

# DigitalFlow™ DF868 Panametrics Liquid Ultrasonic Flowmeter

## Applications

The DF868 liquid flowmeter is a complete ultrasonic flow metering system for measurement of:

- Water and wastewater
- Hot/chilled water
- Water/glycol solutions
- Refined hydrocarbons
- Petroleum products
- Crude oil
- Lubricating oils
- Diesel and fuel oils
- Solvents
- Chemicals
- Other liquids



## Features

- Economical, nonintrusive flow measurement
- Hazardous (classified) location certification
- Simple setup and installation
- Suitable for a wide range of pipe sizes and materials
- Two-channel/two-path version available
- Energy measurement option
- Large backlit LCD display
- Velocity, volumetric and energy flow rates
- Totalized flow and trend data



## Panometrics Ultrasonic Liquid Flowmeter

The DigitalFlow DF868 is a full-featured, fixed-installation liquid flowmeter designed to meet all your flow metering and energy measurement needs. Its patented Correlation Transit-Time™ digital signal processing provides drift-free measurements in ultraclean and most "dirty" liquids. This includes fluids with gas bubbles and entrained solids that have previously required Doppler-type meters.

### Dual-Channel Version Reduces Costs and Improves Performance

The optional dual-channel/dual-path model can be user-configured for a variety of applications. It can be set up to measure flow in two separate pipes with one meter to reduce the cost-per-measurement point. To minimize the effects of flow profile distortions, flow swirl and cross flow, and to provide maximum accuracy, two sets of transducers can be installed on the same pipe.

### Measure Flow from Outside the Pipe

Using clamp-on flow transducers, the DigitalFlow DF868 measures flow rate through metal, plastic or even concrete-lined pipes without penetrating the pipe wall. To hold clamp-on transducers in place, a variety of clamping fixtures are available to accommodate different pipe sizes, transducer types and attachment methods (e.g., chain, wire rope, Velcro® strap or a magnetic, bolt-on, or weldable steel yoke with metal band). Our universal clamping fixture includes ruled slide tracks to simplify transducer spacing for accurate flow measurements. There's even a special small-pipe clamping fixture with miniaturized transducers to simplify flow measurement on 0.5 to 2 inch (15 to 50 mm) lines.

### Wetted Transducers for Maximum Accuracy

Obstructionless wetted transducers are readily available for maximum performance. After proper installation, transit-time accuracies of better than 1 percent are achievable in most applications, matching the performance of expensive factory-calibrated meters. Measurement range is 0.1 to 40 ft/s (0.03 to 12.2 m/s) for a turndown ratio of 400 to 1 in pipes from 1 to over 200 inches in diameter. Measurement is noncontaminating, obstructionless and causes no pressure drop. The DigitalFlow DF868 is all digital so measurements don't drift, and it doesn't need regular maintenance since there are no moving parts to wear out or orifices to clog.

## Dual-LCD Display, Datalogger and a Wide Variety of I/O Options

Whether single-channel or dual-channel, all DF868 meters feature two independent, user-programmable, graphic LCDs, giving you simultaneous access to more data. There is complete flexibility to display any parameter on either LCD in a variety of numerical and graphic formats. Examples include numerical display of real time flow measurements, real time flow graphs and diagnostic waveforms, and numerical/graphic display of data from the meter's built-in 43,000 point datalogger. Up to 12 isolated 4 to 20 mA outputs, up to six hermetically sealed or standard alarm relays, and up to 12 frequency/totalizer outputs can be added.

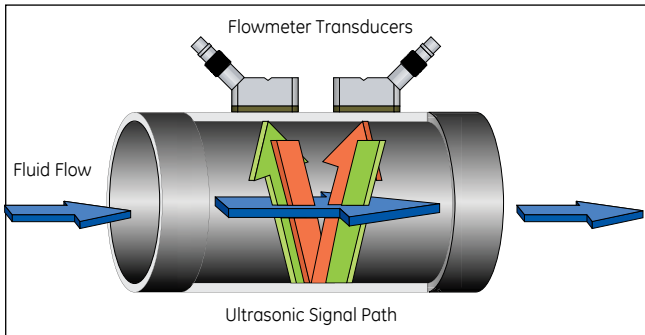
### Built-In Energy Measurement Capability

Another feature that makes the DigitalFlow DF868 meter such a powerful and versatile flowmeter, is the energy measurement software included in every meter. The DigitalFlow DF868, with optional RTDs and input boards, extends the benefits of ultrasonic flow measurement to energy measurement. Benefits include measurement of flow and temperature without pipe penetration, and compatibility with pipes from 1 to 200 in (25.4 mm to 5 m) in diameter. The DigitalFlow DF868 meter measures energy flow in water and water/glycol heating and cooling systems with temperatures from -4°F to 410°F (-20°C to 210°C). Consult GE for use with other liquid systems.

To ensure compatibility with existing or preferred temperature instrumentation, the DigitalFlow DF868 meter is available with three analog input boards. The analog input board provides 24 VDC loop power and two isolated 4 to 20 mA inputs for transmitters. For applications requiring direct RTDs, the RTD input board provides two isolated, three-wire RTD inputs for temperatures from -148°F to 662°F (-100°C to 350°C).

## The DF868 Flowmeter Uses the Transit-Time Flow Measurement Technique

The transit-time technique uses a pair of transducers, with each transducer sending and receiving coded ultrasonic signals through the fluid. When the fluid is flowing, signal transit time in the downstream direction is shorter than in the upstream direction. The difference between these transit times is proportional to the velocity of the flow. The DigitalFlow DF868 measures this time difference and uses programmed pipe parameters to determine flow rate and direction.



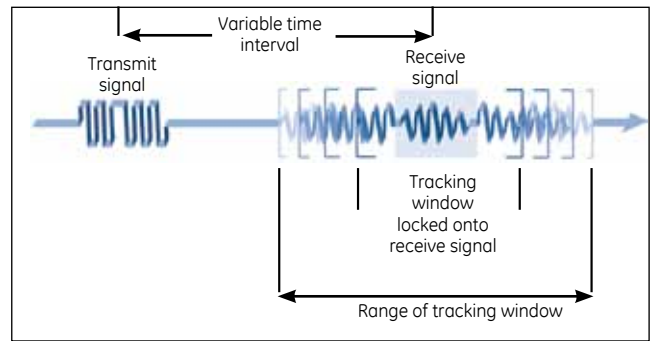
*Transit-time flow measurement technique*

## Automatically Adjusts to Changing Fluid Properties

Our unique Automatic Tracking Window™ (ATW™) feature, standard in all DigitalFlow DF868 meters, ensures accurate flow measurements even when fluid properties are unknown or changing. Like the seek mode on a car stereo, ATW dynamically sweeps the receiver window whenever the sound speed of the fluid changes. This powerful feature enables flow measurement when the fluid sound speed is unknown, when it is changing due to large temperature shifts, or when a new liquid starts to flow in a multiproduct pipeline.

ATW works for both clamp-on and wetted transducer applications by searching for a reliable ultrasonic receive signal. It does this by varying the time between the transmit signal and the receive signal window until the receive signal is found. The tracking window automatically sweeps through a range of time intervals based on the minimum and maximum expected sound speeds programmed by the user.

The window moves (tracks) in response to changes in the fluid sound speed. Once the optimal signal is found, ATW locks onto it until another large change in sound speed occurs. When this happens, ATW returns to the seek mode until the optimal signal is found again.



*ATW ensures accuracy when fluid conditions change.*

## Is Built to Be Economical and Stay Economical

To be of real value, a flowmeter must be as economical to own and operate as it is capable in the field. Using the latest microcircuit and manufacturing technologies, the DigitalFlow DF868 flowmeter is built to stay in service for many years. Completely solid state, the DigitalFlow DF868 rarely wears out or needs servicing, resulting in little downtime and low maintenance costs.

The DigitalFlow DF868 will continue to save money by streamlining the measurement process and trimming labor costs.

# DF868 Specifications

## Operation and Performance

### Fluid Types

Acoustically conductive fluids, including most clean liquids, and many liquids with entrained solids or gas bubbles. (Maximum void fraction depends on transducer, interrogation carrier frequency, path length and pipe configuration.)

### Pipe Sizes

- Using clamp-on transducers: 0.5 to 300 in (12.7 mm to 7.6 m) and larger
- Using wetted transducers: 1 to 200 in (25.4 mm to 5 m) and larger

### Pipe Wall Thickness

Up to 3 in (76.2 mm)

### Pipe Materials

All metals and most plastics. Consult GE for concrete, composite materials, and highly corroded or lined pipes.

### Flow Accuracy (Velocity)

±0.5% of reading (achievable with process calibration)

#### *Typical Clamp-On Flow Accuracy (Velocity)*

- Pipe ID > 6 in (150 mm): ±1% to 2% of reading
- Pipe ID ≤ 6 in (150 mm): ±2% to 5% of reading

#### *Typical Wetted Flow Accuracy (Velocity)*

±1% of reading

*Accuracy depends on pipe size, installation and whether measurement is one-path or two-path.*

### Repeatability

±0.1% to 0.3% of reading

### Range (Bidirectional)

-40 to 40 ft/s (-12.2 to 12.2 m/s)

### Rangeability (Overall)

400:1

*Specifications assume a fully developed flow profile (typically 10 diameters upstream and 5 diameters downstream of straight pipe run) and flow velocity greater than 1 ft/s (0.3 m/s).*

### Measurement Parameters

Volumetric flow, totalized flow and flow velocity

## Electronics

### Flow Measurement

Patented Correlation Transit-Time mode

### Enclosures

- Standard: Epoxy-coated aluminum weatherproof Type 4X/IP66 Class I, Division 2, Groups A,B,C&D
- Optional: Stainless steel, fiberglass, explosion-proof, flameproof

### Dimensions (Standard)

Weight 11 lb (5 kg),

Size (h x w x d) 14.24 in x 11.4 in x 5.1 in  
(362 mm x 290 mm x 130 mm)

### Channels

- Standard: One channel
- Optional: Two channels (for two pipes or two-path averaging)

### Display

Two independent software-configurable 64- x 128-pixel backlit LCD graphic displays

### Keypad

39-key tactile feedback membrane keypad

### Power Supplies

- Standard: 100 to 130 VAC, 50/60 Hz or 200 to 265 VAC, 50/60 Hz
- Optional: 12 to 28 VDC, ±5%

### Power Consumption

20 W maximum

### Operating Temperature

-4°F to 131°F (-20°C to 55°C)

### Storage Temperature

-67°F to 167°F (-55°C to 75°C)

### Standard Inputs/Outputs

Two 0/4 to 20 mA isolated outputs, 550 Ω maximum load

## Optional Inputs/Outputs

There are six additional slots available for any combination of the following I/O boards:

- Analog outputs: Select up to three additional output boards, each with four isolated 0/4 to 20 mA outputs, 1000  $\Omega$  maximum load
- Analog inputs: Select up to three boards of one of the following types:
  - Analog input board with two isolated 4 to 20 mA inputs and 24 V loop power
  - RTD input board with two isolated, three-wire, RTD inputs; span -148°F to 662°F (-100°C to 350°C); 100  $\Omega$
- Totalizer/frequency outputs: Select up to three totalizer/frequency output boards, each with four outputs per board, 10 kHz maximum. All boards allow software-selectable functioning in two modes:
  - Totalizer mode: Pulse per defined unit of parameter (e.g., 1 pulse/gal)
  - Frequency mode: Pulse frequency proportional to magnitude of parameter (e.g., 10 Hz = 1 gpm)
- Alarm relays: Select up to two boards of one of the following types:
  - General purpose: Relay board with three Form C relays; 120 VAC, 28 VDC maximum, 5 A maximum; DC 30 W maximum, AC 60 VA
  - Hermetically sealed: Relay board with three hermetically sealed Form C relays; 120 VAC, 28 VDC maximum, 2 A maximum; DC 56 W maximum, AC 60 VA

## Digital Interfaces

- Standard: RS232
- Optional: RS485 (multiuser)
- Optional: Modbus® RTU
- Optional: Modbus TCP
- Optional: OPC server
- Optional: Ethernet

## Site Parameter Programming

- Menu-driven operator interface using keypad and "soft" function keys
- Storage for 10 sites

## Data Logging

Memory capacity (linear and/or circular type) to log over 43,000 flow data points

## Display Functions

- Graphic display shows flow in numerical or graphic format
- Displays logged data and diagnostics

## European Compliance

System complies with EMC Directive 89/336/EEC, 73/23/EEC LVD (Installation Category II, Pollution Degree 2)

# Clamp-On Ultrasonic Flow Transducers


## Temperature Ranges

- Standard: -40°F to 300°F (-40°C to 150°C)
- Optional (overall range): -310°F to 572°F (-190°C to 300°C)

## Mountings

Stainless steel chain or strap, welded or magnetic clamping fixtures

## Area Classifications

- Standard: General purpose
- Optional: Weatherproof Type 4/IP65
- Optional: Explosion-proof Class I, Division 1, Groups B,C&D; Class II, Groups E,F&G; Class III
- Optional: Flameproof  

- Optional: Submersible

# Wetted Ultrasonic Flow Transducers

## Temperature Ranges

- Standard: -40°F to 212°F (-40°C to 100°C)
- Optional (overall range): -310°F to 1112°F (-190°C to 600°C)

## Pressure Ranges

- Standard: 0 to 3,000 psig (1 to 207 bar)
- Optional: Higher pressures on request

## Materials

- Standard: Stainless steel
- Optional (for Pan-Adapta® plugs): Titanium, Hastelloy® alloy, Monel® alloy, duplex,

*Pan-Adapta plugs allow installation and removal of wetted transducers without interrupting the process or emptying the pipe.*

## Process Connections

- Standard: 1 in or 3/8 in NPTM
- Optional: RF flanged, socket weld, fuse bond and others

## Mountings

Flanged flowcell, hot tap or cold tap

## Area Classifications

- Standard: General purpose
- Optional: Weatherproof Type 4/IP65
- Optional: Explosion-proof Class I, Division 1, Groups C&D; Class II, Groups E,F&G; Class III
- Optional: Flameproof (II 2 G EEx d IIC T6)
- Optional: Submersible

## MCerts Product Conformity Certificate

Sira MC 050061/00 for continuous water monitoring (EU IPPC)

## Transducer Cables

- Standard: One pair of coaxial cables, type RG62 AU, or as specified for transducer type
- Optional: Lengths up to 1,000 ft (330 m) maximum

## High-Temperature and High-Pressure Ultrasonic Flow Transducers

Bundle Waveguide Technology™ System transducer and holder (see BWT™ System specifications)

## Energy Measurement

Calculates energy flow rate and totalized energy usage. Requires optional RTD or analog inputs to the DF868 with two temperature inputs: one for supply and one for return temperature. Typical installations use surface mount RTDs with integrated 4-20 mA transmitters, but wetted RTDs with thermowells are available if more accuracy is required and if the line can be shut down for installation.

## Surface Mount RTDs

Pt 1000, 4-wire, matched pair with integrated 4-20 mA transmitters

### Range

- 0° to 50°C (32° to 122°F)
- 0° to 150°C (32° to 302°F)
- Field configurable to special ranges

### Accuracy

±0.12°C of temperature @ 0°C

## Thermowell RTDs

Pt 100, 1/10 DIN, 3 wire, matched pair

### Range

- Direct RTD Input
  - Configurable in DF868. Maximum range -100° to 350°C (-148° to 662°F)
- Integrated 4-20 mA transmitter
  - 0° to 50°C (32°F to 122°F)
  - 0° to 100°C (32°F to 212°F)
  - -50° to 200°C (-58° to 392°F)

### Accuracy

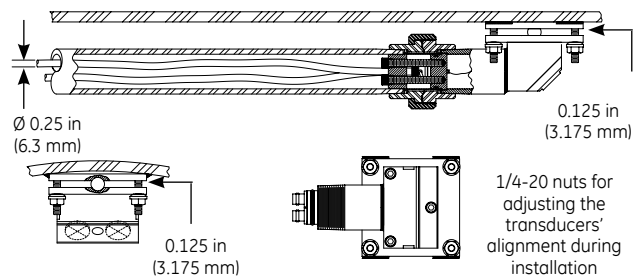
±0.15°C

## Additional Options

### PanaView™ PC-Interface Software

The DigitalFlow DF868 communicates with a PC through a serial interface and Windows® operating systems. Consult the manual for details on sites, logs and other operations with a PC.

## Notes in Brief



## Clamp-In Capability

GE offers a wide variety of ways to install transducers to adapt to each piping and application situation. For large buried pipes, where access to the outside of the pipe prevents using clamp-on or standard wetted transducers, GE offers clamp-in transducers. These transducers offer the unique ability to be attached to the inner wall of large pipes. With a precision laser alignment tool, the transducers can be set up properly facing each other, so when the water fills the pipe, the transducers will work flawlessly. The clamp-in transducer is designed with a dual element head for 100% redundancy. GE is an industry leader in transducer design with extremely low failure rates. Making these transducers with two elements ensures years of operation without their ever having to be serviced.



## Clamp-On Avoids Plugged Impulse Lines

GE offers clamp-on transducers for a wide variety of installations. One customer purchased the C-RS transducer with a DigitalFlow DF868 to measure flow on a 12 in (300 mm) crude resid stream. Previously, an orifice plate was used for the measurement. The impulse lines for the DP transmitter were consistently getting plugged, resulting in the need for service and unreliable flow measurements. The clamp-on system offered by GE was a preferred measurement setup because installation could be done while the unit was operating, and no additional restrictions that could cause pressure drop were introduced. The customer saved approximately US \$50,000 in the first year, due to reduced maintenance costs.



*Pair of CRS transducers*



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