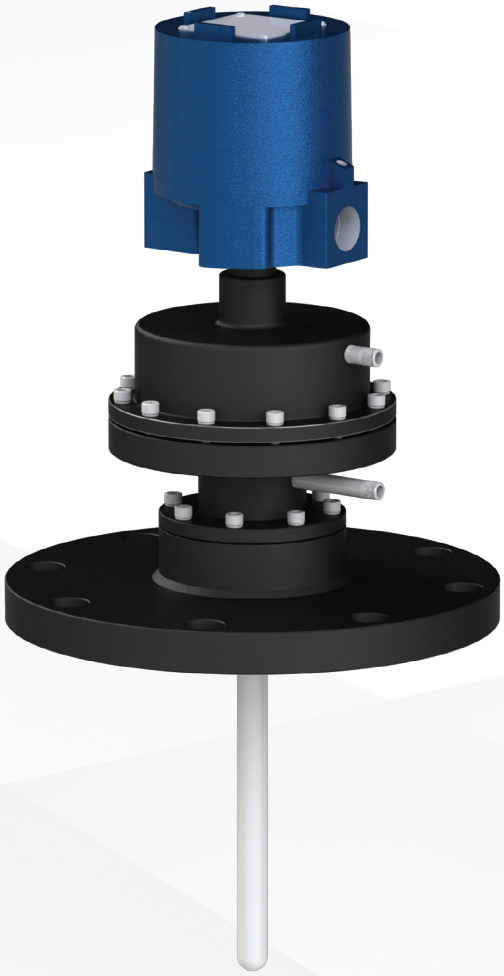

ENGLISH

Model HTX

INSTALLATION, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE MANUAL

00-HTX03 Rev K
16 Jan 2025 DB

Delta Controls
CORPORATION

Before installation and operation, please read this manual and take note of all safety instructions. Wear required personal protective equipment during installation, operation, and maintenance. Use this product only if it is in good condition. Delta Controls Corporation is not liable for damage caused by improper or non-designated use.

Delta Controls Corporation reserves the right to modify technical data without prior notice.

Engineered Reliability

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1. Components of the HTX Claus Thermal Reactor Thermocouple System

The following listed components, referenced in this manual, are required for proper installation of the HTX. Failure to utilize these Components will reduce the life of the HTX and cause possible failure.

> **NOTE**
> A brief video presentation of the steps of the complete HTX installation may be found at *www.claustemp.com*.

HTX	HRW	HNP	HFS	HMB	HRG
Thermocouple for Sulfur Processing Service	Refractory Thermowell	Refractory Nozzle Packing Kit	Flush Gas Station (usually shipped separately)	Horizontal Mounting Bars (usually shipped separately)	Refractory Drilling System (usually shipped separately)
Thermocouple assembly with mounting flange, body, flush connections, terminal enclosure housing and primary thermowell.	The large refractory thermowell collar rests in the refractory and protects the primary thermowell.	Rigid and compressible disks for proper insulation of the nozzle, and is designed to prevent the buildup of sulfur in the nozzle.	Includes flow indicator, flow control valve, pressure regulator, filter, dripwell, and gauge on stainless steel panel with mounting hardware.	Bars are used to reliably install thermocouple(s) in non-vertical nozzles.	Creates straight, centered, and perpendicular bore hole through the refractory.

2. Pre-Installation

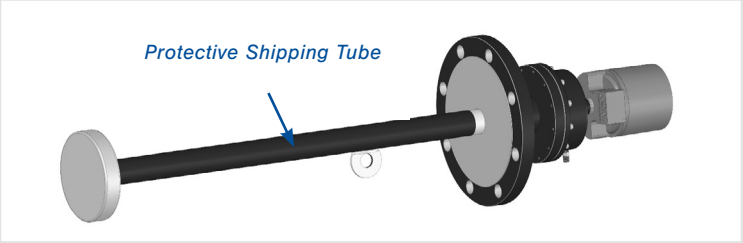
2.1 Transportation

Care should be used in carrying, moving, and shipping the HTX thermocouple. A significant portion of the HTX is constructed of ceramic. Ceramics are very brittle at ambient temperature and can be damaged by mechanical shock.

CAUTION

The ceramic primary thermowell can easily break.

The unit is equipped with a sand-filled protective shipping tube when it leaves the factory. This tube and its sand packing should be left in place until the persons installing the unit have arrived at the installation site and are ready to insert the HTX and make up the flange.



The shipping tube and shipping crate should be retained for re-shipment and storage of the HTX assembly.

2.2 Storage

Store equipment in a clean, dry place. It is recommended that the equipment remain packaged until ready for installation to prevent breakage or misplacing of components.

When storing a unit or preparing it for shipment, the shipping tube should be reinstalled and filled with clean, fine #1 blasting sand.

2.3 Handling

Unit(s) are constructed with ceramic material that is susceptible to damage from rough handling. Unit(s) should only be handled with their protective shipping pipes in place, and, whenever possible transported to/from the installation site in their original shipping containers.

2.4 Pre-Installation Preparation

A video of the installation process is available at:
https://www.youtube.com/@claustemp

You can view the video on a smartphone by scanning the QR code shown here.

2.5 Site Installation Survey

A. Confirm the vessel nozzle location relative to the instrument tag number, the planned installation location of the Delta Controls Flush Gas Control Station and the temperature transmitter.

B. Confirm the transmitter thermocouple compatibility with the thermocouple element type(s).

NOTE

The temperature transmitter is not supplied by Delta Controls.

C. Confirm the availability of the proper type thermocouple extension leadwire for connection of the transmitter. A separate cable is required for each thermocouple element. The type cable is determined by the type(s) of elements in the thermocouple assembly as noted on the cover of this document.

D. Secure the flange bolts, studs and required flange gasket.

2.6 Thermocouple and Accessories Inspection

A. Open the carton and carefully remove the top layer of the packing materials.

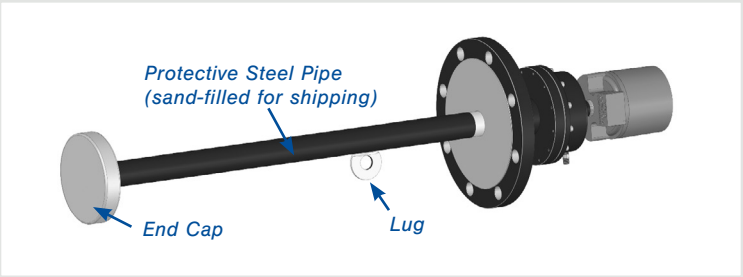
B. Visually inspect the HTX Assembly for damage.

C. Visually inspect the large ceramic HRW Refractory Thermowell for damage. Be very careful not to drop the thermowell as it can be easily broken.

D. Visually inspect the HNP Refractory Nozzle Packing Kit for damage.

E. The protective steel pipe attached to the flange surrounds the ceramic primary thermowell. This pipe is filled with sand to support and protect the primary thermowell during shipping. Carefully remove the thermocouple from the carton, and move it to an area where the sand can be safely emptied.

F. Remove the end cap flange from the end of the steel protective shipping pipe. Turn the thermocouple upright to pour out the sand into a container.



G. Insert the tip of a large screwdriver or similar robust tool into the lug welded to the protective pipe and using it as a lever, twist the pipe to loosen it to permit easy removal by hand at the installation site. Occasionally, this may require the use of a pipe wrench. Loosen the pipe, but **leave the pipe in place until the thermocouple is to be inserted into the vessel nozzle.**

NOTE

Leave the protective shipping tube in place until ready to install thermocouple on vessel nozzle.

H. Inspect inside the end of the pipe. If the primary thermowell is loose, then the thermocouple is broken and must be repaired prior to installation. The shipping pipe and the custom built protective shipping carton are reusable and may be saved for reshipment or storage of the HTX assembly.

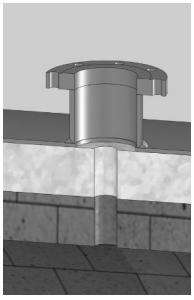
I. If any parts appear to be damaged, contact Delta Controls immediately.

2.7 Nozzle Inspection

Verify that nozzle and refractory dimensions match design specifications before installing the thermocouple. Installing a thermocouple that is not properly sized for the nozzle and refractory can result in breakage or inaccurate temperature measurements.

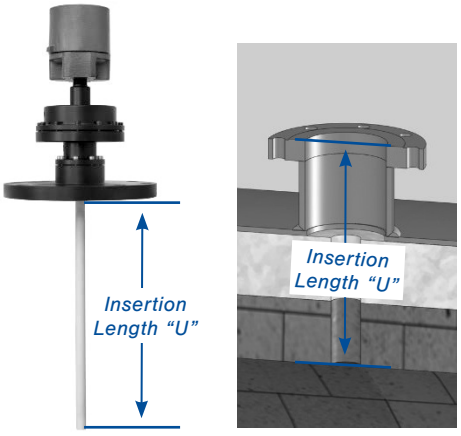
A. **Inspect the inside of the vessel nozzle.** The inside of the nozzle should be clean and free from debris and welding slag. The hole cut through the vessel shell at the base of the nozzle should be a minimum 3.5 inch (90 mm) diameter. The top refractory surface should be even and free from extensive damage. The bored hole through the refractory should be clean, 2.2 inch to 2.4 inch (56 - 61mm) diameter, centered in the nozzle and in perpendicular alignment relative to the nozzle flange face.

(If the hole does not meet the above criteria, the thermocouple can become broken shortly after start up as refractory begins to shift.)



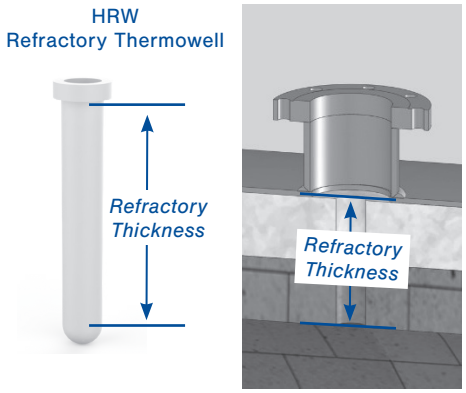
B. **Check the nozzle and refractory dimensions.**
To ascertain Insertion Length "U", lay a straight edge across the flange face and with a measuring tape, hook the inside surface (hot face) of the refractory inside the vessel and measure up to the straight edge. Confirm this dimension is the same as the length of the thermocouple primary thermowell as measured from the thermocouple flange to the tip of the thermowell.

(If the thermocouple primary thermowell is too long, it will contact the refractory thermowell when it is inserted, causing it to break. If the thermocouple is too short, it may read erroneously low.)



C. **Measure the Refractory Thickness with a measuring tape.** Confirm that this distance matches the length of the straight portion of the HRW Refractory Thermowell as shown.

(If the HRW thermowell is too short, the thermocouple will contact it during thermocouple insertion, causing it to break. If the HRW thermowell is too long, there is an increased possibility of breakage due to thermal shock.)



CAUTION

If there is a discrepancy of more than 0.5 in (12 mm) on the above measurements, DO NOT install the thermocouple until the discrepancy is resolved. (See next page)

NOTE

The HRW Refractory Thermowell is intended to protrude approximately 1 in (25 mm) beyond the refractory hot face.

2.8 Resolving Dimensional Problems

Carefully measure the nozzle and refractory dimensions and compare them to the dimensions on the front cover of this manual. Dimensional discrepancies are commonly caused by the following conditions:

A. **Nozzle inner diameter is not as specified** – If the nozzle I.D. is too small, the hard packing rings will not fit. These rings can be cut down to size. This is best done in a lathe with a tapered arbor to fit the center hole. Use a dust collector when cutting these rings to avoid breathing the dust.

B. **Nozzle height is not as specified** – If the nozzle is too tall, the thermocouple will not extend all the way into the vessel and may report erroneously low temperatures. If the nozzle is too short, the thermocouple may contact the bottom of the refractory thermowell causing it to break. (See Note "D", below). Contact Delta Controls to arrange for a thermocouple correctly sized for the installation.

C. **Incorrectly specified thermocouple dimensions** – The design intent is for the thermocouple element tip to be positioned even with the refractory hot face, and for the HRW Refractory Thermowell to extend approximately 1 inch (2.5 cm) past the refractory hot face. If these conditions are not met, the result may be inaccurate measurement and/or breakage due to mechanical interference or thermal shock. Contact Delta Controls to arrange for a thermocouple that is correctly sized for the installation.

D. **Refractory has entered the base of the nozzle** – The top surface of the refractory should be even with the inside surface of the vessel shell. If it is not, the HRW Refractory Thermowell will not rest at the proper position and may cause it to be broken when the thermocouple is inserted into the nozzle. If there is refractory material inside the base of the nozzle, it must be removed to restore a flat surface that is even with the inner surface of the vessel shell.

E. **Refractory is not installed at the specified thickness** – If the overall refractory is thicker than specified, the thermocouple will not extend all the way into the vessel and may report erroneously low temperatures. If the refractory is thinner than specified, the thermocouple will extend past the refractory hot face. This could increase the possibility of breakage due to thermal shock. Contact Delta Controls to arrange for a thermocouple that is correctly sized for the installation.

F. **Refractory firebrick has separated from the insulating castable** – It is not uncommon for the firebrick to sag and form a gap between the firebrick and the castable or insulating brick. Often, thermal expansion will cause this gap to close by itself when the furnace reaches operating temperature. If this is the only cause of dimensional discrepancy, thermocouple installation may proceed.

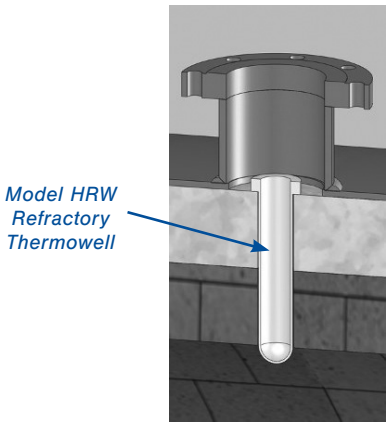
G. **Refractory has separated from the vessel shell** – This condition is not common, but it is possible for a gap to appear between the insulating refractory and the vessel shell. The result is that the thermocouple may not extend far enough into the vessel to reach the refractory hot face and may report erroneously low temperatures. In general, this gap will not close up at operating temperatures. The thermocouple must be re-sized to account for the gap. Contact Delta Controls to arrange for a thermocouple that is correctly sized for the installation.

3. Installing the Thermocouple

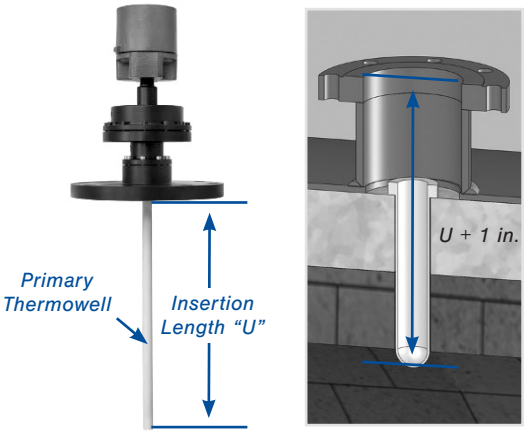
3.1 Vertical Installation

(For non-vertical installations do steps A - E, proceed to page 14.)

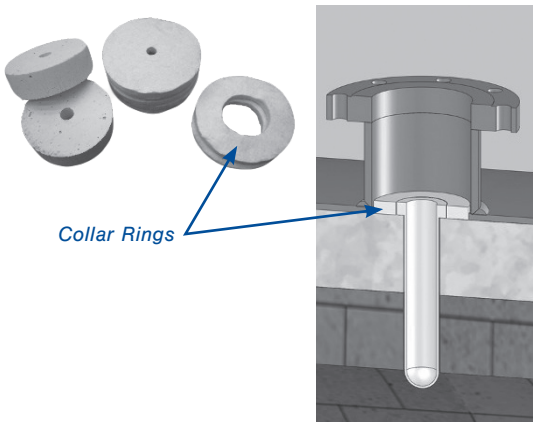
A. Carefully set HRW Refractory Thermowell down onto the hole in the refractory. The collar of the HRW should rest flat against the refractory surface and the tip should extend about 1 inch (25 mm) beyond the refractory into the reactor vessel. The fit should be somewhat loose.



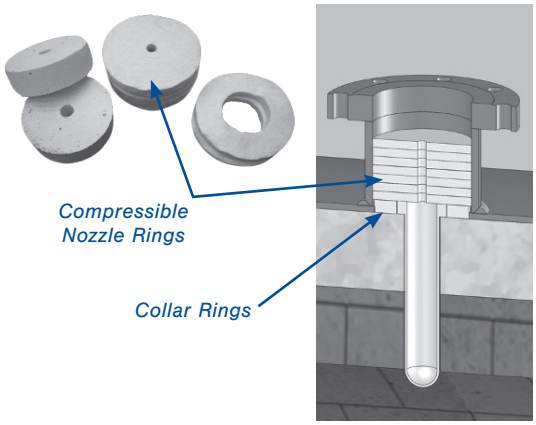
B. Ensure proper clearance prior to thermocouple insertion by measuring from the bottom of the refractory thermowell up to the flange face. The distance should be approximately 1 inch (25mm) longer than the insertion length of the primary thermowell (Insertion Length U).



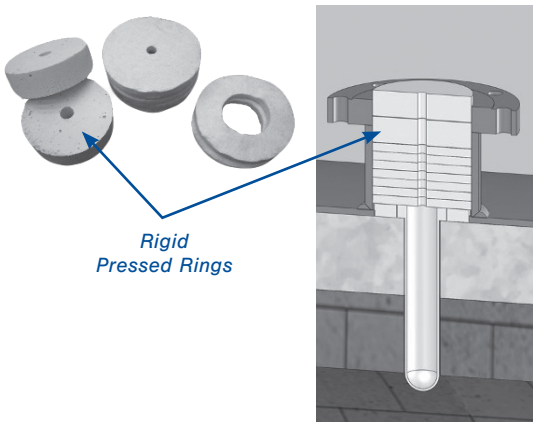
C. Place the two soft compressible collar rings from the HNP Refractory Nozzle Packing Kit, having an inside diameter of 2.75 inches (70 mm) around the refractory thermowell collar. They should fill the gap between the outside of the refractory thermowell collar and the inside of the vessel nozzle.



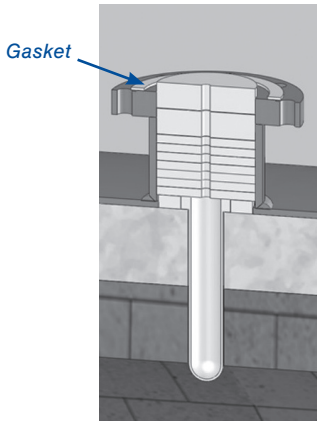
D. Place approximately 8 - 10 each of the soft compressible nozzle rings with the 0.75 inch (19 mm) center hole, in the bottom of the nozzle. Ensure that the center holes are in alignment.



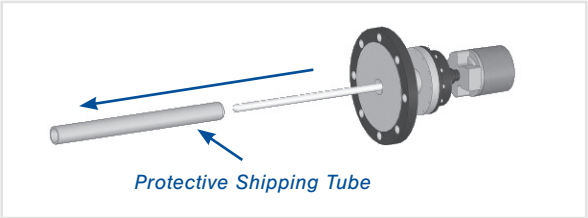
E. Place enough of the rigid pressed 1.5 inches (38 mm) thick rings into the nozzle so that the top half of the top ring extends above the flange. If needed, remove or insert additional lower soft rings to obtain this fit.



F. Place and center the flange gasket on the vessel nozzle flange.



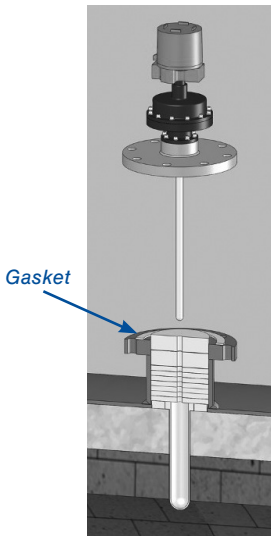
G. Carefully remove the protective pipe from the thermocouple and place it in a safe location.



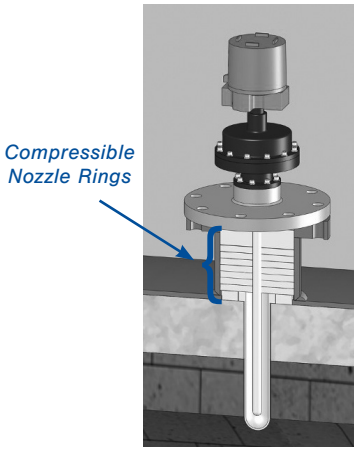
NOTE

The thermocouple is heavy and the ceramic primary thermowell may be easily broken. During the following steps, do not allow any sideways forces to be exerted on the ceramic parts.

H. Have an assistant lift the thermocouple and turn it to a vertical position. The installer then grasps the unit by the top housing, permitting the unit to hang vertically plumb. With no assistance, center the primary thermowell over the center hole in the top packing ring and gently lower the unit into place on the flange.

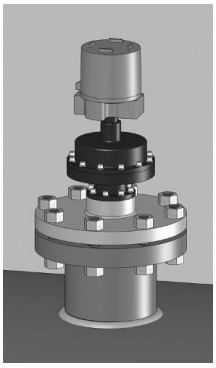


I. The soft compressible nozzle rings will compress as the thermocouple is positioned into place.

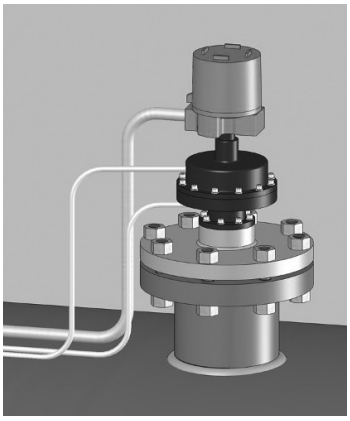


J. Keeping the unit centered on the flange, gently rotate it to the desired position for electrical and flush connections.

K. Install and tighten the flange studs to recommended torque standard appropriate for flange size.



L. Install instrument conduit, wiring and flush gas tubing as described below.



After installation and before reactor startup, perform the **Flush / Primary Thermowell Integrity Test** on page 19. This will verify that the primary thermowell was not broken during installation, and that there are no problems with the flush connections.

Performing this test as soon as possible prior to reactor startup will allow time to obtain replacements in the event of primary thermowell breakage. In general, replacement is not possible while the reactor is running. A thermocouple that has a broken primary thermowell or that is improperly flushed will only operate for a short time before failing.

3.2 Non-Vertical Installation

In non-vertical installations, insertion of the thermocouple unit can be difficult. The installer must attempt to support the full weight of the thermocouple unit while fully inserting it into the centerline of the nozzle packing materials at the appropriate angle without allowing the weight of the unit to impart side-loads on the thermowell.

The Model HMB Thermocouple Mounting Guide Bars provide an easy and safe means of inserting the heavy thermocouple in non-vertical nozzles. The use of the guide bars minimizes the risk of breaking the thermowell due to misalignment of the unit with the nozzle centerline as it is being inserted into position.

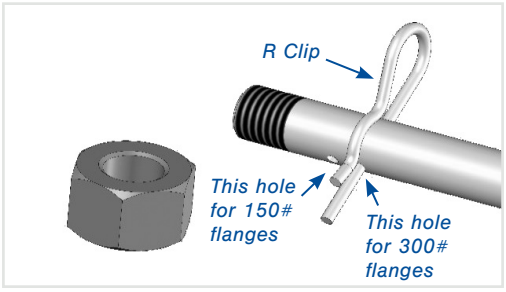
A video showing the use of the HMB mounting bars is available at

https://www.youtube.com/@claustemp

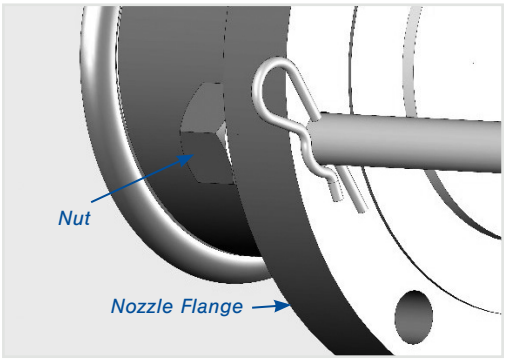
You can view the video on a smartphone by scanning the QR code shown here.

A. Install the HRW refractory thermowell and nozzle packing rings as described in steps A - E beginning on page 10.

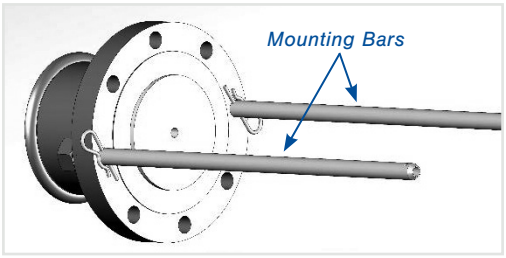
B. Insert an R Clip into the appropriate hole near the threaded end of one of the mounting bars.



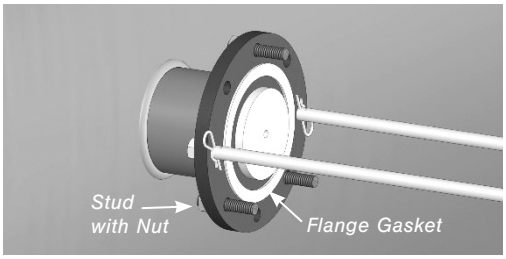
C. Place the threaded end of the mounting bar into a vessel nozzle flange bolt hole as shown. Secure the bar to the flange with the provided nut.



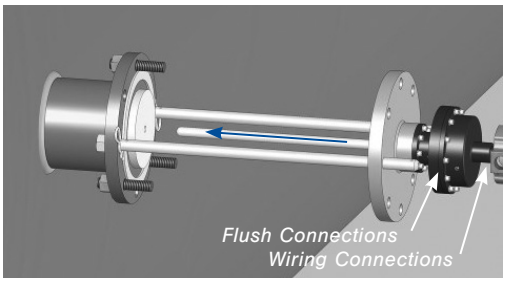
D. Similarly, install the other mounting bar on the opposite bolt hole.



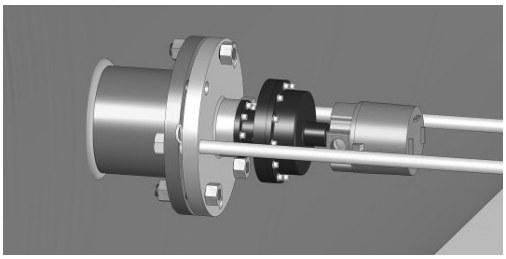
E. Place studs in 3 places as shown. Place the flange gasket in position. The studs will temporarily hold the flange gasket in position.



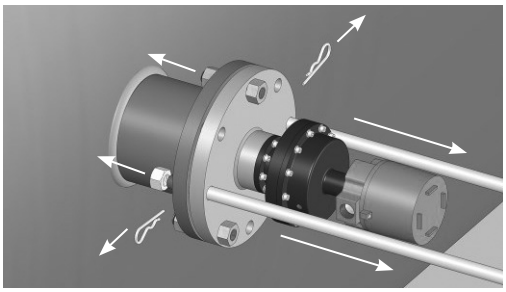
F. Making sure the thermocouple unit is correctly rotated so that the flush and wiring connections are oriented in the desired direction; allow the mounting bars to support the weight of the thermocouple as it is carefully guided into position.



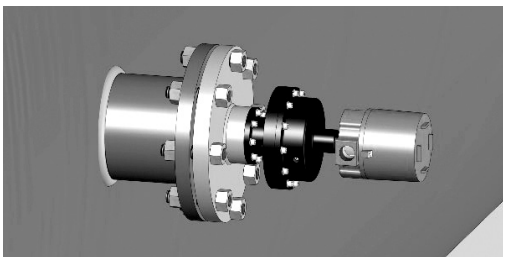
G. Loosely install studs and nuts in all empty holes to hold the thermocouple in place as the guide bars are removed.



H. Remove the mounting bar nuts. Using a large screwdriver or pliers, pull the R clips and remove the mounting bars.



I. Install the remaining studs and nuts. Assure the flange and gasket is centered; tighten all to specification.



J. Install instrument conduit, wiring and flush gas connections as on page 18.

3.3 Wiring

The conduit connection to the terminal enclosure should be equipped with a union and a flexible conduit for ease of maintenance and to reduce strain on the terminal enclosure.

Verify that the insulation on thermocouple extension lead wire is rated for +400 °F (+200 °C) continuous service.

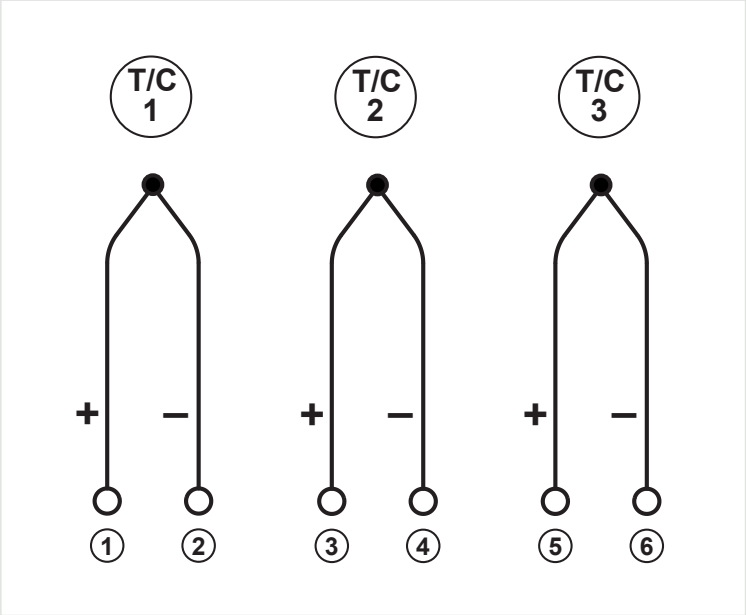
Installation shall be in accordance with EN60079-14 and/or other governing codes.

The thermocouple elements are terminated on the connecting blocks, which are mounted inside the thermocouple head. The block positions are marked “T/C 1”, “T/C 2”, and “T/C 3” to designate which thermocouple is connected at each set of two terminal points.

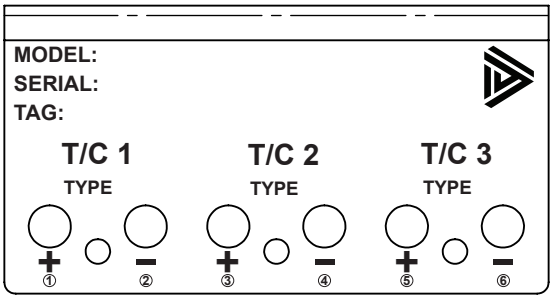
The standard arrangement is:

- T/C 1: The T/C 1 thermocouple; usually a type “R”, “S” or “B” platinum/rhodium.
- T/C 2: The T/C 2 thermocouple; refer to markings for type.
- T/C 3: The T/C 3 thermocouple; supplied as an option on some models.

Wiring Diagram



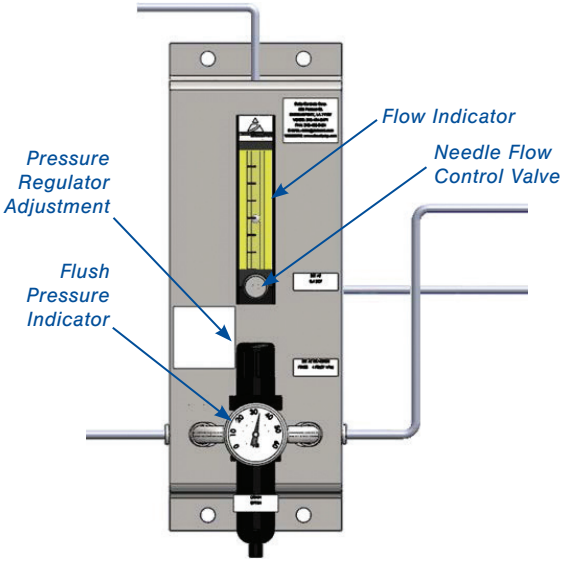
Terminal Block Diagram



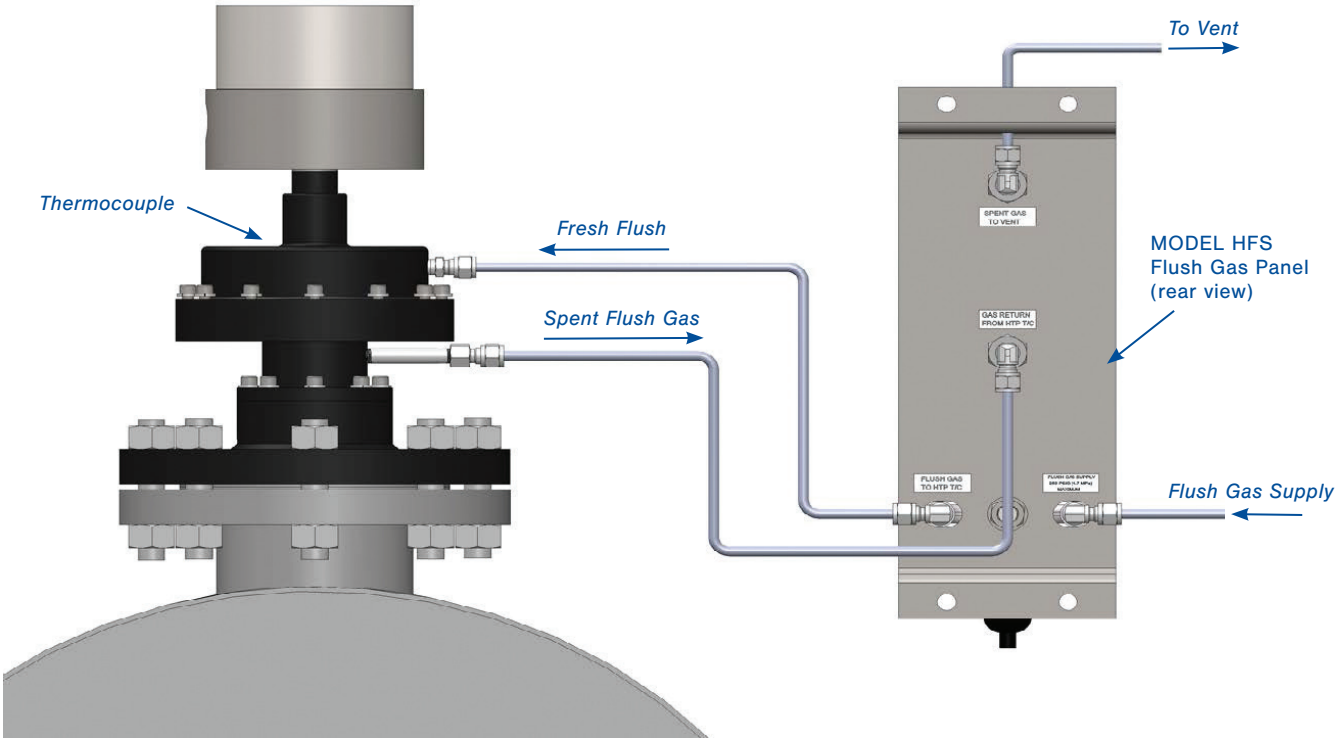
3.4 Flush Gas Connection

The use of nitrogen as a flush gas is strongly recommended. Ensure that the supply of flush gas is clean, oil free and dry. The Delta Controls Model HFS Flush Control Station provides a convenient and effective means to properly control the flush gas pressure and flow rate. Consult http://www.claustemp.com for details.

- Connect the flush gas tubing to the HTX thermocouple as shown. Regulated, filtered gas enters the top flush gas connection and exits the lower flush gas connection.
- Set flush pressure to 5 psi (0.35 bar) above maximum thermal reactor operating pressure.
- Adjust needle flow control valve for a flow rate of 11 L/h as indicated on flow meter. This provides sufficient flow to protect the thermocouple without significantly cooling thermocouple elements.



MODEL HFS
Flush Gas Panel (front view)



4. Using Multiple Thermocouples within the HTX

Model HTX can be equipped with up to 3 independent thermocouples in the same thermowell. It is common for the thermocouples to be of different types, offering different temperature measurement ranges. For example it is common for one thermocouple to be a type R or S and another to be type B. This will allow the maximum possible range of measurement, since type R or S can measure down to ambient temperatures, and Type B can survive temperatures higher than types R or S, though type B cannot be used below about +212 °F (+100 °C). A third thermocouple can also be provided for redundancy.

5. Pre-Commissioning/Commissioning Procedure (Startup)

- Verify the flush gas is properly supplied to the thermocouple prior to reactor startup.
- Set the flush pressure to approximately 5 psi (0.344 bar) above the maximum operating pressure of the reactor by using the pressure regulator adjustment on the HFS flush panel.
- Using the needle flow control valve on the HFS flush panel, adjust the flush flow rate to 11 L/h as shown on the flow indicator.

6. Shutdown

Continue purging the thermocouple during shutdown until the reactor has cooled and reaction gases are no longer present in the reactor.

7. Operation

The thermocouple has no adjustments or controls. Operation consists of maintaining flush gas flow to the thermocouple.

8. Maintenance

No periodic maintenance is required on the thermocouple.

The Model HTX is not intended to be repaired by unqualified persons. Do not open either of the flush chambers. Doing so could compromise the reliability and safety of the product.

9. Troubleshooting

For diagnostic procedures, see Delta Controls document AN-HTP39, available at *www.claustemp.com*.

10. Specifications

Absolute Maximum Ratings:		
Maximum Process Pressure:		150 psig (10 bar)
Maximum Nitrogen Flush Pressure		30 psig (2 bar)
Maximum Process Temperature:		+3272 °F (+1800 °C)*
Maximum Process Temperature: (measured at Process Flange)		+650 °F (+343 °C)
Maximum Rate of Temperature Change:		+392 °F / hr (+200 °C / hr)
Minimum Operating Temperature:		-40 °F (-40 °C)
Maximum Process Flange Temperature:		+392 °F (+200 °C) see “X” below
Maximum Terminal Enclosure Temperature:		+383 °F (+195 °C)
Ingress Protection:		IP65
Hazardous Location Rating:		
C US	70131733	Ex db IIB + H2 T3 Gb Class I Zone 1, AEx db IIB + H2; T3 Gb
Ex	Sira 18ATEX1044x	II 2G, Ex db IIB + H2 T3 Gb Ta = -40 °C to +80 °C
IEC IECEx	IECEx SIR 18.0012x	Ex db IIB + H2 T3 Gb Ta = -40 °C to +80 °C
EAC Ex	TR CU 012/2011	EAC RU C-US.BH02.B.00843/23
T/C Types:		B,S,R,K,T (“C” non-standard)
Materials:		
Main Body:		1117 or 1141 Carbon Steel
Process Flange:		SA-516-70 Carbon Steel or A240 Stainless Steel
Terminal Housing:		Aluminum or Stainless Steel
Trim/Bolting/Seats:		Stainless Steel
Thermowell:		Blended Alumina, Ceramic
Flush Requirements:		Dry Nitrogen, 0.4 scfh (11 L/h)

*Type ‘B’ thermocouple. Maximum operating temperature is limited by the thermocouple melting point.

“X” behind the approval number indicates special conditions for safe use: Flamepath joints are not intended to be repaired. Unit must only be disassembled or repaired by manufacturer. Flange temperature shall not exceed 200˚C. Use Fasteners with M6 x 1mm 6g, 25 mm long 18 - 8 stainless steel with tolerance strength of ≥ 70KPSI bolts. Fasteners incorporated in both lower and upper flange joints. Assembly shall be used with at least minimum 124.24 mm [4.89"] high steel Nozzle with maximum wall thickness 11.252 mm [0.443"] and maximum nozzle diameter 174.625 mm [6.875"]. Minimum 131.940 mm [5.1945"] refractory below the nozzle shall be provided by the end user. Thermowell shall not extend more than 25.1 mm [1"] beyond the refractory hot face. Temperature insulating material provided by manufacturer shall be installed inside the nozzle. Refractory thermowell provided by manufacturer shall be installed in the refractory bore hole. This equipment shall be installed so that the flanged joints are not within 40 mm [1.7"] of a solid object that is not part of the equipment. Terminal housing threaded conduit entries = ¾" NPT. Threaded adaptors size for Nitrogen connection = 1/8" NPT. The thermowell tube shall be securely mounted internally to a suitably equally protective enclosure installed such that there is no risk of impact to the ceramic enclosure wall. See manufacture installation instructions for details.

Model Numbering System

MODEL EXAMPLE	MODEL	-	T/C 1	-	T/C 2	-	T/C 3	-	INSERTION LENGTH	-	PROCESS CONNECTION	-	OPTIONS
	HTX	-	R	-	R	-	O	-	15.0	-	6"150RS	-	AA

MODEL	DESCRIPTION
HTX	Thermocouple, Sulfur Processing Service, ATEX, IECEX

T/C	DESCRIPTION	RANGE[1]
B	(-) +6% platinum / (+) platinum +30% rhodium	+212 °F to +3270 °F (+100 °C to +1799 °C)
R	(-) platinum / (+) platinum +13% rhodium	+32 °F to +3200 °F (0 °C to +1760 °C)
S	(-) platinum / (+) platinum +10% rhodium	+32 °F to +3200 °F (0 °C to +1760 °C)
O	None (T/C 2, T/C 3 only)	

INSERTION LENGTH	DESCRIPTION
**.*	**.* in from flange face to inside face of the refractory

PROCESS CONNECTION	DESCRIPTION
4"150RS	4 in Class 150 raised face flange, carbon steel
4"300RS	4 in Class 300 raised face flange, carbon steel
6"150RS	6 in Class 150 raised face flange, carbon steel
6"300RS	6 in Class 300 raised face flange, carbon steel
4"150RY	4 in Class 150 raised face flange, 316 Stainless Steel
4"300RY	4 in Class 300 raised face flange, 316 Stainless Steel
6"150RY	6 in Class 150 raised face flange, 316 Stainless Steel
6"300RY	6 in Class 300 raised face flange, 316 Stainless Steel

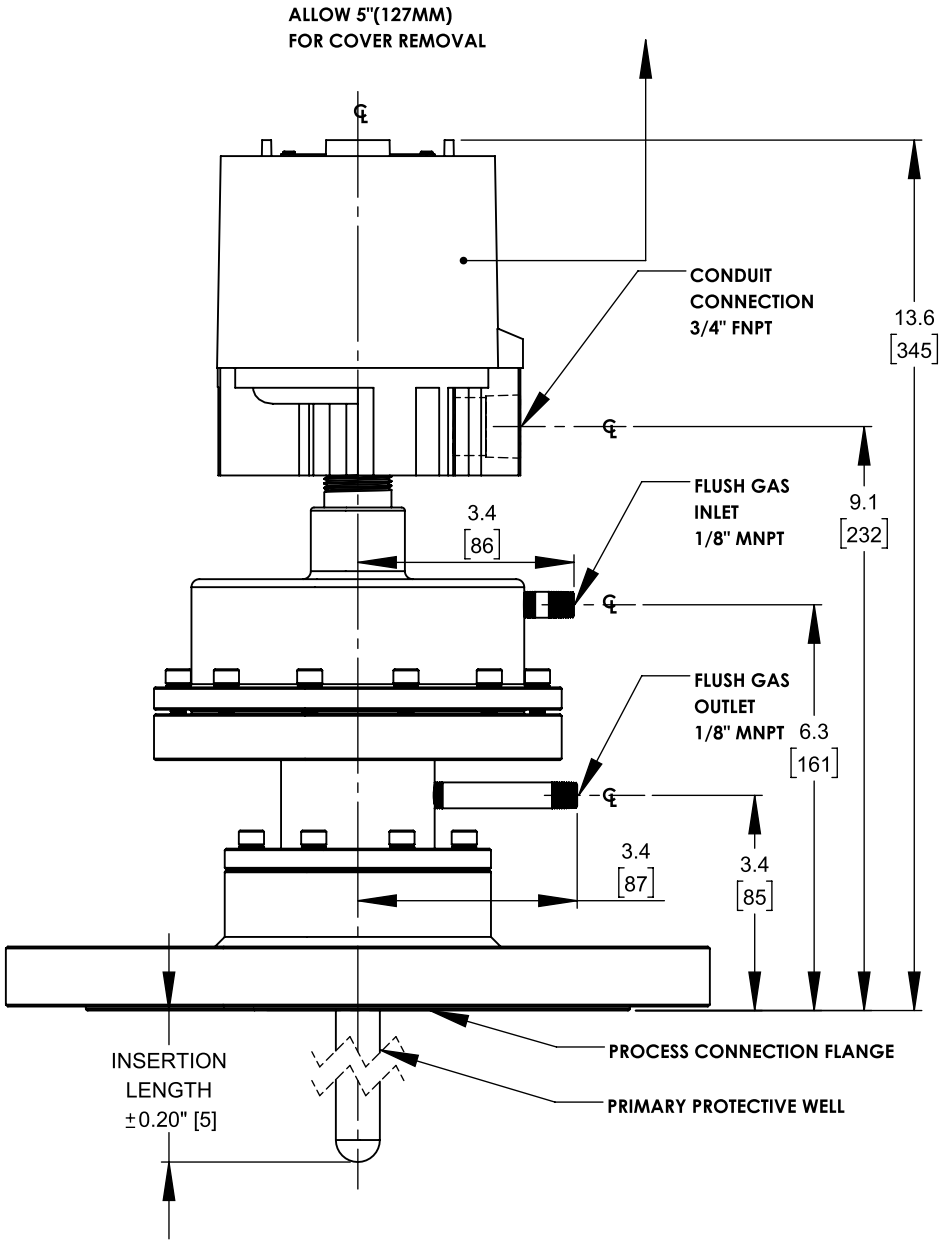
OPTIONS	DESCRIPTION
AA	None
XPB	300 grade stainless steel housing

Notes:
[1] Temperature shown is the maximum recommended for continuous service

Auxiliary Components

M/N	Description - See Separate Data Sheets
HRW	Refractory Thermowell
HNP	Nozzle Packing Kit
HFS	Flush Gas Control Station
H6G	Refractory Drilling Kit
HRS	Nozzle Refractory Stop
HMB	Horizontal Mounting Bars

Model HTX Dimensional Drawing



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