

molbox RFM™ Reference Flow Monitor



DESCRIPTION

molbox RFM is a support unit for making mass flow measurements using molbloc-L laminar and molbloc-S sonic flow elements.

molbloc flow elements are connected to molbox RFM with two pressure connections and one data line. molbox RFM reads calibration data off the molbloc EEPROM and measures molbloc upstream and downstream pressure with its built-in high accuracy Reference Pressure Transducers (RPTs). An ohmic measurement system reads the resistance of the molbloc platinum resistance thermometers from which molbloc temperature is calculated. Using the molbloc calibration data, pressures, temperature and gas properties stored in molbox RFM memory, the flow rate of the gas

flowing through the molbloc is calculated. For molbloc-L flow elements, a microrange option is available to increase flow measurement resolution and accuracy under 10% FS of the flow range.

molbox RFM and molbloc flow elements are useful in a variety of measurement, test and calibration applications in which highly accurate measurement of low gas flows where maximum accuracy is the most notable specification is needed. molbox RFM is specifically designed for applications in which a highly compact presentation, great rangeability and reduced cost are the primary considerations. A second model, molbox1, is available for applications in which lowest possible uncertainty is the top priority.

FEATURES

- Compact presentation.
- Covers the flow range of 1 sccm to 100 slm with molbloc-L, and up to 5000 slm with molbloc-S.
- Select from 20 different gases with molbloc-L and 10 with molbloc-S.
- Accredited measurement uncertainty of $\pm 0.5\%$ of reading with 100:1 rangeability.
- Internal valving for on-board purge, leak test and tare support.
- Includes advanced measurement functions such as totalize, average, hi/lo and deviation.
- Complete front panel control and RS232 and IEEE-488 remote communications.
- Measures mass and volume flow with user setable reference pressure and temperature conditions.

To configure your mass flow calibration system, see the pages that follow to select the molbloc and pressure dependent calibrations to best cover your flow ranges and pressure conditions. molstic mounting systems and COMPASS® for molbox calibration software are available to complete the system (see molstic and COMPASS product brochures).

FLOW MEASUREMENT SPECIFICATIONS

molbox RFM measures the flow through molbloc flow elements. The flow range, usable operating pressure, and differential pressure for molbloc-L, or the flow range and absolute pressure range for molbloc-S, depend on the molbloc element used and the calibration options. For molbloc-L ranges up to 3E4, the resolution and accuracy under 10% FS are improved by the microrange option. For the 1E5-L molbloc, the microrange option is necessary to achieve the specification.

molbox RFM

molbloc-L (ranges 1E1-L thru 3E4-L)

Measurement

Update Rate: 1 second

Range: 0 to molbloc full scale depending on gas and molbloc pressure dependent calibration type (see molbloc-L tables)

Resolution: 0.01% FS

Linearity: $\pm 0.23\%$ of reading from 10 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.023\%$ FS under 10% FS

Repeatability: $\pm 0.1\%$ of reading from 10 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.01\%$ FS under 10% FS

Precision¹: $\pm 0.25\%$ of reading from 10 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.025\%$ FS under 10% FS

Predicted

Stability²: $\pm 0.15\%$ of reading from 10 to 100% FS,
(One Year) $\pm 0.015\%$ FS under 10% FS

Measurement

Uncertainty³: $\pm 0.5\%$ of reading from 10 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.05\%$ FS under 10% FS

molbloc-S (all ranges)

Update Rate: 1 second

Range: The flow related to 20 to 200 kPa absolute (3 to 30 psia) or 50 to 500 kPa absolute (7 to 70 psia) upstream (see molbloc-S table)

Resolution: $\pm 0.01\%$ of reading

Linearity: $\pm 0.25\%$ of reading

Repeatability: $\pm 0.1\%$ of reading

Precision¹: $\pm 0.3\%$ of reading

Predicted
Stability²: $\pm 0.2\%$ of reading
(One Year)

Measurement

Uncertainty³: $\pm 0.5\%$ of reading from 50-500kPa,
 $\pm 0.5\%$ of the flow @ 50kPa from 20-50kPa

molbox RFM with Microrange Option

molbloc-L (ranges 1E1-L thru 3E4-L)

Measurement

Update Rate: 1 second

Range: 0 to molbloc full scale depending on gas and molbloc pressure dependent calibration type (see molbloc-L tables)

Resolution: 0.01% FS,
0.001% FS under 10% FS

Linearity: $\pm 0.23\%$ of reading from 1 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.0023\%$ FS under 1% FS

Repeatability: $\pm 0.1\%$ of reading from 1 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.001\%$ FS under 1% FS

Precision¹: $\pm 0.25\%$ of reading from 1 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.0025\%$ FS under 1% FS

Predicted

Stability²: $\pm 0.15\%$ of reading from 1 to 100% FS,
(One Year) $\pm 0.0015\%$ FS under 1% FS

Measurement

Uncertainty³: $\pm 0.5\%$ of reading from 1 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.005\%$ FS under 1% FS

molbloc-L (ranges 1E5 only)

Measurement

Update Rate: 1 second

Range: 0 to molbloc full scale depending on gas and molbloc pressure dependent calibration type (see molbloc-L tables)

Resolution: 0.01% FS

Linearity: $\pm 0.25\%$ of reading from 5 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.0125\%$ FS under 5% FS

Repeatability: $\pm 0.2\%$ of reading from 5 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.01\%$ FS under 5% FS

Precision¹: $\pm 0.32\%$ of reading from 5 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.016\%$ FS under 5% FS

Predicted

Stability²: $\pm 0.2\%$ of reading from 5 to 100% FS,
(One Year) $\pm 0.01\%$ FS under 5% FS

Measurement

Uncertainty³: $\pm 0.5\%$ of reading from 5 to 100% FS,
 $\pm 0.025\%$ FS under 5% FS

molbloc-S (all ranges)

Specifications are the same as a molbox RFM without Microrange. The Microrange transducer is disabled whenever the molbox RFM is connected to a molbloc-S.

¹ Precision: Combined linearity, hysteresis, repeatability.

² Predicted Stability: Maximum change in zero and span over one year for typical molbox RFM and molbloc used under typical conditions. As stability can only be predicted, stability for a specific molbox RFM should be established from experience.

³ Measurement Uncertainty: Maximum deviation of the molbox RFM flow indication from the true value of the flow through the molbloc including precision, stability and DHI calibration standard uncertainty. Measurement uncertainty specifications for molblocs are valid only for gases with which the molbloc has been calibrated. All molblocs are calibrated for N₂. Calibrations with other gases are optional. DHI calibration capability is not maintained at all times for all gases on all molbloc designations. Check for availability before ordering.

Pressure Dependent Calibration Types for molbloc-S

The operating range of molbloc-S is dependent upon the absolute upstream pressure. Two different calibration options are offered to accommodate the requirement of the user's application. The Standard Pressure (SP) calibration of 50 to 500 kPa absolute (7 to 70 psia) gives the most flexibility and allows partial use of the range without a vacuum. The Low Pressure (LP) calibration of 20 to 200 kPa (3 to 30 psia) requires the use of a vacuum downstream. The resulting flow range for different gases at these pressures can be found in the molbloc-S range table on page 3.

Calibration Type	Operating Pressure	Considerations
Standard pressure	50-500kPa absolute (7 to 70 psia)	Must be flowing to a vacuum to obtain full range
Low pressure	20-200 kPa absolute (3 to 30 psia)	

molbloc-S Ranges with Standard and Low Pressure Calibrations

		molbloc-S DESIGNATOR, KF (sccm/kPa), AND FULL SCALE FLOW (slm @ 0°C)												
		DESIGNATOR: KF (sccm/kPa):	1E1-S 10	2E1-S 20	5E1-S 50	1E2-S 100	2E2-S 200	5E2-S 500	1E3-S 1000	2E3-S 2000	5E3-S 5000	1E4-S 10000		
GASES		Ratio	Cal Type											
INERT	Nitrogen	N2	1.000	SP	5.00	10.00	25.0	50.0	100.0	250.0	500	1000	2500	5000
				LP	2.00	4.00	10.0	20.0	40.0	100.0	200	400	1000	2000
	Argon	Ar	0.837	minimum	2.00	3.50	7.7	15.0	28.0	67.0	129	248	596	1173
				SP	4.19	8.37	20.9	41.9	83.7	209.3	419	837	2093	4186
	Helium	He	2.647	minimum	1.67	3.00	6.9	13.9	24.3	61.0	122	245	526	1053
	Sulfur Hexafluoride	SF6	0.435	SP	13.23	26.47	66.2	132.3	264.7	661.7	1323	2647	6617	13234
FLAMMABLE				LP	5.29	10.59	26.5	52.9	105.9	264.7	529	1059	2647	5294
				minimum	9.00	16.00	29.7	54.1	98.0	218.4	383	768	1928	3865
	Xenon ¹	Xe	0.460	SP	2.17	4.35	10.9	21.7	43.5	108.7	217	435	1087	2174
				LP	0.87	1.74	4.3	8.7	17.4	43.5	87	174	435	870
				minimum	0.63	1.10	2.7	5.5	10.9	23.4	47	94	235	471
				SP	2.30	4.60	11.5	23.0	46.0	115.1	230	460	1151	2302
FLUORO-CARBONS	Ethane ¹	C2H6	0.960	SP	4.80	9.60	24.0	48.0	96.0	240.1	480	960	2401	4802
				LP	1.92	3.84	9.6	19.2	38.4	96.0	192	384	960	1921
	Ethylene ¹	C2H4	0.996	minimum	1.40	2.80	6.2	12.4	24.9	62.4	107	214	537	1074
				SP	4.98	9.96	24.9	49.8	99.6	248.9	498	996	2489	4979
	Hydrogen	H2	3.730	LP	1.99	3.98	10.0	19.9	39.8	99.6	199	398	996	1992
				minimum	1.70	3.00	6.5	13.1	26.2	65.8	113	226	565	1132
OTHER	Methane	CH4	1.320	SP	18.65	37.30	93.2	186.5	373.0	932.4	1865	3730	9324	18649
				LP	7.46	14.92	37.3	74.6	149.2	373.0	746	1492	3730	7460
	Propane ¹	C3H8	0.789	minimum	10.50	15.80	36.1	65.2	116.2	255.0	512	1026	2573	4415
				SP	6.60	13.20	33.0	66.0	132.0	330.0	660	1320	3300	6601
				LP	2.64	5.28	13.2	26.4	52.8	132.0	264	528	1320	2640
				SP	2.64	4.50	10.0	17.6	35.3	88.6	178	304	763	1527
FLUORO-CARBONS	Carbon Tetrafluoride ¹	CF4	0.563	LP	2.81	5.63	14.1	28.1	56.3	140.7	281	563	1407	2814
				minimum	1.13	2.25	5.6	11.3	22.5	56.3	113	225	563	1126
	Hexafluoroethene ¹	C2F6	0.447	SP	0.84	1.60	3.6	7.2	14.5	36.3	62	125	312	624
				LP	2.24	4.47	11.2	22.4	44.7	111.8	224	447	1118	2237
	Trifluoromethane ¹	CHF3	0.629	minimum	0.89	1.79	4.5	8.9	17.9	44.7	89	179	447	895
				SP	0.65	1.10	2.8	5.6	11.2	24.1	48	96	241	483
OTHER	Air	Air	0.983	SP	3.15	6.29	15.7	31.5	62.9	157.3	315	629	1573	3147
				LP	1.26	2.52	6.3	12.6	25.2	62.9	126	252	629	1259
	Carbon Dioxide	CO2	0.795	minimum	0.95	1.90	4.1	8.2	16.3	41.0	70	141	352	705
	Carbon Monoxide	CO	1.000	SP	5.00	10.00	25.0	50.0	100.0	250.0	500	1000	2500	5000
				LP	2.00	4.00	10.0	20.0	40.0	100.0	200	400	1000	2000
	Nitrous Oxide	N2O	0.795	minimum	2.00	3.50	7.8	15.6	27.4	68.7	138	276	592	1186
OTHER	Octafluorocyclobutane ¹	C4F8	0.367	SP ²	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
				LP	0.73	1.47	3.7	7.3	14.7	36.7	73	147	367	733
				minimum	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Oxygen	O2	0.935	SP	4.68	9.35	23.4	46.8	93.5	233.9	468	935	2339	4677
				LP	1.87	3.74	9.4	18.7	37.4	93.5	187	374	935	1871
				minimum	1.87	3.20	7.3	14.6	25.6	64.2	129	258	553	1107

Ratio = Inverse square root density ratio of the current gas to Nitrogen

KF = Pressure to Flow Conversion Ratio, sccm/kPa

To estimate a flow in a given gas at a given pressure: Flow(slm) = KF * Pressure in kPa absolute / 1000 * Gas Ratio

Cal Types:

SP = Standard Pressure calibration 50 - 500kPa absolute; table shows flow @ 500 kPa,
flow @ 50 kPa is 10% of value shown.

LP = Low Pressure calibration 20 - 200kPa; table shows flow @ 200 kPa, flow @ 20 kPa is 10% of value shown.

minimum = table shows estimated minimum flow without vacuum if atmospheric pressure is ~ 100 kPa

NOTE: Non-Standart Pressure (NSP) calibrations are available up to 600kPa absolute

¹This gas is not currently supported by the molbox RFM

²The vapor pressure of Octafluorocyclobutane is 230 kPa absolute,
SP operation is not possible

All flows are nominal and approximate; in gases other than N2 and Air, flows may vary up to 10% due to differences in characteristics and manufacturing

Pressure Dependent Calibration Types for molbloc-L

Different pressure dependent calibration options for molbloc-Ls determine the range of operating pressures over which a molbloc-L can be used within its mass flow measurement specifications. The calibration option also affects the molbloc-L flow range and the differential pressure associated with the flow range. The different calibration options are offered to accommodate the requirement of the user's application. All molbloc-Ls are delivered with an N₂ calibration (**full mod, low pressure**) by default. Calibrations with other gases or N₂ calibration other than **full mod, low pressure**, must be specified.

Calibration Type	Operating Pressure	Nominal Differential Pressure at FS Flow
Full mod, low pressure	250 to 325 kPa absolute (22 to 33 psig) upstream of molbloc	0 to 50 kPa (7.5 psi)
Full mod, high pressure	325 to 525 kPa absolute (33 to 62 psig) upstream of molbloc	0 to 50 kPa (7.5 psi)
Full mod, downstream	atmospheric pressure downstream of molbloc	0 to 100 kPa (15 psi)
Single P, low pressure (non-N ₂ gases only)	Any specified single molbloc upstream pressure between 250 and 325 kPa absolute (22 to 33 psig)	0 to 50 kPa (7.5 psi)
Single P, high pressure (non-N ₂ gases only)	Any specified single molbloc upstream pressure between 325 and 525 kPa absolute (33 to 62 psig)	0 to 50 kPa (7.5 psi)

molbloc-L Ranges with Low Pressure Calibrations

- full mod, low pressure
- full mod, downstream
- single P, low pressure

		molbloc-L SIZE AND FULL SCALE FLOW (sccm)										
GASES		SIZE 1E1	SIZE 5E1	SIZE 1E2	SIZE 2E2	SIZE 5E2	SIZE 1E3	SIZE 5E3	SIZE 1E4	SIZE 3E4	SIZE 1E5	
INERT	Nitrogen	N ₂	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	5 000	10 000	30 000	100 000
	Argon	Ar	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	5 000	10 000	25 000	80 000
	Helium	He	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	5 000	10 000	30 000	100 000
	Sulfur Hexafluoride	SF ₆	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	2 000 500	6 000 1 000	6 000 4 000	--
	Xenon	XE	10	40	80	150	400	800	3 500 500	8 000	11 000 3 000	30 000 20 000
FLAMMABLE	Butane	C ₄ H ₁₀	20	100	130 30	270 50	670 140	2 300	2 200 1 400	7 000 3 000	--	--
	Ethane	C ₂ H ₆	20	100	200	400	1 000	2 000	6 000 1 000	18 000 2 000	18 000 6 000	60 000 50 000
	Ethylene	C ₂ H ₄	16	80	160	320	800	1 600	7 000 1 000	16 000	20 000 5 000	70 000 40 000
	Hydrogen	H ₂	20	100	200	400	1 000	2 000	10 000	20 000	60 000	200 000
	Methane	CH ₄	16	80	160	320	800	1 600	8 000	16 000	40 000 5 000	120 000 40 000
	Propane	C ₃ H ₈	20	100	200	400	1 000	2 000	3 000 1 000	10 000 2 000	10 000 7 000	--
FLUOROCARBONS	Carbon Tetrafluoride	CF ₄	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	4 000 600	10 000	12 000 3 000	36 000 25 000
	Hexafluoroethene	C ₂ F ₆	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	2 000 600	6 000 1 200	6 000 4 000	--
	Trifluoromethane	CHF ₃	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	4 000 600	10 000	12 000 4 000	38 000 30 000
OTHER	Air	Air	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	5 000	10 000	30 000	100 000
	Carbon Dioxide	CO ₂	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	5 000	10 000	20 000 4 000	60 000 30 000
	Carbon Monoxide	CO	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	5 000	10 000	30 000	100 000
	Nitrous Oxide	N ₂ O	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	5 000	10 000	20 000 4 000	60 000 30 000
	Octafluorocyclobutane	C ₄ F ₈	15	60 9	65 17	130 34	330 85	1 100 175	1 050 840	3 400 1 700	--	--
	Oxygen	O ₂	10	50	100	200	500	1 000	5 000	10 000	30 000	80 000

molbloc-L Ranges with High Pressure Calibrations

• full mod, high pressure

• single P, high pressure

		molbloc-L SIZE AND FULL SCALE FLOW (sccm)									
GASES		SIZE 1E1	SIZE 5E1	SIZE 1E2	SIZE 2E2	SIZE 5E2	SIZE 1E3	SIZE 5E3	SIZE 1E4	SIZE 3E4	SIZE 1E5
INERT	Nitrogen	N ₂	20	100	200	400	1 000	2 000	10 000	20 000	40 000 7 500
	Argon	Ar	20	100	200	400	1 000	2 000	10 000	17 000	35 000 6 000
	Helium	He	20	100	200	400	1 000	2 000	10 000	20 000	65 000
	Sulfur Hexafluoride	SF ₆	25	100 15	120 30	250 50	600 150	2 000 300	2 000 1 400	6 200 2 800	-- --
	Xenon	XE	20	100	150	350	650	1 700	3 350 950	11 000 1 900	11 000 5 700
FLAMMABLE	Butane	C ₄ H ₁₀	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Ethane	C ₂ H ₆	40	200	350 50	700 100	1 800 200	4 000	6 000 2 300	20 000 4 500	20 000 13 800
	Ethylene	C ₂ H ₄	40	200	350	700	2 000	4 000	7 000 2 000	22 000 4 000	22 000 12 700
	Hydrogen	H ₂	40	200	400	900	2 000	4 500	22 000	45 000	130 000
	Methane	CH ₄	35	175	350	700	1 700	3 500	13 000 2 000	33 000	42 000 12 000
	Propane	C ₃ H ₈	50	200 25	200 50	400 100	1 000 250	3 500 500	3 500 2 600	11 000 5 400	-- --
FLUOROCARBONS	Carbon Tetrafluoride	CF ₄	20	100	200	400	1 000	2 000	3 700 1 200	12 000 2 400	12 000 7 300
	Hexafluoroethene	C ₂ F ₆	25	100 15	120 30	250 50	600 150	2 000 300	1 800 1 500	6 000 3 000	-- --
	Trifluoromethane	CHF ₃	25	125	240 30	450 60	1 200 150	2 500	4 000 1 500	12 000 3 000	12 000 8 800
OTHER	Air	Air	20	100	200	400	1 000	2 000	10 000	20 000	40 000 7 200
	Carbon Dioxide	CO ₂	25	125	250	500	1 250	2 500	6 600 1 400	20 000 2 500	20 000 8 800
	Carbon Monoxide	CO	20	100	200	400	1 000	2 000	10 000	20 000	40 000 7 500
	Nitrous Oxide	N ₂ O	25	125	250	500	1 250	2 500	11 000 1 500	20 000 3 000	20 000 9 000
	Octafluorocyclobutane	C ₄ F ₈	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Oxygen	O ₂	20	100	200	400	1 000	2 000	10 000	20 000	40 000 6 500

A bold value indicates that the maximum flow is limited by the maximum Reynolds number value of 1 200 which is reached before the normal differential pressure range is reached. In that case, the second value gives the minimum flow for which relative accuracy is $\pm 0.5\%$ of reading. With the microrange option, this value is divided by 10.

Where there is no value in the table (-), this indicates that the maximum Reynolds number is reached before the differential pressures reaches 5 kPa, therefore calibration with that gas is not useful.

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Power Requirements:	85 to 264 VAC, 47 to 440 Hz, 18 VA max consumption	Gases Supported:	for molbloc-L Nitrogen (N2), Air, Argon (Ar), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Helium (He), Oxygen (O2), Carbon Dioxide (CO2), Carbon Tetrafluoride (CF4), Ethane (C2H6), Ethylene (C2H4), Fluorofrom (CHF3), Hexafluoroethane (C2F6), Hydrogen (H2), Methane (CH4), Nitrous Oxide (N2O), Propane (C3H8), Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6)
Operating Temperature		for molbloc-S	
Range:	15 to 35 °C	N2, He, Ar, H2, O2, CH4, Air, N2O, SF6, CO2, CO	
Storage Temperature		Pressure Connections:	Quick connectors equivalent to Swagelok QM Series (-QM2-B200)
Range:	-20 to 70 °C	Pressure Limits:	Maximum Working Pressure: 600 kPa absolute (87 psia)
Vibration:	Meets MIL-T-28800D	Flow Ranges:	Covers the flow range of 1 sccm to 100 slm with molbloc-L, and up to 5000 slm with molbloc-S.
Weight:	2.55 kg (5.6 lb) max	Flow Measurement	
Dimensions:	8 cm H x 22.5 cm W x 20 cm D (3.1" x 8.9" x 7.9") approx.	Uncertainty:	± 0.5% of reading
Microprocessor:	Motorola 68302, 16 MHz	CE Conformance:	Available. Must be specified
Communication Ports:	RS-232 (COM1), RS-232 (COM2), IEEE-488		
Reference Pressure			
Transducers (RPTs):	Standard: 2 x 600 kPa (87 psia) piezoresistive silicon. Microrange Option: 12.5 kPa (1.8 psid) piezoresistive silicon		

ORDERING INFORMATION

STANDARD DELIVERY

- Users manual
- Calibration certificate
- Power cord
- (2) molbox RFM to molbloc pressure lines
- (1) molbox RFM to molbloc data line
- (2) Straight through pressure quick connectors

Product Designation: molbox RFM

Part Number: FAM0005

Ordering Description: Reference flow monitor

OPTIONS

RFM 02: Microrange

ACCESSORIES

RFM-RMK: Rack mount kit
(401465)

mfc-CB: Analog MFC interface system (see mfc-CB brochure)

molstic: molbloc mounting systems (see molstic brochure)

COMPASS® for molbox for Windows: Calibration software
(401211)

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DH Instruments, a Fluke Company
4765 East Beautiful Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85044-5318
USA

