# Accu-Gold 3

**8** 

User Guide

Radcal Accu-Gold 3 is a state-of-the-art radiation quality control software designed to provide accurate and reliable measurements for a wide range of applications. This instruction manual is designed to guide you through the features and functions of the software, so you can make the most of its capabilities.

With its advanced algorithms and sophisticated sensors, it is capable of making measurements in real-time, and provides a range of tools for data management and analysis. Additionally, its ability to connect to other devices and systems makes it an ideal tool for researchers and scientists who need to collect, analyze, and share data from multiple sources. With its user-friendly interface, Accu-Gold 3 is easy to use and understand, making it the perfect tool for anyone working with radiation.

## $\mathsf{AG}_{\mathsf{3}}$

# Simply Powerful

The Radcal Accu-Gold 3 is a powerful tool for radiation quality control that can be used in a variety of settings, including medical facilities, research labs, and industrial environments. It is capable of making measurements in a wide range of radiation environments.

AG3's strength is the ability to fully utilize the multi-function capabilities of the Accu-Gold digitizer via Profiles in ways heretofore not possible. Profiles are able to control all aspects of a measurement application including the triggering sensor's level, anode/filter selection, region(s) of interest as well as many other unique capabilities of the Accu-Gold system.

## Introduction

- This software provides a user-friendly interface, making it easy to navigate and understand. The interface is intuitive, with clear and simple instructions that guide users through the measurement process.
- At AG3's core is the usage of profiles. Profiles are used to define the measurement process. They spell out trigger parameters, filtration requirements, the breakdown of the measurement (such as having a scout pulse) and the end of the pulse. Special calibrations are built into the profiles eliminating the need to install calibration files. Profiles allow you to specify different techniques for special measurements rather than relying on across-the-board catch-all techniques.
- When special needs arise, the profiles can make the measurement when nothing else can. Radcal is poised to help you by making special profiles as needed. If you feel that you need a special profile, contact customer support at <a href="mailto:cust\_sup@radcal.com">cust\_sup@radcal.com</a> or call (626)357-7921, ext 123.
- IMPORTANT: For Wi-Fi users, we are still working on adding WiFi support. (Please use Accu-Gold 2 in the meantime)
- Note AG3 exclusively accommodates 'plus' digitizers paired with corresponding 'plus' sensors. If you currently
  utilize legacy Accu-Gold equipment and you want to take advantage of AG3, we recommend contacting your sales
  representative. They will be happy to assist you in exploring the possibility of a trade-in. Thank you for your
  understanding and cooperation.
- ... And much more... Stay tuned to receive improvements and features.

(See appendix A for installation instructions)

## Table of Contents

#### 5 - Quick Start

- 8 Make you first measurement ...
- <u>9 Sessions</u>
- <u>10 Contact us</u>
- <u>11 Home Screen</u>
- 12 Manual Mode

#### 14 - Profiles

- <u>15 Profile Library</u>
- <u>19 Favorites</u>

#### 20 – Measurements

- <u>22 Initialization Cycle</u>
- 23 End of Exposure Delay
- 24 Fluoro Measurements
- 25 Combo Measurement
- <u>26 Background Measurements</u>
- 27 Waveforms
- 29 Free Run
- 30 Measurement limitations

#### 31 - Exporting Data

- 32 Exporting data to Excel
- 33 Exporting data in list view
- 34 List View

#### 36 - Companion Mode

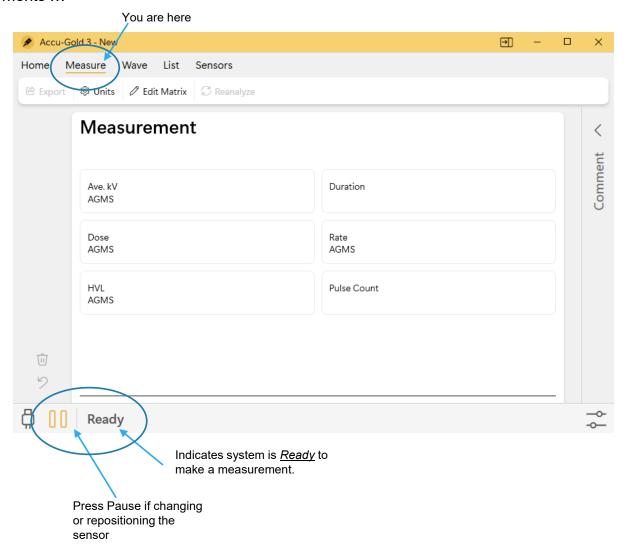
- 40 Reanalyze
- 44 Settings
- 46 Appendix A AG<sub>3</sub> Installation and Setup
- 47 Appendix B AG3 vs. AG2
- 48 Appendix C Warranties and Disclosures

## **Quick Start**

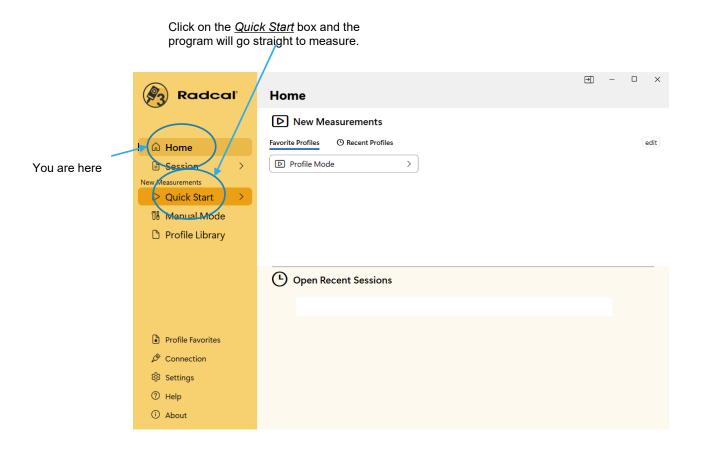
The software will automatically recognize your sensors once they are connected.

### **Quick Start**

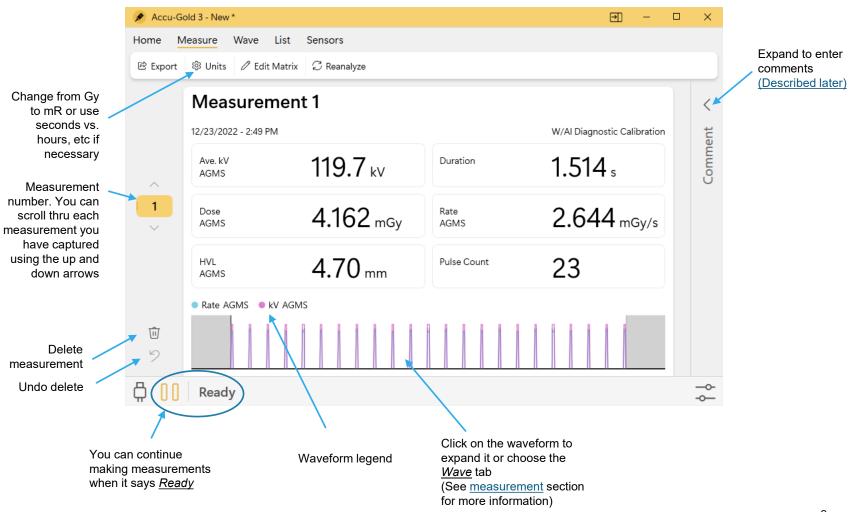
Plug in your sensors, launch the program - you are ready to make measurements ...



If you attach sensors after the program is open ...

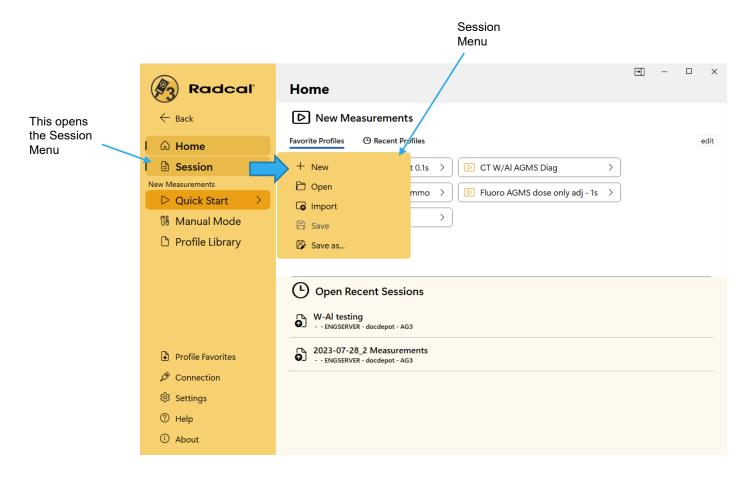


#### Make your first measurement ...



### Sessions

When done making measurements, go to the home screen. Here you can save your group of measurements as a session. You can save the session with a meaningful name of your choice or choose the default name.



Quick Start should always be method of choice for all standard diagnostic x-ray measurements except mammography and CT. If you don't get the desired result, a suitable Profile may be available based on the Modality. For example; you might want the end values for a Pulsed Fluoro exposure, not the averages, so select Pulsed Fluoro with a 1s ROI. The same goes for low dose rate continuous fluoro.

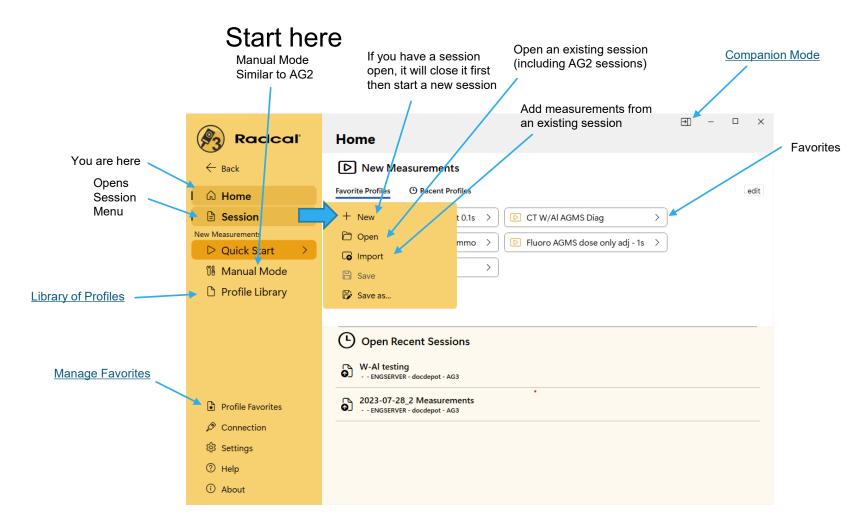
AG3 provides tools for Radcal to quickly solve your measurement issues If you do not get the desired result, you are encouraged to contact Radcal. Save the session and contact Radcal tech support to see if a special Profile can meet your measurement needs.

#### Contact us ...

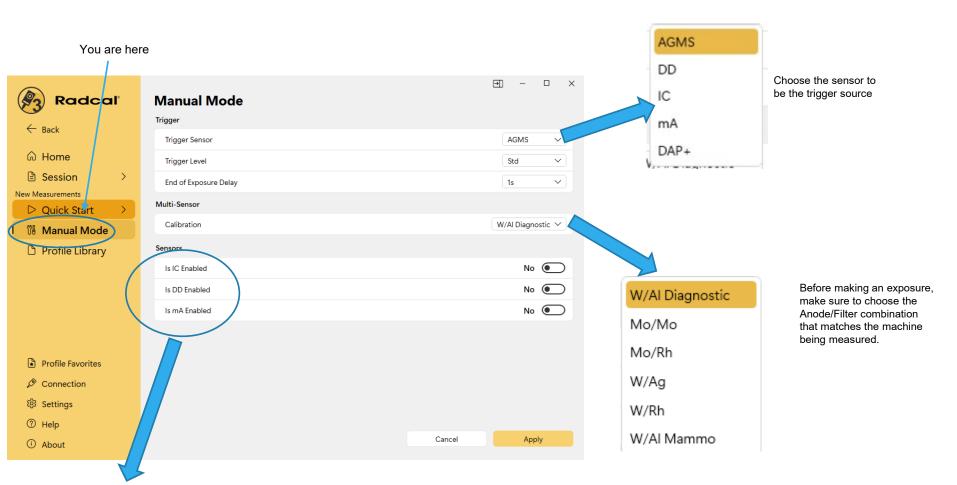
#### Click on Help

Don't hesitate to contact us - we'll see you through:						
	Email support cust_sup@radcal.com	>				
B	Phone support +1-626-357-7921-123	>				
<b>(</b>	Visit www.accu-gold.com/support	>				

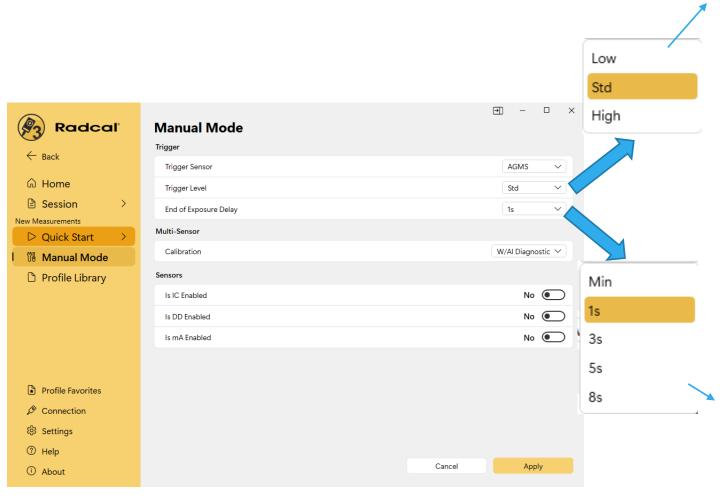
### Home screen



### Manual Mode



The Accu-Gold Digitizer Module (AGDM) allows you to simultaneously collect data from multiple sensors.



NOTE: Do not make sensitive measurements when the computer is hooked up to a charger unless the charger has a 3-wire AC cord (and the AC outlet is properly grounded).

**Std** - <u>Std</u> trigger sensitivity is recommended.

**Low** - Select if Std is not low enough. <u>Low</u> may allow smaller signals to be captured, but may also result in false triggers.

High - Select if Std causes false triggering.

Note: If noise or false triggers prevent reliable ion chamber measurements and grounding the system has not improved the experience, connect a Multi-sensor or Dose Diode and locate it somewhere in the radiation beam so that it can serve as a trigger source.

If you have a strong, noise free signal, selecting <u>High</u> will minimize the time the system measures a background zero in between measurements allowing you to make continuous measurements rapidly. A new zero will be recalculated every 5 minutes...

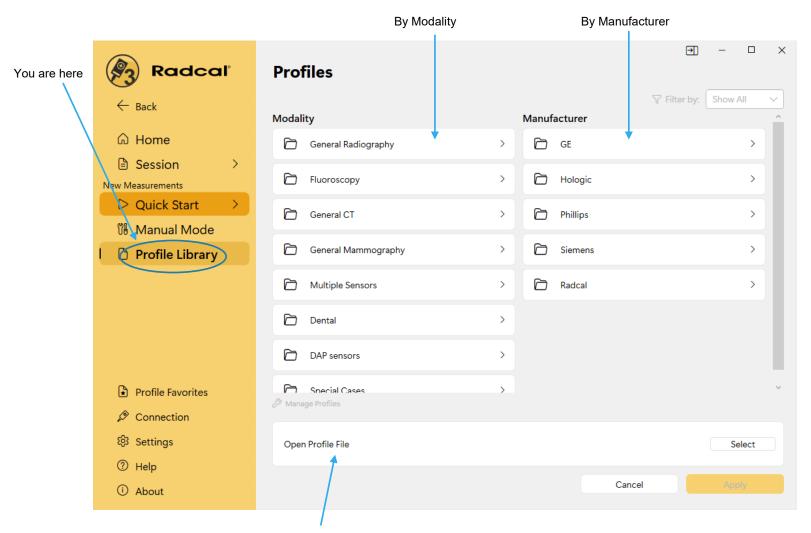
Many x-ray feature scout exposures which may introduce gaps of several seconds or more in the radiation output. The default end of exposure timing in some instances will not be long enough and Accu-Gold may attempt to display the exposure results while the generator is finishing the exposure. If this situation is encountered, you may select an end of exposure delay of up to 8 seconds. Min allows one to make successive measurements quickly. In between measurements, zeroing is skipped and therefore use *Min* with large signals only where zeroing in between measurements is not important – use with "High Threshold".

## **Profiles**

You have three ways to select a profile yourself: Favorites, Manual Mode or Profile Library. Since there are no Favorites in the beginning, use Manual Mode (which is also a way of selecting a profile) to try it out, then explore the Library to see what else you can do.

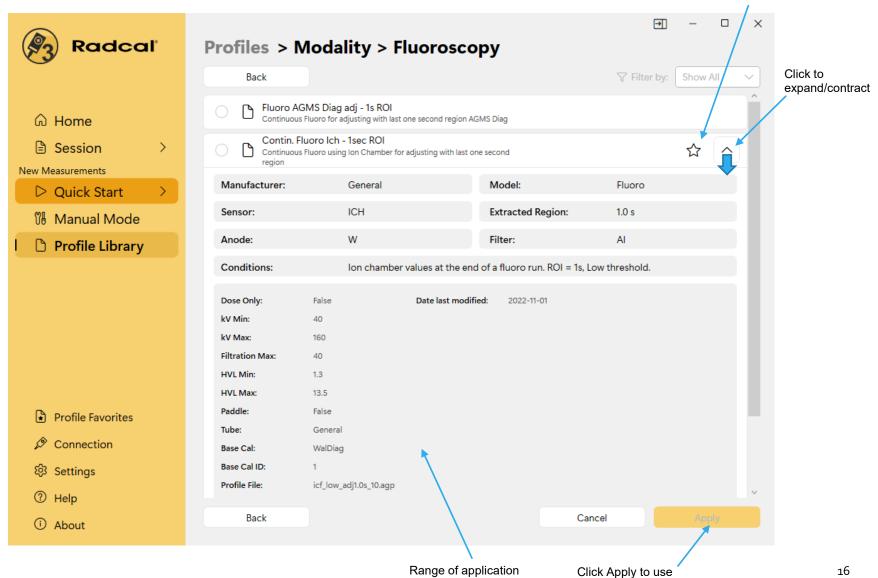
## **Profile Library**

When a user doesn't get the desired result using Manual Mode, a suitable profile might be available based on Modality or Manufacturer.



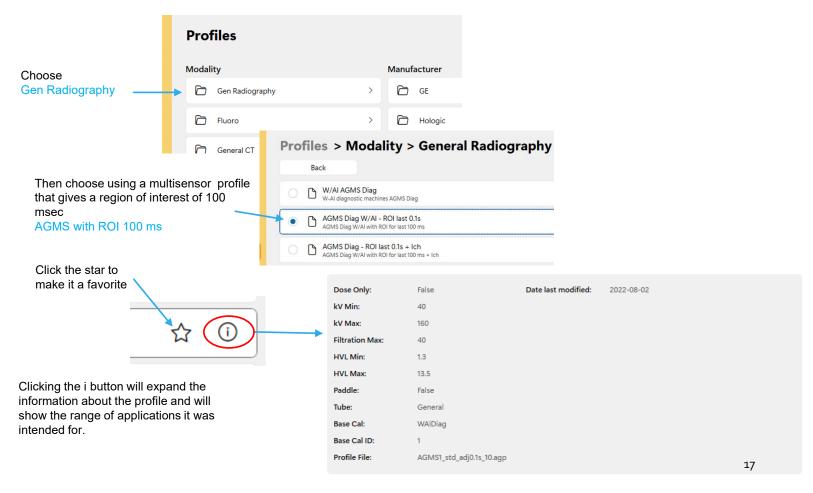
Use this if a custom profile has been supplied to you.

Select to make it a favorite

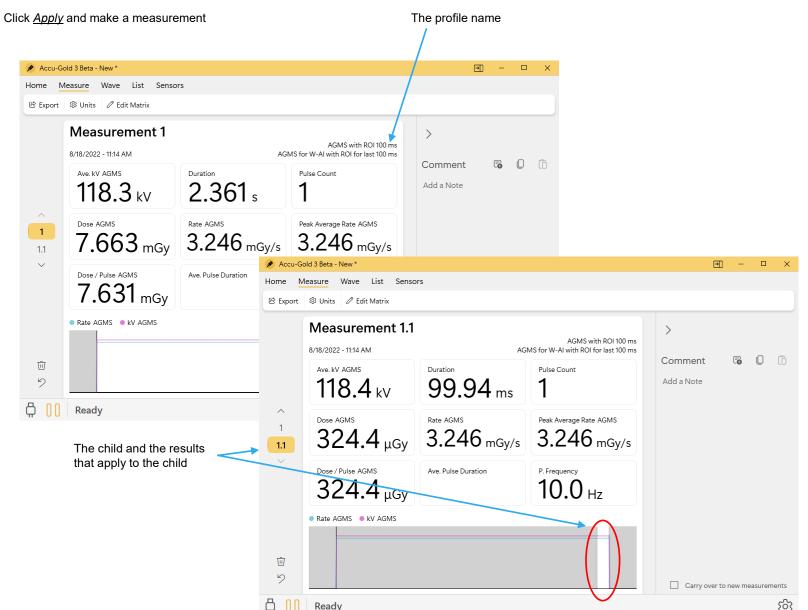


#### Example -

I want to make a measurement using a W-Al diagnostic x-ray machine and I am interested in examining the last 100 milliseconds of the waveform which would be useful where the generator needs time to stabilize and the initial kVp & dose rate undershoot or overshoot

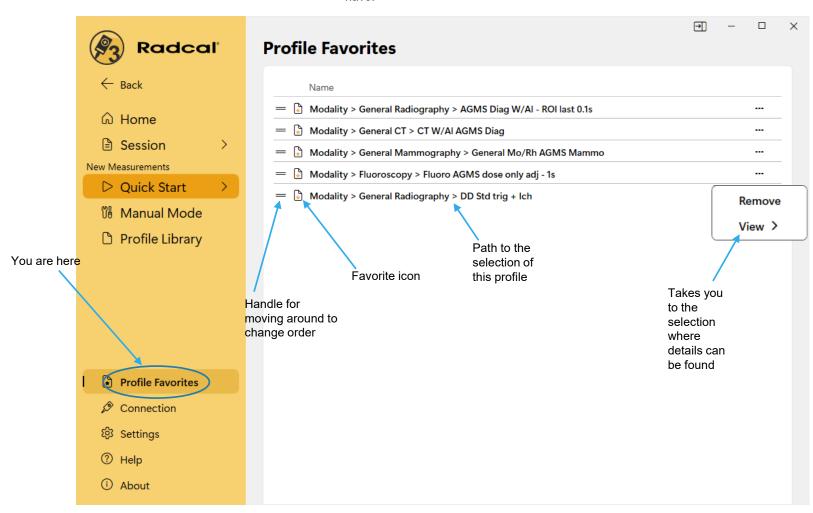


(continued)



### **Profile Favorites**

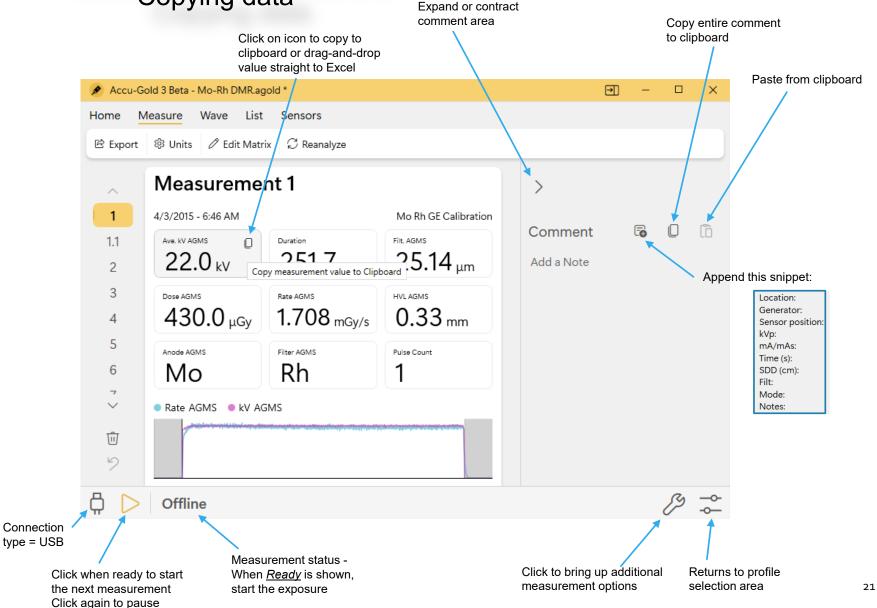
Selecting Profile Favorites lets you manage the Favorites. You can change the order, remove, or examine what you have:



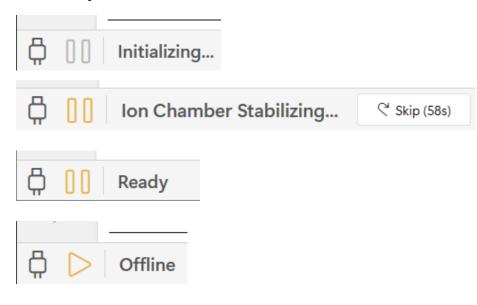
## Measurements

Quick-Start is generic and is sufficient to make basic measurements. With special requirements, profiles will be required.

## Making Measurements and Copying data



#### **Initialization Cycle**



The software starts by connecting to the digitizer and initializing the electronics

If an ion chamber is connected, the bias supply starts and the software waits for it to stabilize.

As soon as the 'Ready' message is displayed at the bottom of the screen, you can make a measurement.

Press the 'Pause' when moving, changing or adding sensors. Pressing 'Play' again starts the initialization and rezeroing again.



Many modern x-ray generators now feature scout exposures which may introduce gaps of several seconds or more in the radiation output. The default end of exposure timing for Accu-Gold is 1 second for Diagnostic and Mammographic sensors. In some instances, this is not long enough and Accu-Gold may attempt to display the exposure results while the generator is finishing the exposure. If this situation is encountered, you may select an end of exposure delay of up to 8 seconds. 'Min' allows one to make successive measurements quickly. In between measurements, zeroing is skipped therefore use 'Min' with large signals only where zeroing in between measurements is not important – use with "High Threshold". The End of Exposure Delay in the profile or that selected in Manual mode can be overridden here.

#### Fluoro Measurements

Fluoro measurements can normally be made by using Quick-Start which will use the profile for W-Al diagnostic. Certain modes of Fluoro measurements may require more specialized profiles:

#### Pulsed-Fluoro Measurements

Calibration of pulsed-fluoroscopy machines is facilitated through use of the real-time display. When a fluoroscopy exposure is initiated, the dose rate will be measured and displayed in real-time without the need to select a special mode. The value of dose rate is updated at a rate of once per second making Accu-Gold an ideal instrument for tracking dose rate changes as fluoroscopy machine settings such as mA (current) are continuously adjusted. Previous Radcal products required selection of the pulse rate in advance in order to obtain accurate real-time measurements. This is no longer required as the Accu-Gold system automatically identifies individual pulses and pulse rate on the fly providing a stable accurate reading regardless of kV, pulse rate, and mA.

#### Continuous Low Dose Fluoro Measurements

#### Making Low Dose Measurements with a Multi-Sensor

The AGMS Multi-Sensor operates by measuring the x-ray intensity through several sensing elements equipped with increasing levels of internal filtration. As the dose decreases below certain levels that are anode/filter-specific, measures of the spectral quantities (kV, HVL, and Filtration) cannot be made. Dose and Dose Rate remain reliable and are reported along with the note *Dose Only Mode*.

#### **Making Low Dose Measurements with Ion Chambers**

When making low dose measurements using an ion chamber (in the range of 10 times the minimum rated range), it is important to eliminate all sources of noise including noise induced by changing temperatures of the surroundings and the electronics. Position the ion chamber. Set the threshold to low and wait 3 minutes. Do not touch the cable or digitizer. For changing environments, allow 10 minutes for every 10 C difference for the sensor/electronics to equilibrate. Grounding the system to eliminate interference may be warranted.

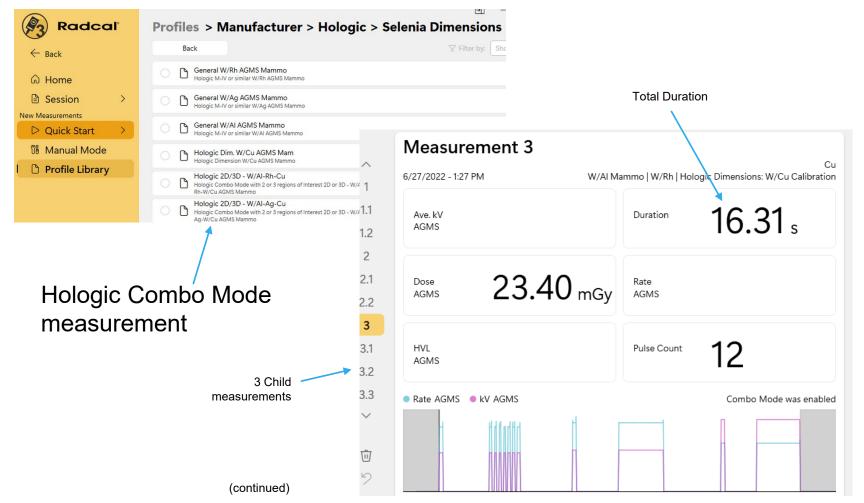
Several profiles are provided to assist in making adjustments to a fluoro system which require adjusting the kV down to some level. These profiles will save the kV value at the end of the adjustment.

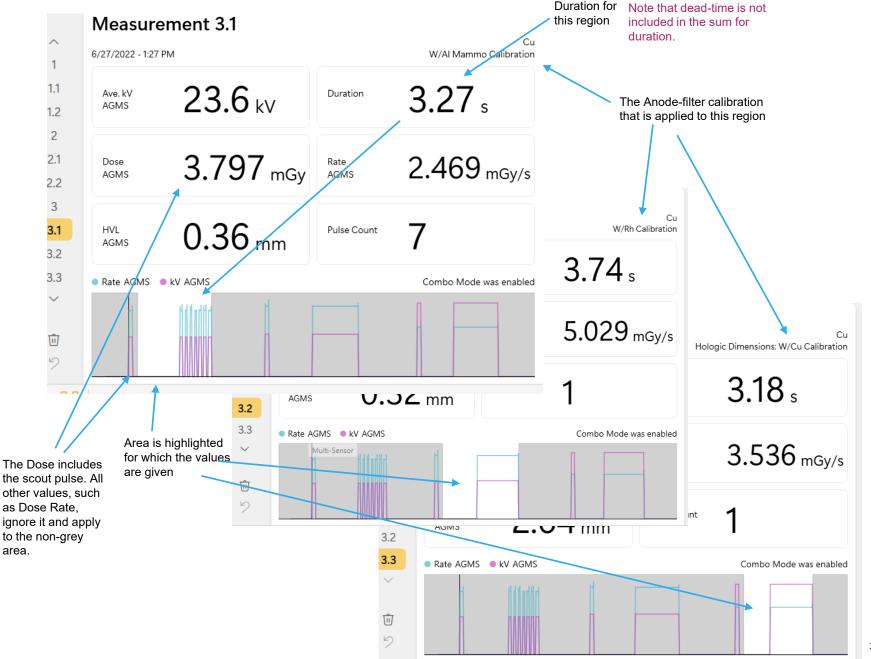
#### **Combination Measurements**

Mammography machines are increasingly supporting multi-mode or combination mode exposures in which multiple modalities such as 2D, Tomographic 3D, and High Contrast are incorporated in a single exposure (see below). Radcal's Accu-Gold instruments support these modes in a number of ways.

Radcal's 10X6-6M ion chamber has excellent energy uniformity and provides accurate dose measurements for all mammography beam qualities. As a result, this sensor is an excellent solution for reliable dose measurement for combination modes.

Radcal's AGMS multi-sensors also support accurate dose measurements for a number of combination mode systems. In particular, the Hologic Dimensions systems are well characterized by the AGMS sensors. Simply select the Hologic Selenia Combo mode profile, as shown below, for the 2D+3D Tomographic combination mode.





#### **Background Measurements**

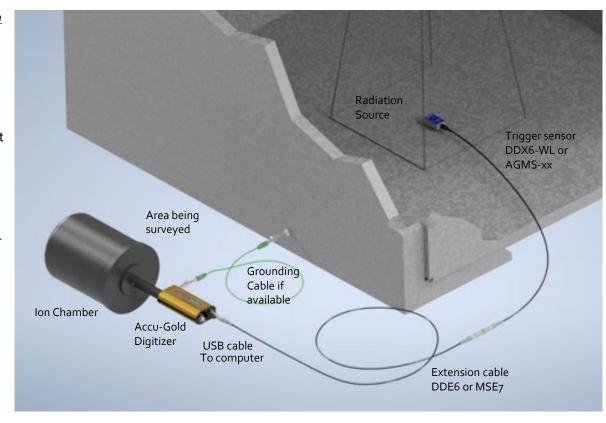
The technique and radiation levels to be detected will determine the best sensor suited for your evaluation. A 180cc, 500cc, or 1800cc chamber may be used, but while the 180 lonization Chamber is excellent for detecting direct leakage with its 100cm² area, it is not practical for scatter measurements. The 1800 lonization Chamber, for instance, allows 360° detection.

Several methods are available for making these measurements. See AN1007 for additional details.

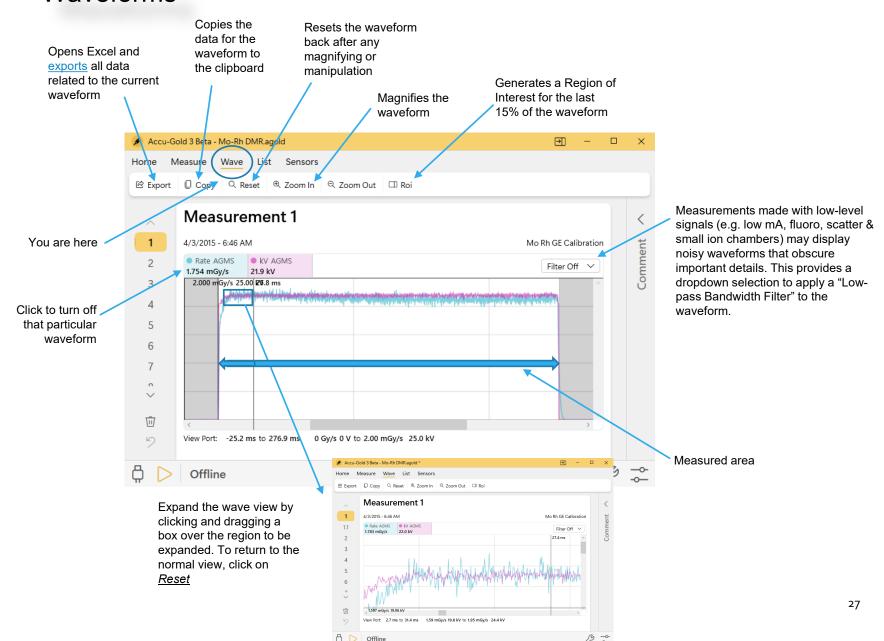
#### <u>Triggering with a Multi-Sensor/Dose</u> Diode

When making scatter or leakage measurements, the readings may be too low to trigger a measurement. In that case a second sensor placed in the beam can be used to trigger the measurement which will guarantee that the ion chamber's signal is captured during the triggering period of that sensor. We recommend that you use AGMS-DM+ or DDX6-WL as the trigger source.

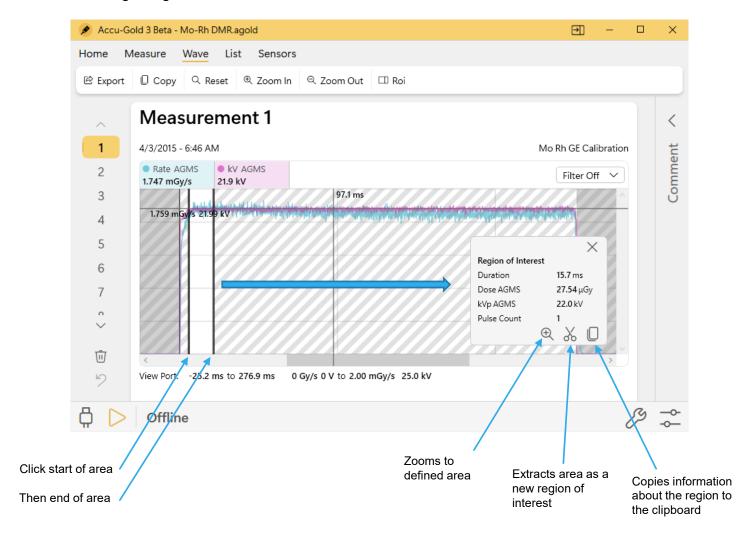
This can be done by placing the trigger sensor in the primary beam using an extension cable as necessary to connect it to the digitizer, and the lonization Chamber in a fixed position (tripod, clamp, etc.) in the areas of choice. (See figure) If additional distance is necessary, the USB connection can be extended using active USB extensions or even USB-over-Ethernet.



#### Waveforms



#### Creating a region of interest

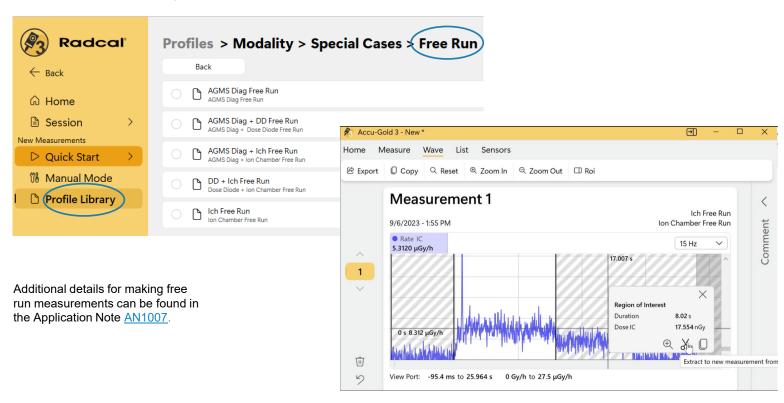


#### Free Run

For Free Run, no trigger is required. Free Run is useful for doing background measurements, surveys, sources and any other application that does not have a signal that can trigger the exposure reliably. Free Run starts measuring as soon as you hit play.

#### Free Run - No Trigger -

If the system did not trigger even at the low trigger setting, 'free' trigger level may be used. Ready the generator for an exposure, select a 'Free Run' profile and press 'Apply'. The system will initialize immediately. Make an exposure and then stop the measurement. Select the wave tab and the appropriate filter. Use either cursor or ROI methods to determine the peak or average dose rates.



#### **Measurement Limitations**

The Radcal AGMS Series of Multi-Sensors are highly capable instruments that will generally provide a comprehensive set of measurements throughout a wide range of diagnostic x-ray applications. However, there are some conditions under which the sensor will provide a more restricted set of measurements. These conditions are described here:

#### Filtration/kV Out of Range

In instances where filtration exceeds the operating range and/or kV is out of range, the spectral characteristics provide accurate measurements of Dose and Dose Rate only. Under these circumstances kV, HVL, and Filtration are not reported and the following warning is displayed:

Filtration for AGMS is out of range! kV for AGMS is out of range!

#### Low Dose

The AGMS Multi-Sensor operates by measuring the x-ray intensity through several sensing elements equipped with increasing levels of internal filtration. As the dose decreases below certain levels that are anode/filter-specific measures of the spectral quantities (kV, HVL, and Filtration) cannot be made reliably. However, Dose and Dose Rate remain reliable and are reported along with the warning:

Low Dose Mode

#### Insufficient Dose

Under certain circumstances such as very low kV, excess filtration, and/or large source to sensor distance there are insufficient x-rays for an accurate measurement or any of the beam properties. Under these circumstances, no values are reported and the following warning is displayed: Insufficient Dose

#### **Making Low Dose Measurements with Ion Chambers**

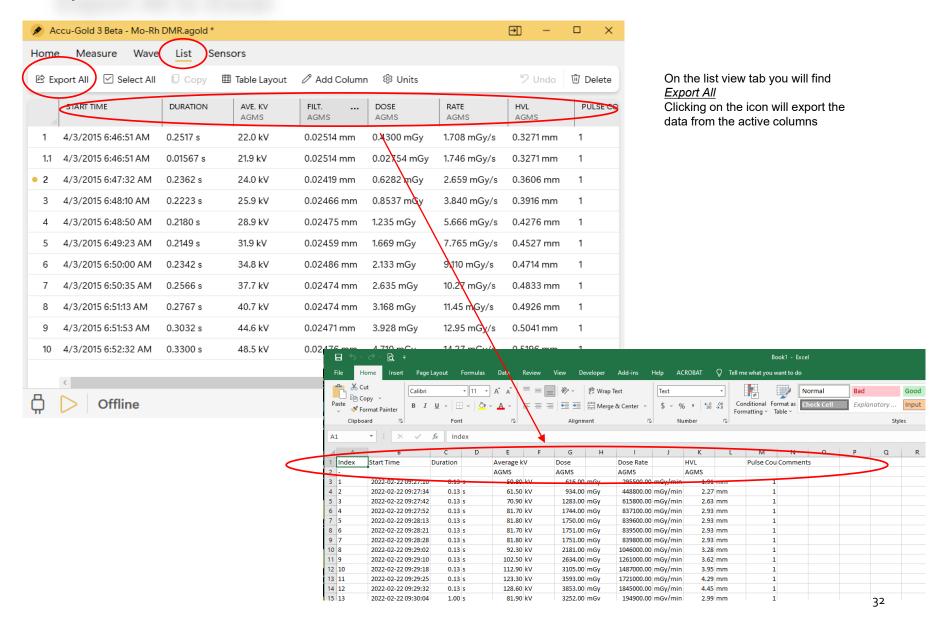
When making low dose measurements using an ion chamber (in the range of 10 times the minimum rated range), it is important to eliminate all sources of noise including noise induced by changing temperatures of the surroundings and the electronics. Position the ion chamber. Set the threshold to low and wait 3 minutes. Do not touch the cable or digitizer. For changing environments, allow 10 minutes for every 10 C difference for the sensor/electronics to equilibrate. Grounding the system to eliminate interference may be warranted.

When making background or scatter measurements, the readings may be too low to trigger a measurement. In that case a second sensor placed in the beam can be used to trigger the measurement which will guarantee that the ion chamber's signal is captured during the triggering period of that sensor.

# **Exporting Data**

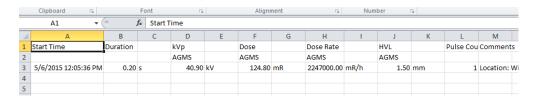
Data collected by AG3 can be exported to Excel as well as a text editor. The collection of this data can be automated to fill out procedural templates by way of Companion mode.

#### **Export All to Excel**



#### **Exporting Data in List View**

Select List View. <u>Export all</u> – opens a new instance of Excel and exports all of the measurements in the format that had been selected.



The units used can be changed in the *Units* menu before exporting to Excel.

Part of *Units* setting menu:



The columns included in the export and the order they are displayed can be selected. When exporting the data, the units will occupy a separate column. If the Unit Position is set to <u>Include in header</u>, the data will be exported using the same number of columns as displayed. This allows one to grab large groups of data and paste them into an Excel template.

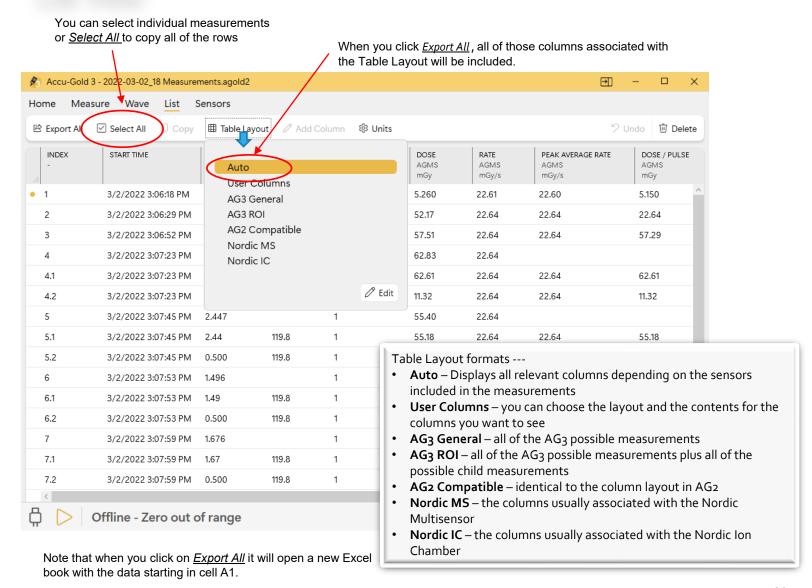
1	6/9/202	2 4:17:27 PM	2.433 s		1
1.1	6/9/202	2 4:17:27 PM	0.498 s	24.5 kV	1
1.2	6/9/202	2 4:17:27 PM	0.500 s	24.6 kV	1
• 1.3	6/9/202	2 4:17:27 PM	0.500 s	23.7 kV	1
2	6/9/202	2 4:39:18 PM	2.844 s	24.5 kV	1
2	C (0 /202	1.20.40 DNA	0.500 -	345134	1

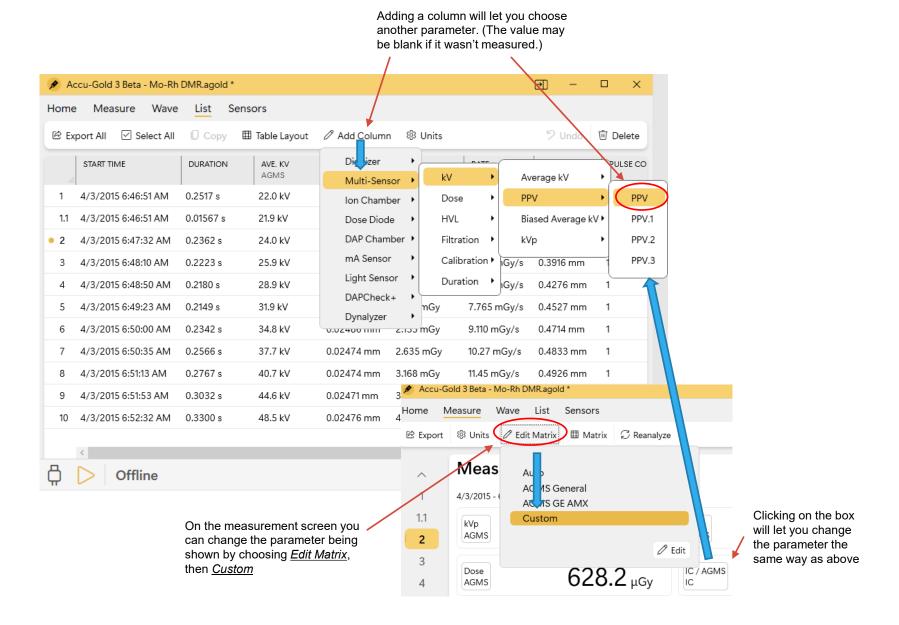
Individual measurements can be selected instead of  $\underline{Select\ All}$  by choosing the measurement number on the left. Drag the selection down or hold the control key down to select more than one.

All of the columns will be copied based on which columns you have showing.

Individual cells or groups of cells can be selected by highlighting the cells of interest then click on <u>Copy</u>, press Ctrl-C or use the Windows right-click menu. Paste in the destination by pressing Ctrl-V or using the Windows right-click menu.

#### **List View**

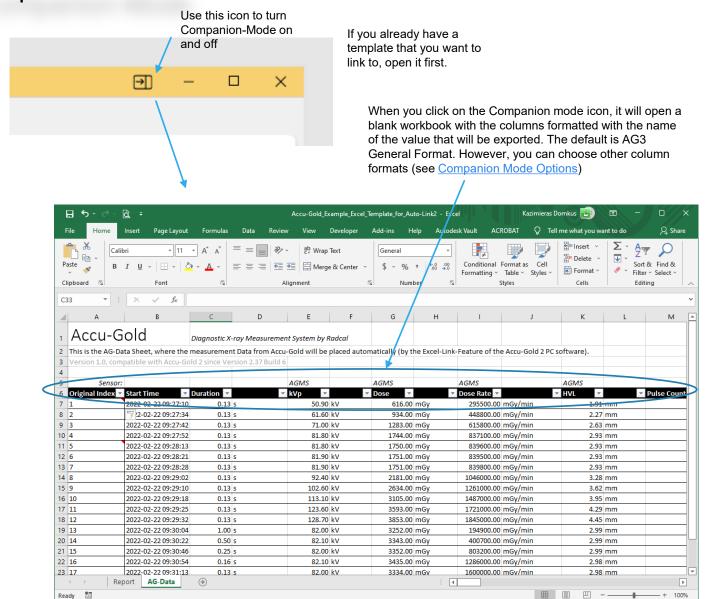




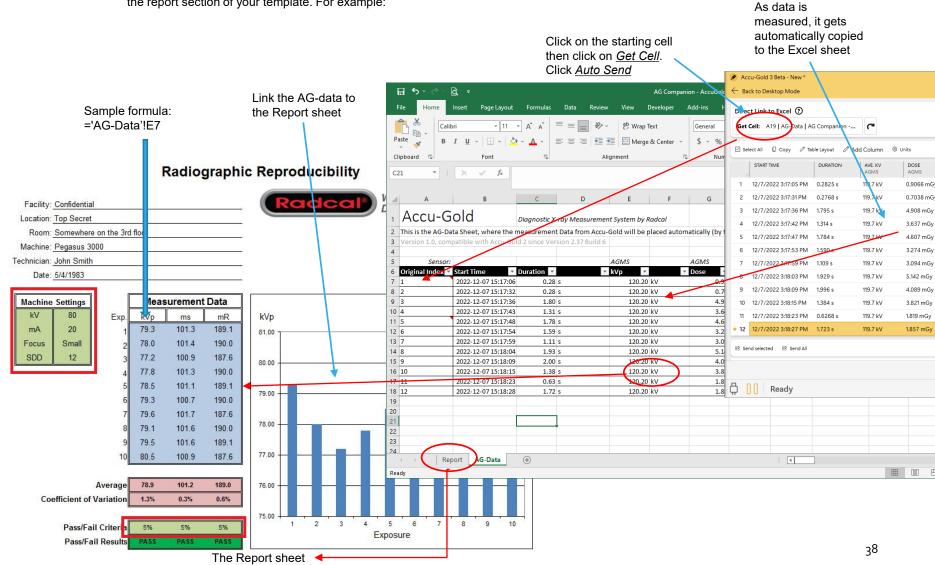
# Companion Mode

Companion mode offers a way to automate data collection. An Excel template is automatically filled in as measurements are made in real time significantly reducing the time and improving accuracy when running test procedures.

### Companion-Mode

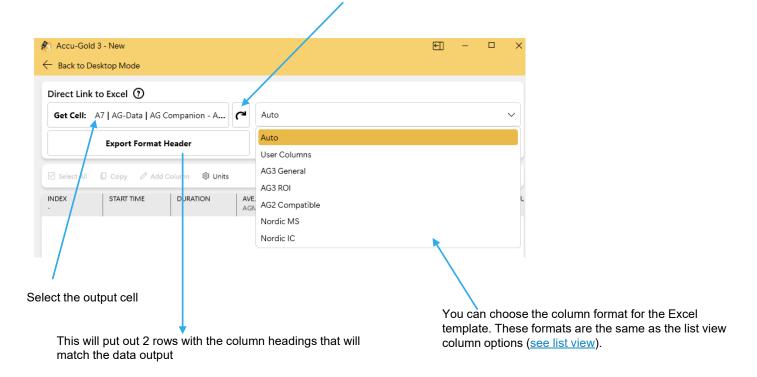


We recommend using Companion-Mode and the AG3 General format so that it exports data to a separate worksheet. The data on that worksheet then links to the report section of your template. For example:



### Companion-Mode options

The template can have an 'auto-link' so that the location of the output data can be specified ahead of time by the template. In the template, use the Name Manager to name a cell as 'tabAG', then pressing this button will tell Companion Mode to start there.



# Reanalyze

Salvaging work

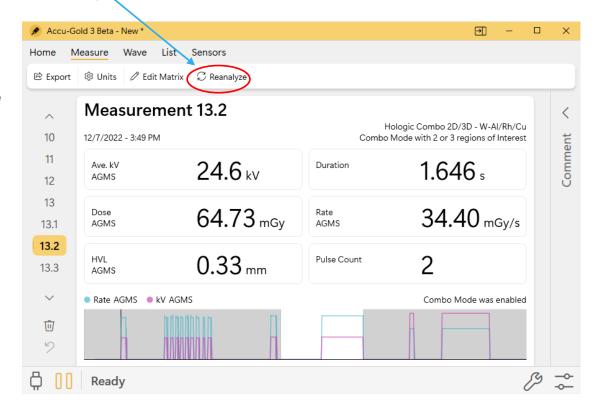
### Reanalyze

The original preprocessed sensor data of a measurement is saved as "raw data" on your computer. The processing of this data is directed by the profiles used by AG3. This allows AG3 to reprocess the data at a later time using a different profile (within limits).

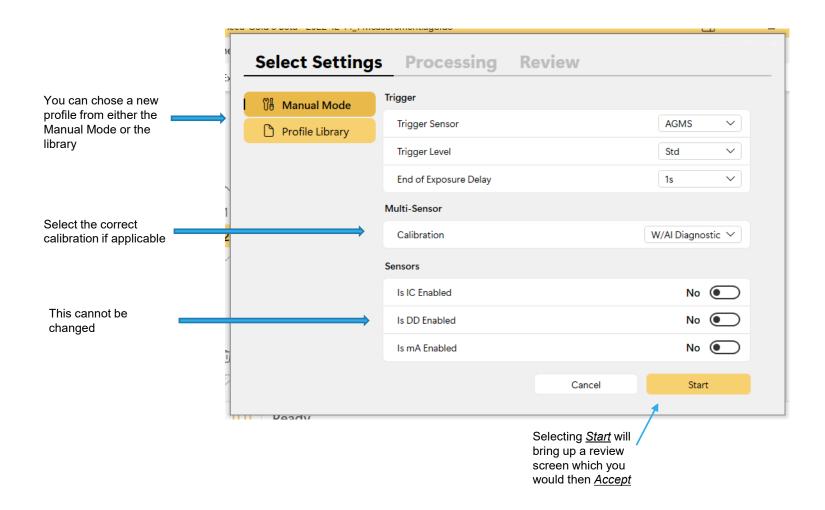
Example: You used the Hologic Combo mode profile for the Hologic Selenia that uses a tungsten anode and Al, Rh and Cu as filters during its measurement modes. Sometime later, you discover that it was the model that uses Al, Ag and Cu filters. Instead of having to repeat the measurement, you can re-analyze the data with the correct profile.

Bring up the session that has the incorrect profile. Click on Reanalyze, then choose the new profile and follow instructions from there. If the data is not available, it will give you an error message.

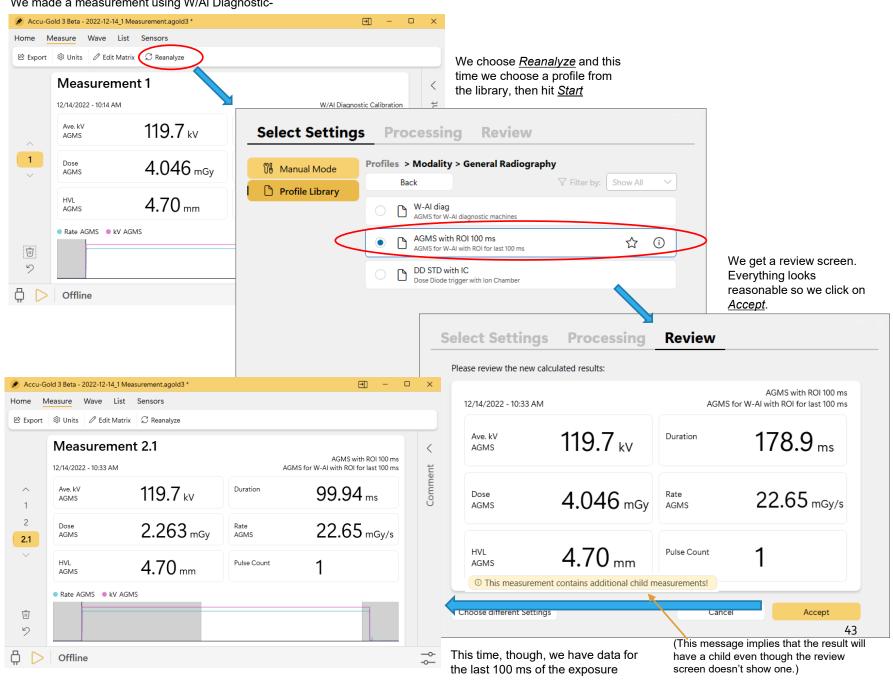
Note that you will need to connect a digitizer and multisensor to the computer and the sensor has to be the original sensor that was used for that measurement. (See the serial number(s) under the <u>Sensors</u> tab.)



### Selecting Reanalyze brings up this menu:



#### We made a measurement using W/Al Diagnostic-



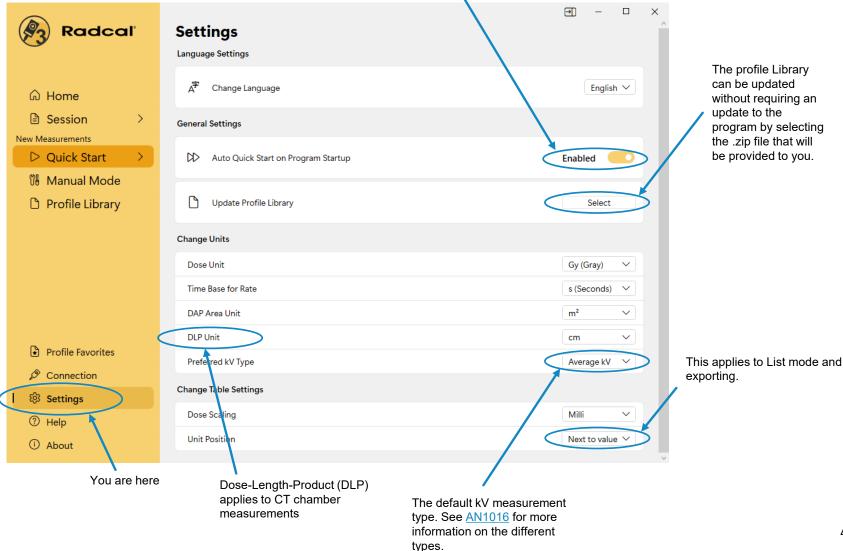
## Settings

Miscellaneous settings

### Settings

The program automatically determines the profile needed by examining the sensors connected. The 'Auto Quick Start' happens when the program opens and this can be disabled.

The program will still determine the profile needed if you click the Quick Start menu selection.



### Appendix A

### AG<sub>3</sub> Installation and Setup

### AG<sub>3</sub> is compatible with:

<u>Digitizers</u> <u>Touch Units (in USB mode)</u>

AGDM+ AGT-P-AG ADDM+ AGT-P-AD RGDM+ AGT-P-RG

AGDN+

<u>Operating system</u> <u>Hardware system</u>

• Windows 7 • Screen resolution of 1024 x 600 min

• Windows 8 • RAM 150MB min

• Windows 10 • Storage 100 MB min

#### Misc

- USB 2.0 Full-speed port for digitizer
- Excel 2007 or later for data reports

#### **AG3 Installation Notes:**

- Install Accu-Gold software prior to connecting the Digitizer Module.
- Uninstalling old versions is not necessary.
- · Administrator privileges are required for installation.

#### Installation Procedure:

- To begin Accu-Gold3 software installation, copy the Accu-Gold\_Setup\_3.0.zip file to your computer. Right-click and select 'Extract All..'. This will expand the zip file and create a folder of the same name. Open the folder and click on the Accu-Gold Setup 3.0.exe file.
- The "Accu-Gold\_Setup" file will launch an installation dialog. You must agree to the *License terms and conditions* to continue. Click **Install**. The dotNET Framework Client version 4.0 or greater is required and will be installed if it is not already installed on your computer. An internet connection is not required.
- Click "Close" to exit the installation process.

### Uninstall Procedure:

To uninstall Radcal Accu-Gold go to Add/Remove Programs in Control Panel and select "Accu-Gold 3". Then click on Uninstall and answer Yes to the prompts. You may also run the setup program again to uninstall it. Please feel free to comment on this software and report any bugs that you may find. Please save session files since they would be most useful. Separate calibrations or license files are not required for AG3.

### Appendix B

### AG<sub>3</sub> vs. AG<sub>2</sub>

### Settings-

End of Exposure Delay is selectable in Ag2. In AG3, All library profiles use <u>Min</u> or <u>1s</u> as the normal delay. Other specific profiles will use longer delays as appropriate.

### **Trigger Levels-**

Most profiles use a <u>Trigger Level</u> of <u>Standard</u> unless otherwise indicated.

### File Formats-

All session file formats for AG1 (file extension Agold) and AG2 (file extension AGold2), are compatible with AG3. You can use AG3 to open, analyze and add measurements to any session. If you modify the session it will still be saved in its previous version. Certain functions available in AG3 will not work with legacy data (such as Reanalyze).

You can open AG<sub>3</sub> (file extension AGold<sub>3</sub>) files with AG<sub>2</sub> but it will not have any of the enhancements that come with AG<sub>3</sub>.

### **Exporting Data-**

In Companion Mode, Accu-Gold Format/AG3 General and Nordic Format are identical between AG2 and AG3.

AG<sub>3</sub> General Format will not include child measurements except measurements labeled as End measurements which are the same as child 1 measurements.

Staying up to date is important. You can go to <u>About</u> on the main menu to verify that AG<sub>3</sub> is up to date. As new versions of AG<sub>3</sub> are released, you will get an automatic message when you open AG<sub>3</sub> telling you how to update it.

### Appendix C – Warranties and Disclosures

### **Warranty for the Accu-Gold Measurement System**

Radcal warrants that, in the event that any defects in material or workmanship should develop within one year of the date of shipment, the company assumes full responsibility for servicing equipment of its manufacture without charge upon return of the equipment to Radcal, with shipping costs prepaid by the customer. Costs to return-ship to customer by ground transportation will be paid by Radcal if the repairs are warranty-applicable. This warranty excludes batteries.

Radcal shall not be held liable for damages or delays caused by defects beyond making repairs or furnishing replacement parts, nor shall Radcal be liable for any defective material replaced without Radcal's consent during the period of this warranty. Radcal reserves the right to perform warranty services at its own factory.

### **Non-Warranty Repairs**

The calibration of this instrument was correct within specified limits when the instrument left our factory. Radcal cannot be responsible for injury or damage resulting from improper use or calibration errors which develop subsequent to our shipment of the instrument.

If Radcal determines that a fault has been caused by misuse, abnormal operating conditions, or repairs by unauthorized personnel during the warranty period, repairs and shipping costs will be billed at normal rates.

If the equipment is found to be in proper working condition, Radcal will return-ship the equipment at customer expense.

#### **Data Loss**

Although we take great effort to save your data, the customer is responsible for backing up any and all data that is stored on their computers prior to being serviced.

### **WEEE and RoHS**

Accu-Gold meets the requirements of the 2002/06/EC (WEEE) Directive. Radcal has implemented full compliance. Recycling manuals are available on request.

Accu-Gold/Rapid-Gold/Accu-Dose+ meets the requirements of the EU-RoHS directive for RoHS 3, *The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS) in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive* (EU Directive 2015/863) . The Accu-Gold/Rapid-Gold/Accu-Dose+ comply with China's requirements for RoHS Marking and EFUP pursuant to *clause* 6.2 of *SJT/11364*:2006 for Electronic Information Products.

The Accu-Gold/Rapid-Gold/Accu-Dose+ comply with the requirements of the 1907/2006 EU (REACH) Directive concerning Registration, Evaluation, Authorization of Chemicals. The aforementioned Radcal products do not contain added substances above 0.1% weight of Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) listed in the Annex XVII as of June 27th, 2018.

### **Declaration of Conformity**

See <a href="https://radcal.com/downloads-conformity/">https://radcal.com/downloads-conformity/</a>

### Specifications

Ion Chambers
Solid State Multisensors
Solid State Dose Sensor
Current Sensors
Light Sensor
DAP Calibration Sensors

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