VPFlowScope probe

User manual

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VPFlowScope probe

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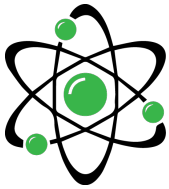
1 Warning - Read this first

	Compressed gasses can be dangerous! Please familiarize yourself with the forces under pressurized conditions. Respect the local guidelines and regulations for working with pressurized equipment.
	**Gas flow through pipes follows certain physical laws.** These physical laws have serious consequences for the installation requirements. Familiarize yourself with the basic physical laws of flow measurement, to make sure that the product is installed correctly. Always make sure that upstream length, downstream length, flow, pressure, temperature and humidity conditions are within specifications.
	Precision instruments need maintenance. Check your flow meter regularly and make sure it remains clean. When polluted, gently clean the sensor using demineralized water or cleaning alcohol. **Precision instruments need regular re-calibration.** To keep your VPFlowScope probe in best shape, it needs recalibration. We advice annual recalibration.
	Not intended for fiscal metering or billing. Our flow meters are not certified for fiscal metering. Laws on fiscal metering and billing may vary per country or state.
	Do not overestimate the results. VPInstruments does not take any responsibility for the correctness of measurement results under field conditions. The practical measurement uncertainty of a flow meter in the field may vary, depending on how well it is installed, due to the nature of gas flow. The piping table provides guidelines on how to optimize the field accuracy. Our products are not intended to be used as a single means to determine compressor capacity.
	Do not open the device. Our instruments are assembled with high precision. Opening this device is dangerous and may destroy the instruments. Warranty is voided when you open the instrument.
	Feedback leads to product improvement. Please share your experience with us, as we are continuously improving our products in our commitment to quality, reliability and ease of use. Let us know via sales@vpinstruments.com!

2 Introduction

Congratulations! **You purchased the easiest to use and most complete compressed air measurement tool in the world.** With the VPFlowScope probe, you can monitor and record flow, pressure, temperature, and total air consumption, simultaneously.

Great products deserve great user manuals. We have done our best to make this user manual as complete as possible. New users, please read it carefully to familiarize yourself with our products. Experienced users can check out the Quick start chapter.

Check the packaging box for any inconsistencies. Should there be any shipping damage, notify the local carrier. At the same time a report should be submitted to Van Putten Instruments BV, Buitenwatersloot 335, 2614 GS DELFT, The Netherlands.

This manual is dedicated to:
VPS.R150.P400

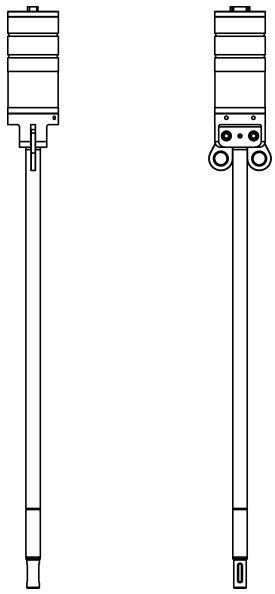
For latest VPStudio software and overview of latest firmware versions, please visit www.vpinstruments.com.

Older software features may not be covered by the contents of this user manual. Please contact us for a service subscription program, which includes software and firmware updates!

3 Product overview

The VPFlowScope probe measures mass flow, temperature and pressure simultaneously. All these parameters are key to proper compressed gas measurement and are therefore included in all models. With the insertion probe you are flexible in pipe diameter. All data can be accessed by Modbus RTU, 4 .. 20 mA and pulse.

The VPFlowScope probe is available in three configurations to fit every application. Use the connector cap for sensor features only, ideal for integration into a central management system. Use the display module for central read out and data logging. Use the VPFlowTerminal for central read out and data logging on location where a standard display can not be read out. For all models, all parameters and outputs are available.



The VPFlowScope probe is available in 2 lengths. Additional options are available for both types:

Order Code	Flow range	Option	Length	Option	Display
VPS.R150	150 m_n/sec	P300	300 mm length	D0	No display, No connector cap
		P400	400 mm length	D10	Display
		P600	600 mm length	D11	Display + 2M point logger
				D2	Connector cap

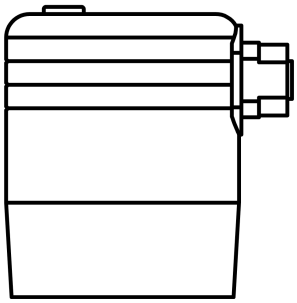
Order the VPFlowScope KIT to receive the complete start kit with all required accessories, everything you need to get started right away.

3.1 Configuration

The instrument needs only one step to be ready for operation. It needs to know the exact inner pipe diameter for accurate measurement, wrong inner diameter will lead to very significant errors. The pipe diameter can be programmed with the keypad on the display module or with the VPStudio configuration software. This software suite is also used for configuration of the outputs and data logger. This software can be downloaded from our website. www.vpinstruments.com/downloads.

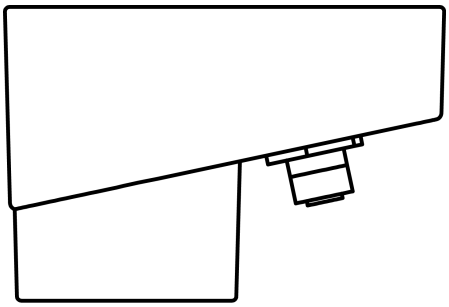
3.2 VPFlowScope probe with connector cap

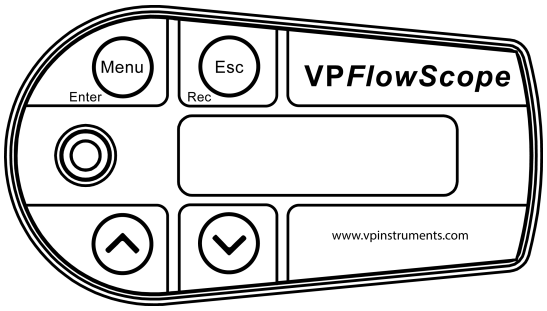
The VPFlowScope probe with connector cap can be used in applications where local read-out and data logging is not required. With it's various outputs the VPFlowScope probe can be connected to remote data loggers.



3.3 VPFlowScope probe with display

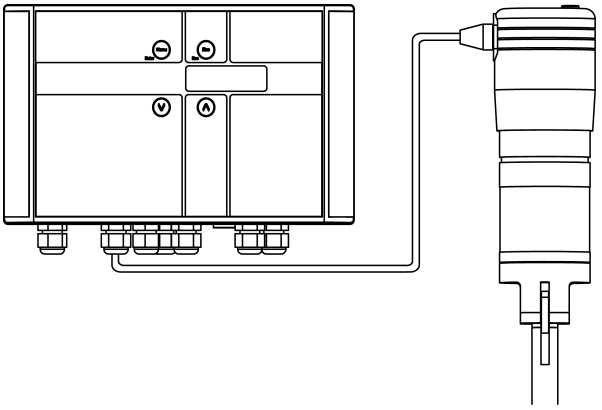
The display module adds a 3 row display with keypad and an optional 2 Million point data logger(optional) to the VPFlowScope probe. All parameters will be shown on the display in real time. The keypad can be used to start a data log session or to change the key parameters of the VPFlowScope probe. All output parameters for remote connection remain available on the M12 connector.





3.4 VPFlowScope probe with the VPFlowTerminal

The VPFlowTerminal can be used as a remote display for situations where the local display can't be read. All display features will be available on the remote display.
The VPFlowTerminal is equipped with a 10 m / 32.8 ft. cable and connector cap with a M12 8pin connector. The standard connector cap with M12 5pin connector can not be used for connection with the VPFlowTerminal. The VPFlowTerminal features a 2 Million point data logger which can record both the flow meter and the analog inputs.



4 Quick start

This chapter contains the basic steps to start using your VPFlowScope probe flow meter. Additional information on all subjects can be found in the next chapters.

1. Unpack
Unpack the meter and check if all items are there and in good shape. A checklist with all items is available on the box.

2. Program the settings
- The inner pipe diameter needs to be programmed into the sensor. This can be done via the display or with the VPStudio software (www.vpinstruments.com/downloads)
- If required, set the output parameters for the Modbus, pulse and current output.

3. Mechanical installation
- Find the best point of installation for this product. Make sure that all specifications are met.
- For installation of the VPFlowScope probe, an insertion point needs to be created. You can weld a tap with minimum internal 1/2 inch thread or use a hot tap saddle.
- Place a ball valve (minimal 1/2 inch full bore) and compression fitting on the insertion point.
- Connect the safety chain and insert the probe into the pipe.
- The sensor needs to be in the middle of the pipe.
- Tighten the compression fitting.

See chapter mechanical installation for more detailed information.

3. Electrical installation

3.1 Permanent installation
Connect a cable with 5 Pin M12 connector to the VPFlowScope probe. Use the power supply module for permanent installation. The cable can be connected to a central data acquisition / building management system or data logger via Modbus, 4 .. 20 mA or pulse. See chapter electrical connections for more information.

Apply 12 .. 24 VDC to power up the device. Use a Class II power supply (less than 2 Amps). If a display is available, it will light up when power is applied.

3.2 Temporary installation
Use a 12 .. 24 VDC power supply with M12 connector to power the VPFlowScope probe. This quick method is ideal for audits.

4. Data recording
When the data logger option is available a data log session can be started by pressing the esc/rec button and then enter. All parameters will be logged with the default logging intervals (5 seconds for all parameters). These logging intervals can be changed with the VPStudio software. This software tool is also used to retrieve the recorded sessions.

5 Measurement

For all parameters the update interval is 1 second. Within this second, multiple samples are taken and averaged to provide a stable and reliable output.

5.1 Flow

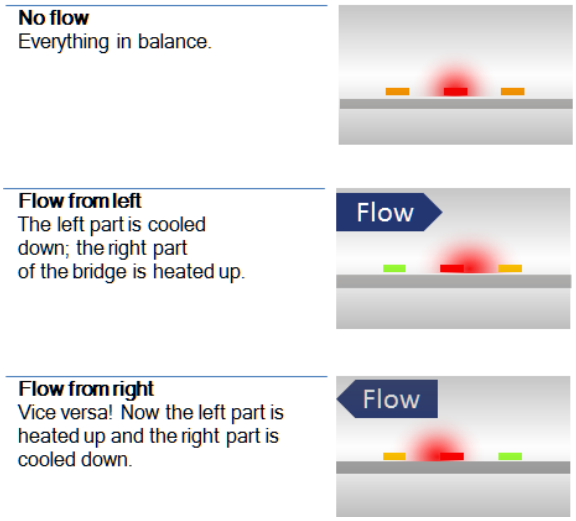
The VPFlowScope probe uses our proprietary insertion type thermal mass flow sensor. There is no bypass flow, which results in a high robustness and less sensitivity for dirt or particles. The flow sensor is directly temperature compensated.

The sensor response signal is directly related to the mass flow rate and can be described by the following formula:

$$V_{out} = k * \lambda * \rho * v * (T_s - T_g)$$

V_{out} = output voltage
k = sensor (geometrical) constant
λ = thermal conductivity of the gas
ρ = density of the gas
v = actual velocity in m / sec
T_s = sensor temperature
T_g = gas temperature

The optional bi-directional sensitivity is shown in the picture on the right. In bi-directional mode the negative flow value will show up as a minus sign. The 4 .. 20 mA value needs to be adapted to suit the application. See chapter 9.1 for details.



5.2 Pressure

The VPFlowScope probe features a built-in gauge pressure sensor. The sensor range is 0 .. 16 bar | 0 .. 250 psi gauge. The sensor cannot measure vacuum, please contact us if you have a vacuum application. The sensor membrane can handle media which are compatible with glass, silicon, stainless steel, Sn/Ni, plating and An/Ag solder.

The sensor signal is sampled with 16 bits. The practical resolution is 0.24 mbar on the 0 .. 16 bar scale, which is equal to 0.004 psi on the 250 psi scale

5.3 Temperature

The built in temperature sensor measures the compressed air/ gas temperature. The signal is sampled with 16 bits. The resolution is less than 0.1 °C.
In a vertical pipe, with flow going down, the temperature sensor may heat up at zero flow conditions, due to the heated flow sensor element. This effect will disappear as soon as there is consumption.

For optimal measurement performance, the VPFlowScope probe needs to be in a stable temperature environment. When exposed to quick temperature changes or large temperature changes (for example taking the unit from outdoor to indoor during winter time, or when mounted downstream of a heat regenerated drier) the temperature compensation may lag behind, which may result in significant measurement errors.

5.4 Totalizer

The totalizer keeps track of the total consumed amount of compressed air in normal cubic meters, or in scf depending on which unit you choose to read out. The refresh interval is 1 second, actual measurement data will be available on the display and by Modbus. For back up reasons, the totalizer value is written to it's internal memory with an interval of 15 minutes. A power down might result in maximum 15 minutes of totalizer data loss.

In bi-directional operation, negative flow is subtracted from the totalizer. The totalizer will count backwards as the compressed air is delivered back to the supply side. The totalizer can only be reset to zero. It's not possible to set it to a different value.

The display will show totalizer values up to 999.999,9 and will then become 0,0 independent of the taken unit. This will not clear the internal totalizer.

6 Mechanical installation

Put together the VPFlowScope probe
Connect the display or connector cap on the VPFlowScope probe sensor module. Make sure that it slides completely over the O-ring seal. Position the O-ring in the upper position for the connector cap. Use the lower position for the display. Apply some O-ring grease if required. Gently fix the screw on top.

Install the VPFlowScope probe in the pipe
First select the right installation point. The installation point is crucial for the right measurements. Sources of error can be: installation effects, unknown flow profiles, swirls, pressure and temperature effects, humidity effects, oscillations in the flow. To ensure the highest possible accuracy of flow measurement, the installation and piping instructions must be followed carefully. Therefore read this paragraph carefully.

Take into account:
- Choose a site which is accessible, which allows ease of wiring and maintenance, and which allows you to still read and access the display when needed.
- Meet the specifications of the VPFlowScope probe. When the specifications are not met, for instance the pressure or temperature level is too high; this will cause inaccurate flow measurement and can even damage your flow meter.
- Do not apply mechanical stress to the flow meter.

Avoid:
- Excessive heat, check the temperature range of your VPFlowScope probe.
- Potential water damage on the outside. Avoid areas of high humidity and avoid dripping. Be aware that the VPFlowScope probe is not watertight, it is only splash proof.
- Corrosive atmosphere where possible.
- Electrical problems (high voltage/ high power).
- Mechanical vibration and danger (walking bridges, fork lift trucks).

Stop: These devices are only for use with Air, Nitrogen and other non hazardous and non combustible gases. The maximum working pressure is 16 bar (250 psi)

Arrêt: Ces dispositifs sont uniquement destinés à être utilisés avec de l'air, de l'azote et d'autres gaz non dangereux et non combustibles. La pression opérationnelle maximale est de 16 bar (250 psi)

Prepare the installation
The VPFlowScope probe can be inserted through a welding tap with internal 1/2 inch thread or through a hot tap saddle. A hot tap saddle can be installed under pressurized conditions, so there is no need to shut down production.

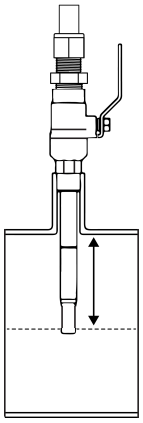
Use a ball valve to insert and retract the VPFlowScope probe when you want. Use a 1/2 inch full bore ball valve or a 3/4 inch ball valve. The VPInstruments hot tap drill has a 1” drill size. In that case, place a 1” ball valve and use, after drilling, a reducer to go back to 1/2” for the compression fitting.

Warning: Make sure that the hole is at least 16 mm | 0.63 inch inner diameter, and completely clear for insertion. A too small hole will damage the probe or your measurement value will be very low.

The installation

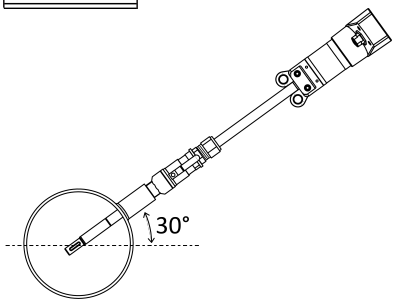
Insertion depth

Generally the insertion depth of the VPFlowScope probe is 0.5 times the inner pipe diameter, where the bottom of the sensor tip must be in the middle of the pipe (see picture).



Position

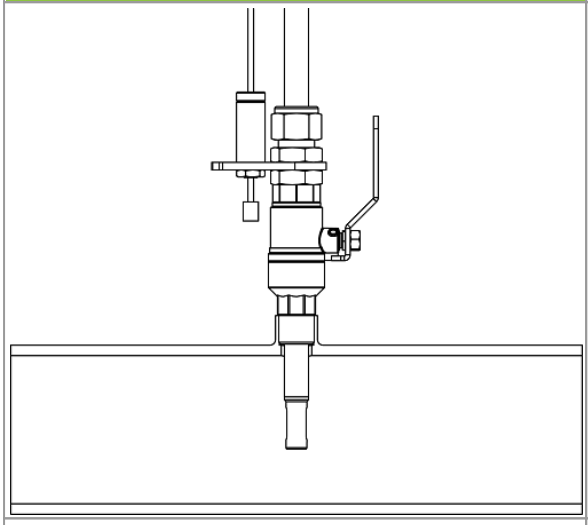
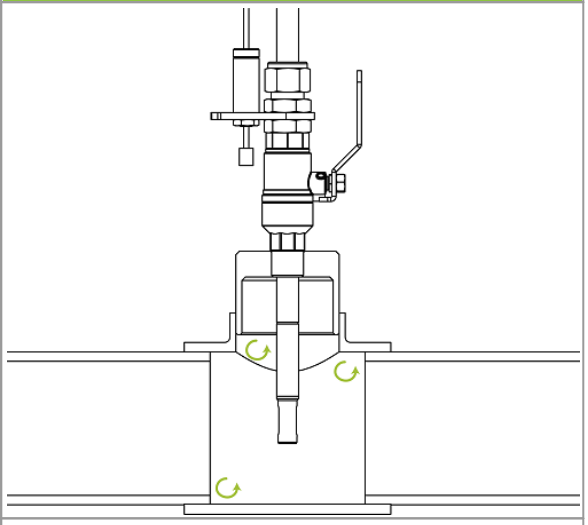
Install the VPFlowScope probe upwards in an angle of 30 degrees (see picture). Never install the instruments upside down.



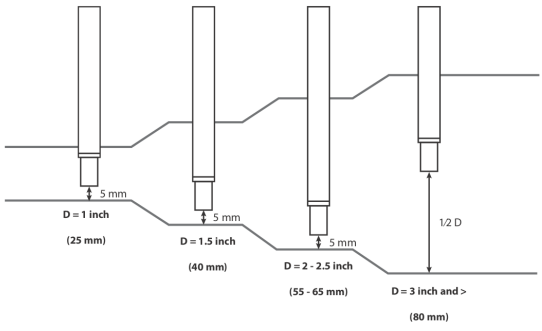
When mated to a display, the VPFlowScope DP is shaped to make alignment with the flow direction easy. The display should point downstream of the flow. With a connector cap, the M12 connector points downstream of the flow. Alignment “by the eye” is sufficient.
The flow direction is indicated on the product label.

Measurement point/ hot tap installation: make it smooth
It is important to create a smooth pipe all the way, before and after the insertion probe. This fact is often overlooked, resulting in poor measurement results. When welding a stub, and drilling the hole, make sure it is as small as possible.

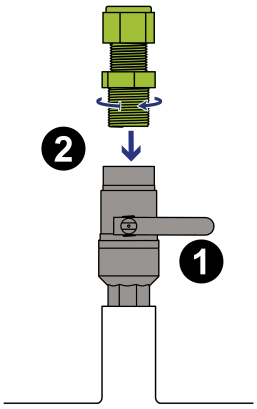
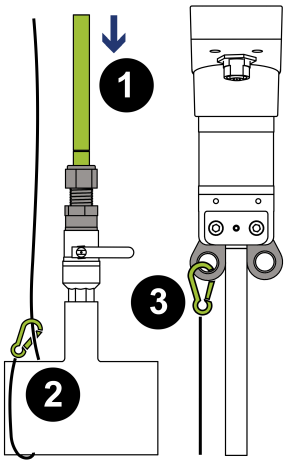
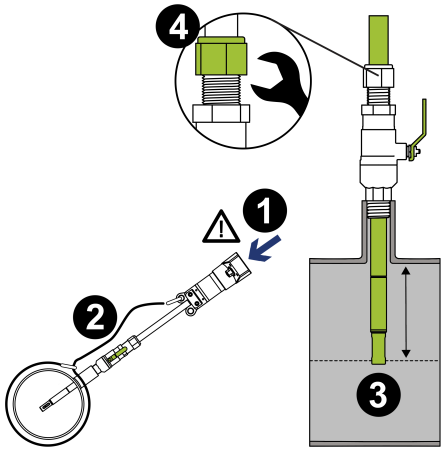
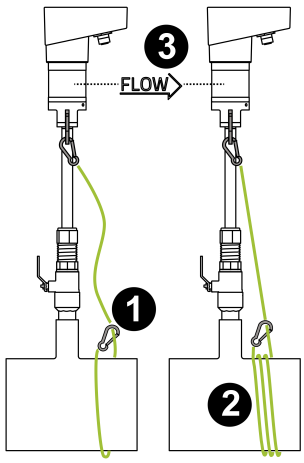
Rules of thumb:
- Keep it smooth
- Avoid welding rims on the inside
- Avoid seals (from flanges) to block the flow path
- Avoid large dead spaces around the probe

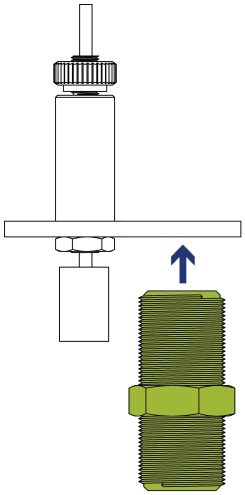
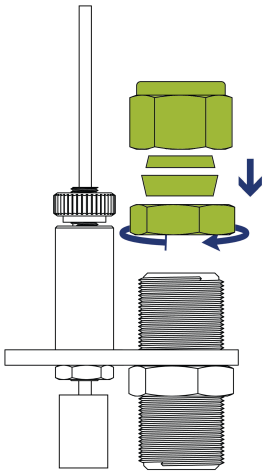
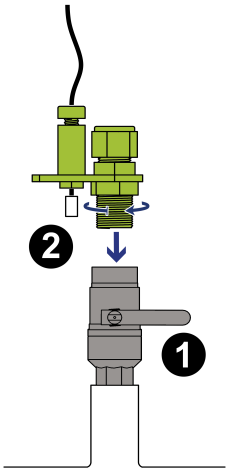
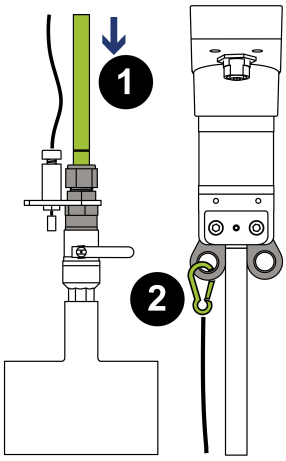
Good practice	Bad practice
	
The pipe is smooth and the hole is relatively small, leaving a small gap around the sensor tip.	A standard T-piece is used. This causes turbulence around the sensor. Furthermore, the diameter changes in the measurement section, leading to unpredicted behavior of the flow meter over the measurement range. Especially in small pipes < 3 inch this is a very unwanted situation.

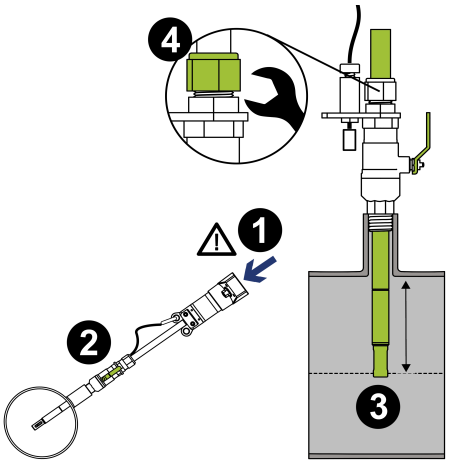
Exception
Between pipe sizes of 25 mm and 55 mm | 1 inch and 2 inch: be aware that the field accuracy is +/- 10%; installation errors are bigger. The insertion depth between 25 mm and 65 mm | 1 inch and 2.5 inch is also different. The VPFlowScope probe needs to installed 5 mm | 0.2 inch from the bottom or else the temperature sensor of the VPFlowScope probe itself is outside the flow path. The sensor tip will not be in the middle of the pipe any more. The measurement value is automatically corrected for small diameters.



SAFETY FIRST: START WITH MOUNTING THE SAFETY LINE!
The VPFlowScope probe is mounted with a 1/2 inch compression fitting. The probe is sealed with a Teflon ferrule instead of a stainless steel ferrule. Teflon may become slippery. The safety line will keep the sensor secure when it accidentally moves out of the compression fitting. NEVER over-tight the fitting, because it might damage the sensor tube.

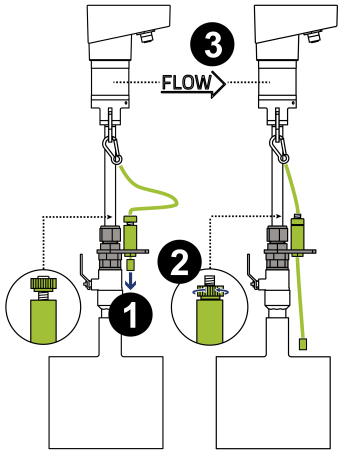
Installation with standard safety line	
	
Step 1. 1. Keep the ball valve closed! 2. Insert the compression fitting in ball valve. Use Teflon tape or liquid sealant.	**Step 2.** 1. Insert the VPFlowScope probe until it hits the ball valve. The probe remains in the compression fitting. 2. Attach the safety line to the pipe. 3. Hook the safety line to the ring of the VPFlowScope probe. Make sure that the line is tight.
	
Step 3. 1. Keep your hand on top of the VPFlowScope probe. ⚠ When you install the VPFlowScope probe into a pressurized system you are about to experience temporary leakage and force trying to push out the VPFlowScope probe from the compression fitting. When the safety system is correctly installed this is part of the normal installation procedure. 2. Open the ball valve slowly and push the VPFlowScope probe gently downwards. 3. The probe tip should be in the center of the pipe 4. Tighten the compression fitting	**Step 4.** Optionally pull tight the safety line. When adjusting the safety line, make sure you secure the VPFlowScope otherwise during adjustment. This can fox example be done by applying force by hand on top of the instruments or with a secondary safety line 1. Unlock the safety line 2. Pull tight the safety line and lock the safety line again 3. Align the flow direction. Alignment by the eye is sufficient

Installation with adjustable safety system	
	
Step 1. 1. Remove the compression fitting's parts on the long threaded end side 2. Place the safety plate over the compression fitting long threaded end	**Step 2.** 1. Mount the nut, and close tight. Then mount the compression fitting's Teflon rings and nut
	
Step 3. 1. Keep the ball valve closed! 2. Insert the compression fitting in the ball valve. Use Teflon tape or liquid sealant.	**Step 4.** 1. Insert the VPFlowScope probe until it hits the ball valve. The probe remains in the compression fitting. 2. Hook the safety line to the ring of the VPFlowScope probe.



Step 5.
1. Keep your hand on top of the VPFlowScope probe

⚠ When you install the VPFlowScope probe into a pressurized system you are about to experience temporary leakage around the compression fitting and force trying to push out the VPFlowScope probe from the compression fitting. When the safety system is correctly installed this is part of the normal installation procedure.
2. Open the ball valve slowly and push the VPFlowScope probe gently downwards.
3. The probe tip should be in the center of the pipe
4. Tighten the compression fitting



Step 6.
1. Unscrew the safety lock and pull the safety line tight
2. Tighten the safety lock
3. Align the flow direction. Alignment by the eye is sufficient

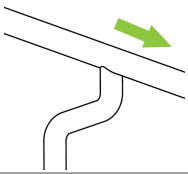
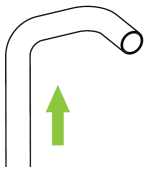
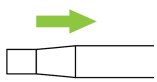
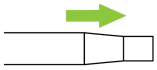
6.1 Piping table

Check the piping table below and match it for your application. The table shows the amount of upstream and downstream length depending on the installation. If applicable in front of the meter, use given upstream length. If applicable in behind the meter, use given downstream length. Gas flow in pipes follows certain rules, which must be observed for optimal measurement results. In some cases the upstream length needs to be longer, in other cases it can be shorter.

If possible choose a longer upstream length, as these are minimum values. The up- and downstream lengths are used industry wide as guidelines, but will never be a guarantee for obtaining the “true value”. So always be careful and try to build up your own experience from practical measurements

Piping table

The following table provides a guideline for proper distances between upstream or downstream objects and the VPFlowScope probe. The upstream length is the length between the last non-straight object and the VPFlowScope probe. If the upstream length is straight, and the distortion is downstream of the VPFlowScope probe, you can use the column "downstream length" as a guideline. In very complex situations, with multiple up- and downstream objects, you should consider another location. This table is a practical guideline and is not exact science. Practical situations can have multiple sources of distortion, therefore VPInstruments does not take any responsibility for the correctness.

Picture	Description	Upstream length[2]	Downstream length[2]	Effect
	Single elbow	30 * D1	10 * D1	Distorted flow profile
	Complex feed-in situation (header)	40 * D1	10 * D1	Flow profile will be distorted
	Double elbow, multiple elbows following each other	40 * D1	10 * D1	Distorted profile + swirl
	Diameter change from small to large (gradual or instant)	40 * D1	5 *D1	Jet shaped flow
	Diameter change from large to small (gradual change, between 7 and 15 degrees)	10 * D1	5 * D1	Flattened flow profile

1 = inner diameter; 2 = minimum length

6.2 Flow range table

Schedule 40 standard seamless carbon steel pipe							
		ID		Flow			
Size (inch)	DN	Inch	mm	Min (scfm)	Max (scfm)	Min (m^3_n/hr)	Max (m^3_n/hr)
2	50	2.1	52.5	2	688	4	1,169
3	80	3.1	77.9	5	1,516	9	2,576
4	100	4.0	102.3	9	2,610	15	4,435
6	150	6.1	154.1	20	5,924	34	10,065
8	200	8.0	202.7	34	10,259	58	17,429
10	250	10.2	259.1	56	16,756	95	28,468
12	300	11.9	303.2	77	22,953	130	38,995
16	400	15.0	381.0	121	36,237	205	61,565
20	500	18.8	477.8	190	56,996	323	96,832

The ranges apply only to compressed air and nitrogen

Schedule 10 standard seamless carbon steel pipe							
		ID		Flow			
Size (inch)	DN	Inch	mm	Min scfm	Max scfm	Min m^3_n/hr	Max m^3_n/hr
2	50	2.2	54.8	2	749	4	1,273
3	80	3.3	82.8	6	1,712	10	2,908
4	100	4.3	108.2	10	2,923	17	4,966
6	150	6.4	161.5	22	6,508	37	11,057
8	200	8.3	211.6	37	11,173	63	18,982
10	250	10.4	264.7	58	17,487	99	29,709
12	300	12.4	314.7	82	24,724	140	42,004
16	400	15.6	396.8	131	39,315	223	66,794
20	500	19.6	496.9	205	61,643	349	104,729

The ranges apply only to compressed air and nitrogen

7 Display

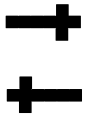
The display provide some additional features:
- LCD display with 3 rows of real time data, refreshed every second
- Key pad with menu to configure the main settings
- Data logger with adjustable logging intervals (option)
- 5 custom units (multiply an existing unit with a factor and show it on the LCD display). Configuration can be done with VPStudio.

By default, the display will show 3 rows of measurement data in the factory default units: m_n/sec, deg C and bar (g). The menu can be entered to change the configuration. See section menu for all configuration options.

The VPFlowScope display can be powered up without a sensor being connected. In this case a "no sensor" message will be shown when the device. Always connect a sensor to ensure proper operation.

7.1 Display status icons

Some status icons show feedback on the meters' status. Below is a list with explanation

Icons	Description
	Sensor module is properly connected and supplied with power
	No communication with the sensor [Check external power when disconnected]
	A blinking dot will indicate that a data session is active
	2 rotating arrows indicate that there is communication with the computer
	The display is locked. The menu can not be accessed
	Memory indication. Each block indicates 20% of memory usage. The blocks start to blink if the memory is more then 95% full

7.2 LCD display

The LCD display provides 3 rows for real time data. Each row can be configured in the display menu by selecting the desired parameter for this row.
Available options are listed in menu -> display.

7.3 Data Logger

The optional integrated data logger offers you 2 Million data points. Enough to measure all three channels 1 x per second for more than a week. Use the following guidelines for the intervals

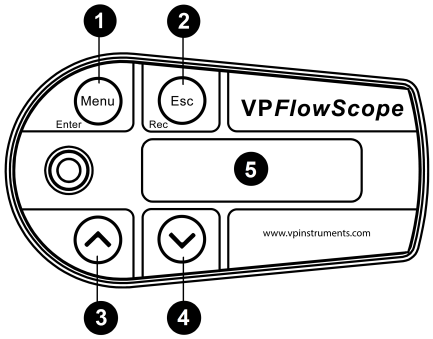
Application	Flow	Pressure	Temperature	Estimated log time*
Standard energy management application	5 min	5 min	5 min	2314 days
Machine testing - quick fluctuations	1 sec	1 sec	1 sec	7 days
Audit - one week	10 sec	10 sec	5 min	113 days
Audit - one month	30 sec	30 sec	5 min	330 days

* Log time with empty data logger
Multiple sessions can be recorded on the data logger. For each time a session is started, a new session will be recorded. It's not possible to append to an existing session.

When a power failure occurs during recording, the session will be aborted. When power is restored, a new session will start automatically.

7.4 Keypad

The key pad contains 4 buttons to control the display.



1 Menu / Enter Used to enter the (sub)menu or to confirm a setting
2 Escape / Record Will start a data logging session when in the data acquisition screen.
Will return from a (sub)menu when not in the data acquisition screen
3 Button up Navigate up in the menu
4 Button down Navigate down in the menu

Special key functions

- Lock display

In the main screen, press up and down simultaneously to lock or unlock the display. A lock icon will appear in the right lower corner of the screen. The lock function will block keypad functionality.

- Clean re-boot.

Hold esc pressed when turning the power on. Use this option when a display will not start up or if a session won't stop. This can happen due to subsequent power failures at the moment that the memory is almost full.

7.5 Menu

The menu is categorized into 3 main items which contain their own sub menu items. The complete menu structure is shown below:

1. Settings
    1. Diameter
    2. Display
    3. Date and Time
    4. Modbus address
    5. RS485
    6. Display dim time
    7. Display orientation
2. DAQ Sessions
    1. New Session
    2. Delete all
3. Advanced
    1. Reset

1 Settings
The settings menu can be used to change both functional parameters as display settings.

1.1 Diameter
The sensor needs to know the exact inner pipe diameter to calculate mass flow. Changing the diameter is only possible when the sensor is connected. When the menu is entered, first select the desired unit, this can be in mm or inch.
Now enter the inner pipe diameter en confirm by pressing enter.

1.2 Display
The main screen of the display contains 3 rows to display measurement values. Via this menu measurement values can be assigned to these rows. Select the desired unit for row 1 and hit enter to configure row 2. Repeat the above to go to row 3. Available units are:

Measurand	Available units	Description
Empty	-	Leave this display row empty
Flow	m_n/sec m^3_n/h l_n/min SCFM m^3_n/min sfps	Normalized
Pressure	bar psi	Gauge
Temperature	°C °F	
Totalizer	m^3_n	Normalized
Custom		5 available units to be configured with VPStudio. Multiply an existing unit with a user defined factor.

1.3 Date and Time
Adjust date and time settings. First enter the menu option and set the date with the key pad. The date is formatted as: DD-MM-YYYY. After setting the date, confirm with enter and then enter the time settings in format: HH:MM:SS, again confirm with enter. The new date will become active immediately.

Date/time settings are kept actual by the real time clock until long power down. Date and time will also be synchronized with the computer when used with VPStudio. Pressing the store button will trigger the synchronization.

1.4 Modbus address
The Modbus address can be changed with this option. Use the up and down buttons to change the number. Available numbers 1 – 247.
After setting the number press enter to save the address. The power of the VPFlowScope probe needs to be cycled to activate the new address.

1.5 RS485
The RS485 communication parameters baud rate, parity and stop bits can be changed in this menu.

1.6 Display dim time
The display back light dim time can be adjusted here. The default dim time is set to 10 seconds. Other Available options are:
- Fading off. The back light will remain on.
- 5 till 30 seconds with steps of 5 seconds.

Confirming with menu will make this setting immediately active.

1.7 Display orientation
The text on the display can be rotated upside down for installations were the text needs to be mirrored. Enter the menu item and select the desired orientation with the arrow keys. Confirm with enter to make these settings active.

All keys will maintain their function.

2 DAQ Sessions
The VPFlowScope probe contains an optional 2 Million point data logger. When available, the menu is set to start and stop the sessions or to delete all present data.

2.1 Start session
The session will be started when you push the enter button after selecting this option. When the session is started, the menu will close and the main screen will be shown. A blinking dot in the right upper corner will indicate the running session. The menu will be blocked when a session is active. The session can be stopped by pressing the esc button.

2.2 Delete all
All sessions will be deleted. It is not possible to delete just a single session.

3 Advanced

3.1 Reset
Reset the device. All peripherals will be reinitialized. This option is also needed when updating the display firmware.

8 VPStudio software

The VPFlowScope probe can be read out and configured with the VPStudio software. This software can be downloaded from www.vpinstruments.com/downloads.
In case of basic configuration and read out, use the free edition. If real time data viewing and recording is required, request a license code by our sales department.

A quick start is shown below, read the VPStudio manual for more information. This manual can be downloaded from www.vpinstruments.com/downloads.

The sensor module needs to be connected to the display in order to read out the display. It is not possible to read out sessions when the VPFlowScope probe sensor is not connected

Connect the VPFlowScope probe to the computer
The VPFlowScope probe can be connected to the computer with the M12 connector from the JB5 interface box. This interface box combines the power and data signals. Power up the device by connecting the 24VDC power supply to the JB5 interface box. A RS485 to USB converter can be used to connect the JB5 interface box to the computer.

Install USB converter driver
A driver needs to be installed for the RS485 to USB converter. The driver might be installed automatically by your windows system or need to be installed manually. All drivers are available on our website www.vpinstruments.com/downloads. All drivers are enclosed with the download of VPStudio and can be found in the installation folder.

Configure the VPFlowScope probe
- Start the VPStudio software
- In the explorer window, right click to open the menu. Now click add device
- Click the scan button to search for the right COM port. Select it and click add
- Enter a name for the device
- Now select serial for RS485 converter
- Set the communication parameters if available
- Click add

VPFlowScope probe sensor read out
- Click on the device in the explorer window to read out the settings
- The status tab provides general information
- The installation tab is used to configure the settings

VPFlowScope probe display read out
- Click on the plus icon to unfold the display icon
- Click on display to read out the display settings
- The status tab provides general information
- The installation tab is used to configure the settings
- Click sessions below display to retrieve session data

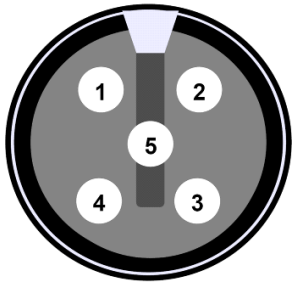
9 Electrical connections

NEVER USE AC POWER. THIS WILL VOID WARRANTY AND BRING PERMANENT DAMAGE TO THE ELECTRONICS. THE INSTRUMENT MIGHT BE DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR.
CONNECT THE M12 CONNECTOR BEFORE POWERING UP THE INSTRUMENTS.

The VPFlowScope probe provides a 4 .. 20 mA / pulse output and a Modbus output. All signals are present in the M12 connector. These outputs can be used to connect the VPFlowScope probe to a building management system or energy monitoring system like VPVision.

Pin	Signal	Wire color*
1	+12 .. 24 VDC	Brown
2	0 Volt	White
3	4 .. 20 mA signal, active	Blue
4	RS485 B	Black
5	RS485 A	Grey

** Wire colors apply to VPInstruments cables*



M12 5-pin female connector

Cabling
Shielded twisted pair cabling must be used for proper communication and measurement. Connect shield to safety ground on one point. The thickness of the wires depends on the cable length. For cabling below 300 meter | 1000 ft, use 20 awg. For longer runs use 18 awg or better.

Power supply
The input voltage is 12 to 24VDC. Make sure that the power supply is at least 12V at the connector. Voltage drops will occur in long cables resulting in insufficient power. The display will notify you when there is insufficient power.

9.1 4 .. 20 mA output

The 4 .. 20 mA output is an active, non- isolated linearized current loop that can be used to connect the VPFlowScope probe to a control system, a building/processing management system or any 4 .. 20 mA based system.

There is one 4 .. 20 mA output available on the VPFlowScope probe. This output can be assigned to one of the measurement parameters, only one can be selected. For each measurand, a number of units is available. The factory default is m_n/sec.

Measurand	Unit
Flow	m_n/sec
Flow	m^3_n/hr
Flow	l_n/min
Flow	SCFM
Flow	m^3_n/min
Flow	sfps
Pressure	bar
Pressure	psi
Temperature	°C
Temperature	°F

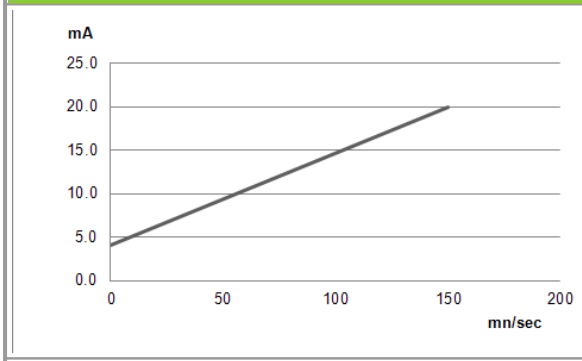
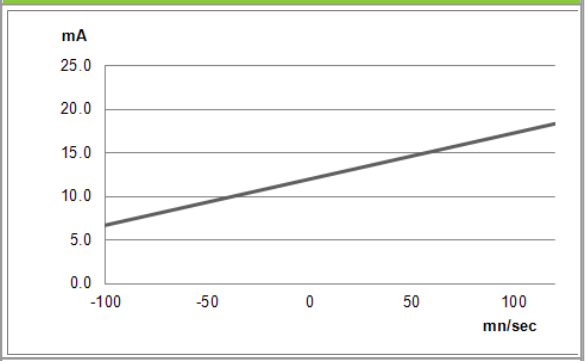
For scaling purposes, the zero and span matching 4 and 20mA can be modified. This will not effect the original measurement range. The zero and span are only used to increase or narrow the resolution. For bi-directional measurement, the zero value needs to be set negative. See below table for factory defaults.

Mode	Zero	Span	Idle output
Single direction	0% flow range	100% flow range	4 mA
Bi directional	-100% flow range	100% flow range	12 mA

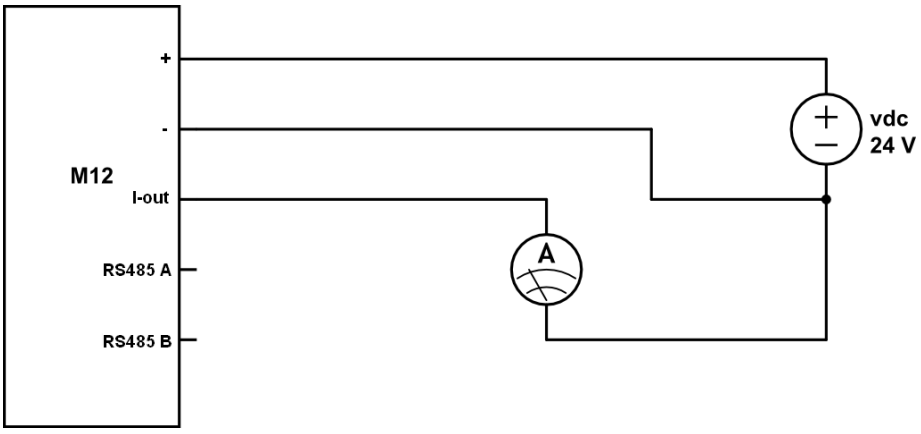
Configuration with VPStudio
VPStudio can be used to configure the 4 .. 20 mA settings. Use the select box to choose the preferred unit that will be assigned to the output. Set zero and span to the preferred values.

Changing to volumetric units, the programmed diameter is calculated in the settings. So change the diameter first, then the analogue settings. VPStudio provides feedback while you are changing the settings. Use “set default” to go back to the factory default.

4 .. 20 mA output

Single direction	Bi directional
	
0% | 100% flow	-100% | 100% flow

Electrical scheme:



The current meter is placed in between the current output and the power supply ground. You can also use a digital multimeter to test the current output.

9.2 Pulse output

The VPFlowScope probe features a low-frequency active pulse output. The pulse is a 'non potential' free output as it acts like a controlled current output. To make it passive, an external isolator can be used.

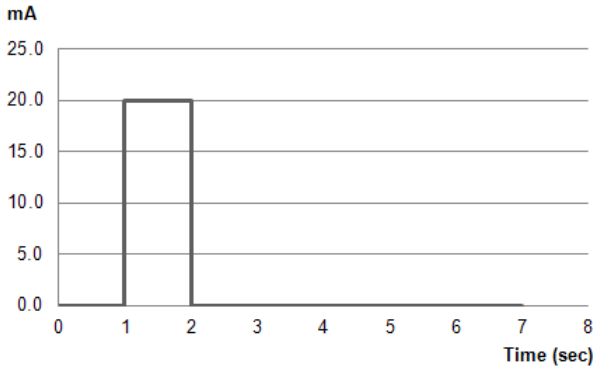
The pulse interval can be set with the VPStudio software. A pulse from 0 .. 20 mA will be generated when the interval exceeds. The maximum pulse frequency is once per 2 seconds. If the pulse interval is set too small, a continuous pulse (20mA high level) will be the result.

The pulse output is connected to the internal totalizer value. When the totalizer has increased by the pulse interval, the pulse will be generated. As it is not possible to generate a negative pulse, negative flow can not be indicated by pulse. In case of negative flow, the internal totalizer will count backwards. Pulses will not be generated until the same amount of positive flow has been added to the totalizer again. In this way we ensure that the pulse output will always be synchronized with the internal totalizer of the VPFlowScope probe. In case of continuous negative flow, consider to change the flow meter direction.

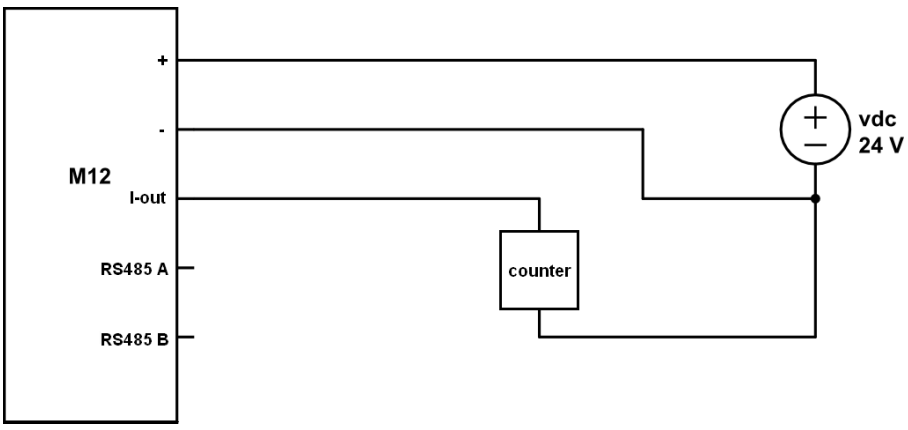
Default settings

Diameter	Diameter	Pulse interval
> 40 mm and < 92 mm	> 1.57 inch and < 3.62 inch	1 m^3_n
> 92 mm and < 160 mm	> 3.62 inch and < 6.3 inch	2 m^3_n
> 160 mm and < 205 mm	> 6.3 inch and < 8.07 inch	5 m^3_n

Pulse output



Electrical scheme:



9.3 Modbus interface

Introduction to Modbus
For a complete introduction on the Modbus standard can be found on www.modbus.org. See the document Modbus_over_serial_line_V1_02.pdf, which can be downloaded from their website. We strongly recommend to download and read this information carefully before installing Modbus communication. The following paragraphs in this chapter assume you are familiar with the Modbus communication standard.

All measurement parameters are available through Modbus in floating point and integer format. The data will be refreshed every second. Maximum polling interval is 10ms.

Communication settings
The RS485 communication settings can be changed with VPStudio. Below shows the available options

- Baud rate: 9600 | 19200 | 38400
- Stop bits: 1 | 2
- Parity: None | Even | Odd

The Modbus settings can be changed with VPStudio, the hardware address can also be changed with the keypad when available. Below shows all available options

- Hardware address: 1-247
- Integer multiplier: 1-1000

Data format
Function code 0x03 for reading(Holding register)
Function code 0x10 for writing (Holding register)
32-bit Floating point Little endian [CDAB]
32-bit signed Integer Little endian [CDAB]

Factory default settings

Parameters	Value
Baud rate	38400
Stop bits	1
Parity	None
Hardware address	9
Integer multiplier	10

Register map

The actual measurement data is placed in holding registers. To read out data, you will need to use the corresponding holding register. All data is stored in 2 16-bit registers with below register number as start address. Read out the data with this start address and length 2.

Decimal	HEX	Description	Type	Read / Write
16	0x10	Flow in m_n/sec	32-bit integer (x10)	Read
17	0x11	Flow in m^3_n/hr	32-bit integer (x10)	Read
18	0x12	Flow in l_n/min	32-bit integer (x10)	Read
19	0x13	Flow in SCFM	32-bit integer (x10)	Read
20	0x14	Flow in m^3_n/min	32-bit integer (x10)	Read
21	0x15	Flow in sfps	32-bit integer (x10)	Read
32	0x20	Pressure in bar	32-bit integer (x10)	Read
33	0x21	Pressure in psi	32-bit integer (x10)	Read
64	0x40	Temperature in °C	32-bit integer (x10)	Read
65	0x41	Temperature in °F	32-bit integer (x10)	Read
128	0x80	Totalizer in m^3_n	32-bit integer (x10)	Read / Write*

* Writing to the totalizer will reset the totalizer to zero.

Decimal	HEX	Description	Type	Read / Write
8	0x08	Diameter	32-bit Floating point	Read / Write
9	0x09	4 .. 20 mA Max	32-bit Floating point	Read / Write
10	0x0A	4 .. 20 mA Min	32-bit Floating point	Read / Write
11	0x0B	4 .. 20 mA Unit	32-bit Floating point	Read / Write
24	0x18	Flow in m_n/sec	32-bit Floating point	Read
25	0x19	Flow in m^3_n/hr	32-bit Floating point	Read
26	0x1A	Flow in l_n/min	32-bit Floating point	Read
27	0x1B	Flow in SCFM	32-bit Floating point	Read
28	0x1C	Flow in m^3_n/min	32-bit Floating point	Read
29	0x1D	Flow in sfps	32-bit Floating point	Read
40	0x28	Pressure in bar	32-bit Floating point	Read
41	0x29	Pressure in psi	32-bit Floating point	Read
72	0x48	Temperature in °C	32-bit Floating point	Read
73	0x49	Temperature in °F	32-bit Floating point	Read
136	0x88	Totalizer in m^3_n	32-bit Floating point	Read / Write*

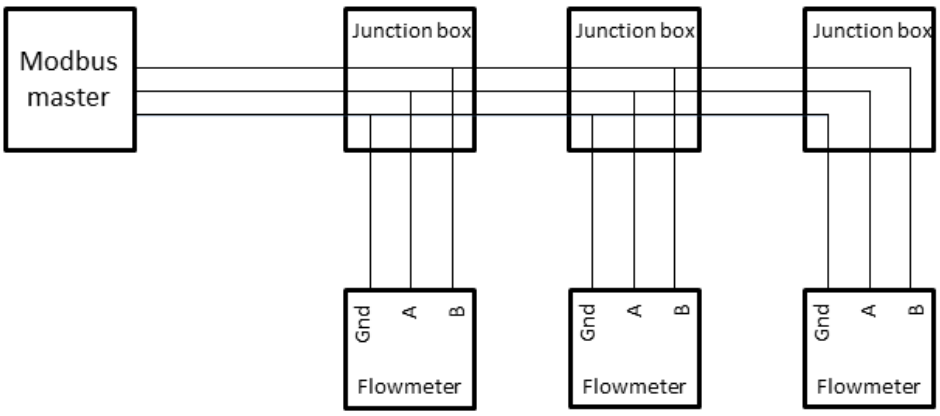
* Writing to the totalizer will reset the totalizer to zero.

Available write operations

Option	Data	Description
4 .. 20 mA unit	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Other	m_n/sec m^3_n/hr l_n/min SCFM m^3_n/min sfps bar psi °C °F m_n/sec
4 .. 20 mA min	Decimal value	
4 .. 20 mA max	Decimal value	
Diameter	25 - 1016 mm	
Totalizer	Integer or floating point type depending on register type	Will reset the totalizer to zero

Installing a RS485 network require specific knowledge. Not following the specifications strictly might result in incorrect communications and equipment damage. Please leave installation up to professional contractors. Make sure that they read this chapter carefully and follow up all RS485 guidelines.

RS485 is a differential balanced line over twisted pair. It can span relatively large distances up to 1200 meter | 4000 feet. The wires should be connected as a point-to-point configuration, or also called daisy chain. Do not install as star or ring network! The trunk line goes from the master to all devices making a drop down to each device. The cable length from the trunk line to the Modbus device needs to be as small as possible. Junction boxes are used to make the T junction.



Shielded twisted pair should be used. Connection of a third wire between the master and slave should be done to limit the common mode voltage that can be impressed on the slaves inputs. The required cable quality depends on the total cable distance, the number of nodes and the environmental influences. A local contractor can help you select the right cable for your application.

Termination resistor
Termination resistors reduce electrical noise sensitivity. They need to be added to the installation when cable distances become longer then 10 meter. The value of each termination resistor should be equal to the cable characteristic impedance (typically, 120 ohms for twisted pairs).

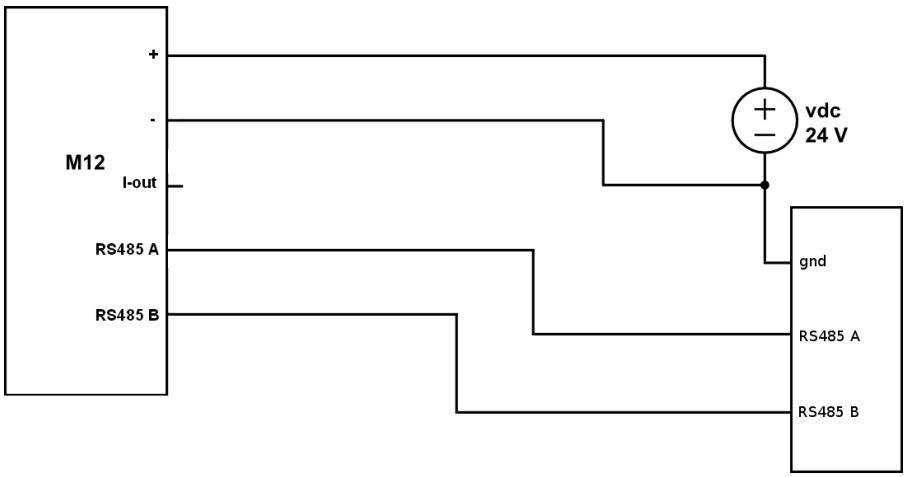
There can only be one termination resistor at the very end of the trunk line. The VPInstruments junction box features a jumper that can be used to enable a 120 Ohm resistor. When using the VPInstruments Modbus Junction boxes make sure that the 120 Ohm resistor is only enabled in the last Modbus Junction box in the daisy chain.

Biasing
When there is no data activity on an RS485 network, the communications lines are "floating" and, thus susceptible to external noise or interference. Receivers on a RS485 network have built in hysteresis (200mV differential required to insure known state). To insure that a receiver stays in an inactive state, when no data signal is present, bias resistors are required. Bias resistors are a pull-up resistor on Modbus B and a pull-down resistor on the Modbus A line. The value of the bias resistor depends on the number of devices and the supply voltage. The table below shows which resistor values can be used for different voltage in a chain with 1 to 8 VPFlowScope probes.

Supply voltage	Bias pull up	Bias pull down
12 V	5 KΩ	1 KΩ
24 V	10 KΩ	1 KΩ

Bus power
The VPFlowScope probe can be powered via the same trunk line. 2 separate wires are used for power + and power -. Take in account that long wires with multiple slaves will cause voltage drops. The minimum supply voltage is 12VDC measured at the last VPFlowScope probe in the daisy chain.

Electrical scheme



10 Service

The VPFlowScope probe needs regular maintenance to ensure that the product is functioning properly. Especially when the product is used for mobile air audits, we recommend inspecting the instrument before and after every audit to ensure that the product has not been damaged. For precision measurement equipment such as the VPFlowScope probe, a proper maintenance program is key to reliable measurement results and a long product lifetime.

10.1 Software and firmware updates

News on software and firmware updates can be found on www.vpinstruments.com, or are provided by your local re-seller. The VPFlowScope probe sensor can be updated via the RS485 port. A special display update cable is used for updating the firmware of the display. This cable is available on request. Do not use a standard cable as this might damage your display or computer. Instructions on the update procedure are distributed on request. Upgrading is only possible for authorized technicians, at own risk.

10.2 Calibration interval

The quality of the compressed air or gas you are measuring could influence the accuracy of this product. VPInstruments guarantees the accuracy, as indicated on the calibration certificate or in the product specifications. This accuracy will remain valid until the moment of commissioning within the first 36 months after purchasing this product under the following conditions:

- The products is stored indoors in a dry, frost free environment.
- Vibrations and heavy shocks should be avoided during transport and storage.

If this product is not commissioned within 36 months after the initial purchase we highly recommend to send the product back to VPInstruments for check-up and re-calibration.

Once the product is put into operation, the calibration interval depends on the quality of the gas. If the quality of the gas is unknown, VPInstruments advises annual recalibration. The latest calibration date can be found in VPStudio.

10.3 Service subscriptions

VPInstruments offers several Service Subscriptions. Enrolling in a Service Subscription helps you get the most out of your measurement equipment. We keep your equipment in excellent and most reliable condition, as we include annual re-calibration on our calibration equipment. With the latest software releases and expert technical support, you will save time and money. We offer the following programs:

- Standard Service Agreement; Cleaning. Re-calibration, repair*, firmware update(s) and warranty extension when serviced within 12 months subsequent intervals.
- Service Exchange Agreement; Annual exchange of your flow meter. No service time! Have a fully calibrated flow meter 24/7, 365 days a week!

** Repair within terms of usage, see general terms and conditions.*

The VPInstruments service subscriptions helps keeping you focused on what matters most for your company.

Benefits

- Annual calibrated and cleaned instruments
- Warranty extension
- Software- and firmware updates
- Personal (phone) support and e-mail support by our skilled technicians

Consult your distributor for the best VPInstruments service agreement for your business.

11 Specifications

Please always check the label of your product for the specifications.
Specifications are subject to change as we are continuously improving our products.
Please contact us to obtain the latest specification sheet.

Flow sensor
(minimum detection level and max flow rate shown)

Flow range	0.5 .. 150 m_n/sec	1.7 .. 492 sfps
Accuracy	2% of reading under calibration condition Recommended pipe diameter: 40mm | 1.5 inch and up	
Reference conditions	0°C, 1013.25 mbar - DIN1343	32°F, 14.65 psi
Gas temperature	0 .. 60 °C	32 .. 140 °F
Gases	Compressed air, non aggressive gasses and non combustible gasses, 95% non condensing gases	

Pressure sensor

Range	0 .. 16 bar gauge	0 .. 250 psi gauge
Accuracy	+/- 1.5% FSS (0 .. 60°C)	+/- 1.5% FSS (32 .. 140°F)

Temperature sensor

Range	0 .. 60 °C	32 .. 140 °F
Accuracy	+/- 1 °C | 1.8 °F (from 10 m_n/sec | 32 sfps and up) (At zero flow conditions, temperature reading increases due to self-heating by the flow sensor)	

Display

Technology	Liquid crystal
Back light	Blue with auto power save
Memory	2.000.000 point memory

Mechanical

Probe length	400 mm	15.7 inch
Probe diameter	12.7 mm	0.5 inch
Process connection	Compression fittings, 0.5 inch, NPT thread	
IP grade	IP52 when mated to display module IP63 when mated to connector cap	
Wetted materials	Probe: Anodized aluminum (tip) and SS316L (stem), Sensor: Silicon, epoxy, glass, Sealing: FPM 60	
Ambient temperature	0 .. 60 °C	32 .. 140 °F
Ambient humidity	10 .. 95 %. Avoid condensation at all times	

Inputs and outputs

Analog	4 .. 20 mA or pulse, selectable via installation software
Serial IO	Modbus RTU
Supply	12 .. 24 VDC +-10% CLASS 2 (UL)
Power consumption	150 mA at 24 VDC

12 Order information and accessories

Order Code	Flow range	Option	Length	Option	Display
VPS.R150	150 m_n/sec	P300	300 mm length	D0	No display, No connector cap
		P400	400 mm length	D10	Display
		P600	600 mm length	D11	Display + 2M point logger
				D2	Connector cap
				KIT	Complete audit start kit

Basic features	Display features	Connector types
Thermabridge Flow sensor Pressure, temperature sensor 4 .. 20 mA / pulse output (switchable) RS485 Modbus RTU Calibration report	3 row display Keypad for configuration Multi session data logger	M12, 5 pin for standard application

Calibration

VPA.5000.911	Bi-directional measurement option
VPA.0001.092	Pressure upgrade to 35 bar | 500 psi

Accessories

VPA.5000.005	Cable, 5m / 16.4 ft with M12 5pin connector on one side, open wires on other side
VPA.5000.010	Cable, 10m / 32.9 ft with M12 5pin connector on one side, open wires on other side
VPA.0000.200	Power supply (12V, 5pin)
VPA.0030.100	Power supply module in IP65 enclosure (230-110VAC to 24VDC)
VPA.5003.000	RS485 to USB converter
VPA.5001.205	JB5 interface kit with 5m / 16.4ft cable + 24 VDC power supply + RS485 to USB converter
VPA.0003.005	Compression fitting for VPFlowScope 400mm probe with adjustable integrated safety system
VPA.0001.000	Compression fitting 0,5" NPT for insertion probes with Teflon ferrule
VPA.0001.001	Set of 5 Teflon ferrules for compression fitting
VPA.0001.003	Compression fitting 0,5" NPT for insertion probes with stainless steel ferrule
VPA.0003.000	Standard safety chain for insertion probes
VPA.5001.900	VPFlowScope connector cap with 5 pin M12
VPS.D100.000	VPFlowScope display without data logger
VPS.D110.000	VPFlowScope display with data logger
VPA.5030.020	Modbus junction box (IP65)

13 Appendix A - UL

The VPFlowScope complies with the CE requirements as stated in the CE declaration. CE compliance can only be achieved when grounding and shielding directions are followed and proper cables and connector assemblies are used.

Electrical connection guidelines- UL 508 Listing for USA & Canada (Check label to see if product is UL marked)

The VPFlowScope is intended to be used with a Class 2 power source or Class 2 transformer in accordance with UL1310 or UL1585. As an alternative a LVLC (Low Voltage Limited Current) power source, with the following properties can be used:

- The device shall be used with a suitable isolating source such that the maximum open circuit voltage potential available? to the product is not more than 24 V DC and the current is limited to a value not exceeding 8 amperes measured after 1 minute of operation;
- A fuse in accordance with the UL248 series and rated max 4A, shall be installed in the 24V DC power supply to the device? In order to limit the available current.

Electrical connection guidelines: general remarks

Make sure that the following conditions are met:

- For portable, non-critical applications, a switched mode 12 V DC, 1A power adapter may be used. Switched mode power supplies that are of poor quality, might affect the accuracy.

Le VPFlowscope est conforme aux exigences CE, comme indiqué dans la déclaration CE. La conformité CE ne peut être atteinte que lorsque les directives de mise à la terre et d'isolation sont suivies et que les les câbles et raccords appropriés sont utilisés.

Lignes directrices pour branchements électriques – UL508 pour le Canada et les États-Unis (voir sur l'étiquettesi le produit est marqué UL)

Le VPFlowscope est prévu pour être utilisé avec une source d'alimentation Classe 2 ou avec un transformateur de Classe 2 en accord avec UL1310 ou UL1585. Comme alternative, une source d'alimentation BTCL (Basse Tension Courant Limité) avec les propriétés suivante peut être utilisée :

- Le dispositif doit être utilisé avec une source d'isolation appropriée afin que le voltage maximal en circuit ouvert disponible pour le produit ne dépasse pas 24VDC, et que le courant soit limité à une valeur de 8 ampères après 1 minute de fonctionnement.
- Un fusible de 4A maximum, et conforme à la série UL248 doit être installé dans la source d'alimentation de l'appareil afin de limiter le courant disponible.

Directives pour le raccordement électrique : remarques générales

Assurez-vous que les conditions suivantes sont remplies :

- Pour les applications mobiles, un adapteur de type alimentation à découpage 12VDC, 1A peut-être utilisée. Cependant, un adapteur de mauvaise qualité pourra affecter la précision.

easy insight into energy flows

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