

TC-2

One to four channel thermocouple temperature display

Operating Manual – English 1.00



Introduction

The TC-2 thermocouple display unit is a 4 channel 3 1/8" instrument that contains all the features necessary to monitor EGT's and CHT's. The instrument is fully programmable by the user resulting in the most flexible solution available. It contains 6 different display screens to allow easy customization. The TC-2 can be configured to group EGT's/CHT's to common settings or each thermocouple channel can be independently setup for temperature ranges as well as alarms and probe types.

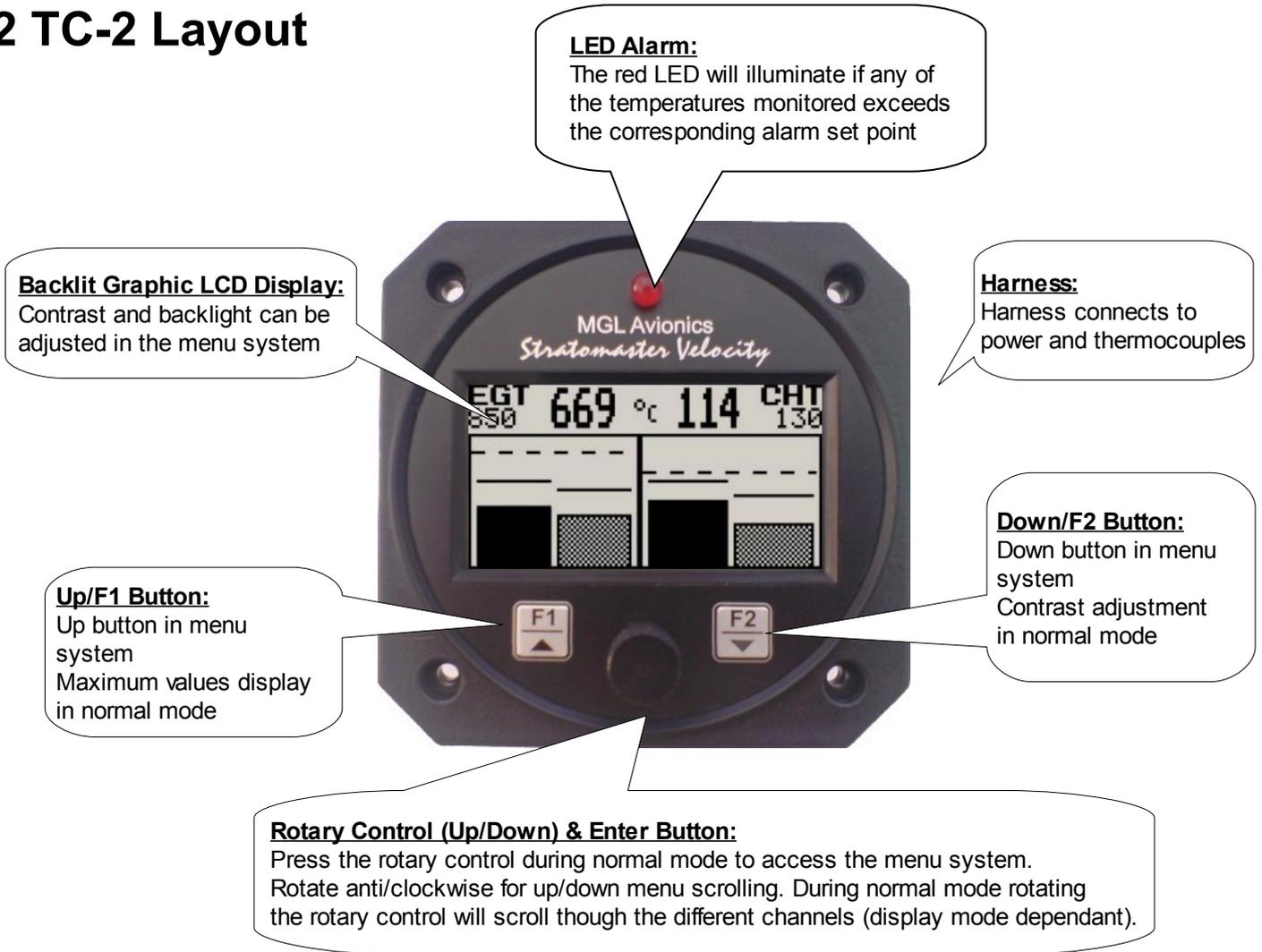
The TC-2's high accuracy is due to it's built in thermocouple linearization curves and cold junction compensation techniques. Temperature probes can be common J, K or E type thermocouple probes as used in CHT or EGT sensors. Temperatures can be displayed in degrees Celsius or degrees Fahrenheit from -100°C to 1200°C (-148°F to 2192°F). Each channel also offers a programmable high alarm.

The TC-2 also records maximum temperatures reached for each channel in permanent memory.

1 Features

- 6 different display modes
- Supports J, K and E thermocouple probes
- Temperatures can be displayed in degrees C or degrees F from -100°C to 1200°C (-148°F to 2192°F)
- High accuracy: Built in thermocouple linearization curves and cold junction compensated
- Records maximum temperatures reached for each channel in permanent memory
- Standard 3 1/8" aircraft enclosure (can be front or rear mounted)
- Rotary control plus 2 independent buttons for easy menu navigation and user input
- External alarm output as well as a red LED illuminates when the alarm has been activated
- Large backlit graphic LCD with adjustable contrast
- Wide input supply voltage range of 8 to 30V DC with built in voltage reversal and over voltage protection for harsh electrical environments
- Light weight design
- 1 year limited warranty

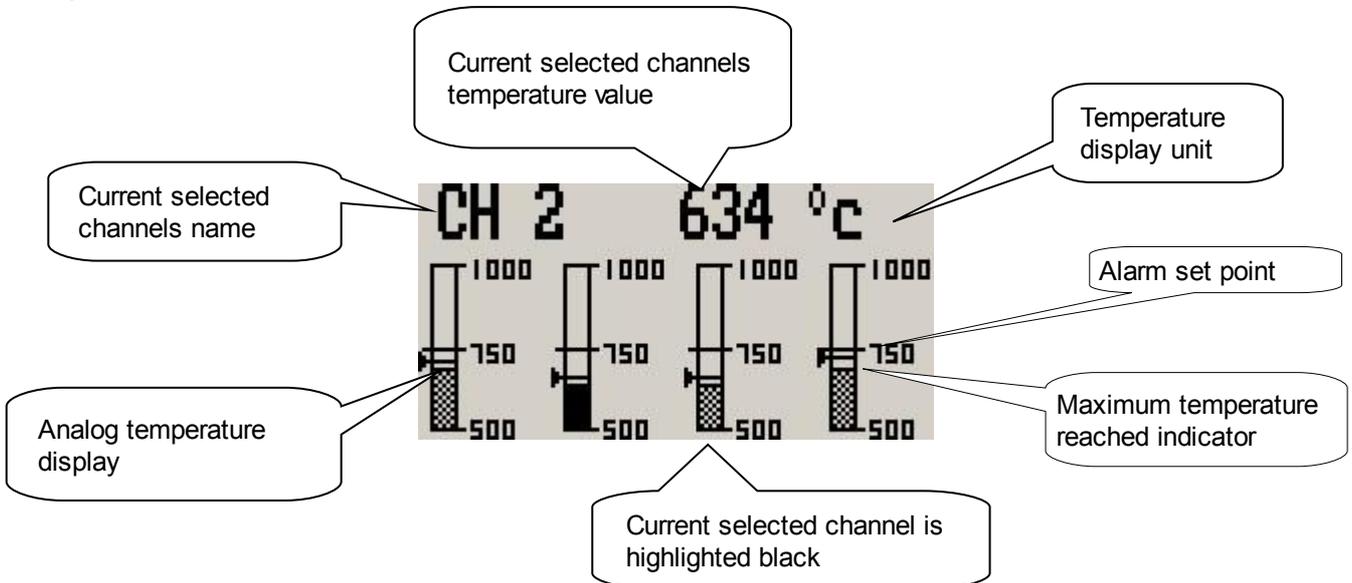
2 TC-2 Layout



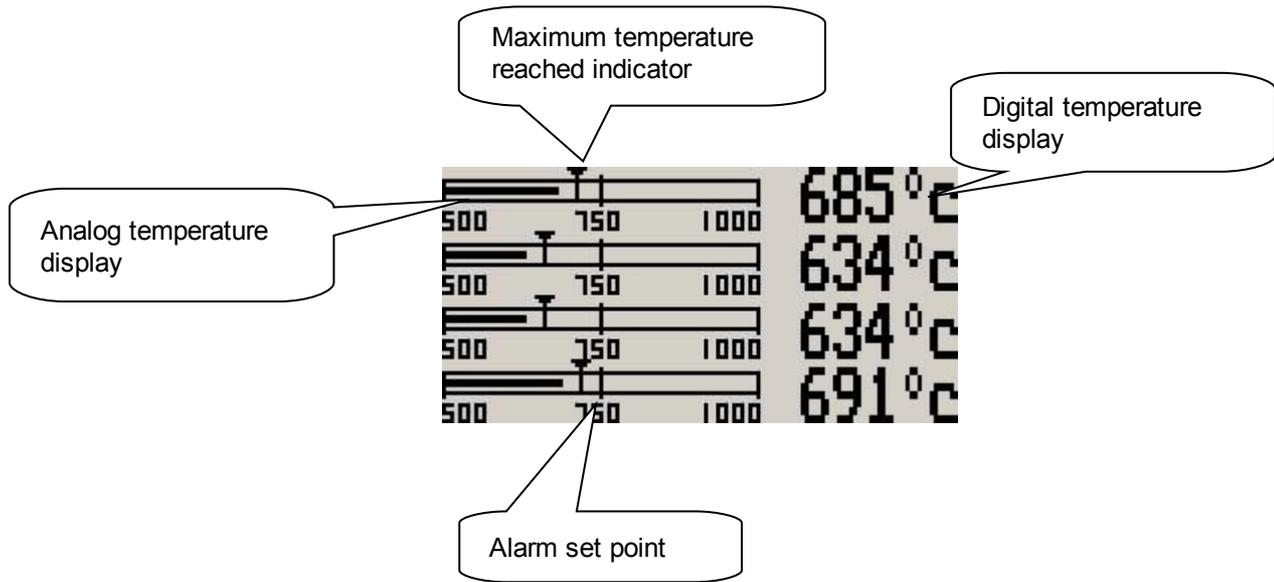
3 Main Displays

The TC-2 has up to 6 different temperature display screens. These screens can be setup under the "DISPLAY SETUP" menu option.

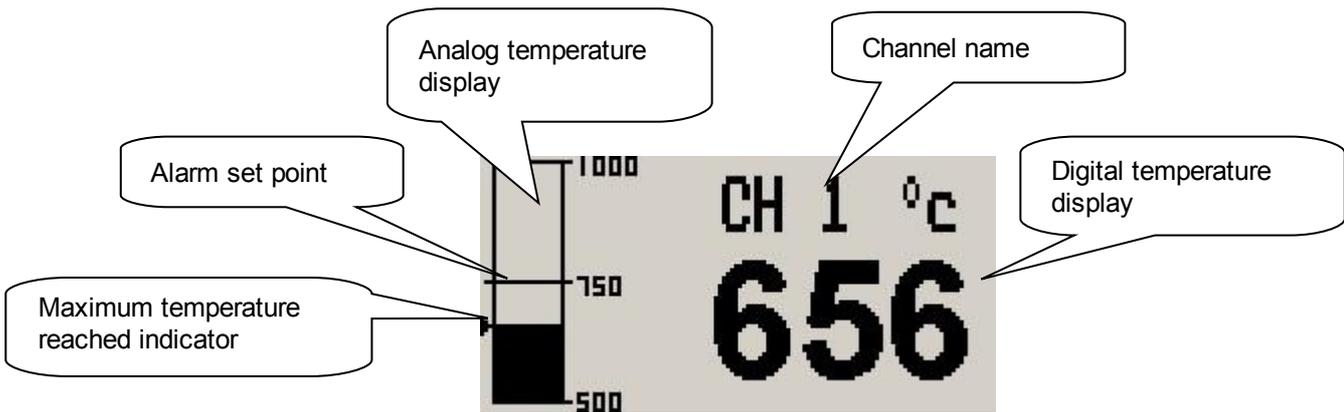
Display Mode 1: Vertical/Multiple mode



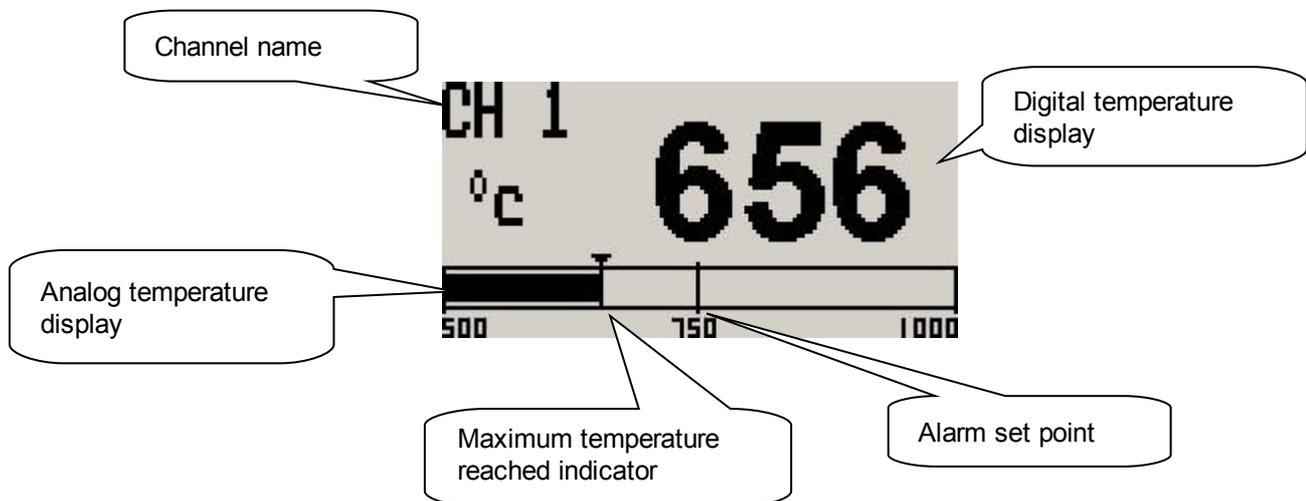
Display Mode 2: Horizontal/Multiple mode



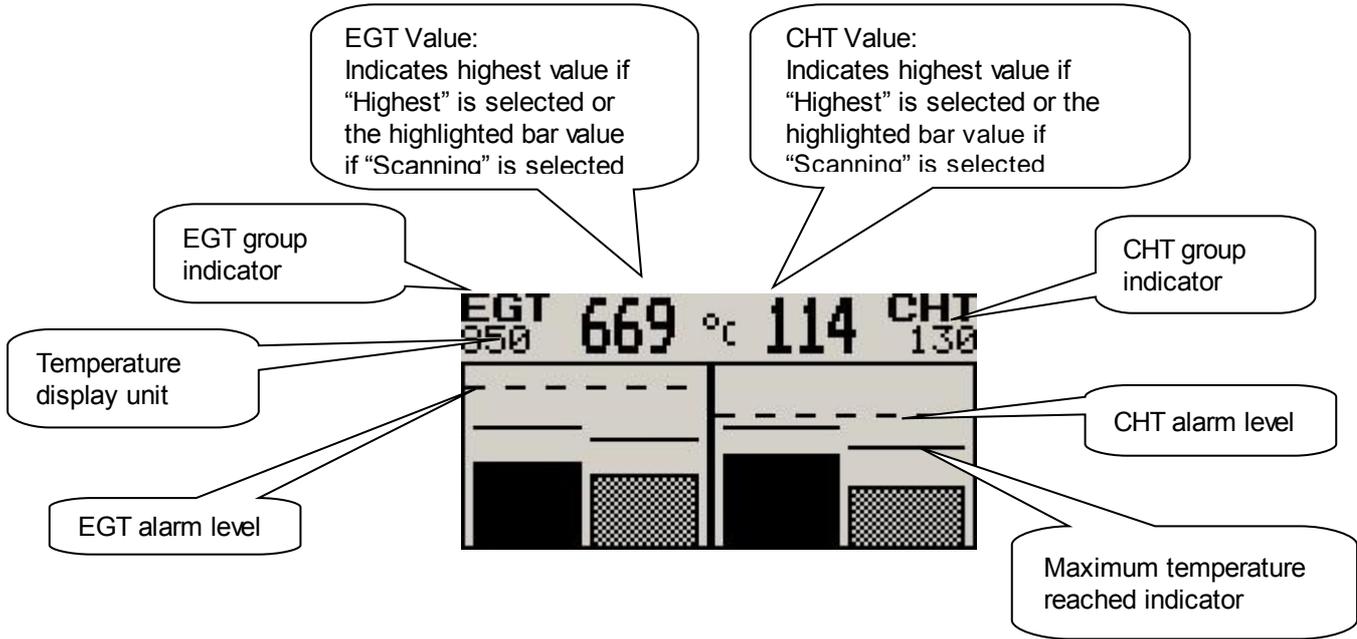
Display Mode 3: Vertical/Single mode



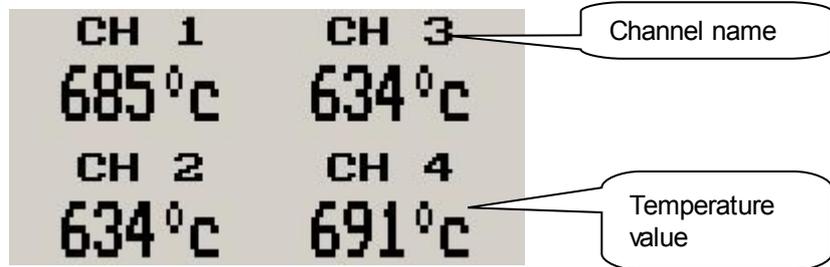
Display Mode 4: Horizontal/Single mode



Display Mode 5: TC Bars Mode



Display Mode 6: Numerical Mode



3.1 Permanent maximum values display

This display can be accessed by pressing the F1 key during the normal display mode. Pressing the F1 key again will reset the permanent maximum values to the current temperature values. Pressing any other key will cause the TC-2 to return to the normal display mode.



Note: The permanent maximum values are stored in non-volatile memory and are recalled on power-up.

3.2 Contrast Display

This display can be accessed by pressing the F2 key during the normal display mode. This is a quick access key to the same contrast menu as in the menu system.



Select this menu option to adjust the display contrast.

4 Menu System

Pressing the rotary control button during the normal display mode will cause the TC-2 to enter the menu system. Use the up/down keys or the rotary control to navigate through the menu system



4.1 Exit Menu



Pressing the rotary control on this menu item will cause the TC-2 to exit the menu system. All changes made during navigation of the menu system will be saved in non-volatile memory on exiting the menu system. If you remove power before exiting the menu the instrument will not save any changes.

4.2 Display Setup



Move the highlight over this menu item and press the rotary button to return to the main menu



Select this menu option to adjust the display contrast



Select this menu option to turn the backlight on and off

```

- DISPLAY SETUP -
*** DONE ***
ADJUST CONTRAST
BACKLIGHT: ON
DISP: SNGL/HORI
MODE: AUTO
DISPLAY TIME: 1S
    
```

Select the display mode of the TC-2. The options are:

- MULT/VERT:** Multiple channels displayed simultaneously as vertical bars
- MULT/HORI:** Multiple channels displayed simultaneously as horizontal bars
- SNGL/VERT:** Only a single vertical channel is displayed at a time
- SNGL/HORI:** Only a single horizontal channel is displayed at a time
- TC BARS:** Vertical grouped EGT/CHT channels are shown simultaneously on one display
- NUMERICAL:** Only numerical temperature values are shown side by side

```

- DISPLAY SETUP -
*** DONE ***
ADJUST CONTRAST
BACKLIGHT: ON
DISP: SNGL/HORI
MODE: AUTO
DISPLAY TIME: 1S
    
```

Select if you want the channel indicators/display screens to swap automatically or if you want to do it manually using the rotary control.

Note: Flipping through the different channels can still be done manually using the rotary control even if the display mode is set to auto.

This menu option is only shown if “Multiple/Vertical”, “Single/Vertical”, “Single/Horizontal”, or “TC Bars” is selected as a display mode.

```

- DISPLAY SETUP -
*** DONE ***
ADJUST CONTRAST
BACKLIGHT: ON
DISP: SNGL/HORI
MODE: AUTO
DISPLAY TIME: 1S
    
```

Set the time that each of the channels must be displayed for. This menu option is only shown if auto is selected for the display mode.

4.3 TC Setup

The TC-2 has 2 different “TC SETUP” menus due to the fact that the TC-2 can be setup to display the thermocouple temperatures in so many ways.



“MULTIPLE/VERTICAL”, “MULTIPLE/HORIZONTAL”, “SINGLE/VERTICAL”, “SINGLE/HORIZONTAL”, “NUMERICAL” TC Menu Setup

```

- TC SETUP -
*** DONE ***
TC CHANNELS: 4
TEMP UNIT: °C
CH 1 SETUP
CH 2 SETUP
CH 3 SETUP
CH 4 SETUP
    
```

Move the highlight over this menu item and press the rotary button to return to the main menu

```

- TC SETUP -
*** DONE ***
TC CHANNELS: 4
TEMP UNIT: °C
CH 1 SETUP
CH 2 SETUP
CH 3 SETUP
CH 4 SETUP
    
```

Select how many TC channels must be monitored on the TC-2

```

- TC SETUP -
*** DONE ***
TC CHANNELS: 4
TEMP UNIT: °C
CH 1 SETUP
CH 2 SETUP
CH 3 SETUP
CH 4 SETUP
    
```

Select whether you want the temperature to be displayed in degrees Celsius (°C) or degrees Fahrenheit (°F)

```

- TC SETUP -
*** DONE ***
TC CHANNELS: 4
TEMP UNIT: °C
CH 1 SETUP
CH 2 SETUP
CH 3 SETUP
CH 4 SETUP
    
```

```

- TC SETUP -
*** DONE ***
TC CHANNELS: 4
TEMP UNIT: °C
CH 1 SETUP
CH 2 SETUP
CH 3 SETUP
CH 4 SETUP
    
```

```

- TC SETUP -
*** DONE ***
TC CHANNELS: 4
TEMP UNIT: °C
CH 1 SETUP
CH 2 SETUP
CH 3 SETUP
CH 4 SETUP
    
```

```

- TC SETUP -
*** DONE ***
TC CHANNELS: 4
TEMP UNIT: °C
CH 1 SETUP
CH 2 SETUP
CH 3 SETUP
CH 4 SETUP
    
```

Select which channel you want to setup

Only Channel 1 Setup is shown below, follow the same steps for Channel 2, 3, 4

```

CH 1 SETUP
*** DONE ***
SPAN: 1000°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 750
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
PROBE: K-TYPE
LABEL: CH 1
    
```

Move the highlight over this menu item and press the rotary button to return to the main menu

```

CH 1 SETUP
*** DONE ***
SPAN: 1000°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 750
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
PROBE: K-TYPE
LABEL: CH 1
    
```

This function sets the top end of your temperature bar graph. It has no effect on the actual temperature range that can be displayed in the digital temperature readout. Select the range to be just higher than the highest temperature you expect to measure using this channel.

```

CH 1 SETUP
*** DONE ***
SPAN: 1000°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 750
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
PROBE: K-TYPE
LABEL: CH 1
    
```

Select this function to "ON" if you want the bar graph display to show the upper half of the temperature range only. This results in a higher resolution of the temperature range you may be interested in. For engine temperature measurements we recommend that you set this to "ON".

```

CH 1 SETUP
*** DONE ***
SPAN: 1000°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 750
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
PROBE: K-TYPE
LABEL: CH 1
    
```

Adjust the temperature that you would like to use as an alarm limit. Any temperature above this limit will activate the alarm. Active alarms will flash the affected channel and also activate the alarm contact that you can use to switch a lamp on.

```

CH 1 SETUP
*** DONE ***
SPAN: 1000°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 750
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
PROBE: K-TYPE
LABEL: CH 1
    
```

Select whether you want to turn the alarm on or off. To avoid false activation of the alarms, the alarm function is only activated 10 seconds after the instrument has powered up.

```

CH 1 SETUP
*** DONE ***
SPAN: 1000°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 750
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
PROBE: K-TYPE
LABEL: CH 1
    
```

Select if you are using a K-type, J-type or E-type thermocouple probe for this channel. All probes supplied by MGL Avionics are K-Type. J-types are sometimes used with American made CHT probes. All EGT probes are K-type. E-type probes are seldom used.

```

CH 1 SETUP
*** DONE ***
SPAN: 1000°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 750
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
PROBE: K-TYPE
LABEL: CH 1
    
```

Choose one of a selection of labels to suit your channel so you can identify it easily.

“TC BARS” TC Menu Setup

```

TC SETUP
*** DONE ***
EGT SETUP
CHT SETUP
TEMP UNIT: °C
    
```

Move the highlight over this menu item and press the rotary button to return to the main menu.

```

TC SETUP
*** DONE ***
EGT SETUP
CHT SETUP
TEMP UNIT: °C
    
```

All EGT related parameters is setup here.

```

TC SETUP
*** DONE ***
EGT SETUP
CHT SETUP
TEMP UNIT: °C
    
```

All CHT related parameters is setup here.

```

TC SETUP
*** DONE ***
EGT SETUP
CHT SETUP
TEMP UNIT: °C
    
```

Select whether you want the temperature to be displayed in degrees Celsius (°C) or degrees Fahrenheit (°F).

Only “EGT SETUP” is shown below, follow the same steps for CHT setup.

```

EGT SETUP
*** DONE ***
CHANNELS: 2
MODE: HIGHEST
SPAN: 900°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 850°C
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
    
```

Move the highlight over this menu option and press the rotary button to return to the “TC Setup” menu.

```

EGT SETUP
*** DONE ***
CHANNELS: 2
MODE: HIGHEST
SPAN: 900°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 850°C
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
    
```

Select the number of EGT or CHT channels you want to use. Choices are from 1 to 4. The temperature display will configure itself to make best possible use of the available display size. Please note that the minimum number of EGT & CHT channels that can be displayed is 1 and the maximum number of EGT and CHT channels that can be displayed is 4.

```

EGT SETUP
*** DONE ***
CHANNELS: 2
MODE: HIGHEST
SPAN: 900°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 850°C
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
    
```

A selection between “HIGHEST” or “SCANNING” can be selected. If “HIGHEST” is selected then the current highest thermocouple temperature is displayed. If “SCANNING” is selected then the E-3 will cycle through each thermocouple channel highlighting it as well as showing its temperature.

```

EGT SETUP
*** DONE ***
CHANNELS: 2
MODE: HIGHEST
SPAN: 900°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 850°C
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
    
```

This function sets the top end of your temperature bar graph. It has no effect on the actual temperature range that can be displayed in the digital temperature readout. Select the range to be just higher than the highest temperature you expect to measure using this channel.

```

EGT SETUP
*** DONE ***
CHANNELS: 2
MODE: HIGHEST
SPAN: 900°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 850°C
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
    
```

Select this function to “ON” if you want the bar graph display to show the upper half of the temperature range only. This results in a higher resolution of the temperature range you may be interested in. For engine temperature measurements we recommend that you set this to “ON”.

```

EGT SETUP
*** DONE ***
CHANNELS: 2
MODE: HIGHEST
SPAN: 900°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 850°C
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
    
```

Adjust the temperature that you would like to use as an alarm limit. Any temperature above this limit will activate the alarm. Active alarms will flash the affected channel and also activate the alarm contact that you can use to switch a lamp on.

```

EGT SETUP
*** DONE ***
CHANNELS: 2
MODE: HIGHEST
SPAN: 900°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 850°C
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
    
```

Select whether you want to turn the alarm on or off. To avoid false activation of the alarms, the alarm function is only activated 10 seconds after the instrument has powered up.

```

EGT SETUP
*** DONE ***
CHANNELS: 2
MODE: HIGHEST
SPAN: 900°C
TOPSCALE: ON
SETPOINT: 850°C
ALARM ON/OFF: ON
PROBE: K-TYPE
    
```

Select if you are using a K-type, J-type or E-type thermocouple probe for this channel. All probes supplied by MGL Avionics are K-Type. J-types are sometimes used with American made CHT probes. All EGT probes are K-type. E-type probes are seldom used.

5 Loading factory default settings

Pressing and holding the F1 and F2 keys simultaneously during power up will cause the TC-2 to load preprogrammed factory default settings. The following screen will be displayed:

```

LOADING
DEFAULT
SETTINGS
    
```

6 Operating the alarms

If the alarm is activated, the corresponding item on the display will flash. At the same time the externally available alarm switch will close. The switch will remain closed until any button is pressed to acknowledge the alarm or until the condition(s) that activated the alarm no longer exist. The alarm output can be used to switch an external alarm indicator. The external alarm switch is an open collector transistor switch to ground with a maximum rating of 0.5A DC. It is possible to wire the alarm contacts of several Stratomaster instruments in parallel should this be desired. To avoid false activation of the alarms, the alarm function is only active 10 seconds after the instrument has powered up.

7 Cleaning

The unit should not be cleaned with any abrasive substances. The screen is very sensitive to certain cleaning materials and should only be cleaned using a clean, damp cloth.

Warning: The TC-2 is not waterproof, serious damage could occur if the unit is exposed to water and/or spray jets.

8 TC-2 Specifications

Operating Temperature Range	-10°C to 50°C (14°F to 122°F)
Storage Temperature Range	-20°C to 80°C (-4°F to 176°F)
Humidity	<85% non-condensing
Power Supply	8 to 30Vdc SMPS (switch mode power supply) with built in 33V over voltage and reverse voltage protection
Current Consumption	Approx. 43mA @ 13.8V (backlight on) 15mA @13.8V (backlight off)
Display	128x64 graphic LCD display. Contrast and backlight is user configurable, green/yellow backlight
ADC	12 bit over sampled successive approximation
Dimensions	see Velocity series dimensional drawing
Enclosure	3 1/8" ABS, black in color, front or rear mounting
Weight	Approx. 226 grams
Non-volatile memory storage	100000 write cycles
Thermocouples	J-type/K-type and E-Type
Measurement range	J-Type/K-Type: -100°C to 1200°C (-148°F to 2192°F) E-Type: -100°C to 900°C (-148°F to 1652°F)
Technology	Fully cold junction compensated using precision internal temperature reference, built in thermocouple linearization tables
Measurement accuracy	+/- 5 degrees typical over full temperature range, subject to quality of probe used. We recommend MGL Avionics EGT and CHT probes
Inputs	Differential, can use grounded and isolated probes
Common mode voltage range	-2V to +3V

9 Installation

The TC-2 provides for up to 4 thermocouple inputs for use with EGT and CHT probes. K, J as well as E-type probes can be used. K types are used for EGT probes while CHT probes can either be J or K type. E-type probes are seldom used. Probe types are selected in the various "TC SETUP" menus of the TC-2.

Important: Incorrect selection of probe type will lead to an incorrect temperature display.

The TC-2 will accept both grounded and isolated thermocouple probes. Your only consideration in case of the more common grounded configurations is that you need to ensure that the thermocouple mounting position (exhaust flange, etc.) is at the same electrical potential as the negative supply line of the TC-2.

The thermocouple amplifier is a precision device providing full cold junction compensation. In addition the amplifier measures and corrects for its own errors. This results in very accurate measurements providing you install high quality probes. Here are some guidelines:

EGT Probes: Select probes that are made from 316 stainless steel and that use glass-fiber insulated conductors. Teflon insulated conductors as found in many cheap probes introduce errors as the insulation melts moving the measuring point towards the mounting bolt which transfers a lot of heat to the exhaust material. This results in under reading probes. Stay away from probes that use simple plastic heat shrink sleeving – it does not last. Choose probes that use a generous amount of stainless steel spring as strain relief. The bolt itself should be stainless steel as well or it will rust very quickly.

CHT Probes: These are made from washers to fit spark-plug bases. Temperatures are considerably lower so most thermocouple cables will work without problems. The biggest area of concern should be the connection of the thermocouple cable to the washer. This often breaks after the spark plug has been changed a few times. Choose a probe that is suitably reinforced at this point for a long and trouble free life.

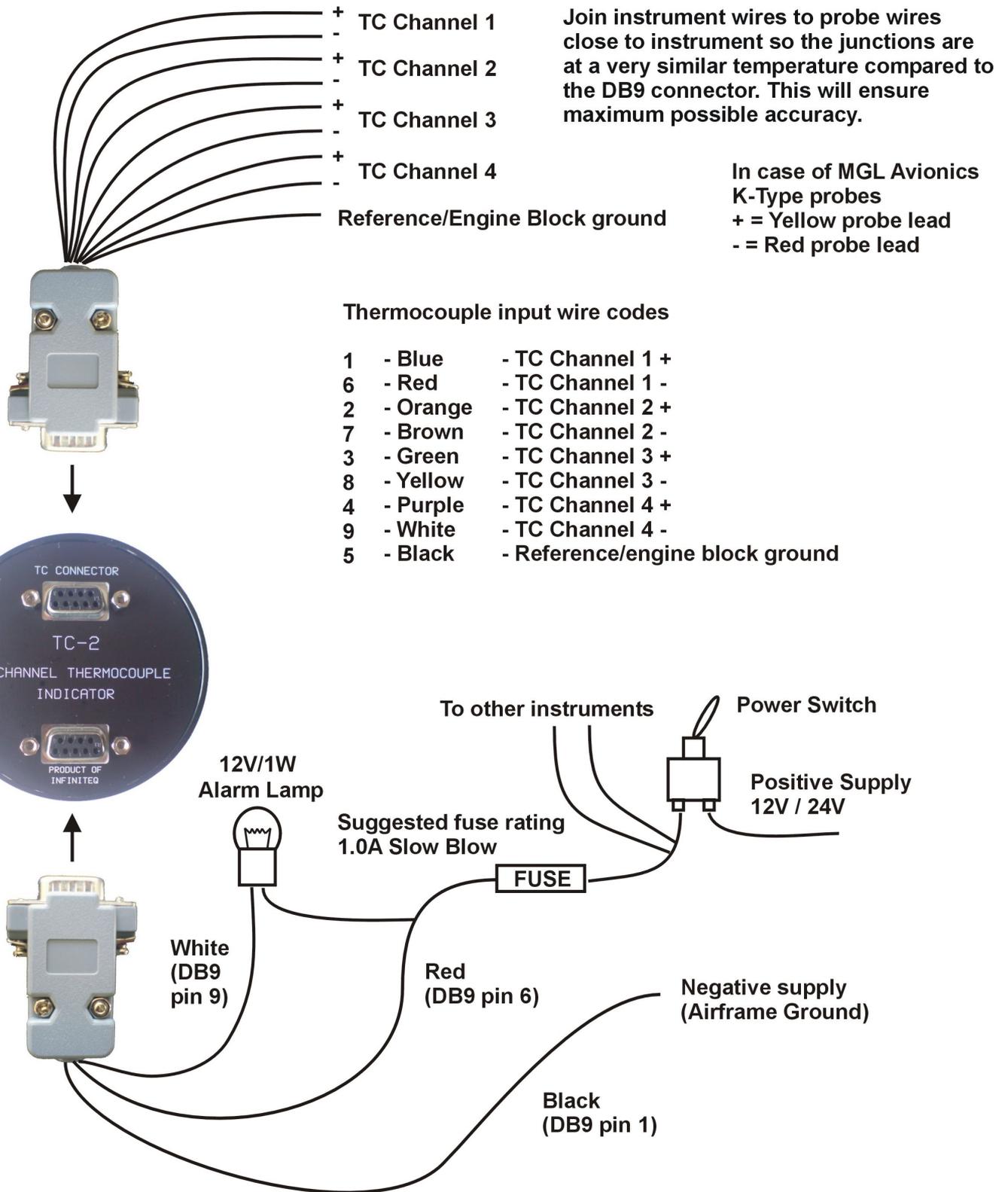
EGT and CHT probes supplied by MGL Avionics are of highest quality. We recommend that you consider using our probes if at all possible.

Warning: Four stroke engines produce much hotter exhaust gases compared to two stroke engines. Do not use EGT probes made from lower grade stainless steel (for example 310), these probes will not withstand the high temperatures and can fail as the metal gets very soft at 800 degrees C. Many four strokes (such as the Rotax 912) will produce exhaust gases of up to 850 degrees C.

Important installation note:

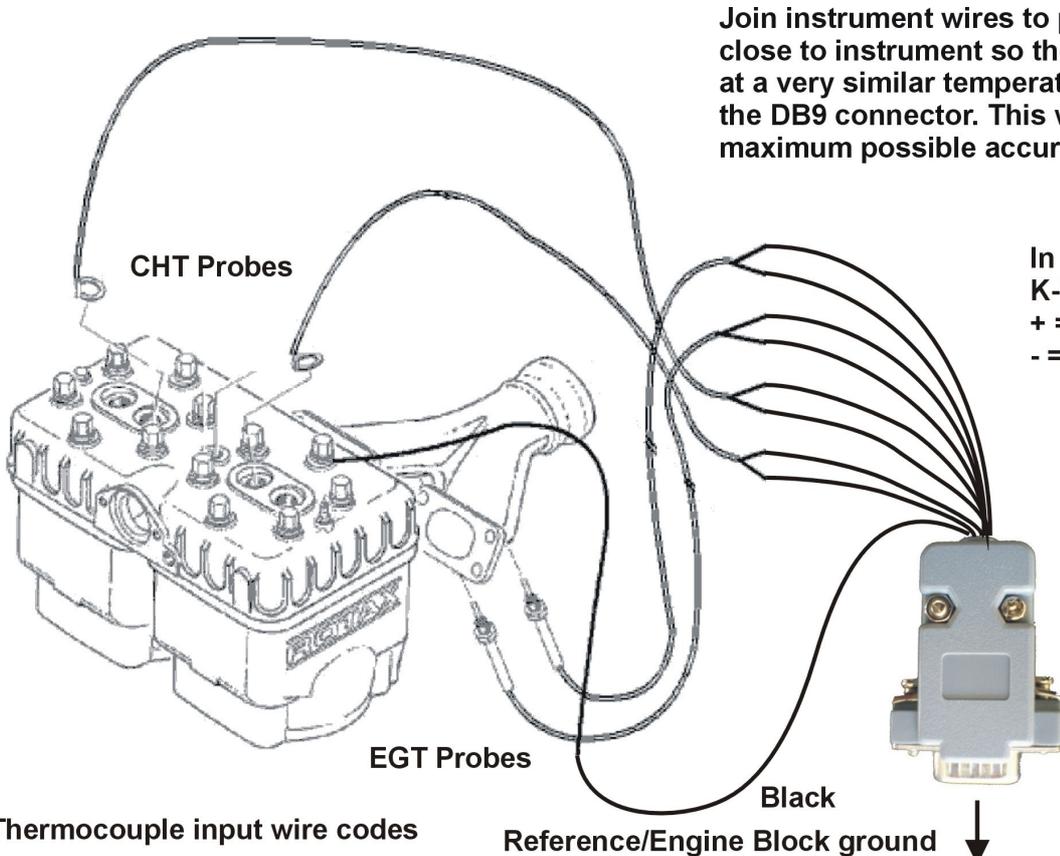
EGT and CHT probes use wire made from iron and other basic metals. As a result these probes are not able to withstand much flexing of the wires due to engine vibrations. Avoid making nice looking coils or similar constructions that will result in excessive vibration or flexing of the wire. Route the cables from the probe points tightly along suitable engine mounting points eliminating any chance of unnecessary wire flexing during engine operation.

9.1 Connection Diagram



The use of an external 1A fuse is recommended. Connect the supply terminals to your aircrafts power supply. The TC-2 can be used on both 12V and 24V without the use of any pre-regulators. Ensure that the supply voltage will not drop below 8V during operation as this may result in incorrect readings.

9.2 Connection diagram for a Rotax 503/582



Join instrument wires to probe wires close to instrument so the junctions are at a very similar temperature compared to the DB9 connector. This will ensure maximum possible accuracy.

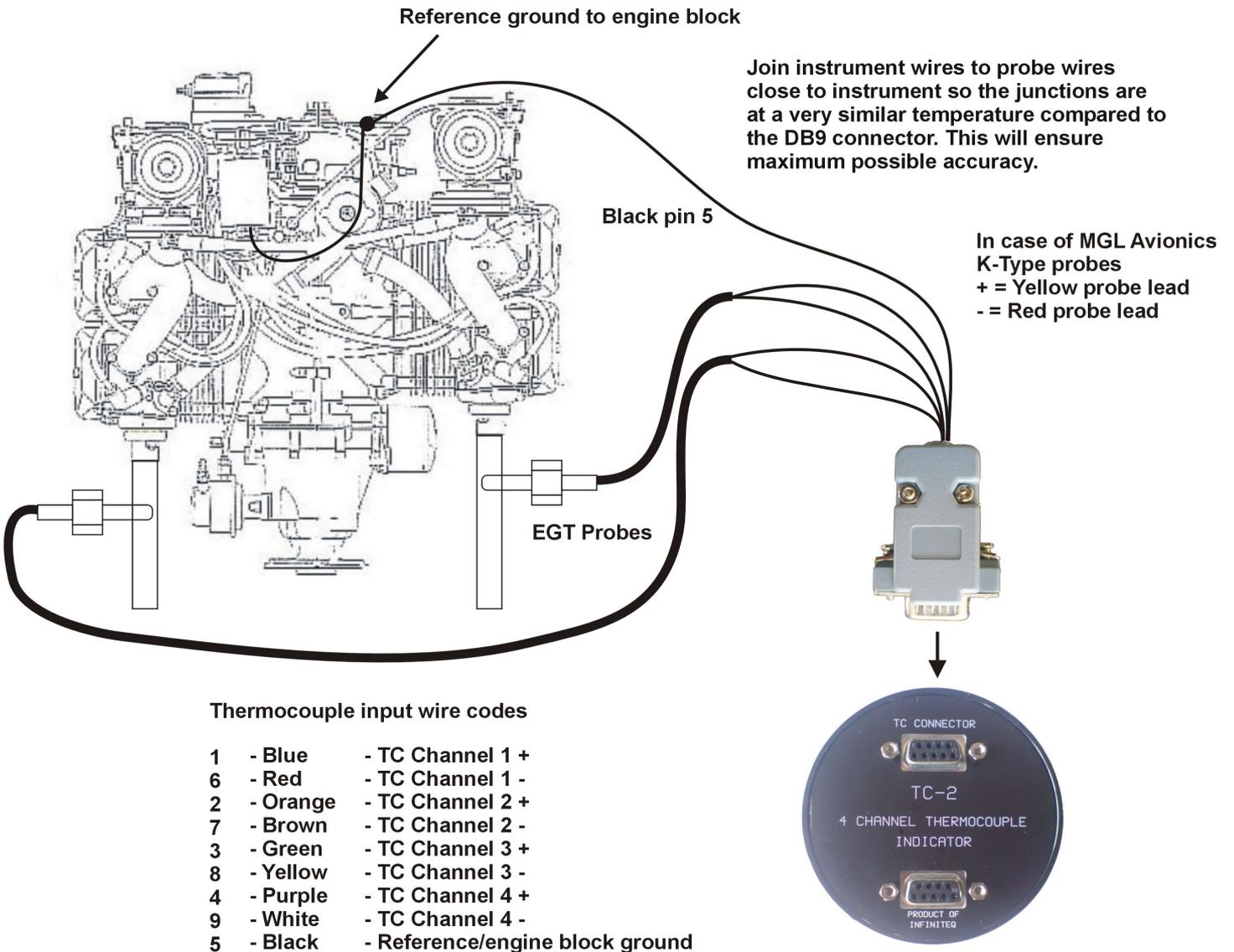
In case of MGL Avionics K-Type probes
 + = Yellow probe lead
 - = Red probe lead

Thermocouple input wire codes

- | | | |
|---|----------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | - Blue | - TC Channel 1 + |
| 6 | - Red | - TC Channel 1 - |
| 2 | - Orange | - TC Channel 2 + |
| 7 | - Brown | - TC Channel 2 - |
| 3 | - Green | - TC Channel 3 + |
| 8 | - Yellow | - TC Channel 3 - |
| 4 | - Purple | - TC Channel 4 + |
| 9 | - White | - TC Channel 4 - |
| 5 | - Black | - Reference/engine block ground |



9.3 Connection diagram for a Rotax 912

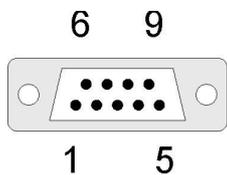


9.4 Extending leads of thermocouple probes

Thermocouple leads as used with the EGT and CHT probes can be extended either with ordinary copper cable or with special K-Type extension cable. The choice of either depends on your desired accuracy. If it is possible in your installation to ensure that both ends of a copper extension cable will be at the same temperature (or very close), then it is quite possible to use the copper cable. In most open-air installations this will be the case. Should this not be possible or you require best possible accuracy at all times, you can obtain a special K-type extension cable. This cable is made from the same metals as your probes cable and uses ordinary plastic sleeving as insulation. In either case, ensure that the cable is not routed close to sources of electromagnetic interference of any kind. The voltages present in this cable are very small and are subject to changes applied by external fields. This can lead to false temperature indications. You can check your installation by using a hand-held transmitter, such as an air band radio. If you transmit a signal, no change in temperature reading should occur.

9.5 TC-2 DB9 Cable connections

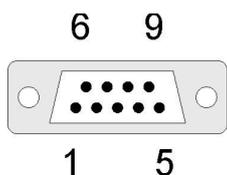
Main connector (Bottom DB9 connector)



DB 9 Pin	Color	Function
1	Black	Ground
4	NC	Airtalk communication (Not connected) Used for firmware upgrading
6	Red	8-30Vdc power
9	White	Alarm Output

Thermocouple (EGT/CHT) input connector (Top DB9 connector)

In case of MGL Avionics K-Type probes + = Yellow probe lead, - = Red probe lead



DB 9 Pin	Color	Function
1	Blue	TC Channel 1 +
2	Orange	TC Channel 2 +
3	Green	TC Channel 3 +
4	Purple	TC Channel 4 +
5	Black	Reference ground (connect to engine block)
6	Red	TC Channel 1 -
7	Brown	TC Channel 2 -
8	Yellow	TC Channel 3 -
9	White	TC Channel 4 -

10 Warranty

This product carries a warranty for a period of one year from date of purchase against faulty workmanship or defective materials, provided there is no evidence that the unit has been mishandled or misused. Warranty is limited to the replacement of faulty components and includes the cost of labour. Shipping costs are for the account of the purchaser.

Note: Product warranty excludes damages caused by unprotected, unsuitable or incorrectly wired electrical supplies and or sensors, and damage caused by inductive loads.

11 Disclaimer

Operation of this instrument is the sole responsibility of the purchaser of the unit. The user must make themselves familiar with the operation of this instrument and the effect of any possible failure or malfunction.

This instrument is not certified by the FAA. Fitting of this instrument to certified aircraft is subject to the rules and conditions pertaining to such in your country. Please check with your local aviation authorities if in doubt. This instrument is intended for ultralight, microlight, homebuilt and experimental aircraft. Operation of this instrument is the sole responsibility of the pilot in command (PIC) of the aircraft. This person must be proficient and carry a valid and relevant pilot's license. This person has to make themselves familiar with the operation of this instrument and the effect of any possible failure or malfunction. Under no circumstances does the manufacturer condone usage of this instrument for IFR flights.

The manufacturer reserves the right to alter any specification without notice.

Other instruments in the *Stratomaster Velocity* series

ALT-3	Encoding aviation altimeter and Vertical speed indicator (VSI)
ALT-4	Encoding aviation altimeter with Serial RS232 & Parallel Gillham code output
ASI-3	Airspeed indicator (ASI) with automatic flight log
ASX-2	Encoding aviation altimeter and Airspeed indicator (ASI)
AV-2	Artificial horizon and magnetic compass indicator
E-1	Universal engine monitor
FLIGHT-2	Primary Flight instrument
FF-3	Fuel Computer (single or dual fuel tanks)
GF-2	+/-10G tilt compensated dual range G-force meter
MAP-2	Manifold pressure and RPM Indicator
ROTOR-1	Dual Rotor / Engine tachometer
RTC-1	Aviation real time clock (RTC), outside air temperature (OAT) and Voltage display
RV-3	Universal engine / Rotor RPM Indicator
TC-2	4-Channel thermocouple (EGT/CHT) indicator
TC-3	12-Channel thermocouple (EGT/CHT) indicator
TP-2	Universal temperature and pressure gauge