



**SEN-400 SERIES**  
**(SEN-401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, & 409)**  
**MELT PRESSURE/TEMPERATURE TRANSDUCERS**  
**INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

The Series 400 Pressure and Pressure/Temperature Transducers use the proven Silicon-on-Sapphire Technology for direct measurement of pressure without the necessity of using mercury, NaK, or push rods to isolate the sensing diaphragm from the high temperature environment. The sapphire diaphragm is thicker and more abrasion resistant than the conventional mercury-filled melt pressure transducers. These transducers can give the user unprecedented life if proper care is used in installation and removal.

In the plastics industry, 85% of all replacements is the result of improper handling of the transducers. The other 15% are a result of wear-out. If YOU, the user, will take the time to read and heed these instructions, you should get many years of satisfactory use out of these solid-state Sapphire Melt Pressure Transducers.

**2.0 IMPORTANT WARNING:**

2.1 Do not remove the protective plastic cap until the transducer is ready to be installed.

2.2 The transducer mounting-well machining must be checked before installation of the transducer. (Mounting well must be free of frozen plastic or degraded polymer).

2.3 Transducer should only be removed or installed when the extruder is near operating temperature and there is no pressure in the barrel. Failure to do so can result in cross-threading and side-force pressure on the sensor tips, leading to damage and/or improper functioning. No transducer can work properly with a pinching force on the diaphragm.

**3.0 INSTALLATION:**

3.1 Prior to installing the transducer into the mounting well, the machining tolerances of the well must be confirmed. Mounting wells that are out of tolerance are the single most common cause of premature transducer failure. The use of a mounting well Gage plug (available from Sensonetics) coated with Dykem Blue will confirm the concentricity, diameter, and the condition of the 45-degree seat. In high abrasion applications, it is not uncommon to have a burr form at the inner lip of the mounting well which can ruin the diaphragm.

3.2.1 The transducer tip should be recessed 0.015" (.3-.4mm) from the extruder bore. As the extruder barrel wears, the 0.015" recess will be reduced until the transducer diaphragm is flushed with the bore of the extruder. This is a very precarious position for the transducer. Shims are available from the factory which seat on the 45-degree cone and act as a spacer, backing off the transducer diaphragm from the extruder barrel bore.

3.3 It is not the purpose of the spacer shim to act as a gasket; that is taken care of by the 45°-angle shoulder on the transducer seat. Spacer shims are seldom required, but they are required when the well depth is less than design specification due to:

- a. Barrel wear.
- b. Reaming & Tapping wear.
- c. Improper machined depth (even in new machines).

- 3.4 It is important that the tip of the melt pressure unit be slightly recessed in the barrel, but flush downstream. This prevents damage in the screw area and prevents disruption of laminar flow in the die area.
- 3.5 The transducer threads should be coated with a high temperature anti-seize compound such as NEVER-SEEZ by Bostik or C5A by Felpro. Liberal use of anti-seize compounds will reduce the chances of galling.
- 3.6 A Torque wrench should be used to ensure proper mounting torque. In most cases, an adequate seal can be achieved with less than **40 inch-pounds of force**. The maximum mounting torque is 50 inch-pounds or 10 Kg-Cm. In no case should 100 inch Pounds or 20 Kg-Cm be exceeded. If a torque wrench is not available, install the unit two hand tight in a clean well and, using a 6" adjustable wrench, tighten an additional 1/8 -1/4 turn. Note: The higher the installation torque, the harder it is for the removal of the transducer.
- 3.7 Install the transducer as detailed above in the empty cold machine and calibrate the transducer per the following procedure:
- 4.0 **CALIBRATION:**
- Prior to subjecting the transducer to operating pressure and temperature, it is important to calibrate the pressure transducer with the Pressure Indicator. There are 2 methods that can be used to calibrate the Transducer / Indicator:
- 4.1 First method, without a Pressure Calibrator:
- 4.1.1 With temperature at room ambient (or close to 80 °F) and with zero pressure applied, set indicator "zero" to 0 psi. (Follow Pressure Indicator Setup Procedures).
- 4.1.2 Short RCal (Calibrating Resistor) pins together and adjust indicator to read 80% of Full Scale Pressure. (Most Pressure Indicators offer automatic setup with the use of RCal. Follow Pressure Indicator Setup Procedures).
- 4.1.3 Repeat steps 4.1.1 to 4.1.2 as necessary to fine tune adjustment.
- 4.2 Second method, with a Pressure Calibrator:
- 4.2.1 With temperature at room ambient (or close to 80 °F) and with zero pressure applied, set indicator "zero" to 0 psi (Follow Pressure Indicator Setup Procedures).
- 4.2.2 Apply full-scale pressure to transducer and adjust indicator to read 100% of Full Scale Pressure (Follow Pressure Indicator Setup Procedure).
- 4.2.3 Repeat steps 4.2.1 to 4.2.2 as necessary to fine tune adjustment.
- 4.3 Adjust machine temperature to operating temperature and allow at least 30 minutes for transducer to reach thermal equilibrium.
- 4.4 After another 30 minutes soak time, reset "zero" only by following Pressure Indicator Setup Procedure. Make sure there is no pressure at the barrel.
- 4.5 Transducer is now ready to use. (*NOTE: DO NOT adjust span at any temperature other than 80 ± 10 °F*). Adjustment of span at any temperature will require calibration with a Pressure Calibrator (see paragraph 4.2).
- 4.6 Make sure to reset zero occasionally to insure more accurate measurements. Reset span only at room ambient temperature using RCal method if calibrating without a Pressure Calibrator.
- 4.7 On models with temperature sensor, the Temperature Detector and Temperature Indicator (if supplied) are calibrated individually at the factory. These settings can be changed if desired, but procedure varies from one indicator to another (Contact the factory if recalibration is desired).
- 4.8 All the other models listed above that have thermocouple junctions for temperature measurement are not adjustable.

WARNING: Avoid Cold Starts! DO NOT turn the extruder screw until sufficient soak time has been allowed. Jog screw several times before running while watching pressure, to avoid cold start damage.

5.0 **CLEANING:**

5.1 NEVER CLEAN melt pressure transducers using extreme high temperatures such as molten salt baths, blowtorches, muffle furnaces or any high temperature process which exceeds 750 °F. Internal damage to the sensing elements and conductors will occur.

PROPER CLEANING procedure for dissolvable polymers is to use the appropriate solvent or di-Me2-Pyrolidene combined with fine brass wire brushing by hand. For non-dissolving polymers such as PP, HDPE, PE, PTFE, etc., it is advisable to warm the plastic coated tip to a temperature not to exceed 600 °F and gently brass-wire brush the tip and the threads. If large amounts of plastic are present, try cutting and peeling the plastic from the probe. Do not use this method close to the sapphire diaphragm, since it is possible to cause damage in this area. Take care not to pry the sapphire diaphragm from the tip using a "dental" pick.

Revision A: 10-06-99

