



Bewildered by SPC? DataMyte has the solution

Quality Today has more than 25 years experience in the development of Data Collector and SPC systems. Amongst them the Lightweight Handheld 301 Calculator is the Windows based DataMyte software. DataMyte has the widest range of solutions for everyone from small businesses to multi-national corporations. For more information about DataMyte products and the services offered by Quality Gauging Systems, please contact us today!



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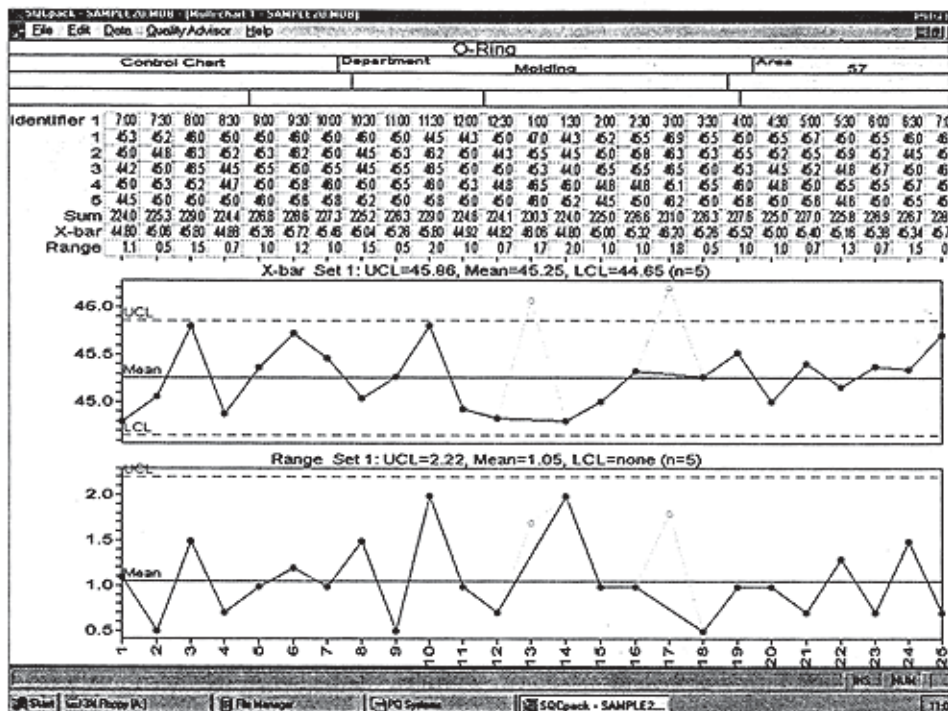
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SPC software review



SQCpak Multigraph facility permits data to be displayed above the Control Chart

Eric Adler reviews the latest release of PQ System's SQCpak for Windows and exclusively previews two new packages from SPSS and NWA.

SQCpak 2.0 for Windows (PQ Systems)

This is an easy to use dedicated software package offering a wide range of functionality for industrial process control. According to UK distributor, PQ Systems Europe, SQCpak appeals to two distinct groups of users.

Firstly, those classed as "advanced industrial users" e.g. QC departments of motor manufacturers, pharmaceuticals and aerospace products who have been using SPC software for some time. Such users require advanced features such as multiple pane combo graphics and the ability to perform Pareto analysis on data accessed from Access, dBase, Paradox and other compliant data base programs through Open Data Base Connectivity (ODBC).

The second group are those who are relatively new to SPC software - firms who realise that in order to achieve ISO 9000 accreditation they must maintain a full SPC data base and prepare a range of charts and analysis of attributes and data

to exacting standards of the ISO audit. For these users, SQCpak provides no-nonsense data entry combined with one button click-on routine to produce standard charts for data visualisation.

The software includes a wide range of industry-specific sample data bases to facilitate SPC analysis and on-line help includes descriptions of statistical and problem solving tools as well as detailed "how to" instructions. The on-line Quality Advisor is a feature utilising the Blue Sky Solutions integrated Winhelp Hyperviewer, producing an excellent tree style click on reference resource to advise both the expert and novice how to proceed.

While there is a cost cutting tendency by many software houses to scrap handbook documentation relying only on line help files, SQCpak 2.0 comes complete with the best spiral bound documentation I have seen in any software category for quite some time. This documentation consists of two solidly produced 300+ page volumes, which, for those who prefer to read from a VDU, are also available on line.

The first, the User Guide, is well organised and indexed with everything from installation instructions to details of formulae used in calculations. The second companion volume, Total Quality Tools, is an equally well organised reference which describes each of the SPC tools, and details usage with important tips. As an added bonus there is a copy of the SPC Reference Manual of the Automotive Industry Action Group (Chrysler Ford and GM) which is often regarded as a inter-industry standard reference.

PQ Systems developed the original version of SQCpak before IBM started to manufacture PCs and this mainframe background and level of experience show in the software which is quite excellent with a solid feel and while it may lack click-on graphics editing or point identification (brushing), it does offer combination graphics Multicharts which permit the actual data to be displayed above the chart.

The quality of the interface and range of functionality and solidity set this package apart from much of the software intended for use on the factory floor which is often of a lower quality to that intended for the front office. SQCpak 2.0 is stable, well designed and fully Windows 95 compliant.

Although the package does not include gauge support for on-line data capture, PQ Systems Europe supply a dedicated gauge support product, Software Wedge, which can be used with SQCpak for automated on-line data capture. SPQpak can

handle over a hundred variables (data columns) in a spread sheet, allowing an almost unlimited file size hardware.

The all inclusive price of £595 includes a day's training for two people and life time technical support. System Requirements: 7.2 mb Disk Space, 8mb RAM, Windows 3.1 or later. Available now.

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