

# **PLOTCURVE** software

#### **General Features**

- Runs on IBM compatible PCs running Windows 98, XP or later (tested OK with Windows 10)
- Processes GETCURVE "CRV" files from PGT EZcal Pro
- Displays PGT Height/Pressure curve graphically & numerically



#### **General Usage**

- Calibrate height/pressure overload on a PGT controller equipped machine
- Use EZcal Pro GETCURVE function to collect curve data from controller
- Connect EZcal Pro to PC to transfer collected curve data "CRV" file
- Install PLOTCURVE program
- Run PLOTCURVE program; open "CRV" file from EZcal Pro
- · Chart will be drawn and all numeric data will be available for viewing



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## **PLOTCURVE** software

#### **Detailed Usage**

When valid curve calibration data is collected, the **selection buttons** on the lower left will be enabled to allow viewing of the curve numeric data – you can click on any **selection button** to see the appropriate numeric data in a list format.

The **Targets** list shows data for all four calibration phases (loaded up, loaded down, empty up, empty down), while the other **selection buttons** show all the curve points for one calibration phase, from height=0% to height=100%; the pressure is shown as a voltage measurement and should be between 0.5V=0 pressure and 4.5V=maximum pressure:

#### 5, PGT PLOT CURVE





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# **PLOTCURVE** software

The meaning of the data shown by the selection buttons is:

- Targets
  - **Targets** are the individual (static) measurements taken at each stop during the four calibration phases (loaded up, loaded down, empty up, empty down)
  - Each Target will be a height/pressure pair
  - The **Target** heights are determined using the shape of the **Dynamic** curve collected during height calibration
  - The final curve data is created by *interpolating* between each **Target**, so the location and accuracy of the **Target** is critical to overall performance
- Dynamic
  - The **Dynamic** (moving) curve is created by continually sampling height & pressure during the initial continuous lift, when the height sensor is calibrated
  - The **Dynamic** curve should be with the platform fully loaded and should be a higher pressure than all the static (stopped) curves
  - The shape of the **Dynamic** curve determines **Target** heights for later calibration
- Loaded Up
  - The Loaded Up (static) curve is constructed from the Loaded Up Targets, collected by stopping to take measurements while lifting when the platform is fully loaded (note that each Target is highlighted in the data)
  - In between each **Target** the curve is created by *interpolating* to give a smooth curve
  - Below the first **Target** and after the last **Target**, the curve is filled in to match the shape of the **Dynamic** curve
- Empty Up
  - The **Empty Up** (static) curve is constructed in the same way as for **Loaded Up**, but using **Empty Up Targets**, collected by stopping to take measurements while lifting when the platform is empty
- Loaded Down
  - The Loaded Down (static) curve is constructed in the same way as for Loaded Up, but using Loaded Down Targets, collected by stopping to take measurements while lowering when the platform is fully loaded
- Empty Down
  - The Empty Down (static) curve is constructed in the same way as for Loaded Up, but using Empty Down Targets, collected by stopping to take measurements while lowering when the platform is empty
- Delta Up
  - The **Delta Up** curve is created by GETCURVE subtracting the **Empty Up** curve from the **Loaded Up** curve
  - The "size" of **Delta Up** influences the accuracy of the load estimate; for example a size of 0.5V gives a best accuracy of +/-2%
  - For most machines, the Delta Up curve should be relatively "flat" except near the ends (very low and very high heights, where mechanics limits measurement accuracy & repeatability)
- Delta Down
  - The **Delta Down** curve is created like the **Delta Up** curve, by subtracting the **Empty Down** curve from the **Loaded Down** curve
  - $\circ~$  The same comments for "size" and "flatness" apply, as for Delta Up



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#### The PLOTCURVE chart

In addition to the numeric data, the curves **Dynamic**, **Loaded Up**, **Empty Up**, **Loaded Down**, **Empty Down**, **Delta Up** and **Delta Down** are plotted on a chart:



Using the chart it should be easy to confirm that the **Dynamic** curve is the highest pressure, the **Loaded Up** and **Loaded Down** curves are similar pressures, the **Empty Up** and **Empty Down** curves are also similar pressures, and there is sufficient difference between the **Loaded & Empty** curves, confirmed by the **Delta Up** and **Delta Down** curves.

The chart also shows any anomalous non-smooth parts of the curve, which might cause erroneous load estimates – any such anomalies should be investigated by checking the load estimate at various heights.

NOTE: due to machine mechanics, there is always likely to be some anomalies at the very bottom and top of the curve, where pressure cannot be reliably measured.