Gas flow sensor

Features

- Solid State reliability
- Low cost, small size
- Long-term stability (parts of a percent)
- Interchangeability (0.5%)
- Protective polymer coating
- Custom designs on request

Applications

- Flow detection
- Gas-flow measurements
- Flow control
- Absolute temperature measurement
- Fluid detection



Gas flow sensor

GFL-9722

Description

The Gas Flow Sensor GFL-9722 is a ceramic based thermal sensor. It consists of two thick-film heating resistors and a thick-film temperature sensor. Both temperature sensor and heating resistors are laser trimmed which provides a true sensor-to-sensor interchangeability. The sensitive parts of the sensor are coated with a black polymer, which protects them from harsh environments like aggressive solvents, corrosive gasses and aggressive vapors.

When the GFL-9722 is heated by the heating resistors, a gas flow passing the sensor will cool it. Because of this the output resistance will change. External temperature effects can be compensated using a second, not-heated, sensor connected in a Wheatstone bridge configuration.

Specifications (in air, ambient temperature 20 °C, 1 Atm.)

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Parameter	typ	units	notes	
Dimensions	7.5 x 7.5	mm		
Operating temperature	-40 to + 70	°C		
Storage temperature	-50 to + 170	°C		
Heating resistor	50 ± 1	Ω		
Typical heating voltage	7	V		
Max. heating voltage	9	V		
Temperature sensor	2000 ± 10	Ω		
Stability	< 0.5	%		
Sensitivity	5.5 ± 0.5	Ω/ °C		
Time constant	3	sec.	depending on flow and mounting	

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Gas flow sensor

Dimensions



Positioning the sensor

The sensor is usually positioned parallel with the gas stream:

- in the heart of the stream (a).
- protuding from the wall of the tube (b).



Example of resistence response vs flow

Measurement in windtunnel by Mierij Meteo bv in de Bilt. GFL-9722 Sensor vertical parallel to flow, connections down. Pressure: 1024 mBar, temperature: 300 K, heating voltage: 7.00 V.

Flow velocity	Temp sensor
(<i>m</i> /s)	(Ω)
0	2819
0.542	2625
1.051	2534
2.049	2455
3.099	2409
4.086	2379
5.010	2361
5.997	2343
7.089	2327
8.065	2317
9.052	2307
10.076	2292



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Application circuits: Temperature compensation

The following circuit can be used to compensate for temperature using the temperature reference chip TD5 from Honeywell. This circuit is driven by a constant voltage source and gives an analog output signal.

NB: there is a DC-offset on the output signal which must be compensated out. The temp sensor is 2000 Ω at 20°C + 2750 ppm/K.



Application circuits: Temperature compensation + read out

The following circuit can be used to read out the sensor.



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