# LABFACILITY THERMOCOUPLE & PLATINUM RESISTANCE THERMOMETRY – AT A GLANCE

### THERMOCOUPLE

#### SELECTING SENSOR CABLES: GUIDE TO INSULATION & COVERING

Which insulation Material?	usable temperature range	Application Notes
PVC	-10°C to 105°C	Good general purpose insulation for 'light' environments. Waterproof and very flexible.
PFA (extruded)	-75°C to 250°C	Resistant to oils, acids other adverse agents and fluids. Good mechanical strength and flexibility. PTFE better for steam/elevated pressure environments
PTFE (taped & wrapped)	-75°C to 250/300°C	Resistant to oils, acids other adverse agents and fluids. Good mechanical strength and flexibility.
Glassfibre (varnished)	-60°C to 350/400°C	Good temperature range but will not prevent ingress of fluids. Fairly flexible but does not provide good mechanical protection.
High temperature glassfibre	-60°C to 700°C	Will withstand temperature up to 700°C but will not prevent ingress of fluids. Fairly flexible, not good protection against physical disturbance.
Ceramic Fibre	0 to 1000°C	Will withstand high temperature, up to 1000°C. Will not protect against fluids or physical disturbance.
Glassfibre (varnished) stainless steel overbraid	-60°C to 350/400°C	Good resistance to physical disturbance and high temperature (up to 400°C). Will not prevent ingress of fluids.

**Screened or unscreened?** With long cable runs, the cable may need to be screened and earthed at one end (at the instrument) to minimise noise pick-up (interference) on the measuring circuit. Alternative types of screened cable construction are available and these include the use of copper or mylar screening. Twisted pair configurations are offered and these can incorporate screening as required.

#### THERMOCOUPLE ACCURACIES

Tolerance classes for thermocouples to IEC 60584-2(1982) (Amend 1-1989) BS EN60584-2(1993)					
Fe-Con (J)	Class 1	- 40 +750°C:	±0.004	. t	or ±1.5°C
	Class 2	- 40 +750°C:	±0.0075	. t	or ±2.5°C
	Class 3		-		
Cu-Con (T)	Class 1	- 40 +350°C:	±0.004	. t	or ±0.5°C
	Class 2	- 40 +350°C:	±0.0075	. t	or ±1.0°C
	Class 3	-200 + 40°C:	±0.015	. t	or ±1.0°C
NiCr -Ni (K)	Class 1	- 40 +1000°C:	±0.004	. t	or ±1.5°C
and	Class 2	- 40 +1200°C:	±0.0075	. t	or ±2.5°C
NiCrSi-NiSi (N)	Class 3	-200 + 40°C:	±0.015	. t	or ±2.5°C
NiCr-Con (E)	Class 1	- 40 +800°C:	±0.004	. t	or ±1.5°C
	Class 2	- 40 +900°C:	±0.0075	. t	or ±2.5°C
	Class 3	-200 + 40°C:	±0.015	. t	or ±2.5°C
Pt10Rh-Pt (S)	Class 1	0 +1600°C:	±[1+(t-1000).0.00	)3]	or ±1.0°C
and	Class 2	- 40 +1600°C:	±0.0025	. t	or ±1.5°C
Pt13Rh-Pt (R)	Class 3		-		
Pt30Rh-	Class 1		-		
Pt6Rh (B)	Class 2	+600 +1700°C:	±0.0025	. t	or ±1.5°C
	Class 3	+600 +1700°C:	±0.005	. t	or ±4.0°C
Note: t = actual temperature Use the larger of the two deviation values					



CALIBRATION GUIDE						
Therm	ocouple	emf in absolute millivolts (IEC 584)				l)
Туре	100°C	400°C	800°C	1000°C	1200°C	1500°C
Т	4.279	20.872	-	-	-	-
E	6.319	28.946	61.017	76.373	-	-
J	5.269	21.848	45.494	57.953	69.553	-
К	4.096	16.397	33.275	41.276	48.838	-
N	2.774	12.974	28.455	36.256	43.846	-
R	0.647	3.408	7.950	10.506	13.228	17.451
S	0.646	3.259	7.345	9.587	11.951	15.582
В	0.033	0.787	3.154	4.834	6.786	10.099
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## LABFACILITY THERMOCOUPLE & PLATINUM RESISTANCE THERMOMETRY – AT A GLANCE PLATINUM RESISTANCE THERMOMETER

#### PRACTICAL BRIDGE CIRCUITS FOR 2, 3 AND 4 WIRE THERMOMETERS

The connection between the thermometer assembly and the instrumentation. The cabling introduces electrical resistance which is placed in series with the resistance thermometer. **The two resistances are therefore cumulative and could be interpreted as an increased temperature if the lead resistance is not allowed for.** The longer and/or the smaller the diameter of the cable, the greater the lead resistance will be and the measurement errors could be appreciable. In the case of a **2 wire connection**, little can be done about this problem and some measurement error will result according to the cabling and input circuit arrangement.

For this reason, **a 2 wire arrangement is only suitable for short cable lengths**. If it is essential to use only 2 wires, ensure that the largest possible diameter of conductors is specified and

#### **STEM CONDUCTION**

This is the mechanism by which heat is conducted from or to the process medium by the probe itself; an apparent reduction or increase respectively in measured temperature results. The **immersion depth** (the length of that part of the probe which is directly in contact with the medium) must be such as to ensure that the "sensing" length is exceeded (double the sensing length is recommended). Small immersion depths result in a large temperature gradient between the sensor and the surroundings which results in a large heat flow.

The ideal immersion depth can be achieved in practice by moving the probe into or out of the process medium incrementally; with each adjustment, note any apparent change in indicated temperature. The correct depth will result in no change in indicated temperature. For calibration purposes 150 to 300mm immersion is required depending on the probe construction.

TEMPERATURE & PROCESS TECHNOLOGY

that the length of cable is minimised to keep cable resistance to as low a value as possible.

The use of 3 wires, when dictated either by probe construction or by the input termination of the measuring instrument, will allow for a good level of lead resistance compensation. However the compensation technique is based on the assumption that the resistance of all three leads is identical and that they all reside at the same ambient temperature; this is not always the case. Optimum accuracy is therefore achieved with a 4 wire configuration.



### SELF-HEATING

In order to measure the voltage dropped across the Pt sensing resistor, a current must be passed through it. The measuring current produces heat dissipation in the sensor. This results in an increased temperature indication. It is necessary to minimise the current flow as much as possible; 1mA or less is usually acceptable.

If the sensor is immersed in flowing liquid or gas, the effect is reduced because of more rapid heat removal. Conversely, in still gas for example, the effect may be significant. The self-heating coefficient E is expressed as:

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 $E = \triangle t / (R - I^2)$ 

Where  $\triangle t$  = (indicated temperature) – (temperature of the medium)

R = Pt resistance

I = measurement current

Temp	Resistance	Class A Tolerance Class B			
(°C)	(Ω)	(±°C)	(±Ω)	(±°C)	(±Ω)
-200	18.52	0.55	0.24	1.3	0.56
-100	60.26	0.35	0.14	0.8	0.32
0	100.00	0.15	0.06	0.3	0.12
100	138.51	0.35	0.13	0.8	0.30
200	175.86	0.55	0.20	1.3	0.48
300	212.05	0.75	0.27	1.8	0.64
400	247.09	0.95	0.33	2.3	0.79
500	280.98	1.15	0.38	2.8	0.93
600	313.71	1.35	0.43	3.3	1.06
650	329.64	1.45	0.46	3.6	1.13
700	345.28	_	-	3.8	1.17
800	375.70	_	-	4.3	1.28
850	390.48	-	-	4.6	1.34

RESISTANCE V TEMPERATURE AND TOLERANCES FOR PLATINUM RESISTORS TO IEC 751(1995)/BS EN60751(1996)

#### **NEW TOLERANCE CLASSES FOR RESISTORS to IEC 60751(2008)**

For wire wound resistors		For	film resistors	Tolerance value <sup>a</sup>	
Tolerance class	Temperature range of validity °C	Tolerance class	Temperature range of validity °C	°C	
W 0.1	–100 to +350	F 0.1	0 to +150	±(0.1+0.0017 t )	
W 0.15	–100 to +450	F 0.15	–30 to +300	± (0.15 + 0.002   t   )	
W 0.3	–196 to +660	F 0.3	–50 to +500	±(0.3+0.005 t )	
W 0.6	–196 to +660	F 0.6	–50 to +600	±(0.6+0.01 t )	
alt I madulus of temperature in 9C without record to sign. For any value of D					

 $a \mid t \mid = modulus$  of temperature in °C without regard to sign. For any value of R $_{\circ}$ 

#### **NEW TOLERANCE CLASSES FOR THERMOMETERS to IEC 60751(2008)**

Tolerance class	Temperature ra	Tolerance values <sup>a</sup>	
	Wire wound resistors	Film resistors	°C
AA	–50 to +250	0 to +150	± ( 0.1 + 0.0017   t  )
А	–100 to +450	-30 to +300	± (0.15 + 0.002   t   )
В	–196 to +600	-50 to +500	±(0.3+0.005 t )
С	–196 to +600	–50 to +600	±(0.6+0.01 t )

<sup>a</sup> | t | = modulus of temperature in °C without regard to sign. For any value of  $R_{\circ}$ 



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