

## LabQuest 2

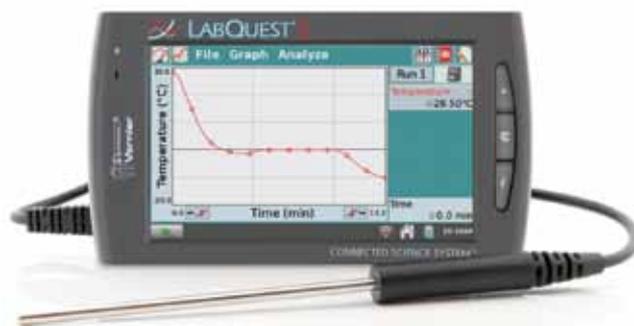
### Specifications

**Manufacturer:** Vernier Software and Technology

**Price:** \$329

**Website:** [www.vernier.com/labquest2](http://www.vernier.com/labquest2)

**Grade level:** K–College



In the not-so-distant past, many science teachers measured temperature with mercury-based thermometers and graphed the results of their experiments on graph paper. Perhaps some of you recall how problematic it was to clean up a broken mercury thermometer and cringe at the thought of a smeared pencil erasure after a correction was made to the graph paper of a lab report.

In stark contrast to the old-fashioned scientific laboratory equipment of the past, a new tool known as the LabQuest 2 is available to science teachers. The LabQuest 2, a stand-alone unit interface, can be used to collect data from a sensor. Slightly larger than a cell phone, the LabQuest 2 is equipped with built-in graphing and analysis applications that combine integrated software for data collection and inquiry. The hardware includes a USB port and three analog ports and can collect data from multiple sensors simultaneously.

Once data is collected, results can be saved on a USB flash drive for later transfer to a computer. In addition, the unit includes a built-in GPS, stopwatch, calculator, and even a microphone for remarks. The unit lends convenience to situations in which it's undesirable or problematic to carry multiple instruments into the field. In a field test, the device was easy to use and worked well with both Macintosh and/or Windows computer platforms. Moreover, it comes with easy-to-follow instructions for over a hundred labs and is compatible with more than 70 probes.

From my perspective, it is remarkable that a multifaceted device such as this is so easy to use. Once data collection has occurred, the LabQuest 2 can complete data analysis and report the results via Wi-Fi using Vernier Data Share. Subsequently, rather than using a pencil and graph paper,

the results can be exported to a spreadsheet and sent out as a PDF graph representation for analysis. This function is unique in that it allows students to e-mail, print, and share sensor-based data for the report.

In summary, the LabQuest2 from Vernier is an outstanding tool to engage students in scientific inquiry. In my opinion, its reasonable price and ease of use make the LabQuest 2 a valuable tool for students conducting scientific investigations. It can help motivate them toward greater science achievement. If you're interested in a versatile and cost-effective tool that is user friendly, look no further than Vernier's LabQuest 2.

*Edwin Christmann*

### Call for Products

Are you a vendor with a technology product that you would like to have classroom-tested and reviewed by NSTA's technology experts? If so, you can register as a vendor and submit a product proposal at <http://recommendstech.nsta.org>. We'd be interested in seeing your balances, probeware, interfaces, weather stations, science kits, microscopes, electrophoresis equipment, lab instruments, biological and physical models, and other items appropriate for the K–12 classroom. If you have any questions about the process or product suitability, please contact NSTA's technology review coordinator, Edwin P. Christmann, at [edwin.christmann@sru.edu](mailto:edwin.christmann@sru.edu). We look forward to sharing a review of your product with our members.