

# Tracer® Electronic Switching Flowmeter with FCI (Fluid Characteristic Indication)

Operating Instructions (Ver 5.1)

## General

The Tracer Electronic Switching Flowmeter provides:

- ◆ 0 to 5V or 0 to 10V Selectable Flow Output
- ◆ 0 to 5V or 0 to 10V Selectable Temperature Output
- ◆ 1A, 30VAC/42VDC Programmable Switch for high or low temperature and/or flow
- ◆ Fluid Flow Rate Display in gallons per minute (gpm) or liters per minute (lpm)
- ◆ Fluid Temperature Display (°F or °C)
- ◆ BTU's per Minute Display
- ◆ Fluid Characteristic Indication (Turbulent Flow or "TFLOW" on display)

## BTU Basics

**To obtain the most accurate BTU calculation, use the Tracer to measure the supply side water temperature (in °F) before installing the Tracer in a cooling water return line.**

BTU's per minute calculation is based on the increase in water temperature multiplied by the flow rate. The Tracer Electronic Flowmeter calculates this information based on supply side temperature entered manually. Due to inherent differences in most thermometers, the most accurate BTU calculation will result from using the same thermometer (inside the Tracer) to measure supply and return line temperatures. Record the supply side temperature and enter it using the "Set BTU/m Input Temperature" instructions on page 3.

## Turbulent Flow

"TFLOW" notification appears on the display when Turbulent Flow is likely inside the cooling circuit of the selected size. Turbulent flow is the mixing and swirling of water inside a cooling line that provides optimum heat transfer. Water flow rate greater than the point of Turbulent Flow provides diminishing benefits with increased pumping.

Turbulent flow tracking allows technicians to apply mathematical cooling principles to all machines in a water system. Visit the Technical Documents section of [www.smartflow-usa.com](http://www.smartflow-usa.com) for a detailed discussion of Turbulent Flow.

Input the percentage of glycol in cooling water (0%, 10%, 20% or 30%) for accurate Turbulent Flow Indication. See Setup Mode option on page 5. Antifreeze compounds of ethylene or propylene glycol are sometimes added to cooling water. Glycol compounds have substantially higher viscosity than water. As a result, higher flow rates are required to reach Turbulent Flow when glycol is used.

Turbulent Flow Indicator is based on Reynolds Number of 4,000.

U.S. Patent No.  
7,729,869



## Application

*Liquid running through the Tracer flowmeter should be free of metal shavings. Loose particles can interfere with moving components causing extra maintenance requirements.*

## Specifications

### Flow

Size [NPT(F)]	Range (gpm)	Range (lpm)
3/8"	0.5 to 8	0 to 30
3/4"	2.0 to 20	8 to 76
1"	3.0 to 30	11 to 114
1-1/2"	6.5 to 60	25 to 228
2"	10.0 to 110	38 to 418

Accuracy .....±5% of Full Range

Repeatability .....±3% of Full Range

### Environment

Tracer construction is water resistant, but the electronics housing is not submersible.

### Temperature

Operating Range .....32 to 180°F (0 to 82°C)

Accuracy .....±2% of Display Value

Repeatability .....±1% of Display Value

### Component Materials

Body (2") .....Anodized Aluminum

Stainless Steel (optional)

Impeller.....Nylon 6/12

Shaft.....18-8 Stainless Steel

Electronics Cover .....Nylon 6/6

Cable.....9-Conductor, 24AWG

### Operating

Internal Relay .....SPDT 1A, 30VAC/42VDC

Power Required .....8 to 28VDC

Maximum Pressure.....100psi (7bar)

**Burger & Brown**  
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## Installation Instructions

For best performance, mount the Tracer flowmeter vertically with the flow entering the meter from the bottom. This provides full flow inside the meter. We recommend a straight run of pipe equal to 10 pipe diameters on the inlet side of the Tracer flowmeter and a straight run of pipe equal to 5 pipe diameters on the outlet side of the flowmeter.

Use appropriate pipe sealant to prevent leakage on inlet and outlet sides of the flowmeter. The Tracer flowmeter can be installed in any orientation with the flow direction from either end of the flowmeter.

Attach the power and switching connections to the bare wires of the cable according to the chart at right. Individual wires are 24AWG stranded copper. Attach 8 to 28VDC power to the unit for correct operation. Power supply other than 8 to 28VDC may damage the electronics!

In normal operation, the internal relay is energized. If power to the unit is lost, or if unit is turned off, relay state changes to signal an alarm.

Wire Color	Function
Black	DC Ground (Ground for Analog Output)
Yellow	+DC Input (8 to 28VDC)
Red	Not used
Blue	Not used
Orange	Flow Analog Voltage Output (+)
Violet	Temp. Analog Voltage Output (+)
Green	Relay Common
Brown	Relay Normally Open
Gray/White	Relay Normally Closed

## Operating Instructions

When power is applied to the Tracer flowmeter, the software version and the Tracer Unit Code (EP) will appear sequentially. Then the screen will be blank. Press ON to activate the display.

There are three modes of operation for the Tracer Electronic Flowmeter: User Mode, Setup Mode, and Calibration Mode. **User Mode** displays all available process information. **Setup Mode** configures the flowmeter for unit selection (°F, °C, lpm, and gpm) and switching set points. Setup Mode also allows you to enter the information required to calculate BTU's per Minute.

### User Mode

After pressing ON, press  $\Delta$  or  $\nabla$  buttons repeatedly to scroll continuously through displays of flow rate, temperature and BTU/m. BTU/m will not display until activated using the Setup Mode on page 3.

#### View Flow Rate



Press ON. Flow rate and units (gpm or lpm) will be displayed. See Figure 1.

#### View Temperature



Press  $\Delta$ . Temperature and units (°F or °C) will be displayed. See Figure 2.

#### View BTU/m (not visible until activated)



Press  $\Delta$ . BTU's and units will be displayed. See Figure 3. To activate, enter Setup Mode, and follow instructions to set input temperature found on page 3.

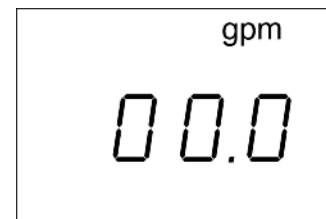


Figure 1



Figure 2

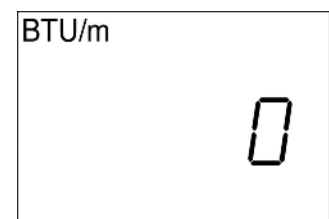
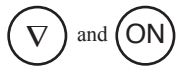


Figure 3

## Setup Mode

Setup Mode allows the user to select English or Metric units, input BTU/m inlet temperature, and set auto shut-off time.  $\Delta$  and  $\nabla$  keys scroll through all options inside each display selection. Turn the display off before entering Setup Mode.

### Enter Setup Mode



The display must be off to enter Setup Mode. Press and hold  $\nabla$ , then press ON. Flow rate units plus "Unit" and "SETUP" will be displayed. See Figure 4.

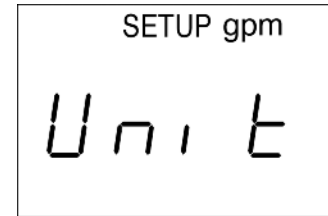
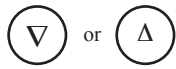


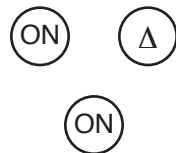
Figure 4

### Select Flow Rate Units



Press  $\nabla$  or  $\Delta$  to change units to gpm or lpm. Press ON when the desired unit is displayed. See Figure 4. Setup Mode will continue unless you exit.

### Exit Setup Mode



Press ON repeatedly until the display reads "end", then press  $\Delta$ . See figure 5. The display will read "off", then press ON and the unit will return to user mode.

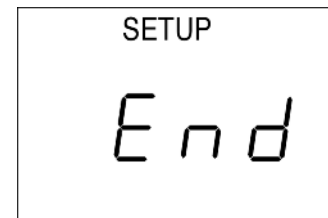
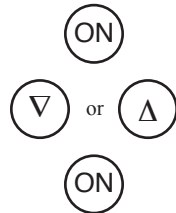


Figure 5

### Select Temperature Units



Enter Setup Mode (above). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows "°F" or "°C" in the upper right corner and "unit" in the center. See Figure 6. Press  $\nabla$  or  $\Delta$  to change units. Press ON when desired unit is displayed. Setup Mode will continue unless you exit.

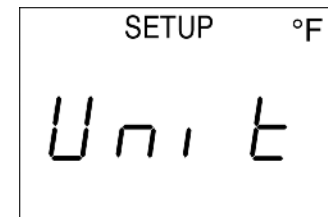
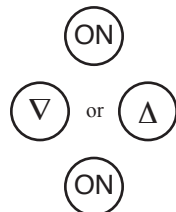


Figure 6

### Set BTU/m Input Temperature



Enter Setup Mode (above). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows "BTU/m" in the upper left corner. See Figure 7. Press  $\nabla$  or  $\Delta$  to change input temperature (40 to 220°F or 4.4 to 104.4°C). Press ON when desired unit is displayed.

*Note: If you set the temperature input to less than 40°F or 4.4°C, the display will show "off" and BTU/m display will deactivate.*

Setup Mode will continue unless you exit.

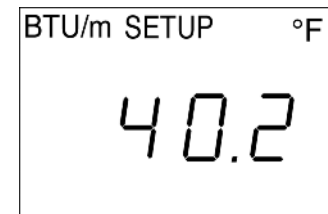


Figure 7

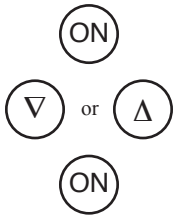
### Reactivate BTU/m

Follow the instructions to set (above) and press  $\nabla$  or  $\Delta$  to display a value instead of "off", and press ON to set.

## Switch Set Points

**All switch set points are turned off when shipped from the factory.** The switch actuates when sensed value(s) fall below low level set point(s) and/or sensed values rise above high level set point(s). The switch returns to normal state when the process fluid reaches programmed flow and/or temperature conditions. There is a 2 second delay to prevent switch chatter. Any or all of the switches may be disabled or enabled at any time. An internal programming check prevents conflicting low and high switch values. **Always set the flow switching points using the same units as normal operating units.**

### Set Lo Limit Flow Switch Point



Enter Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows “gpm” or “lpm” in the upper right corner and “LO L” in the center. See Figure 8. Press ▽ or Δ to set the flow rate at which the Normally Open switch contact will close. Press ON when desired value is displayed. To turn off this set point, press and hold ▽ until the display shows “OFF”. Setup Mode will continue unless you exit.

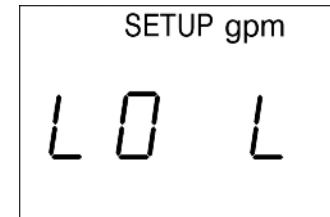
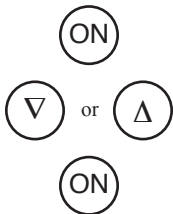


Figure 8

### Set Hi Limit Flow Switch Point



Enter Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows “gpm” or “lpm” in the upper right corner and “HI L” in the center. See Figure 9. Press ▽ or Δ to set the flow rate at which the Normally Open switch contact will close. Press ON when desired value is displayed. To turn off this set point, press and hold Δ until the display shows “OFF”, and press ON to set. Setup Mode will continue unless you exit.

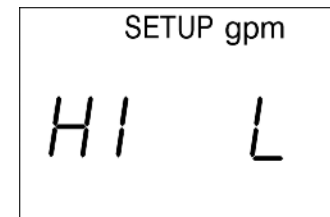
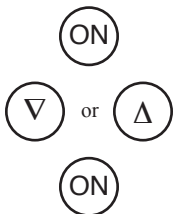


Figure 9

### Set Lo Limit Temperature Switch Point

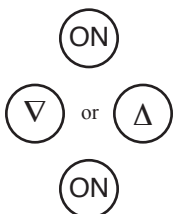


Enter Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows “°F” or “°C” in the upper right corner and “LO L” in the center. See Figure 10. Press ▽ or Δ to set the temperature at which the Normally Open switch contact will close. Press ON when desired value is displayed. To turn off this set point, press and hold ▽ until the display shows “OFF”. Setup Mode will continue unless you exit.



Figure 10

### Set Hi Limit Temperature Switch Point



Enter Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows “°F” or “°C” in the upper right corner and “HI L” in the center. See Figure 11. Press ▽ or Δ to set the flow rate at which the Normally Open switch contact will close. Press ON when desired value is displayed. To turn off this set point, press and hold Δ until the display shows “OFF”, and press ON to set. Setup Mode will continue unless you exit.

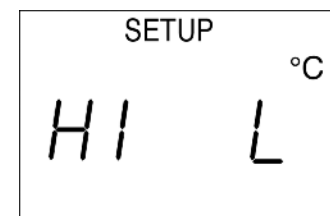
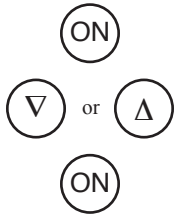


Figure 11

### Set Flow Rate Display Filter

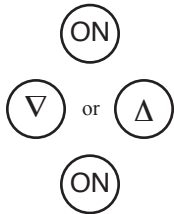


The Tracer flowmeter impeller changes speed as the water is swirling and mixing while passing through the meter. The filter program stabilizes the display reading for the meter by averaging readings from the impeller. Filter can be turned ON or OFF. The recommended setting is ON.  
Enter the Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON repeatedly until the display reads “Filt” (see figure 12) Press ▽ or Δ to toggle the filter setting ON or OFF.



Figure 12

### Change Cooling Line Size (Turbulent Flow)



Enter Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows “PIPE” (see Figure 13). Press ▽ or Δ to change cooling line size. Available sizes are:

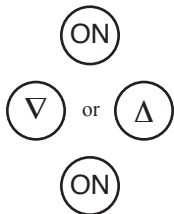
0.250
0.375
0.750
1.000
1.500
2.000



Figure 13

Turbulent Flow display “TFLOW” and calculation are adjusted automatically based on process temperature and internal passage diameter.

### Select Relay Action to Set Points or Turbulent Flow

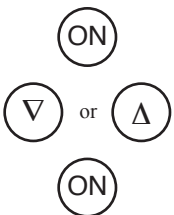


Relay can be set to switch on user programmed set points or on Turbulent Flow. Enter Setup Mode (see page 3) Press ON repeatedly until the display shows “rELY” (see Figure 14). Press ▽ or Δ to change relay action to “ALARM” or “TFLOW”. Alarm settings are programmed per instructions on page 4 and are held in memory if “TFLOW” setting is used. Factory default setting is “ALARM”



Figure 14

### Select Percentage of Glycol



Enter the percentage of glycol present for accurate Turbulent Flow “TFLOW” Indication. Higher flow rate is required to achieve Turbulent Flow when glycol is present.

Enter Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON until the display shows “GLYC” (see Figure 15). Press ▽ or Δ to indicate the correct glycol percentage: 0, 10, 20, or 30%. Press ON to set.

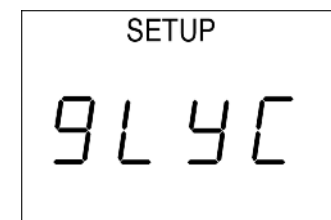


Figure 15

## Analog Output Options

Output Voltage for flow and temperature are set independently. 0 to 5V or 0 to 10V output is selectable for flow or temperature. The upper end of the effective flow range is also user-definable to give a more accurate flow and temperature reading over the voltage output range. For Example: In a 1" cooling line you are using only half of the flow range. The Tracer flowmeter can be set for 10V output at 15gpm instead of 30gpm to provide more precise voltage output.

**Select Flow Voltage Output**

Enter Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows "AO F" (Analog Output Flow) in the center. See Figure 16. Press ∇ or Δ to set 5 or 10 Volts as the upper end of the output range. Press ON when desired value is displayed.

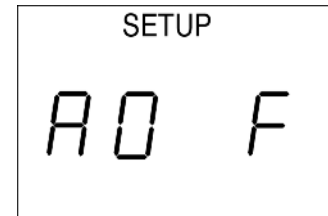


Figure 16

**Select Temperature Voltage Output \***

Enter Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows "AO t" (Analog Output Temperature) in the center. See Figure 17. Press ∇ or Δ to set 5 or 10 Volts as the upper end of the output range. Press ON when desired value is displayed.

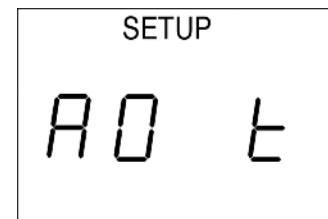


Figure 17

**Set Flow Output Upper Limit**

Enter Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows "FS F" (Full Scale Flow) in the center. See Figure 18. Press ∇ or Δ to set the upper limit of the flow output. Do not set this value higher than the largest flow value of the meter. Press ON when desired value is displayed.

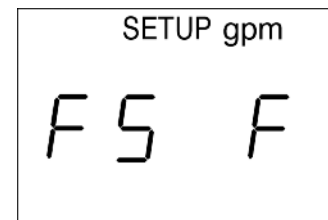


Figure 18

**Set Temperature Output Upper Limit \***

Enter Setup Mode (see page 3). Press ON repeatedly until the display shows "FS t" (Full Scale Temperature) in the center. See Figure 19. Press ∇ or Δ to set the upper limit of the temperature output. Press ON when desired value is displayed. Setup Mode will continue unless you exit.

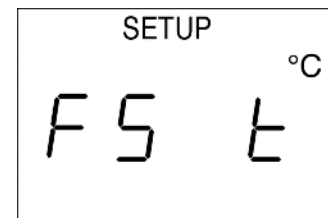


Figure 19

\* Note: The low end of temperature output range = 0°F (-17.8°C)

## Calibration Mode

Calibration Mode allows the user to adjust the calibration values for flow and temperature. Other functions include LCD self-test. There are eight functions or displays available through this mode. The ON button scrolls the menu through all functions until the user turns the display off.

Turn the display off before entering Calibration Mode.

### Start Calibration Mode

hold



then



The display must be off to enter this mode. Press and hold  $\Delta$ , then press ON. CAL will be displayed. See Figure 20. To scroll through the Calibration Mode, press the ON button. If the ON button is not pushed within three seconds, the display will automatically shut off.

### Software Version



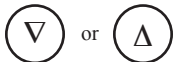
By pressing ON once after entering Calibration Mode, the software version will display. See Figure 21. There is no adjustment to be made.

### EEPR



This function resets the calibration values to the program defaults. See Figure 22. **Do not reset these values!** This will re-program the Tracer flowmeter back to pre-calibrated settings. The flowmeter must be recalibrated if this is done.

### Flow Calibration Value



Increase or decrease this number by using the arrow keys. See Figure 23. **Increasing** the calibration value by 20 units **lowers** the flow display by .1 gpm. See the Flow Calibration Procedure below.

### Temperature Calibration Value

Increase or decrease this number by using the arrow keys. See Figure 24. **Increasing** the calibration value by 10 units **raises** the temperature display by 1 degree F.

### Temperature Slope Calibration Value



Do not adjust.



Figure 20

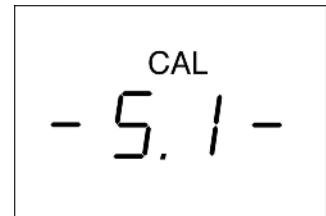


Figure 21



Figure 22

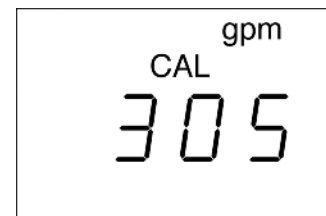


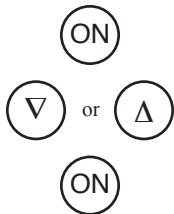
Figure 23



Figure 24

### Analog Output Calibration

This calibration compensates the output for tolerances of electronic components. Analog Output Calibration sets the upper end of the temperature and flow output at exactly 10 Volts.



**Flow** (See Figure 25): Connect the Orange wire to the + side of a voltmeter and the Black wire to ground connection. Adjust the number on the Tracer flowmeter using the arrow buttons until the voltmeter reads exactly 10 Volts. Press the ON button to scroll to the next function.

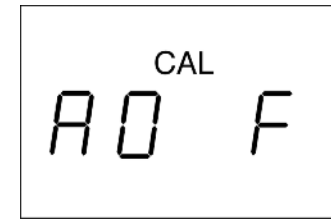


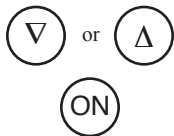
Figure 25

**Temperature** (See Figure 26): Connect the Violet wire to the + side of a voltmeter and the Black wire to ground connection. Adjust the number on the Tracer flowmeter using the arrow buttons until the voltmeter reads exactly 10 Volts. Press the ON button to scroll to the next function.



Figure 26

### LCD Test Screen



See Figure 27. By pushing either arrow button, "test" will display. By pushing the ON button while "test" is displayed, the LCD will run a self-test. See Figure 28 for LCD diagram.

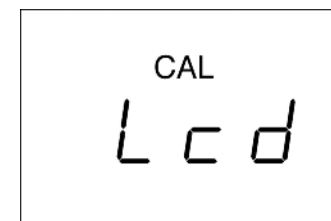
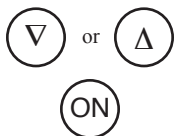


Figure 27

### End Screen



By pressing either arrow button the display will change to "OFF". Press the ON button to turn off the display.

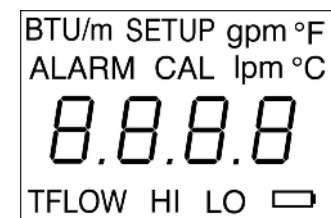


Figure 28

## Flow Calibration

### Procedure

Tools Required:  
Five Gallon (minimum) Calibrated Container (or weigh on an accurate scale)  
Stopwatch  
Valved Water Supply

See Figure 29 for an example of the test configuration.

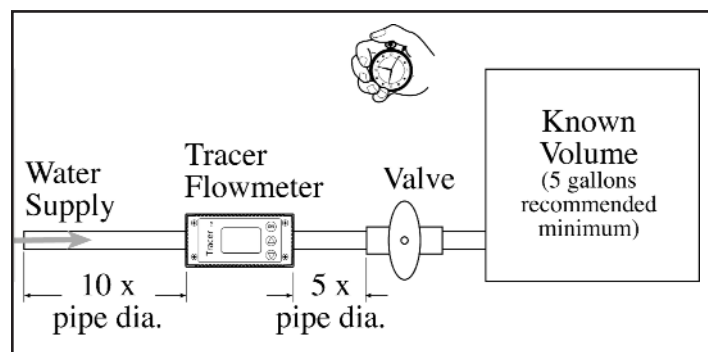


Figure 29



### Flow Calibration Procedure (continued)

Before you begin: Purge all the air from the system by running liquid through the test apparatus.

For best results, take readings as close to full range as possible (at least 5 gpm for the 3/8"NPT, etc.).

1. If the display is off, push the ON button on the Tracer flowmeter.
2. Turn valve to full open position quickly and start timer simultaneously.
3. Record flow display on the Tracer flowmeter.
4. When the liquid reaches the selected level in the container, stop timing and close the valve.
5. Divide the volume from the container by time **in minutes** from the timer to determine flow rate.
6. Plug the numbers into the following formula:  
Tracer reading - manual reading = difference  
Multiply the difference x 200.
7. Add the resulting number (positive or negative) to the Flow Calibration Value in the Calibration Mode. Use the Calibration Mode to change the flow calibration value, as shown on page 7.
8. Verify and repeat calibration if needed.

### Temperature Calibration Procedure

Tools Required:

Accurate Temperature Measuring Device

Water Supply

See Figure 30 for an example of the test configuration.

Temperature calibration must be performed with liquid flowing through the Tracer flowmeter.

1. Stabilize the temperature by allowing water to run through the circuit for a few minutes.
2. Press ON on the Tracer Flowmeter, then  $\Delta$  to display the temperature.
3. Record the temperature shown.
6. Plug the numbers into the following formula:  
Measuring device reading - Tracer Flowmeter reading = difference  
Multiply the difference x 10.
7. Add the resulting number (positive or negative) to the Temperature Calibration Value in the Calibration Mode. Use the Calibration Mode to change the temperature calibration value, as shown on page 7.
8. Verify that Tracer agrees with calibration thermometer and repeat calibration procedure if needed.

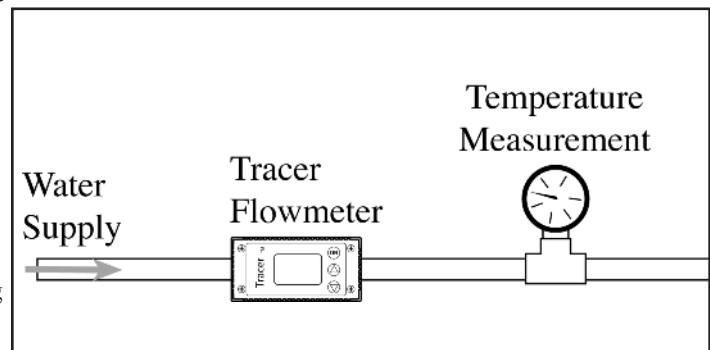


Figure 30

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## Maintenance Instructions

### Calibration

Annual calibration is recommended. Return to the factory for calibration, or follow the Flow and Temperature Calibration Procedures on pages 8 and 9.

**Caution: Do not blow compressed air through the flowmeter. Damage to the rotor and shaft may result.**

Drain liquid from inside Tracer flowmeter when not in use to prevent build-up of scale and mineral deposits.

### Copper Plumbing Alert

DO NOT connect an aluminum body flowmeter directly to copper plumbing. Galvanic corrosion is very likely to occur. Stainless steel body material is strongly recommended for this application. Contact the factory for more information.

### EMI/RFI

Electromagnetic Interference or Radio Frequency Interference may impair the proper operation of the Switching Tracer. If the unit unexpectedly turns itself off, check the area around the cable and electronic unit for pumps, heaters and electrical relays that may emit EMI/RFI. Move the cable and electronic housing away from Thermal Control Units, Heater Bands, Pumps, etc. If the problem persists, contact the factory.

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### Limited Warranty

Seller warrants that this product supplied will conform to the description herein stated and that the product will be of standard quality. This is the sole warranty made by Seller with respect to this product. Seller expressly disclaims any other express or implied warranties, including, but not limited to, the implied warranty of merchantability and the implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose. Seller shall not be liable for any cost or damages, whether direct, incidental or consequential, including, but not limited to, any injury, loss or damage resulting from the use of this product, regardless of whether any claim for such cost or damages is based on warranty, contract, negligence, tort or strict liability. The sole liability of Seller is limited to repairing or replacing this product. this warranty shall not apply to any products that have been repaired or altered by anyone other than Seller. The warranty shall not apply to any products subject to misuse due to common negligence or accident, nor to any products manufactured by Seller which are not installed or operated in accordance with the printed instructions of Seller or which have been operated beyond the rated capacity of the goods. Seller states that the product's useful safe life is 5 years. Actual life may vary widely depending on operating environment such as temperature, pressure, and chemical exposure. Users are cautioned to refer to instructions for operating limits and a partial list of incompatible chemicals.

**burger & brown engineering**  
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