

M Series Mass Flow Meter Operation

The M Series Mass Flow Meter provides a multitude of useful flow data in one simple, rugged device. The M Series can have several screen “modes” depending on how the device is ordered. All M Series meters have a default Main Mode, Select Menu Mode, a Gas Select Mode (the Gas Select Mode may not be available on meters calibrated for a custom gas or blend), a Communication Select Mode and a Manufacturer Data Mode. In addition, your device may have been ordered with the optional Totalizing Mode (page 36). The device defaults to Main Mode as soon as power is applied to the meter.

Main Mode

The main mode screen defaults on power up with the mass flow on the primary display. The following parameters are displayed in the main mode as shown in Figure 6:

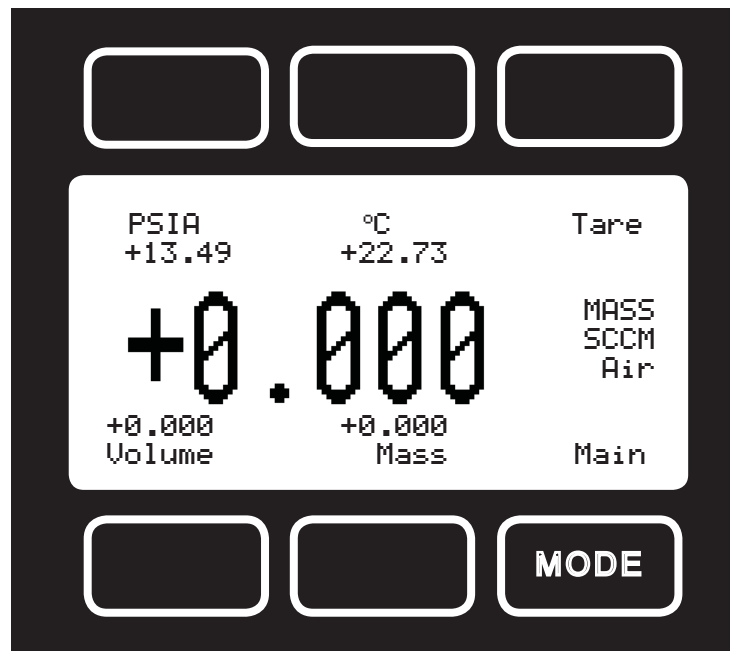


Figure 6. Main Mode Display, M Series Flow Meter

The “MODE” button in the lower right hand corner toggles the display between the Main display and the Select Menu display.

Tare – Pushing the dynamically labeled “Tare” button in the upper right hand corner tares the flow meter and provides it with a reference point for zero flow. This is a simple but important step in obtaining accurate measurements. It is good practice to “zero” the flow meter each time it is powered up. If the flow reading varies significantly from zero after an initial tare, give the unit a minute or so to warm up and re-zero it.

If possible, zero the unit near the expected operating pressure by positively blocking the flow downstream of the flow meter prior to pushing the “Tare” button. Zeroing the unit while there is any flow will directly affect the accuracy by providing a false zero point. If in doubt about whether a zero flow condition exists, remove the unit from the line and positively block both ports before pressing the “Tare” button. If the unit reads a significant negative value when removed from the line and blocked, it is a good indication that it was given a false zero. It is better to zero the unit at atmospheric pressure and a confirmed no flow conditions than to give it a false zero under line pressure.

Note: A remote tare can be achieved by momentarily grounding pin 4 to tare as shown in Figure 5 on page 9.

Gas Absolute Pressure: The M Series flow meters utilize an absolute pressure sensor to measure the line pressure of the gas flow being monitored. This sensor references hard vacuum and accurately reads line pressure both above and below local atmospheric pressure. This parameter is located in the upper left corner of the display under the dynamic label “PSIA”. This parameter can be moved to the primary display by pushing the button just above the dynamic label (top left). The engineering unit associated with absolute pressure is pounds per square inch absolute (PSIA). This can be converted to gage pressure (psig = the reading obtained by a pressure gauge that reads zero at atmospheric pressure) by simply subtracting local atmospheric pressure from the absolute pressure reading:

$$\text{PSIG} = \text{PSIA} - (\text{Local Atmospheric Pressure})$$

The flow meters use the absolute pressure of the gas in the calculation of the mass flow rate. For working in metric units, note that 1 PSI = 6.89 kPa.

Gas Temperature: The M Series flow meters also utilize a temperature sensor to measure the line temperature of the gas flow being monitored. The temperature is displayed in engineering units of degrees Celsius (°C). The flow meters use the temperature of the gas in the calculation of the mass flow rate. This parameter is located in the upper middle portion of the display under “°C”. This parameter can be moved to the primary display by pushing the top center button above “°C”.

Volumetric Flow Rate: The volumetric flow rate is determined using the Flow Measurement Operating Principle described elsewhere in this manual. This parameter is located in the lower left corner of the display over “Volume”. This parameter can be moved to the primary display by pushing the “Volume” button (lower left). In order to get an accurate volumetric flow rate, the gas being measured must be selected (see Gas Select Mode). This is important because the device calculates the flow rate based on the viscosity of the gas at the measured temperature. If the gas being measured is not what is selected, an incorrect value for the viscosity of the gas will be used in the calculation of flow, and the resulting output will be inaccurate in direct proportion to the ratio between the two gases viscosities.

Mass Flow Rate: The mass flow rate is the volumetric flow rate corrected to a standard temperature and pressure (typically 14.696 psia and 25°C). This parameter is located in the lower middle portion of the display over “Mass”. This parameter can be moved to the primary display by pushing the button located below “Mass” (bottom center). The meter uses the measured temperature and the measured absolute pressure to calculate what the flow rate would be if the gas pressure was at 1 atmosphere and the gas temperature was 25°C. This allows a solid reference point for comparing one flow to another.

Flashing Error Message: Our flow meters and controllers display an error message (MOV = mass overrange, VOV = volumetric overrange, POV = pressure overrange, TOV = temperature overrange) when a measured parameter exceeds the range of the sensors in the device. When any item flashes on the display, neither the flashing parameter nor the mass flow measurement is accurate. Reducing the value of the flashing parameter to within specified limits will return the unit to normal operation and accuracy.

Select Menu Mode

Pushing “Mode” once will bring up the “Select Menu” display. Push the button nearest your selection to go to the corresponding screen. Push “Mode” again to return to the Main Mode display. (**Note:** *If your meter was ordered with Totalizing Mode option (page 36), pushing the “Mode” button once will bring up the “Totalizing Mode” display. Pushing “Mode” a second time will bring up the “Select Menu” display.*)

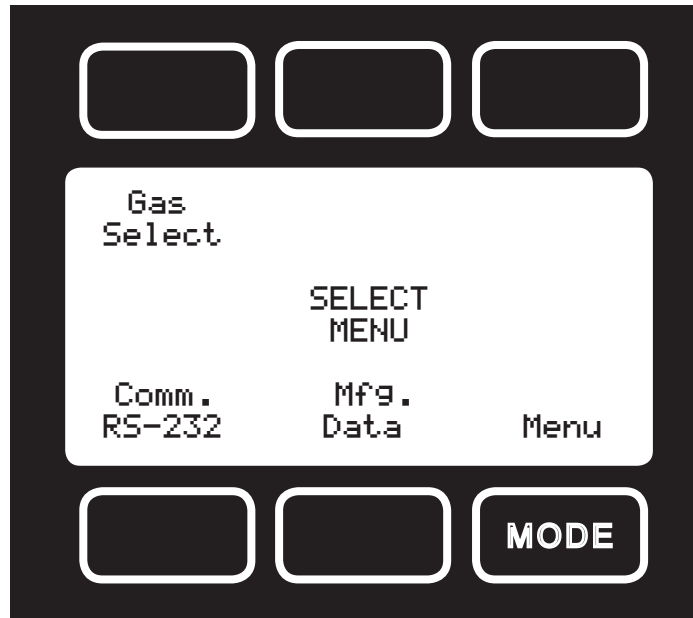


Figure 7. Menu Display

Gas Select Mode

The gas select mode is accessed by pressing the button above “Gas Select” on the Select Menu display. The screen will appear as shown in Figure 8 below.

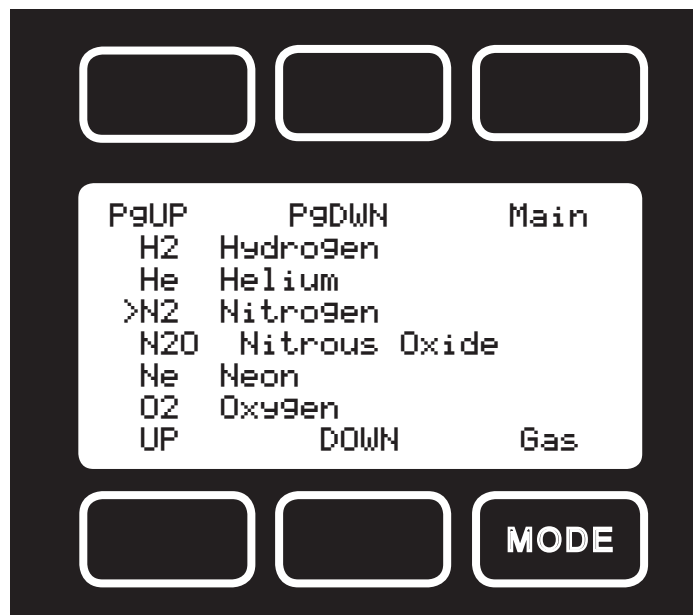


Figure 8. Gas Select Display

The selected gas is displayed on the default main mode screen as shown in Figure 6, and is indicated by the arrow in the Gas Select Mode screen in Figure 8. To change the selected gas, use the buttons under “UP” and “DOWN” or above “PgUP” and “PgDWN” to position the arrow in front of the desired gas. When the mode is cycled back to the Main Mode, the selected gas will be displayed on the main screen. (**Note:** *Gas Select Mode may not be available for units ordered for use with a custom gas or blend.*)

Communication Select

The Communication Select mode is accessed by pressing the button below “Comm. RS-232” on the Select Menu display. The screen will appear as shown in Figure 9 below.

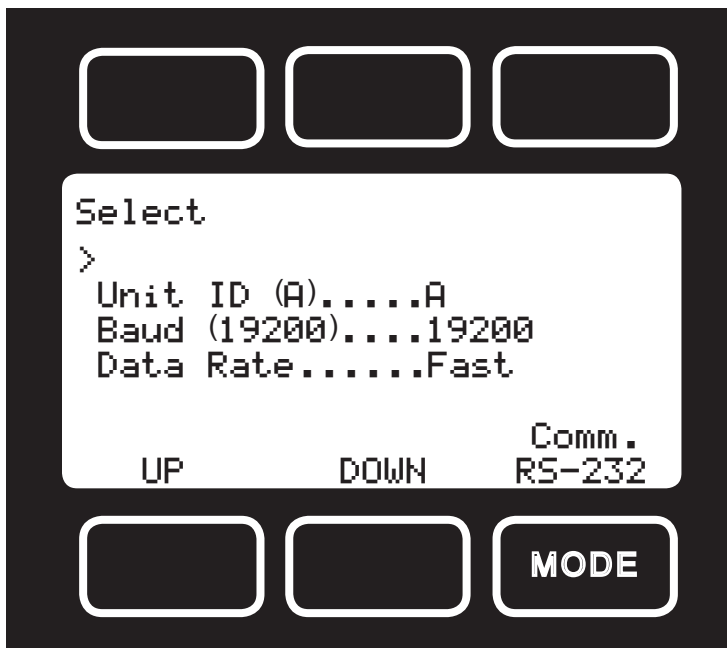


Figure 9. Communication Select Display

Unit ID – Valid unit identifiers are letters A-Z and @ (see **Note** below). This identifier allows the user to assign a unique address to each device so that multiple units can be connected to a single RS-232 port on a computer. The Communication Select Mode allows you to view and/or change a unit’s unique address. To change the unit ID address, press the “Select” button in the upper left corner of the display until the cursor arrow is in front of the word “Unit ID”. Then, using the UP and DOWN buttons at the bottom of the display, change the unit ID to the desired letter. **Any ID change will take effect when the Communication Select Screen is exited by pushing the MODE or Main button.**

Note: When the symbol @ is selected as the unit ID, the device will go into streaming mode when the Communication Select Mode is exited by pushing the MODE or Main button. See the RS-232 Communications chapter in this manual for information about the streaming mode.

Baud – The baud rate (bits per second) determines the rate at which data is passed back and forth between the instrument and the computer. Both devices must send/receive at the same baud rate in order for the devices to communicate via RS-232. The default baud rate for these devices is 19200 baud, sometimes referred to as 19.2K baud. To change the baud rate in the Communication Select Mode, press the “Select” button in the upper left corner of the display until the cursor arrow is in front of the word “Baud”. Then, using the UP and DOWN buttons at the bottom of the display, select the required baud rate to match your computer or PLC. The choices are 38400, 19200, 9600, or 2400 baud. **Any baud rate change will not take effect until power to the unit is cycled.**

Data Rate – Changing the Data Rate affects the rate at which the instrument dumps its data in the streaming mode. Slow is ½ the Fast rate. The speed of the Fast rate is determined by the selected baud rate. It is sometimes desirable to reduce the data rate if the communication speed bogs down the computer’s processor (as is not uncommon in older laptops), or to reduce the size of data files collected in the streaming mode. To change the data rate in the Communication Select Mode, press the “Select” button in the upper left corner of the display until the cursor arrow is in front of the word “Data Rate”. Then, using the UP and DOWN buttons at the bottom of the display, select either Fast or Slow. **Any data rate change will be effective immediately upon changing the value between Fast and Slow.**

Manufacturer Data

“Manufacturer Data” is accessed by pressing the “Mfg. Data” button on the Select Menu display (Figure 7). The “Mfg 1” display shows the name and telephone number of the manufacturer. The “Mfg 2” display shows important information about your flow meter including the model number, serial number, and date of manufacture.

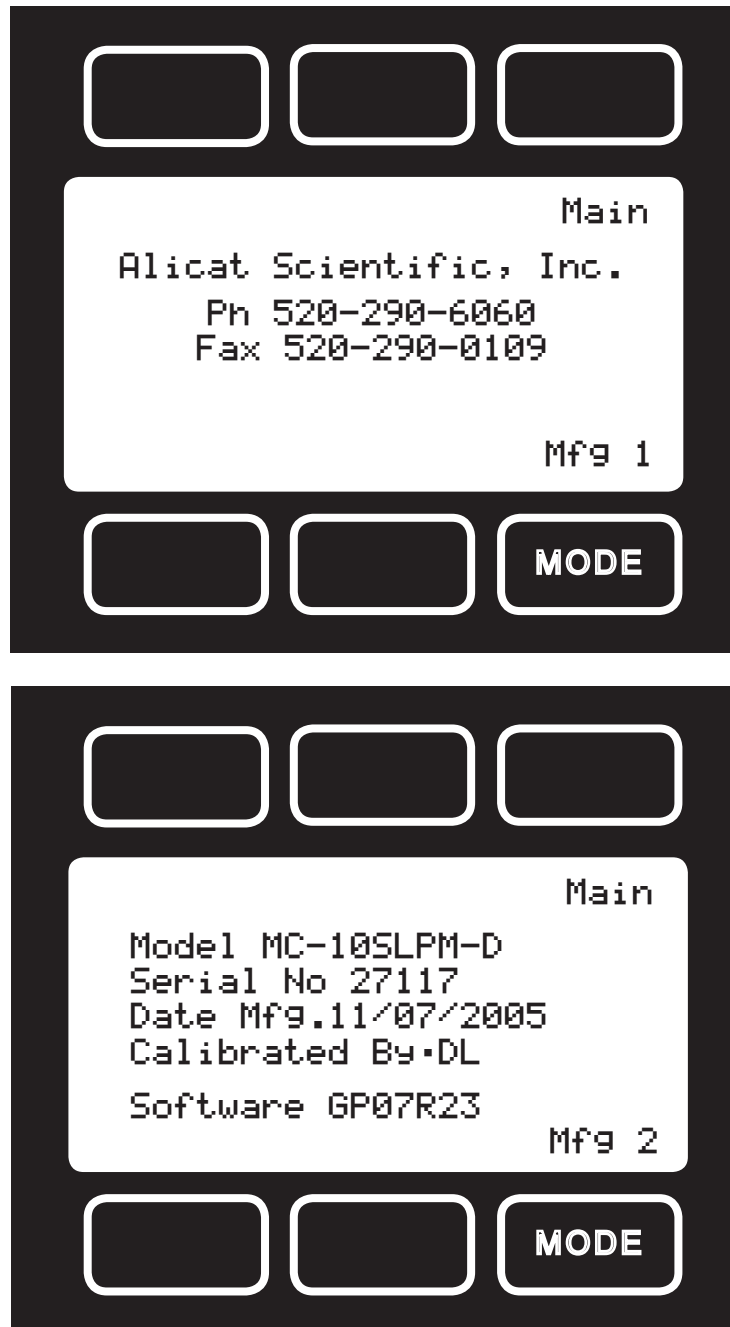


Figure 10. Manufacturer Data Displays