESTING

The Forney automatic control system provides fully automatic, "one touch" testing for many construction material test specimens. Push one button and the machine performs the complete test, including piston retract. Accurately controls the rate of load at the desired setting, thus no question about meeting ASTM (or other) specifications and ensuring repeatable results. Frees the operator to do other tasks while testing is in process.

EASY TO INSTALL

Installation work consists of the removal of the existing hydraulic power pack and digital readout, along with the pressure transducer, hoses, and any other miscellaneous wiring.

The new system is connected via a single hose to the compression machine and then plugged into a standard electrical outlet (available for 110V or 240V). No further field modifications are required, except, at the customer's request, or to incorporate non-standard features such as over-travel limit switches or specialized testing protocols.

The system works with typical compression testing machines utilizing 5,000 to 10,000 psi hydraulic operating pressures.

HYDRAULIC

The hydraulic unit is supplied as a complete, fully integrated assembly. The unit is pre-piped and pre-wired. It incorporates hydraulic valves, including an optional proportional valve for controlled piston retract required by code for Modulus of Elasticity and Poisson's Ratio tests.

The ForneyLink human machine interface (HMI), hydraulic unit, E-Stop, and dump valve are directly connected to the unit. Single unit design permits easy installation and provides portability without disassembling of hydraulic or electrical components.

ELECTRICAL

A PC-based system utilizes a variable frequency drive to control the hydraulic pump motor. This maximizes efficiency – only running the pump at speeds necessary to achieve the desired pressure. This energy-efficient approach dramatically reduces heat build-up in the hydraulic system and greatly extends hydraulic component life.

Here are the main components of the system:

- ▲ Variable frequency drive (VFD)
- ▲ Windows-based touchscreen human machine interface (HMI)
- ▲ Pressure transducer that provides pressure feedback
- ▲ E-stop PB
- ▲ Limit switch
- ▲ Solenoid-operated dump valve

SAFETY FEATURES

Several safety features are incorporated to protect both operator and testing machine:

- ▲ Maximum Capacity Protection: A high-pressure safety relief valve protects the hydraulic circuit and load frame from exceeding maximum capacity.
- ▲ Overextension Protection: A piston over-extension limit switch system protects against piston extension beyond maximum travel.



SOFTWARE

EASY AUTOMATIC TESTING

Push one button and the machine performs the complete test, including piston retract. Accurately controls the rate of load at the desired setting, thus no question about meeting ASTM (or other) specifications and ensuring repeatable results. Frees the operator to do other tasks while testing is in process.

DIGITAL CONTROL SYSTEM

Setup of testing protocol, real-time display of test data, and post-test data transfer is accomplished through the ForneyLink touchscreen HMI. The operator can navigate options for:

- ▲ Test Run
- ▲ Test Setup
- ▲ Machine Setup
- ▲ Calibration
- ▲ Reporting and Data Transfer
- ▲ Diagnostics

Provides simultaneous display of force, stress, and rate of load and displays a real-time graph of Load vs. Time, or Stress vs. Strain. Standard functionality includes data collection by the ForneyLink HMI for printing and transfer. Data from optional extensometer and compressometer displacement transducers are also collected by the HMI. This data is captured with the same timestamp as the load data.

CMT SOFTWARE INTEGRATION

Seamless Integration with ForneyVault® CMT Software

Connected machines work in tandem with ForneyVault to streamline critical workflows before and after every test—enhancing accuracy, efficiency, and compliance throughout the testing process.

Pre-Test Intelligence

Before testing begins, integrated machines automatically:

- ▲ **Verify specimen identity** through barcode scanning for accurate tracking
- ▲ **Run Smart Checks** using preloaded sample data to confirm specimen size, type, date, and expected strength
- ▲ **Validate specimen geometry** to ensure conformance
- ▲ **Calculate preload settings** based on actual or expected strength, improving consistency

Post-Test Automation

Once testing is complete, the system delivers immediate, actionable results:

- ▲ **Generates detailed XY plots** for each test
- ▲ **Automatically transfers data** to LIMS, quality control systems, or other connected software platforms
- ▲ **Issue automated alerts** for early breaks, low or outlier results, overdue tests, and completed sets—helping you manage compliance, scheduling, and reporting with confidence.
- ▲ **Enables intelligent workflows** for streamlined reporting, review, and approval processes

REMOTE SUPPORT

With a user-provided Internet connection (either Wi-Fi or Ethernet), the RetroPak system offers real-time online support from the Forney Support Team, covering basic settings and test setup, as well as advanced troubleshooting, fault finding, and software updates.

We offer unlimited Remote Technical Support for all Forney Testing Machines during the two-year warranty period.

For ForneyVault® subscribers, post-warranty remote technical support fees are waived for the life of your subscription.



Please refer any special requirements to a Forney sales representative.

*** Specifications are subject to change without notice.**



FACTORY INSTALLED OPTIONS

Voltage	<p>110/220VAC Single Phase</p> <p>The full load amperage for standard VFD Control Systems is less than 5A (115VAC single phase voltage). We recommend standard 15A or 20A circuits.</p>
Optional Test Protocol Capabilities	<p>ASTM C469 MOE (M)</p> <p>ASTM C469 MOE & Poisson's Ratio (MP)</p> <p>ISO 13503-2 Proppant (SW-0010)</p> <p>*Additional accessories required</p> <p>*Inquire about other test types</p>
Capacity Options	Contact Us for Special Requests
Frame Options	Contact Us for Special Requests

SPECIFICATIONS

Load Capacity Range	Frame Dependent
Oil Reservoir Capacity	2 Gallons
Overall Width	Base - 26"
Overall Depth	Base - 31"
Overall Height	61"
Unit Weight	Unit - 145lb Shipping - 225lb

