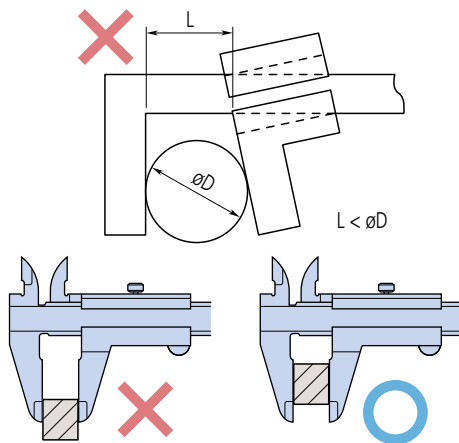


General notes on use of caliper

1. Potential causes of error

A variety of factors can cause errors when measuring with a caliper. Major factors include parallax effects, excessive measuring force due to the fact that a caliper does not conform to Abbe's Principle, differential thermal expansion due to a temperature difference between the caliper and workpiece, and the effect of the thickness of the knife-edge jaws and the clearance between these jaws during measurement of the diameter of a small hole. Although there are also other error factors such as graduation accuracy, reference edge straightness, main scale flatness on the main blade, and squareness of the jaws, these factors are included within the instrumental error tolerances. Therefore, these factors do not cause problems as long as the caliper satisfies the instrumental error tolerances. Handling notes have been added to the JIS so that consumers can appreciate the error factors caused by the structure of the caliper before use. These notes relate to the measuring force and stipulate that "as the caliper does not have a constant-force device, you must measure a workpiece with an appropriate even measuring force. Take extra care when you measure it with the root or tip of the jaw because a large error could occur in such cases."



2. Inside measurement

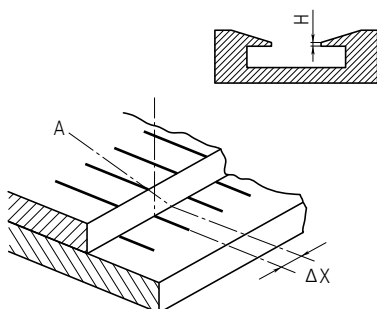
Insert the inside jaw as deeply as possible before measurement.
Read the maximum indicated value during inside measurement.
Read the minimum indicated value during groove width measurement.

3. Depth measurement

Read the minimum indicated value during depth measurement.

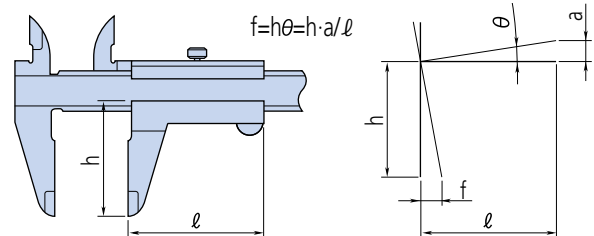
4. Parallax error when reading the scales

Look straight at the vernier graduation line when checking the alignment of vernier graduation lines to the main scale graduation lines. If you look at a vernier graduation line from an oblique direction (A), the apparent alignment position is distorted by ΔX as shown in the figure below due to a parallax effect caused by the step height (H) between the planes of the vernier graduations and the main scale graduations, resulting in a reading error of the measured value. To avoid this error, the JIS stipulates that the step height should be no more than 0.3 mm.



5. Moving Jaw Tilt Error

If the moving jaw becomes tilted out of parallel with the fixed jaw, either through excessive force being used on the slider or lack of straightness in the reference edge of the beam, a measurement error will occur as shown in the figure. This error may be substantial due to the fact that a caliper does not conform to Abbe's Principle.



Example: Assume that the error slope of the jaws due to tilt of the slider is 0.01mm in 50mm and the outside measuring jaws are 40mm deep, then the error (at the jaw tip) is calculated as $(40/50) \times 0.01 \text{ mm} = 0.008 \text{ mm}$.
If the guide face is worn then an error may be present even using the correct measuring force.

6. Relationship between measurement and temperature

The main scale of a caliper is engraved (or mounted on) stainless steel, and although the linear thermal expansion coefficient is equal to that of the most common workpiece material, steel, i.e. $(10.2 \pm 1) \times 10^{-6} / \text{K}$, note that other workpiece materials, the room temperature and the workpiece temperature may affect measurement accuracy.

7. Handling

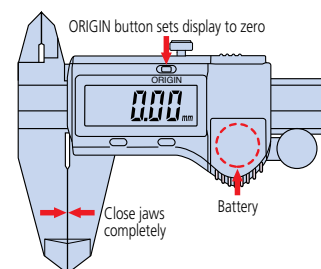
Caliper jaws are sharp, and therefore the instrument must be handled with care to avoid personal injury.
Avoid damaging the scale of a digital caliper and do not engrave an identification number or other information on it with an electric marker pen.
Avoid damaging a caliper by subjecting it to impact with hard objects or by dropping it on a bench or the floor.

8. Maintenance of beam sliding surfaces and measuring faces

Wipe away dust and dirt from the sliding surfaces and measuring faces with a dry soft cloth before using the caliper.

9. Checking and setting the origin before use

Clean the measuring surfaces by gripping a sheet of clean paper between the outside jaws and then slowly pulling it out. Close the jaws and ensure that the vernier scale (or display) reads zero before using the caliper. When using a Digimatic caliper, reset the origin (ORIGIN button) after replacing the battery.



10. Handling after use

After using the caliper, completely wipe off any water and oil. Then, lightly apply anti-corrosion oil and let it dry before storage.
Wipe off water from a waterproof caliper as well because it may also rust.

11. Notes on storage

Avoid direct sunlight, high temperatures, low temperatures, and high humidity during storage.
If a digital caliper will not be used for more than three months, remove the battery before storage.
Do not leave the jaws of a caliper completely closed during storage.