

EXPLORER[®]

BASE STATION

QUICK START GUIDE

T3951B



Thank you for choosing the Venstar Explorer Portable Base Station.

Designed to work seamlessly with the Explorer Portable T3951RF Thermostat, the Base Station, is the central connection point that enables wireless communication, system integration, and optional cloud connectivity. Together, they provide a flexible, reliable solution for monitoring and controlling comfort where traditional wiring isn't practical.

This Quick Start Guide is intended to help you install and power on your Explorer Portable Base Station quickly and easily. Once installed, the Base Station is ready to be paired with up to 6 Explorer Portable Thermostats to deliver dependable temperature control.

For the full user manual, and download the app, visit :

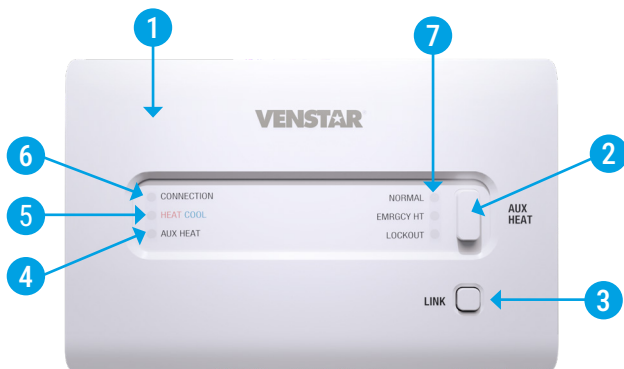
<https://venstar.com/thermostats/explorerportable/>

or scan the QR Code Below



BASE STATION BUTTONS & LED INDICATORS

Front Panel



1. **Front housing** - front housing snaps off of the base plate.
2. **AUX Heat Button** - controls operation of auxiliary heat.
3. **LINK Button** - used to pair devices or wifi network.
4. **AUX Heat Indicator** - illuminates when auxiliary heat is turned on.
5. **HEAT COOL Indicator** - illuminates **red** when heating, **green** when cooling.
6. **CONNECTION Indicator** - illuminates when base station is connected to home wifi network.
7. **AUX HEAT setting indicators** - controlled by AUX HEAT button.

BASE STATION INSTALL INSTRUCTIONS

Remove and Replace the old thermostat

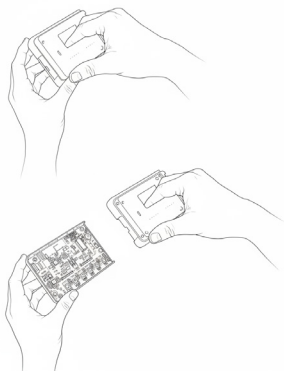
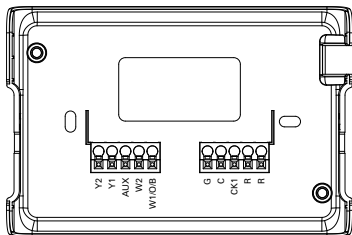
To install the thermostat properly, please follow these step by step instructions. If you are unsure about any of these steps, contact a qualified technician for assistance.

- Assemble tools: Flat blade screwdriver, wire cutters and wire strippers. (Phillips screwdriver and small screwdriver for wire terminals)
- Make sure your Heater/Air Conditioner is working properly before beginning installation of the thermostat.
- Carefully unpack the thermostat. Save the screws, any brackets, and instructions.
- Turn off the power to the Heating/Air Conditioning system at the main breaker fuse panel. Most residential systems have a separate breaker switch for disconnecting power to the furnace.
- Remove the front cover of the old thermostat. If it does not come off easily, check for screws.
- If you have a smart phone handy, take a photo of the wiring for future reference.
- Loosen the screws holding the thermostat base or subbase to the wall and lift away.
- Disconnect the wires from the old thermostat. Tape the ends of the wires as you disconnect them, and mark them with the letter of the terminal for easy reconnection to the new thermostat.
- Keep the old thermostat for reference purposes, until your new thermostat is functioning properly.

BASE STATION INSTALL INSTRUCTIONS

The Explorer Base Station Backplate

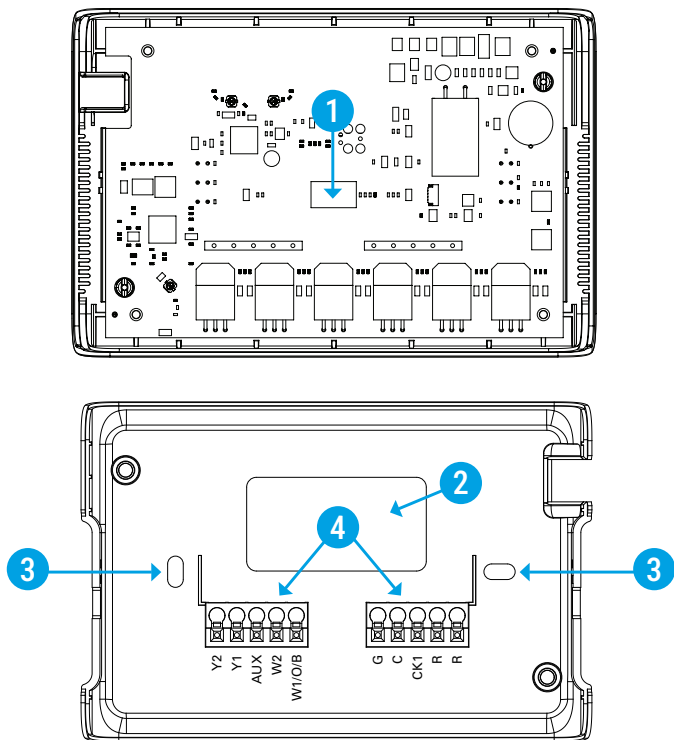
To remove the Base Station backplate:
Gently separate the front from the Base Station by pulling from the center.



Y2	2nd Stage Compressor
Y1	1st Stage Compressor
AUX	Auxillary Output
W2	2nd Stage Heat
W1/O/B	1st Stage Heat - or Reversing Valve (when connected to a heat pump)
G	Fan
C	24Vac Common
CK1	Dry Contact
R	24Vac Power.
R	24Vac Power.

Important - This thermostat requires both the R (24vac Return) and the C wires (24vac Common) to be connected to the back plate terminals for the base station to operate properly.

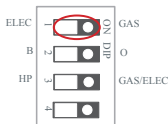
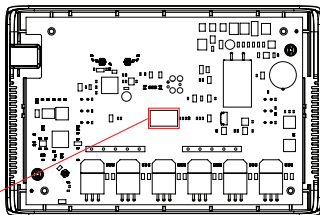
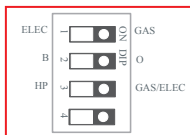
REAR HOUSING & CIRCUIT BOARD



1. Dip Switches
2. Wire Entrance
3. Mounting Holes
4. Wire Terminals

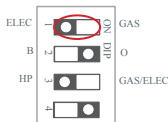
SPECIFY GAS, ELECTRIC, HEAT PUMP

Ensure that the Dip Switches are set correctly for your equipment.
The Dip Switches are located on the backside of the base station circuit



1. When GAS/EL or HP is set for GAS/EL:

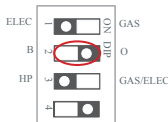
This switch (GAS or ELEC) controls how the base station will control the Fan (G) terminal in heating mode. When GAS is chosen, the base station will not energize the Fan (G) terminal in heating. When ELEC is chosen the base station will energize the fan in heating.



2. When GAS/EL or HP is set for HP:

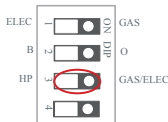
This switch (GAS or ELEC) defines the Aux Heat type. When GAS is chosen, the auxiliary heat will not be allowed to run during heat pump operation.

When ELEC is chosen, up to two stages of auxiliary strip heat will be allowed to run.



For Heat Pump Only

When the GAS/EL or HP dip switch is configured for HP, this dip switch (O or B) must be set to control the appropriate reversing valve. If O is chosen, the W1/O /B terminal will energize in cooling. If B is chosen, the W1/O /B terminal will energize in heating!.



This dip switch configures the base station to control a conventional gas/electric system or a heat pump. If your system is anything other than a heat pump, leave this switch set for GAS/EL.

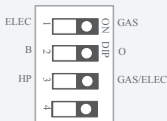
DIP SWITCH CONFIGURATION

Sample Wiring Diagrams – Conventional Heating and Cooling Systems

3 Wire, Heat Only

Residential & Commercial
1 Stage Heating with **no Fan**.

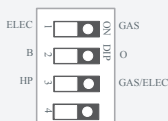
R 24VAC Power
C 24VAC Common
W1/O/B 1st Stage Heat



4 Wire, Cool Only

Residential & Commercial
1 Stage Cooling.

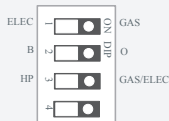
R 24VAC Power
C 24VAC Common
Y1 1st Stage Cool
G Fan



5 Wire, 1 Stage Cooling, 1 Stage Heat

Residential & Commercial
1 Stage Cooling, with 1 stage
Gas Heat.

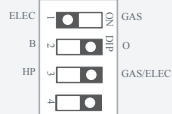
R 24VAC Power
C 24VAC Common
W1/O/B 1st Stage Heat
Y1 1st Stage Cool
G Fan



5 Wire, 1 Stage Cooling, 1 Stage Heat

Residential & Commercial
1 Stage Cooling, with
1 stage **Electric Heat**.

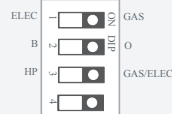
R 24VAC Power
C 24VAC Common
W1/O/B 1st Stage Heat
Y1 1st Stage Cool
G Fan



8 Wire, 2 Stage Cooling, 3 Stage Heat

Residential & Commercial
2 Stage Cooling, with
3 stage **Gas Heat**.

R 24VAC Power
C 24VAC Common
W1/O/B 1st Stage Heat
W2 2nd Stage Heat
AUX 3rd Stage Heat
Y1 1st Stage Cool
Y2 2nd Stage Cool
G Fan



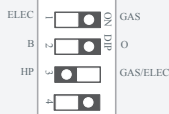
DIP SWITCH CONFIGURATION

Sample Wiring Diagrams – Heat Pump Systems

5 Wire, 1 Stage Cooling, 1 Stage Heat

Residential & Commercial
Heat Pump with 0 Reversing Valve

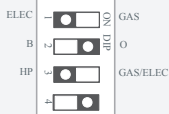
R	24VAC Power
C	24VAC Common
W1/O/B	Reversing Valve 1st Stage
Y1	Compressor (Cool or Heat)
G	Fan



6 Wire, 1 Stage Cooling, 2 Stage Heat

Residential & Commercial
Heat Pump with 0 Reversing Valve

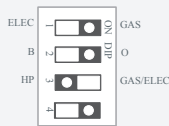
R	24VAC Power
C	24VAC Common
W1/O/B	Reversing Valve 1st Stage
Y1	Compressor (Cool or Heat)
W2	Aux Heat
G	Fan



7 Wire, 2 Stage Cooling, 1 Stage Heat

Residential & Commercial **Heat Pump with 0 Reversing Valve**

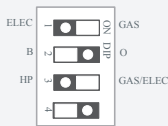
R	24VAC Power
C	24VAC Common
W1/O/B	Reversing Valve
Y1	1st Stage Compressor (Cool or Heat)
Y2	2nd Stage Compressor (Cool or Heat)
G	Fan



8 Wire, 2 Stage Cooling, AUX

Residential & Commercial **Heat Pump with 0 Reversing Valve**

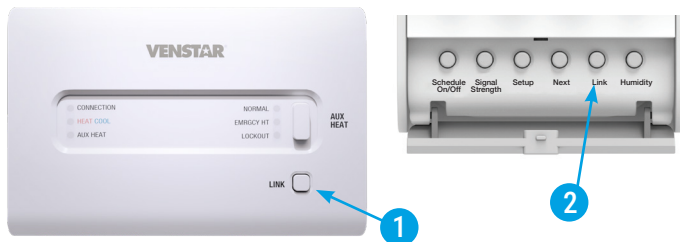
R	24VAC Power
C	24VAC Common
W1/O/B	Reversing Valve
W2	3rd Stage Heat
AUX	4th Stage Heat
Y1	1st Stage Compressor (Cool or Heat)
Y2	2nd Stage Compressor (Cool or Heat)
G	Fan



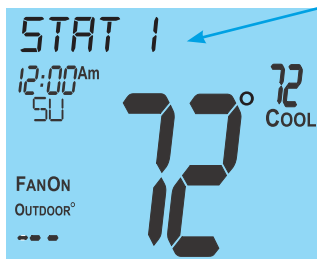
Note: When the unit goes into 4th stage heating, there is no 4th stage indicator, the display will still show 3rd stage.

LINKING A THERMOSTAT TO A BASE STATION

The thermostat must be 'Linked' with the base station to communicate properly.



1. Press the "LINK" button on the Base Station momentarily (not more than 2-3 seconds). All three AUX HEAT LED's will start to blink.
2. Place the thermostat directly next to the Base Station. The thermostat must be in close proximity to the Base Station during pairing, as the devices may not pair reliably if they are separated by several feet. Press the "LINK" button on the thermostat. "SEARCHING" will appear on the display. After a few seconds, the words "CONNECTING," then "PAIRING," will appear on the display. The Base Station LEDs will flash twice and then extinguish to confirm the link.
3. Upon successful linking, the thermostat's display will show the Unit # of the thermostat. You may assign a name to the thermostat, using Skyport Cloud Services.



Warranty

One-Year Warranty - This Product is warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship. If it appears within one year from the date of original installation, whether or not actual use begins on that date, that the product does not meet this warranty, a new or remanufactured part, at the manufacturer's sole option to replace any defective part, will be provided without charge for the part itself provided the defective part is returned to the distributor through a qualified servicing dealer.

THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT INCLUDE LABOR OR OTHER COSTS incurred for diagnosing, repairing, removing, installing, shipping, servicing or handling of either defective parts or replacement parts. Such costs may be covered by a separate warranty provided by the installer.

THIS WARRANTY APPLIES ONLY TO PRODUCTS IN THEIR ORIGINAL INSTALLATION LOCATION AND BECOMES VOID UPON REINSTALLATION.

LIMITATIONS OF WARRANTIES – ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES (INCLUDING IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND MERCHANTABILITY) ARE HEREBY LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE PERIOD FOR WHICH THE LIMITED WARRANTY IS GIVEN. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS, SO THE ABOVE MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THE EXPRESSED WARRANTIES MADE IN THIS WARRANTY ARE EXCLUSIVE AND MAY NOT BE ALTERED, ENLARGED, OR CHANGED BY ANY DISTRIBUTOR, DEALER, OR OTHER PERSON WHATSOEVER.

ALL WORK UNDER THE TERMS OF THIS WARRANTY SHALL BE PERFORMED DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS. ALL REPLACEMENT PARTS, WHETHER NEW OR REMANUFACTURED, ASSUME AS THEIR WARRANTY PERIOD ONLY THE REMAINING TIME PERIOD OF THIS WARRANTY.

THE MANUFACTURER WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1. Normal maintenance as outlined in the installation and servicing instructions or owner's manual, including filter cleaning and/or replacement and lubrication.
2. Damage or repairs required as a consequence of faulty installation, misapplication, abuse, improper servicing, unauthorized alteration or improper operation.
3. Failure to start due to voltage conditions, blown fuses, open circuit breakers or other damages due to the inadequacy or interruption of electrical service.
4. Damage as a result of floods, winds, fires, lightning, accidents, corrosive environments or other conditions beyond the control of the Manufacturer.
5. Parts not supplied or designated by the Manufacturer, or damages resulting from their use.
6. Manufacturer products installed outside the continental U.S.A., Alaska, Hawaii, and Canada.
7. Electricity or fuel costs or increases in electricity or fuel costs for any reason whatsoever including additional or unusual use of supplemental electric heat.
8. ANY SPECIAL INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL PROPERTY OR COMMERCIAL DAMAGE OF ANY NATURE WHATSOEVER. Some states do not allow the exclusion of incidental or consequential damages, so the above may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which may vary from state to state.

FCC Compliance Statement

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for an intentional radiator, pursuant to Part 15, subpart C 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 in radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that the 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 of the receiver.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio or TV technician for help.

Notice: Only peripherals complying with FCC limits may be attached to this equipment. Operation with noncompliant peripherals or peripherals not recommended by Venstar, is likely to result in interference to radio and TV reception. Changes or modifications to the product, not expressly approved by Venstar could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

FCC - INDOOR Mobile Radio Information:

To comply with FCC/IC RF exposure limits for general population / uncontrolled exposure, the antenna(s) used for this transmitter must be installed to provide a separation distance of at least 20 cm from all persons and must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

This Device complies with Industry Canada License-exempt RSS standard(s). 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.

Under Industry Canada regulations, this radio transmitter may only operate using an antenna of a type and maximum (or lesser) gain approved for the transmitter by Industry Canada. To reduce potential radio interference to other users, the antenna type and its gain should be so chosen that the equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.i.r.p.) is not more than that necessary for successful communication.

Cet appareil est conforme avec Industrie Canada, exempts de licence standard RSS(s). Son fonctionnement est soumis aux deux conditions suivantes: 1) ce dispositif ne doit pas causer d'interférences, et 2) ce dispositif doit accepter toute interférence, y compris les interférences qui peuvent causer un mauvais fonctionnement de l'appareil.

En vertu des règlements d'Industrie Canada, cet émetteur de radio ne peut fonctionner en utilisant une antenne d'un type et maximale (ou moins) Gain approuvé pour l'émetteur par Industrie Canada. Pour réduire les interférences radio potentielles aux autres utilisateurs, le type d'antenne et son gain doivent être choisis afin que la puissance isotrope rayonnée équivalente (PIRE) ne est pas plus de ce qui est nécessaire pour une communication réussie.

We, Venstar, declare under our sole responsibility that the device to which this declaration relates: Complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Part Number 88-1597

Rev. 1 05/05/26

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