



502A-J 4-20 MA THERMOCOUPLE TRANSMITTER

10632ML-01



This device is marked with the international hazard symbol. It is important to read the Setup Guide before installing or commissioning this device as it contains important information relating to safety and EMC.

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1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

The 502A-J two-wire transmitter takes in millivolt signals generated by a type J thermocouple, provides cold (reference) junction compensation, amplification, common-mode isolation, and controls the current drawn from a 9 to 50 V dc source to produce the 4 to 20 milliampere output signal.

Common-mode voltage between the input thermocouple and the output current circuit is tested at 1500 V rms. As much as 750 ohms dropping resistance or 625 ohms in series with a loop-powered indicator (Newport model 508A) may be used in the power leads of the 502A when the unit is energized from a 24 V dc source. This is because of the small compliance voltage needed by the unit. Accidental overloads of over one minute by 120 V rms on either input or output leads do not damage the 502A.

1.1 ACCURACY AND STABILITY

The 502A-J has tailored resistance values installed to provide curvi- linear cold-junction compensation matched to the NBS or IEC type J thermocouple table. Selected bridge resistors in a temperature-sensing bridge also provide cancellation of Span temperature effects. The unit is certified for accuracy from -40 to +85°C (-40 to +185°F) through verification of high-ambient-temperature compensation points.

1.2 ADAPTABILITY/TURNDOWN

The Span of the 502A-J can be ranged anywhere from 100 to 800°C by selection of one of four jumper positions, with fine tuning provided by a multiturn, top-accessible potentiometer. Sixteen Zero steps, also provided by 502A-J jumpers, allow placement of the 4.00 mA output temperature anywhere from -50 to 700°C, with fine tuning provided by another top-accessible, multiturn potentiometer. This 502A turndown capability exceeds that of any other known transmitter.

1.3 ELECTRICAL ISOLATION

502A input (thermocouple and shield) and output (DC power) barrier strips accept wires up to two millimeters in diameter (13 gauge), and are mechanically isolated from each other to prevent input/output wiring contact during installation.

1.4 SHOCK RESISTANCE

Lightweight 502A circuit boards are formed into a rigid box structure and firmly soldered and epoxied to the case top. The circuit-board box is doubly coated with RTV silicone for environmental protection. When installed in the rugged, die-cast case, the 502A can withstand the shock of a 6-foot drop onto a hard surface (although scarring of the case and/or deformation of the plastic cover can occur).

1.5 WATERPROOF/RFI/THERMAL GRADIENT RESISTANT CASE

The 502A case is made from Zamac (zinc alloy), coated with polyurethane, and gasketed with fluorosilicone. Fluorosilicone plugs protect the top-access Span and Zero potentiometers. An optional opaque top cover shields the barrier strips from uneven heating or cooling in exposed environments.

1.6 MOUNTING ADAPTABILITY

The small size of the 502A (less than 75 mm or 3 in. outside diameters) permits snap mounting into the American 8TK2 relay track or wall mounting in confined areas. With a bulkhead adapter, the 502A can be snap mounted into the larger American TR2/2TK relay track or wall mounted by rotating the adapter 90 degrees. With the use of the rail clamp adapter, the 502A may be mounted onto the narrow DIN EN-50-022 relay track. Using the spring retainer option, the 502A can be mounted into explosion-proof housings.

2.0 SPECIFICATIONS

2.1 INPUT

Configuration: Thermocouple type: Input impedance:

Thermocouple break-detect current:

Burnout indication:

Thermocouple lead resistance:

Normal mode rejection:

Common mode voltage, input to case or output:

Common mode rejection, input to case or output:

Overvoltage protection:

2.2 OUTPUT

Linear range: Compliance (supply-voltage): Overvoltage protection:

Reverse polarity protection:

Common mode voltage, output to case or input:

Common mode rejection, output to case or input:

2.3 ACCURACY

Hysteresis and repeatability: Conformity, 100°C Span:

Six month stability:

Power supply effect

Ambient temperature effect for 50°C change:

Cold Juntion:

2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL

Operating temperature: Storage temperature:

Humidity: Vibration:

Shock:

Watertight pressure limit:

Mounting position:

2.5 MECHANICAL

Case material:

Weight: Diameter:

Height (including barriers):

Connections:

Isolated input

J ("Iron/Constantan")

5 MOhm 50 nA max

Selectable up or down overscale Up to 500 ohms for specified

performance

60 dB at 50/60 Hz with 100 mV input

2100 V peak per high pot. test; 354 V peak per IEC spacing 100 dB min from DC to 60 Hz

120 V ac max/1 min exposure

4 to 20 mA dc 9 to 50 V dc

120 V ac 400 V peak

2100 V peak per high pot. test; 354 V peak per IEC spacing

100 dB min from DC to 60 Hz

Within ±0.2°C ±0.1% of Span

±1°C

Within ±0.2°C ©+0.2% of 4 mA

temperature

Within ±0.005%/V

Zero and conformity: Within ±0.5°C

Span: Within 0.3%

Suppression: ±0.2% of 4 mA

temperature

Zero Error: ±0.04°C/°C Typical Span Error: ±0.03°C/°C Typical

-40 to 85°C

-55 to 125°C

To 100%

1.52 mm (.06 in) double amplitude,

10-80 Hz cvcled

55g, half-sine, 9-13 msec duration,

6' drop to hard surface

35 kPa (5 psi)

Any

Zamac^o (zinc alloy), polyurethane-

coated.

fluorosilicone-gasketed

300 g (10 oz) 74 mm (2.9 in) 52 mm (2.1 in)

#6 screws with wire clamps

3.0 MECHANICAL ASSEMBLY AND INSTALLATION

3.1 UNPACKING AND INSPECTION

Your 502A-J was systematically inspected and tested, then carefully packed before shipment. Unpack the instrument and inspect for shipping damage. If possible, remove the casing and visually inspect the internal circuitry. Notify the freight carrier immediately if damage exists.

Each package includes an assembled transmitter and an owners' manual. If any items are not according to your order, contact your local distributor or Newport Electronics.

3.2 SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

As delivered from the factory/distributor, this instrument complies with required safety regulations. To prevent electrical or fire hazard and to ensure safe operation, please follow the guidelines below.

VISUAL INSPECTION: Do not attempt to operate the unit if damage is found.

MOUNTING: Observe the mounting instructions in the following pages, as applicable.

POWER VOLTAGE: Verify that the instrument is connected for the power voltage rating that will be used (9-50 V dc). If not, make the required changes as indicated in Section 4.

POWER WIRING - This instrument has no power-on switch; it will be in operation as soon as the power is connected.

SIGNAL WIRING - Do not make signal wiring connections or changes when power is on. Make signal connections before power is applied. Disconnect the power before making connection changes.

EXERCISE CAUTION - As with any electronic instrument, high voltage may exist when attempting to install, calibrate, or remove parts of the transmitter.

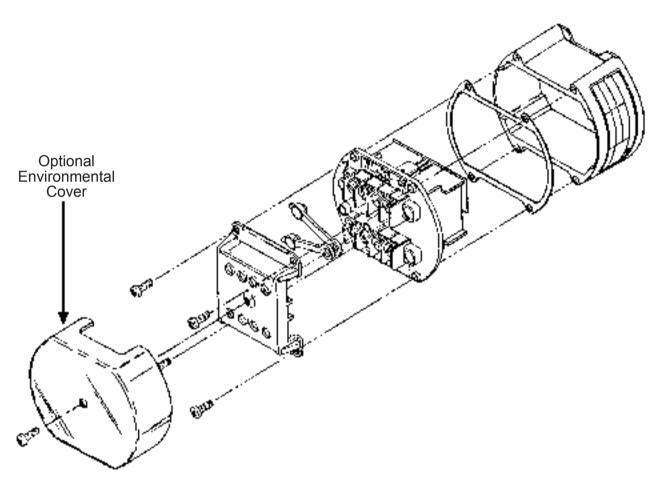
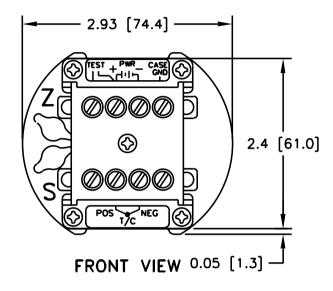
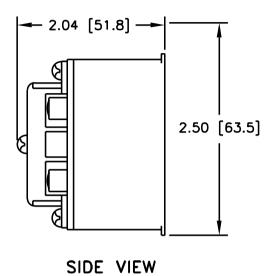
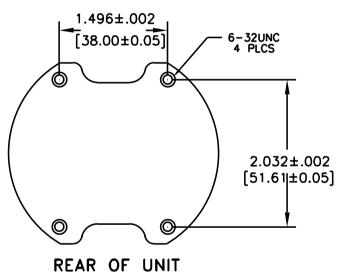


Figure 3-1 Exploded View of Model 502A







Four tapped holes with #6-32 screw threads on the rear of the case provide behind-thewall access for bulkhead mounting; flanges on the rear of the case snap into the American 8TK2 rail for track mounting.

Figure 3-2 502A Case Dimensions

3.3 OPTIONAL ADAPTERS FOR MOUNTING

The following optional adapters provide various mounting choices:

- a. Adapter plate for either front-screw-entry surface mount or TR2/2TK relay track mount. See Figure 3-3.
- b. Rail clamp for DIN EN-50-022 relay track mount. See Figure 3-4.
- c. Spring retainer for explosion-proof housings that have internal diameters of 76.4 to 88.9 mm (3.0 to 3.5 in.). See Figure 3-5.

For ordering purposes, the options are identified as follows:

Adapter plate MAT1
Rail Clamp MDT1

Spring Retainer for

Explosion-proof or

Waterproof housing MXS1

Explosion-proof/

Waterproof housing EPH (Includes MXS1)

3.4 SURFACE AND TR2/2TK RELAY TRACK MOUNTING PROCEDURE

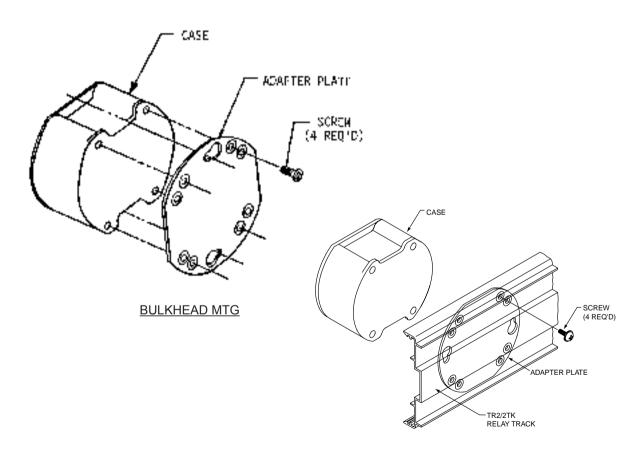
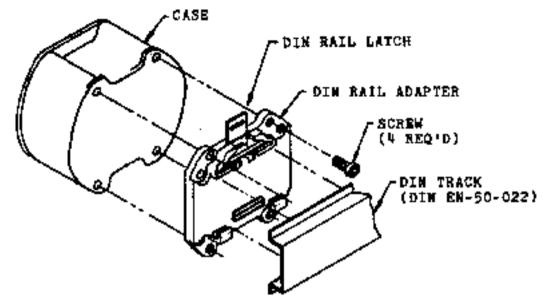


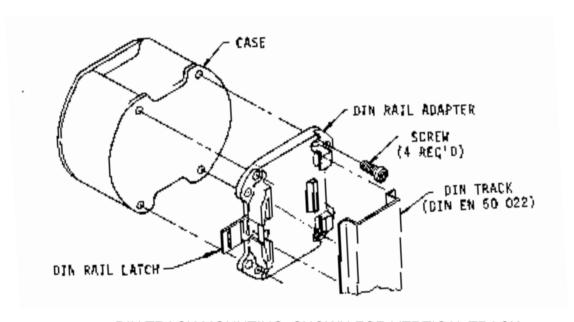
Figure 3-3 Bulkhead and Track Mounting

- 1. Position plate for desired application.
- 2. Use #6 hardware to mount plate to back of 502A case.

3.5 DIN EN-50-022 RELAY TRACK MOUNTING PROCEDURE



DIN TRACK MOUNTING: SHOWN FOR HROIZONTAL TRACK



DIN TRACK MOUNTING: SHOWN FOR VERTICAL TRACK

Figure 3-4 DIN Track Mounting

- 1. Position adapter for desired track direction.
- 2. Use #6 screws to mount adapter to back of 502A case.
- 3. Snap 502A case assembly onto DIN rail.

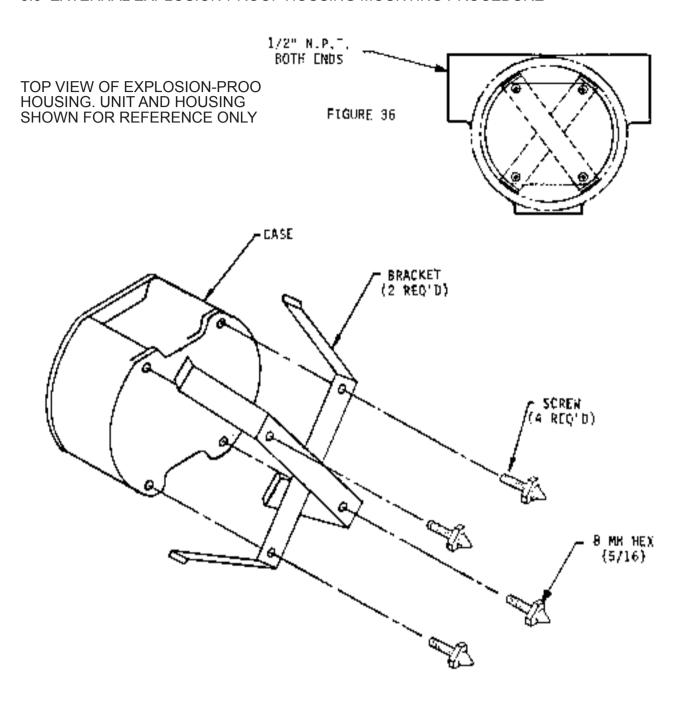


Figure 3-5 Spring Retainer for Explosion-Proof Housing

- 1. Position spring retainer across back of 502A case.
- 2. Use wire protector feet (four provided with above option) to hold spring retainers in place.
- 3. Press 502A case assembly into explosion-proof housing.

4.0 POWER AND SIGNAL INPUT CONNECTIONS

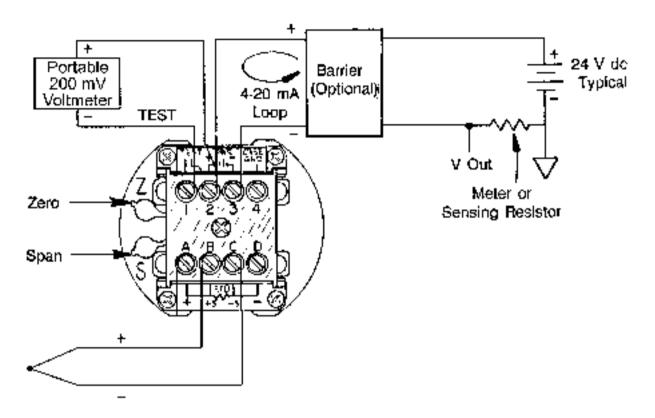


Figure 4-1 Power Input Connections

TEST, PWR +, and PWR - screws accept 2 mm (13 gauge) or lighter wire. CASE GND is grounded to the case. Power input range is 9-50 V dc.

SCREW-TERMINAL PIN ASSIGNMENT

- 1 Test
- 2 + Power Output
- 3 Power Output
- 4 Case Ground
- A No Connection
- B + Thermocouple Input
- C Thermocouple Input
- D No Connection

5.0 CONFIGURATION

The 502A-J is normally delivered configured for $4/20 \text{ mA} = 0/500^{\circ}\text{C}$.

5.1 TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

#1 Phillips screwdriver

3/32" flat blade screwdriver, VACO 17764 or equivalent

4 1/2 digit DVM (digital voltmeter) 10 or 100 ohms 1% resistor

Fixed or variable DC power supply or battery (range of 11-30 V dc) -3000 to 55000 uV source Precision thermometer

KAYE 140 or equivalent 0°C ice-point cell (Optional)

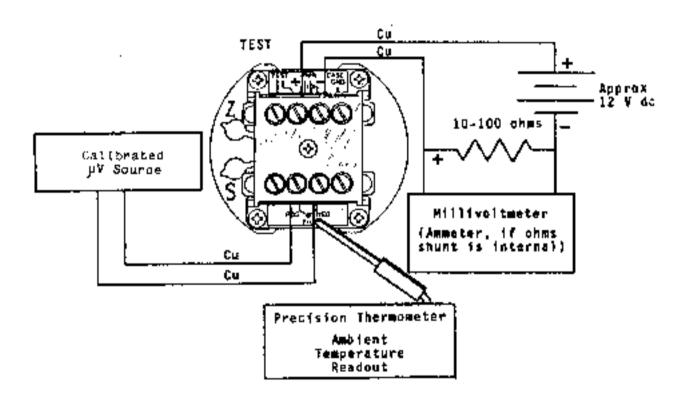


Figure 5-1 Calibration Setup Using Ambient Temperature

5.2 CALIBRATION PROCEDURE, AMBIENT TEMPERATURE

- Remove the outer four screws from the case top and lift out the electronics assembly 1. (attached to the case lid).
- 2. Pull out the two sealing plugs which cover the Span and Zero potentiometers (S pot and **Z pot**). Adjust the S pot five turns clockwise (CW) from the fully counter-clockwise (CCW) position.

NOTE: S pot and Z pot are both multi-turn pots; 25 complete turns in a CCW direction will ensure that the pot is fully CCW.

- 3. Using Table 5-2, select the range which comes closest to your desired 4 and 20 mA temperatures. Note which Zero and Span jumpers are called out in the table for the range selected.
- Turn the unit so that the jumper pin-forest is in view, and install the push-on jumpers on 4. the positions indicated (see Figure 5-3). Place the unused jumpers in storage positions.

- 5. Refer to Figure 5-1 and connect the transmitter to the power supply, microvolt source, current shunt, and milliammeter. Place the temperature probe as close as possible to the 502A-J input terminals. Better calibration stability is obtained if the electronic assembly is configured while in the case.
- 6. Using Table 5-1, determine the microvolt level that the ambient (Room) temperature represents. Subtract this from the microvolt level corresponding to the desired 4.00 mA temperature, found in Table 5-1. This value is **LO-IN**.
- 7. Set the microvolt calibration source to LO-IN microvolts and adjust the Z pot until the milliammeter reads 4.00 mA.
- 8. Using the previously determined microvolt level of the ambient (Room) temperature, subtract this from the microvolt level corresponding to the desired 20.00 mA temperature (Table 5-1). This value is **HI-IN**.
- 9. Set the microvolt calibration source to HI-IN microvolts and read the output current on the milliammeter. This current level is designated **Initial Top Current** (ITC), normally not equal to 20.00 mA.
- 10. Calculate the **Corrected Top Current** (CTC) with the following equation (generally this will not equal 20.00 mA).

$$CTC = 16 \cdot ITC / (ITC - 4 mA)$$

- 11. Adjust the S pot to obtain the Corrected Top Current on the milliammeter.
- 12. Now readjust the Z pot so that the milliammeter reads 20.00 mA.
- 13. Set the microvolt source to LO-IN microvolts. If the output current is not 4.00 mA, repeat steps 7 through 12.
- 14. When calibration is complete, remove the transmitter from the setup and replace the sealing plugs. Reinstall the unit in the case and ensure that the four screws are tightened enough to compress but not flatten the gasket.

EXAMPLE:

Temperature Range = -58 to 662°F or -50 to 350°C *

* Conversion Formula for Fahrenheit to Celsius: (°F - 32) x 5/9 = °C

Zero Jumper required, D (Table 5-2)

Span Jumper required, None (Table 5-2)

 $4.00 \text{ mA Output} = -50^{\circ}\text{C or } -2431.0 \text{ uV (Table 5-1)}$ $20.00 \text{ mA Output} = 350^{\circ}\text{C or } 19088.5 \text{ uV (Table 5-1)}$

For specific values not given in Table 5-1, interpolation may be used.

Ambient Temperature = 25°C or 1277.0 uV (Table 5-1)

LO-IN = -2431.0 - 1277.0 = -3708.0 uV HI-IN = 19088.5 - 1277.0 = 17811.5 uV

Calibration steps:

- 1. Adjust the S pot five turns CW from a fully CCW position.
- 2. Set microvolt source to -3708.0 uV.
- 3. Adjust the Z pot so that the milliammeter reads 4.00 mA.
- 4. Set microvolt source to 17811.5 uV.
- Read the Initial Top Current.
- Calculate the Corrected Top Current.
- 7. Adjust the S pot to obtain the Corrected Top Current.
- 8. Adjust the Z pot to obtain a 20.00 mA current reading.
- 9. Set microvolt source to -3708.0 uV.
- 10. If the output is not 4.00 mA, repeat steps 2 through 9.

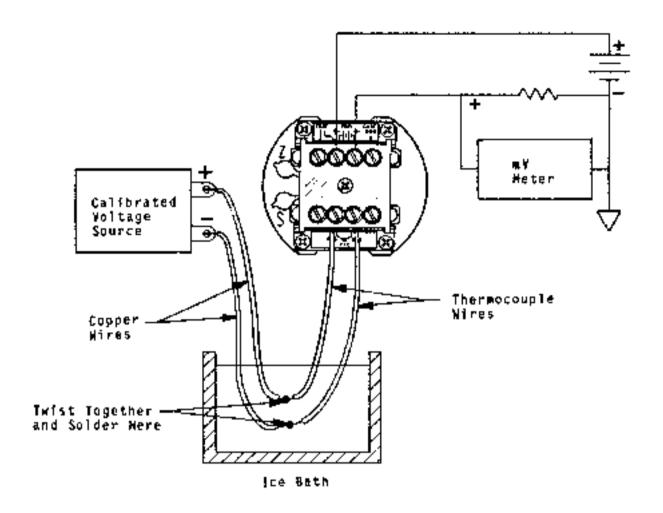


Figure 5-2 Calibration Setup Using Ice-Point Cell

5.3 CALIBRATION PROCEDURE, ICE-POINT CELL

- 1. Remove the outer four screws from the case top and lift out the electronics assembly (attached to the case lid).
- 2. Pull out the two sealing plugs which cover the Span and Zero potentiometers (S pot and Z pot). Adjust the S pot five turns clockwise (CW) from the fully counter-clockwise (CCW) position.

NOTE: S pot and Z pot are both multi-turn pots; 25 turns in a CCW direction will ensure that the pot is fully CCW.

- 3. Using Table 5-2, select the range which comes closest to your desired 4.00 and 20.00 mA temperatures. Note which Zero and Span jumpers are called out in the table for the range selected.
- 4. Turn the unit so that the jumper pin-forest is in view and install the push-on jumpers on the positions indicated (see Figure 5-3). Place the unused jumpers in storage positions.

- 5. Refer to Figure 5-1 and connect the transmitter to the power supply, microvolt source, current shunt, and milliammeter. Ensure that the copper wires from the millivolt source and the thermocouple wires from the 502A-J are soldered together and immersed in the ice bath. Better calibration stability is obtained if the electronic assembly is configured while in the case.
- 6. Using Table 5-1, determine the microvolt level corresponding to the desired 4 mA temperature. This value is **LO-IN**.
- 7. Set the microvolt calibration source to LO-IN microvolts and adjust the Z pot until the milliammeter reads 4.00 mA.
- 8. Determine the microvolt level corresponding to the desired 20.00 mA temperature. This value is **HI-IN**.
- 9. Set the microvolt calibration source to HI-IN microvolts and read the output current on the milliammeter. This current level is designated **Initial Top Current** (ITC), normally not equal to 20.00 mA.
- 10. Calculate the Corrected Top Current (CTC) with the following equation (generally this will not equal 20.00 mA).

$$CTC = 16 \cdot ITC / (ITC - 4 mA)$$

- 11. Adjust the S pot to obtain the Corrected Top Current on the milliammeter.
- 12. Now readjust the Z pot so that the milliammeter reads 20.00 mA.
- 13. Set the microvolt source to LO-IN microvolts. If the output current is not 4.00 mA, repeat steps 7 through 12.
- 14. When calibration is complete, remove the transmitter from the setup and replace the sealing plugs. Reinstall the unit in the case and ensure that the four screws are tightened enough to compress but not flatten the gasket.

Type J Thermocouple Output Voltage, E, and Slope Sensitivity or Seebeck Coefficient, S, per NBS Monograph 125 (Based on IPTS-68) or IEC publication 584-1, dated 1977.

°C	E uV	S uV/°C	°C	E uV	S uV/°C	°C	E uV	S uV/°C
-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	-2431.0 -1960.4 -1481.4 -994.6 -500.6 0.0 506.7 557.7 608.7 659.8 711.0 762.2 813.4 864.7 916.1 967.5 1019.0 1070.5 1122.0 1173.7 1225.3	uV/°C 46.615 47.491 48.301 49.049 49.738 50.373 50.956 51.012 51.067 51.122 51.176 51.229 51.283 51.335 51.388 51.440 51.491 51.542 51.593 51.643 51.692	°C 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300 310 320 330	6907.1 7456.9 8008.1 8560.3 9113.4 9667.2 10221.7 10776.5 11331.7 11887.0 12442.4 12997.7 13552.9 14107.9 14662.7 15217.2 15771.3 16325.1 16878.5 17431.5 17984.2	54.910 55.050 55.170 55.270 55.351 55.417 55.466 55.502 55.525 55.536 55.537 55.529 55.514 55.491 55.463 55.491 55.463 55.491 55.463 55.396 55.359 55.359 55.321 55.284 55.248	580 590 600 610 620 630 640 650 660 670 680 690 700 710 720 730 740 750 760 770 780 790	31932.7 32512.7 33096.0 33682.7 34272.9 34866.7 35464.3 36065.6 36670.8 37279.9 37892.9 38509.7 39130.2 39754.4 40382.0 41012.9 41646.8 42283.2 42922.0 43563.0 44206.0	57.849 58.165 58.496 58.841 59.198 59.567 59.944 60.328 60.715 61.103 61.489 61.869 62.239 62.594 62.930 63.241 63.522 63.767 63.968 64.265 64.466
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120	1277.0 1328.8 1380.6 1432.5 1484.4 1536.4 1588.4 1640.4 1692.5 1744.6 1796.8 1849.1 1901.3 1953.7 2006.0 2058.4 2584.8 3115.0 3648.7 4185.6 4725.4 5267.7 5812.3 6358.8	51.741 51.790 51.838 51.886 51.934 51.981 52.027 52.073 52.119 52.164 52.209 52.254 52.298 52.342 52.385 52.428 52.385 53.204 53.538 54.107 54.348 54.560 54.747	340 350 360 370 380 390 400 410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560 570	18536.5 19088.5 19640.2 20191.8 20743.2 21294.5 21845.9 22397.4 22949.1 23501.2 24053.8 24607.1 25716.1 26272.1 26829.5 27388.2 27948.7 28510.9 29075.1 29641.5 30210.3 30781.6 31355.7	55.215 55.186 55.163 55.145 55.135 55.133 55.141 55.160 55.190 55.233 55.290 55.361 55.447 55.549 55.667 55.804 55.957 56.129 56.320 56.529 56.756 57.003 57.267 57.549	800	44852.0 45498.0	64.580 64.616

Table 5-1 Type J Thermocouple Reference Table

NOTE: Table above provides one degree steps from 10 to 40 °C to facilitate ambient-temperature calibration method.

JUMPERS USED		POTENTIOMETER SETTINGS							
SPAN	ZERO	ZPOT=CW SPOT=.7CW		ZPOT=CCW SPOT=.7CW		ZPOT=CCW SPOT=CCW		ZPOT=CW SPOT=CCW	
		Outpu		Output	Output		Output		
		4 m/	4 20 mA	4 mA	20 mA	4 mA	20 mA	4 mA 20	mA
NONE	NONE D C C,D B B,D B,C B,C,D A A,D	-50 -45 10 65 120 175 230 290 355	365 410 460 510 565 615 670 720 760	-30 20 75 125 180 235 290 350	420 470 520 570 620 670 720 760	-25	760	130	760
E	NONE D C C,D B B,D B,C B,C,D A A,D A,C A,C,D A,B	-50 -35 20 70 120 175 230 285 345 410 475 540 610	150 195 240 290 340 395 450 505 565 625 680 740 760	30 80 130 180 235 290 345 405 470 530 595	250 300 350 400 455 510 565 620 675 735 760	0 50 100 150 200 250	535 580 625 670 715 760	110 160 205 260	635 680 720 760
F	NONE D C C,D B B,C B,C,D A A,D A,C A,C,D A,B A,B,D	-50 -10 45 95 145 200 255 310 370 435 495 565 630 695	75 120 170 220 270 325 380 435 495 555 615 680 740 760	55 105 155 205 260 315 370 430 490 555 620 685	180 230 275 330 380 435 495 555 610 670 730 760	-10 40 90 140 190 245 300 355 415 475	310 355 400 450 500 555 605 660 710 760	100 150 200 250 300 355 415 475	410 460 510 560 610 660 710 760
G	NONE D C C,D B B,C B,C A,C A,C A,C,D A,B A,B,D	-45 55 105 160 210 265 325 385 445 510 575 640 710	35 80 130 180 230 285 340 395 515 515 580 645 705 760	70 115 165 220 270 325 385 445 505 565 630 695	140 190 240 290 345 400 455 515 575 635 695 760	-15 35 85 135 185 235 290 350 470 470 535	175 220 270 320 370 420 475 535 650 650 705	95 145 190 245 295 350 410 470 590 590	280 325 375 430 480 535 590 645 760 760

Table 5-2 Celsius Temperature Ranges Obtained With Jumpers

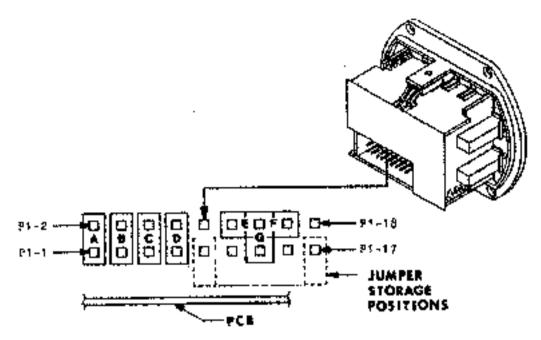


Figure 5-3 Jumper Diagram

5.4 PIN ASSIGNMENTS (Jumper Pin-forest P1)

Jumper Function	P1 Pins Used
'A' Zero	1 and 2
'B' Zero	3 and 4
'C' Zero	5 and 6
'D' Zero	7 and 8
'E' Span	12 and 14
'F' Span	14 and 16
'G' S ['] pan	13 and 14

NOTE: P1 connector pins 9, 10, 11, 15, 17 and 18 are used solely for computerized testing by the factory.

5.5 CALIBRATION FORMULA (Alternate to Using 4 mA to 20 mA Tables)

5.5.1 Calculation of ZEXTRA

When the SPAN pot is turned Clockwise it increases the output, decreasing the SPAN required for full-scale output and adding ZEXTRA, which is used to set the Zero (4 mA Temperature) jumpers.

ZEXTRA = (MAXSPAN - SPAN) /4

5.5.2 Zero Jumper Selection (Equation alternate to Table 5-2)

From none to four jumpers may be placed on the connector to suppress the ZERO (temperature corresponding to 4 mA output). The equation is:

Where we put in a '1' for each jumper used (A,B,C,D) and the value of ZPOT ranges from +1.0 to 0 to -1.0 as we turn it Clockwise.

NOTE: Store the unused jumpers between the bottom connector pins and the printed-circuit board.

6.0 DRAWINGS

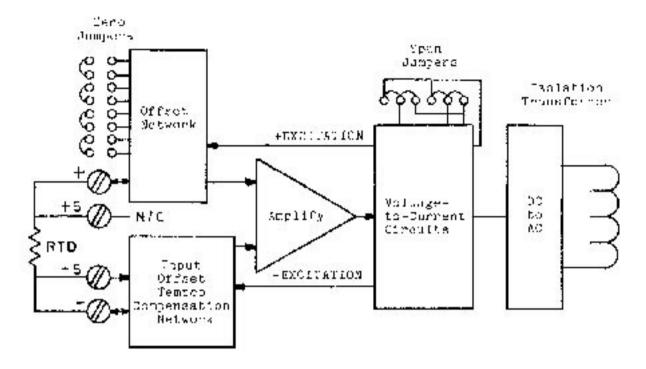


Figure 6-1 502A Preamp Block Diagram

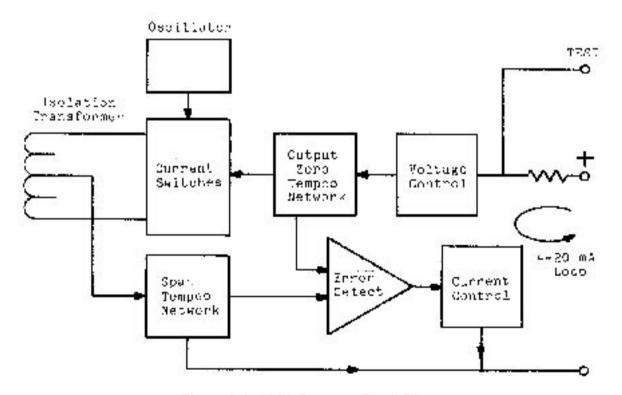


Figure 6-2 502A Postamp Block Diagram

APPENDIX A

TRANSMITTER ACCURACY SPECIFICATIONS

The complex current-transmitter circuitry necessary to amplify, isolate, protect, and offset weak input signals while consuming only small amounts of power can distort the signal in many ways. Additional accuracy limitations occur in thermocouple transmitters, which require precise cold-junction compensation and large Zero-suppression ranges in order to obtain good sensitivity and linearity for high temperatures.

Many transmitter data sheets omit key accuracy factors and/or express performance in percentage values without mentioning the full-scale value. Design limitations can be disguised by such "specsmanship"; the 502A specifications, however, are detailed in order to present the complete performance accuracy.

For a given thermocouple type, input errors are logically expressed in degrees (rather than microvolts), and output errors are readily expressed in microamperes, since output is current. Transmitter users are rarely interested in microamperes. Therefore, these output current errors are translated back to input degrees as a percentage (or ppm) of the selected Span.

Another fundamental division of errors is that of independence or dependence on Zero and Reading. Resistor aging and tempco mismatch in the Zero and Voltage Reference circuits will produce errors which increase with Zero suppression but which are independent of the amount of Reading (value above the Zero). Resistor aging and tempco mismatch in the amplifier gain (feedback) circuits will usually affect both Zero and Reading accuracy; amplifier gain tempco variations are important to just the Reading stability. A complete error specification needs a term proportional to Zero (suppression) and a term proportional to Reading.

For thermocouple transmitters, the Cold-Junction Compensation (CJC) is never perfect, even when factory-tailored over wide ambient excursions with curvilinear adjustments, as in the 502A. This error component is readily stated as a percentage of the ambient temperature excursion from the nominal temperature at which the Zero was set (assuming, as in the 502A, that the Zero potentiometer has ample resolution on all Zero and Span ranges). For transmitters with restricted turndown ratios (low Zero Suppression capability), the tempco errors may be lumped into a single error term.

In addition to these three components of tempco (ambient temperature effects), there are other possible errors, often referred to as "hysteresis," "repeatability," "drift," or "time" errors. No statistically-significant errors of these types have yet been observed for the 502A, which utilizes a solid-state, band-gap input voltage reference, matched-pair input PNP transistors, integrated-circuit current source and imbalance control, and matched-tempco bridge resistors. The 502A also provides a variable-tempco output adjustment (factory-set) which eliminates many of the errors lumped in this category for other units. The 502A specification, however, includes a 0.2°C tolerance for the calibration accuracies. Notes: