



**PV-CB8M**  
**PV COMBINER BOX**

## Installation & Operation Manual

**SHENZHEN ATESS POWER TECHNOLOGY CO.,LTD**

GROWATT-ATESS Industrial Park, No.23 Zhulongtian Road, Shuitian Community,  
Shiyan Street, Baoan District, Shenzhen

**T** +86 755 2998 8492

**E** [info@atesspower.com](mailto:info@atesspower.com)

**W** [www.atesspower.com](http://www.atesspower.com)

# Contents

## 1 About this manual

- 1.1 Forewords
- 1.2 Overview
- 1.3 Target Readers
- 1.4 Use of this manual
- 1.5 Others
- 1.6 Use of symbols

## 2 Safety instruction

## 3 Product description

- 3.1 System overview
- 3.2 Packing list
- 3.3 Model description
- 3.4 Product label
- 3.5 System structure
- 3.6 LED operating
- 3.7 Fuse rating
- 3.8 DC circuit breaker rating
- 3.9 SPD specification
- 3.10 Spare parts

# 1 About this manual

This chapter introduces the main contents of this manual and target reader, also explains symbols to help users better understand the following contents.

## 1.1 Forewords

Dear customer, Thank you for choosing ATESS PV-CB series smart pv combiner box, we sincerely hope that this product can fulfill your needs. Your suggestion regarding product performance and function is very much appreciated, we'll keep updating our product to improve product performance.

## 1.2 Overview

This manual is specifically for PV-CB series smart pv combiner box(referred as combiner box in following contents), major contents include:

### **safety instruction**

Introduces safety precautions when installing and maintaining combiner box.

### **product description**

Introduces combiner box system structure, components, function and category.

### **installation**

Introduces installation instruction and cable connection of combiner box.

### **routine maintenance**

Introduces replacement instruction of fuses etc.

### **others**

Introduces combiner technical parameters, warranty terms and ATESS contacts.

## 4 Installation

- 4.1 Per-installation inspection
- 4.2 Install tools
- 4.3 Mechanical installation
- 4.4 Electrical installation

## 5 Routine maintenance

- 5.1 Notice on maintenance
- 5.2 Replace fuse
- 5.3 SPD maintenance

## 6 Appendix

- 6.1 Technical specification
- 6.2 Warranty
- 6.2 About ATESS

### 1.3 Target Readers

This manual is intended for the combiner box operator, personnel for maintenance and other works. Operator of combiner box should have basic electrical knowledge, familiar with electrical diagram and component characteristics.

### 1.4 Use of this manual

Before using this product, please read this manual carefully. Keep this manual and other documents in product accessories together to ensure convenience of obtaining for operating personnel. Pictures, logos, symbols are property of ATESS. Disclosure by third party without written authorization is prohibited. Manual will be continuously updated but inevitably the physical appearance may be of slight deviation with actual product. please refer to finished good for actual appearance, latest documents can be downloaded at [www.atesspower.com](http://www.atesspower.com) or distribution channels.

### 1.5 Others

There are different models of ATESS PV-CB series combiner boxes available (ATESS PV-CB8M, ATESS PV-CB16M) to meet different application. Different models are same in electrical structure and installation and different in string number and monitoring function. This manual takes PV-CB8M as a sample, all instructions are applicable for other models also.

### 1.6 Use of symbols

To ensure safety of operating personnel installing this product, and efficient usage of this manual, some information is emphasized by symbols. The following list shows all symbols probably be used, please read carefully.



**Danger**

means there's high risk that might cause casualties or injury if not avoided.



**Danger**

means there's medium risk that might cause casualties or injury if not avoided.



**Watch out**

means there's possible risk that might cause injury if not avoided.

#### **Note:**

means there's potential risk that might cause equipment failure or personal property loss if not avoided.

"Note" is extra information or explanation for certain items that helps understand usage of product or solve problem to save time.

#### **Please pay attention to safety warning label on product asbelow:**



This sign means there's high voltage potential inside that can cause electric shock.



This sign means part of product with high unbearable temperature by human body, touching should be avoided to prevent body injury.



This sign means this part of product should be grounded securely to ensure safety of operating personnel.

# 2 Safety instruction

This chapter describes overall safety instruction during installation of combiner box. Detail instructions regarding each installation and maintenance step please refer to related warning descriptions.

Please read carefully before any operation, personal injury or equipment damage caused by violation of this instruction is not responsibility of ATESS.



**Danger**

Touching of cable terminals might result in electric shock or fire hazard

- Do not touch terminals or conductors connect to inverter or pv string.
- Follow connection and safety instruction.



**Danger**

Possible high voltage potential electric shock:

- Please follow warning label on product.
- Please follow safety instruction in this manual and other documents.



**Danger**

Damaged equipment or system failure might cause electric shock

- Please visually inspect whether there's damage or other risky status.
- Check circuit connection and other equipment to ensure safety

No operation till safe status is confirmed.



**Warning**

Only electrician or qualified personnel are allowed for operation or cable connection of this product Warning labels should be clear and visible, damaged ones should be replaced immediately All operation and cable connection should be done in accordance with local guidance. Cable connection during the day should be done with pv array disconnected or cover, else there will be risk of electric shock due to high voltage potential. Only 1 fuse should be changed once, multiple fuse change simultaneously is not allowed to avoid electric shock.



**Watch out**

Touching or improper operation of PCB or electric-static sensitive components can damage components, touching of parts other than cable terminals when installing combiner box is not allowed. Please follow electric-static protection guideline by wearing anti-static wrist band.

### **Note:**

Please do not open front cover frequently to maintain water proof performance.

# 3 Product description

This chapter introduces the characteristics, structure and typical application solution of ATESS PV-CB series pv combiner boxes.

## 3.1 System overview

In large volume solar plant, to reduce connection cables between pv string and inverter, improve convenience of maintenance and reliability, usually combiner boxes are used between pv string and inverter.

ATESS PV-CB series outdoor combiner box is designed especially for large volume solar plant application, it is suitable to be used together with ATESS central inverters in a solar plant solution.

By using combiner box, pv modules are connected in series to form a string and then connect to combiner box, typical connecting diagram is as below:

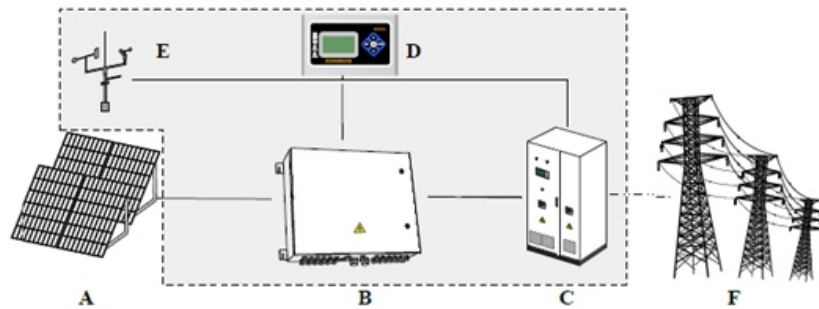


Figure 3-1 grid-connected solar plant diagram

Chart3-1 component list

No.	Name
A	PV strings
B	PV-CB8M combiner box
C	PV inverter
D	Data logger
E	Environment sensors
F	Utility grid

Features:

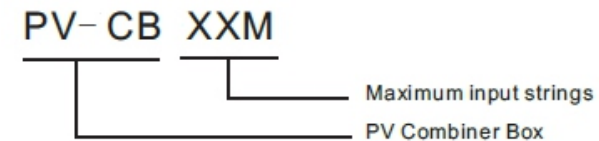
- Outdoor applicable.
- Multiple pv string connection, fuse equipped for each input.
- PV specified surge protection device available.

## 3.2 Packing list

- Combiner box.
- Key for front cover lock.
- Fuse.
- Bracket.
- Installation manual.
- Warranty card.
- Certification of qualification.
- Final inspection report.

## 3.3 Model description

The detail explanation of model name is as below:



## 3.4 Product label

User can find product information on the label which is stuck on the side panel of enclosure, detail of product label is as below:

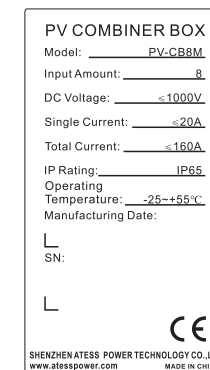


Figure 3-2 label drawing

**Note:**

Product label contains detail model name, serial number and parameters of each product, serial number is unique for each product, this number is stored in ATESS database, maintenance and other information later on will be stored in this database by serial number, please keep product label for tracing.

### 3.5 System structure

#### 3.5.1 Product appearance

Different models of ATESS PV-CB series combiner boxes are similar in appearance, if PV-CB 8M Combiner is used, the 8 redundant cable gland on bottom of enclosure should be sealed, detail please see below figure.

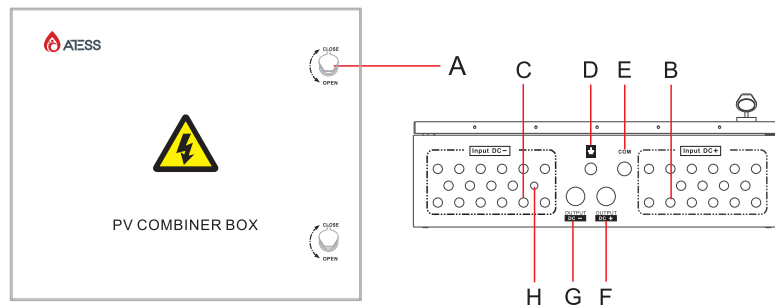


Figure 3-3 PV-CB16M appearance

No.	Name	Description
A	Lock	-
B	Input DC+	Positive input of pv string
C	Input DC-	Negative input of pv string
D	Grounding cable input	Grounding cable connecting point
E	Monitor	-
F	Output DC+	Positive output of combined string
G	Output DC-	Negative output of combined string
H	Ventilation valve	Water and dust proof valve for ventilation of inner space

#### 3.5.2 Inner layout

The inner layout of PV-CB8M is shown in figure 3-4.

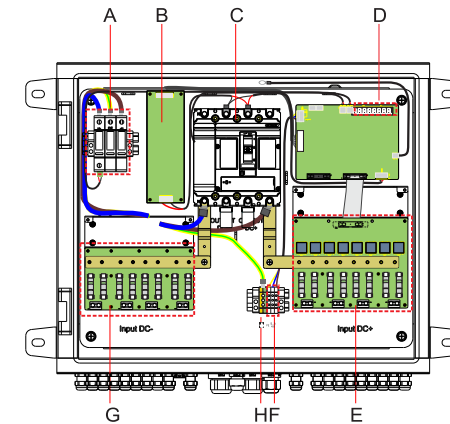


Figure 3-4 inner layout

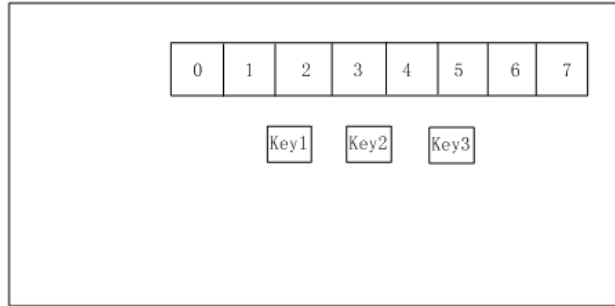
A	SPD
B	Power supply
C	DC circuit breaker
D	Control board
E	Positive fuses
F	RS485 terminal
G	Negative fuses
H	Grounding terminal

**Note:**

Layout varies for different models, please refer to actual product

### 3.6 LED operating instruction

The communication parameters can be seen on LEDs on the control board, communication address, operation parameter setting and checking can be realized via 3 push buttons.



**Led indicator diagram:**

1-----index number 3----- status

2----- space 4567----- parameter value

Function of 3 push buttons are different in different page, details please see below:

**Data browsing page:**

Key2--- page up Key3--- page down

Key1---enter password

**Password input page:**

Key1-enter Key2--- left right adjustment of digit

Key3--- digit value change

**Note:**

Push enter button to change password, digit indicator light up means parameter changeable, right password leads to setting page, wrong password leads to browsing page.

**Parameter browsing page:**

Key1---enter( parameter setting page, save setting, back to main page)

Key2--- page up Key3--- page down

**Parameter setting page:**

Key1- enter( press to confirm modification, digit indicator light up, parameter changeable).

Key2---left right adjustment of digit Key3--- digit value change

**3.7 Fuse rating**

In power system, fuse is used to protect electronic component from overcurrent damage, component might deviate, overheat, damaged or even cause fire hazard.

Proper fuse rating should be chosen according to pv module parameters and related regulations, fuse with too high rating cannot provide protection, fuse with too low rating affect normal operation.

**3.8 DC circuit breaker rating**

Maximum pv array voltage is 1000V, so rating of DC breaker in combiner box should not be lower than 1000V, ATESS combiner box uses 4 pole breaker with 2 pole connected in series, the breaker can withstand 1000V, high voltage to meet solar plant requirement.

**3.9 SPD specification**

Item	Parameter
-Ucpv	1.0KV(V+~V-,V+~PE,V-~PE)
-In	20KA(8/20us)
-Imax	40KA(8/20us)
-Up(IIn)	3.6KV(V+~V-,V+~PE,V-~PE)



# 4 Installation

This chapter introduces environment requirement and installation instruction of combiner box.

## 4.1 Per-installation inspection

Check according to packing list in chapter 3.2 that all accessories included. All shipped goods have been fully inspected at factory, but consider possible damage during transportation, a full inspection is recommended before installation. Any damage please contact logistic company or ATESS directly.

## 4.2 Install tools

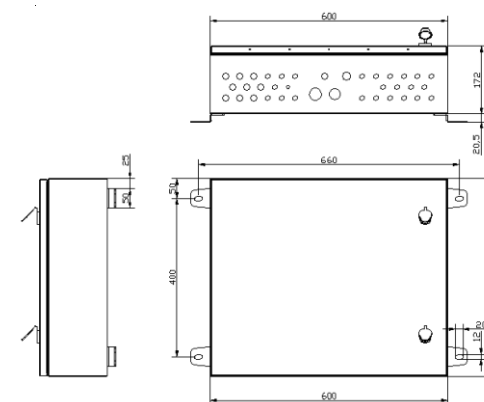
Electric drill, wrench, cross screw driver, socket, expansion bolt, fixing angle steel.

## 4.3 Mechanical installation

### 4.3.1 Dimensions

Different models are same in dimension and appearance, different in terminal quantity (marked in dot line).

Dimension of combiner box is 600mmX500mmX172mm(WxHxD) as shown in below figure, installing hole distance:660mmX400mm(WxH).



Terminal cable size	1.5mm <sup>2</sup> ~25mm <sup>2</sup> (flexible cable) 35mm <sup>2</sup> non-flexible cable
Warning signal interface rated current	250V/0.5A(AC)0.1A(DC) 125V/1A(AC)0.5A(DC)
Enclosure flame retardant level	UL94 V-0
Protection level	IP20

## 3.10 Spare parts

- Fuse
- Fuse holder

### 4.3.2 Environment requirement

PV-CB series combiner box has IP65 protection level, suitable for outdoor application, please follow below requirement when choosing installing environment:

- Keep enough space according to combiner box dimension.
- Environment temperature should be between  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ~ $55^{\circ}\text{C}$ , relative humidity 0~99%.
- Install combiner box close to pv modules to reduce cable length.
- Environment should be dry and with good ventilation, dust proof.
- Install upside down is prohibited, recommend to install on wall or pole vertically.
  - wall mount: recommend to use bolt to fix combiner box to the wall through the installation hole on each side.
  - pole mount: recommend to use hoop and angel steep as supporting bracket, fix combiner box to the pole with bolt
- Avoid direct sunshine, this might cause overheat which can affect power yield of system, and service life of =combiner box as well.
- In large volume plant, recommend to install combiner box on the pv module bracket which is shaded by pv module.
- Keep space surrounding combiner box for installation, maintenance and better heat dissipation.

#### Note:

humid environment can damage combiner box, avoid installation during rain or high humidity.

#### Note:

Redundant terminal should be sealed in case combiner box installed horizontally. Water proof gland should always be securely tightened to ensure waterproof performance.

### 4.3.3 Installing instruction

When installed on pv module bracket, hex-bolt(M10\*40), flat washer( $\Phi 10$ ),spring washer( $\Phi 10$ )are needed.

User can also choose bolt according to installing condition

1. Installing hole on pv module bracket should be in accordance with dimension shown in below figure

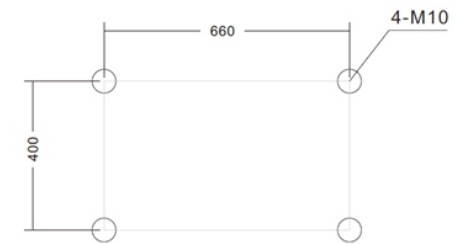


Figure 4-2 installing hole distance

2. Fix combiner box to bracket firmly with bolt and nut in sequence shown in below, from left to right are bolt, ear on box, bracket, flat washer, spring washer, nut. Torque 60Nm

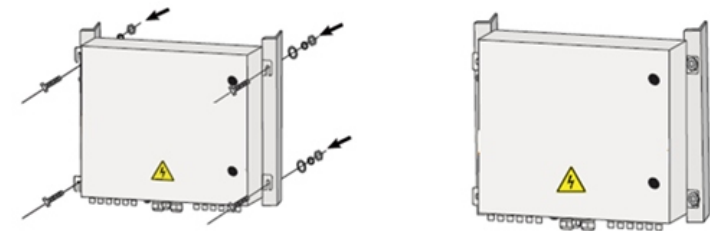


Figure 4-3 installing diagram

3. Check whether combiner box is securely fixed.

Combiner box can also be installed on other metal brackets, for instance, on rooftop system, it can be fixed to metal brackets in the shaded area, installation should be done according to instruction in this manual and local regulations.

## 4.4 Electrical installation

### 4.4.1 Overview

PV-CB8M can connect maximum 8 strings, if actual string quantity is less than 8, redundant cable glands should be sealed with water proof cap.

Each string is equipped with pv specified fuse for system protection, voltage of pv string should be tested before inserting fuse to make sure it's within 1000V and all strings are grounded properly.

### 4.4.2 Canle and glands

Water proof cable glands are equipped for input, output, communication, power and grounding cables, all located on the bottom of combiner box, cable size should be in accordance with specification of related glands shown in below figure:

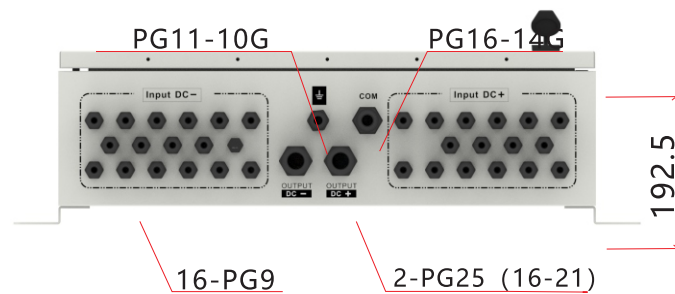


Figure 4-5 cable gland specification(PV-CB16M)

#### Cable size list

Terminal Location	Terminal Spec	Recommended Cable Size
DC positive input	PG9	4mm <sup>2</sup>
DC negative input	PG9	4mm <sup>2</sup>
DC positive output	P6-21G25(1)	70mm <sup>2</sup>
DC negative output	P6-21G25(1)	70mm <sup>2</sup>
Grounding	PG11-10G	16mm <sup>2</sup>
Communication	PG16-14G	1.5mm <sup>2</sup> low resistance quad-core twisted pair

#### Note:

Recommended cable size is common cable specification, it might vary for different suppliers, also different size cable can be used for different pv module type, it should be above the lower limit of waterproof cable gland.

### 4.4.3 Preparation before cable connection

Step1, Open front cover

All combiner boxes are equipped with a specific key, to open front cover, insert key as below figure and turn anti-clockwise; to close, turn clockwise.

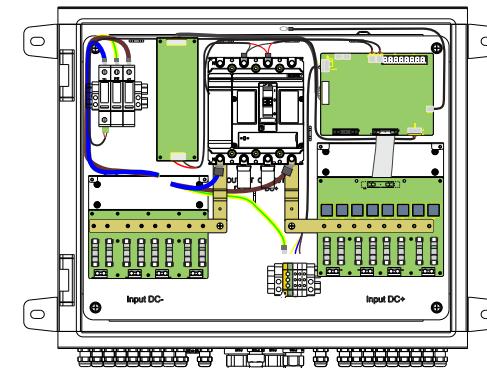
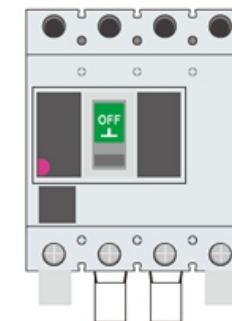
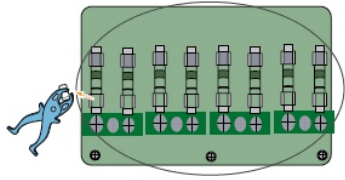


Figure 4-6 open front cover

Step2, Put breaker in off position



Step 3, open all fuses. Skip this step if fuses are not pre-installed in factory.



#### 4.4.4 Input cable connection



**Danger**

There's high voltage potential on pv string that might cause fatal electric shock or serious injury, please follow below instruction when connecting pv input cables:

- Cover pv modules with light-proof materials.
- Follow safety regulation per pv module supplier.

#### Warning.

Incorrect cable connection might cause damage to combiner box, inverter and pv module, please follow below instruction:

- Connect cable according to drawing.
- Check string voltage within combiner box rating.
- Confirm negative, positive pole and grounding.

**Step1** Take off waterproof cap of cable glands on bottom of combiner box.

**Step2** Put cable marked PV1+ through cable gland in bottom area marked with Input DC+, and then connect to PV1+ terminal, keep redundant cable length for fixing and bending.

**Step3** Peel protecting and insulation layer of cable, keep a 10mm length bare copper core.



**Step4** Loosen the fixing screw of terminal, insert copper core of cable to terminal, then tighten screw as figure 4-7.

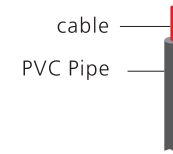
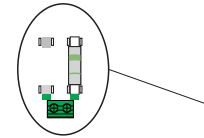


Figure 4-7 cable connection demonstration

**Step5** connect rest of cables to terminals in the same way. Then combine all cables and tie to fixing bar with cable tie.

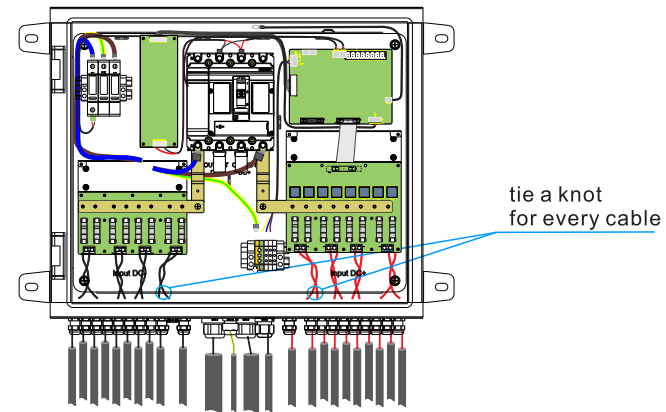


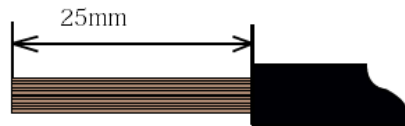
Figure 4-8

#### 4.4.5 Output cable connection

**Step1** Take off waterproof cap on output cable glands.

**Step2** put cable marked with DC+ through DC output(+) glands, put cable marked with DC- through DC output, keep proper redundant length.

**Step3** peel protecting and insulation layer of cable, keep a 25mm length bare copper core.



**Step 4** Lock positive cable to positive terminal, negative cable to negative terminal.

**Step 5** put waterproof cap back and tighten by turning clockwise.



**Danger**

Make sure fixing screw of terminal securely tightened, insufficient contact between cable copper core and terminal might cause overheat and even damage, multicore cable is recommended with size not lower than specified value.

Waterproof cap should be exactly in position to avoid water going in to damage combiner box.

#### 4.4.6 Grounding connection

Grounding cable should be properly connected or else it:

- Might cause fatal electric shock at failure.
- Might cause combiner box damage by lightning surge.

#### **Note:**

Please follow related regulation to:

- Connect grounding cable securely.
- Test grounding resistance to make sure it's within 10 ohm.

Step1 loosen waterproof cap of GND cable gland.

Step 2 Put yellow/green cable through gland, keep redundant length.

Step 3 peel protecting layer and insulation layer of cable, keep bare copper core around 15mm.

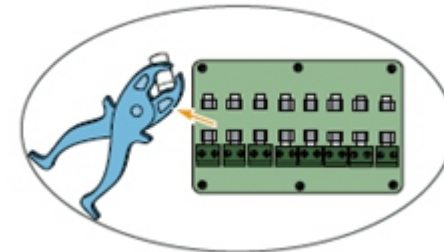
Step4 loosen GND terminal screw with flathead screwdriver.

Step 5 Insert copper core of cable in terminal, then tighten cable terminal with screw and tie cable to fixing bar, keep redundant cable length.

Step 6 Turn waterproof cap clockwise to fix it back to gland.

#### 4.4.7 Fuse installation

Use wire nipper to put fuse into fuse holder, close fuse holder firmly to avoid insufficient contact. If the fuse is damaged, user can purchase locally or from ATESS.



#### **Note:**

Fuse must be completely pulled out of fuse holder to avoid injury or equipment damage during installation or replacement.

# 5 Routine maintenance

## 4.4.8 Bottom cable layout

Cable layout on bottom of combiner box is shown in figure 4-10:

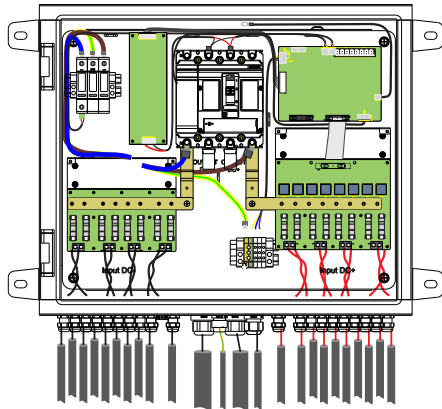


Figure 4-10 bottom cable layout

### Note:

After finishing installation or maintenance, front cover must be locked firmly, water cap of lock should be covered securely to avoid component damage caused by water. ATESS is not responsible for such damage without following instruction.

## 4.5 Start and stop combiner box

Combiner box start and stop automatically when powered on and off, the DC output can be disconnected by switching off inner DC breaker.

This chapter describes routine maintenance work and period.

## 5.1 Notice on maintenance

Components in the combiner box age and breakdown due to environment temperature, humidity, dust and vibration, this can cause possible failure, thus routine maintenance should be done periodically.



**Danger**

Only certified electrician is qualified for maintenance work in this chapter.

### Note:

Do not leave metal parts like screw, washer in the combiner box which probably will damage the equipment.

Combiner box should be stopped before maintenance to make sure contact part is not live.

## 5.2 Replace fuse

Blown fuse is not recoverable, it should be replaced by qualified operator in time.



**Warning**

There's high voltage potential on fuse, touching fuse in operation is prohibited. DC breaker must be disconnected before replacing fuse, also it should be confirmed with a current meter that string current is 0 to avoid high voltage risk, after that the fuse can be taken off for pv module or combiner box maintenance.



**Warning**

Fuse with same rating must be used for replacement  
Make sure fuse holder is securely clamped .

## 5.3 SPD maintenance

SPD should be checked periodically, status of SPD is visible at monitoring center, confirmation and replacement should be done immediately when abnormal detected.

# 6 Appendix

Technical specification, warranty, disclaimer and contact details of ATESS are included in this chapter.

## 6.1 Technical specification

### 6.1.1 Parameters

Model	PV-CB8M
Max number of string	8
Max input current	20A
Input voltage range	300Vdc~1000Vdc
Protection level	IP65
Environment temperature	-25°C ~ +55°C
Humidity	0~99%
Weight	22.5kg
Dimension(L*W*H)	600mm*500mm*172mm
Install hole distance	660mm*400mm

### 6.1.2 Cable specification

Model	PV-CB8M
Input cable	Cross section : 4~6mm <sup>2</sup> multi-core flame retardant copper cable
	Peeled length: 10mm
	Screw:M4
	Torque:1.2N.m
Output cable	Cross section:70mm <sup>2</sup>
	Peeled length : 25mm
	Screw:M8
	Torque:12(±10%)N.m
Grounding cable	Cross section : 16mm <sup>2</sup> multi-core flame retardant copper cable
	Peeled length : 15mm
	Screw:M4
	Torque:2N.m

## 6.2 Warranty

ATESS is responsible for replacing or repair of product within warranty periods.

### Warranty claim documents

User should provide receipt, purchasing date to ATESS for warranty claim, also the brand label should be clear, else claim might be rejected.

### Terms and conditions

- Replaced failed units will be disposed by ATESS.
- User should leave reasonable time to ATESS to repair failed units.

### Disclaimer

ATESS has the right to reject warranty claim for below conditions:

- Whole unit, components are out of warranty period.
- Damage during transportation.
- Incorrect installation, modification or application.
- Extreme environment operation out of rated specification.
- Ailure or damage caused by installation, repair or modification by personnel from agents other than ATESS.
- Failure or damage caused by using components or software from agents other than ATESS.
- Installation or application without following international standards  
Failures caused by above conditions, ATESS service department can evaluate the situation and repair and charge user a reasonable amount of money .

### Note:

Dimension and parameter may be changed without notification, please refer to latest document for most updated data.

## 6.2 About ATESS

Shenzhen ATESS Power Technology Co.,Ltd

GROWATT-ATESS Industrial Park, No.23 Zhulongtian Road, Shuitian Community, Shiyan Street, Baoan District, Shenzhen

### Service line

T: +86 755 2998 8492

F: +86 755 2998 5623

E: [info@atesspower.com](mailto:info@atesspower.com)

W: [www.atesspower.com](http://www.atesspower.com)