



Testimonial

Visual IR Thermometer

Name: Eric Robinson

Company: Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) and HVAC/R Instructor

Imager model: VTO2 Visual IR Thermometer

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50 % thermal blend

1. What is your line of work?

I'm an Engineer for Washington State DOT traveling to 125 sites throughout the state of Washington as an HVAC/R Specialist who supervises retro-commissioning, unit replacement and system updates to improve energy efficiency. I also teach continuing education classes to first-year HVAC/R Apprentices and Class I Electricians for the union.

2. What type of applications do you work in that require IR temperature measurement and troubleshooting?

I use IR temperature measurement in applications where I check heat gain and heat load as well as randomly troubleshoot hot or cool areas. I can quickly scan to detect duct leakage. For in-house preventive maintenance, I also use it on electrical panels.

3. What tools do you currently use for these applications?

I've been using a high-end Fluke IR Thermometer. I don't currently use thermal imagers. We've been considering them, but the price makes them more difficult to afford.

4. What were your first impressions of the VTO2 Visual IR Thermometer?

I immediately figured it out and started making frontline measurements like getting a snapshot of a diffuser 30 feet in the air.

I liked the blending capability that lets you get digital pictures throughout the room with the heat map overlay. Having blended pictures to take back to the customer is really helpful. Plus, capturing and saving the highest absolute temperature gives me a reference point that I could store in my customer records or put in a report and reference in the future.

5. What advantages does the VTO2 offer you in your temperature applications?

The compact size is a big advantage. It's small enough to fit in your back pocket, smaller than thermal imagers, and it's cost-effective.

I see a great application for home inspection. It would help contractors, like the ones I teach, do their jobs more efficiently, and it would make a great selling tool. To be able to take pictures, create reports and then show homeowners the results is powerful. Then, when inspectors make a recommendation, it's not just a matter of "trust me."

The VTO2 is also rugged. That's really important since everything gets bounced around so much in service. When you pull a tool out to use it, you have to know it's going to work.

6. How would having SmartView® professional reporting and editing software impact your job?

Technicians are more credible when they can create a report. For example, in doing a retro-commissioning, when we are trying to restore equipment to its original efficiency, we could document the "before" and "after" states and prove that the equipment is running smoother, and generating less heat and resistance.