RLH Industries, Inc.

fiberopticlink.com

USER GUIDE

U-170 2025-0203

4 Channel 4~20mA Fiber Converter with SFP

FBX-420-INPUT-1 / FBX-420-OUTPUT-1

Transmit four 4~20mA Analog Signals over Fiber with High Speed and Accuracy

Introduction

The RLH 4~20mA Fiber Optic Converter transmits 4 Analog signals over fiber cable and offers high performance with 500k samples per second, 16 bit signal resolution, and less than 0.2% source signal variance.

It is compatible with most PLC's, Sensors (2, 3, or 4 wire), and other types of equipment where a precise current measurement must be taken and transmitted over fiber. The system comprises of a transmitter (Analog Input) and a receiver (Analog Output).

This compact and rugged system provides convenient and easy to read LEDs, supports both singlemode and multimode fiber applications, and includes an alarm contact for monitoring system power and fiber health.

This system is engineered to operate over an extreme temperature range, providing reliability in harsh environments. It is designed in the USA, and covered by our Lifetime Warranty.



4 Channel 4~20mA Input Fiber Converter shown with SFP Transceiver Installed

Features

Compatible with all MSA compliant Gigabit SFPs

Update rate: 500k samples per second

16 Bit Signal Resolution

99.8% Accuracy or Better Guaranteed

Alarm contact for system status monitoring

Hardened to operate in -40°F to +158°F (-40°C to +70°C)

DIN rail or Wall Mount (Wall mount ears included)

Redundant Power Inputs (12~48VDC)

Designed in the USA

Covered by our Lifetime Warranty

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General Safety Practices

Intended Audience

This guide is intended for use by knowledgeable installation, operation and repair personnel. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this guide. However, due to constant product improvement, specifications and information contained in this document are subject to change without notice.

Conventions

Symbols for notes, attention, and caution are used throughout this manual to provide readers with additional information, advice when special attention is needed, and caution to prevent injury or equipment damage.

The equipment discussed in this document may require tools designed for the purpose being described. RLH recommends that service personnel be familiar with the correct handling and use of any installation equipment used, and follow all safety precautions including the use of protective personal equipment as required.

Caution - Severe Shock Hazard

- Never install during a lightning storm or where unsafe high voltages are present.
- Active phone lines may carry high DC voltages. Use caution when handling copper wiring.
- Do not open the enclosure, there are no user serviceable parts.

Guidelines for handling terminated fiber cable



- Do not bend fiber cable sharply. Use gradual and smooth bends to avoid damaging glass fiber.
- Keep dust caps on fiber optic connectors at all times when disconnected.
- Do not remove dust caps from unused fiber.
- Keep fiber ends and fiber connectors clean and free from dust, dirt and debris. Contamination will cause signal loss.
- Do not touch fiber ends.
- Store excess fiber on fiber spools at site

Laser Safety



Do not look directly into a fiber-optic transceiver or into the ends of fiber-optic cables. Fiber-optic transceivers and fiber-optic cable connected to a transceiver emit laser light that can cause eye damage.



System Description

Applications

By utilizing fiber optic cable, the 4~20mA system provides absolute electrical isolation between both ends of the control system. It provides immunity to EMI/RF interference, ground loops, and high voltage surges from lightning or ground faults, and is ideal in electrically noisy environments such as near large power sources, electrical motors, and radio communications equipment. Fiber optic cable also allows for a signal transmission of up to 120km over fiber optic cable from the source signals location.



System Diagram

Commonly Used Acronyms & Abbreviations

Name	Description			
тх	Transmit			
RX	Receive			
PWR	Power			
NC	Normally Closed			
Com	Common			
NO	Normally Open			
TRX	4~20mA Transmitter			
RCV	4~20mA Input/Receiver			
Sinking	Does not provide signal voltage or current, expects the voltage and current to be present on the signal line			
Sourcing	Provides signal voltage and current			



System Description

4~20mA System – 2-Wire Transmitter Wiring

Connecting a 2-Wire Transmitter to the RLH Fiber Transmitter (FBX-420-XX-1). The RLH Transmitter is always a sinking input, expecting the source current to be supplied by the remote device. In this example, the 2-Wire Transmitter has 24VDC loop voltage provided by a separate power supply. Below is a typical configuration for loop powered sensors (Flow, pressure, temperature, etc.).



Note: Use common terminal when connecting RLH receiver to differential inputs

4~20mA System – 3-Wire Transmitter Wiring

Connecting a 3-Wire Transmitter to a RLH Transmitter (FBX-420-XX-1). The RLH Transmitter is always a sinking input, expecting the source current to be supplied by the remote device. The common terminal can be used form the transmitter, and if used it should connect to the negative terminal of the Fiber transmitter and the negative terminal of the power supply. Below is a typical configuration for 3-Wire Transmitters.



Note: Use common terminal when connecting RLH receiver to differential inputs

4~20mA System – 4-Wire Transmitter Wiring

Connecting a 4-Wire Transmitter to a RLH Transmitter (FBX-420-XX-1). The RLH Transmitter is always a sinking input, expecting the source current to be supplied by the remote device. Below is a typical configuration for a 4-Wire Transmitter.



Note: Use common terminal when connecting RLH receiver to differential inputs



Installation

Prior to Installation

Check for shipping damage:

- Check the contents to ensure correct model and fiber type
- Have a clean, dry, installation environment ready

Required for installation:

- 12-48 VDC Power Source
- T35 DIN rail or suitable wall mount location
- A weatherproof enclosure is required for outdoor use

Front Panel

The front panel contains the input or output contact terminals, LED's, and the SFP Transceiver fiber port.





DIN Rail Mounting

The DIN clip for mounting the system is mounted onto the rear panel. Hook the DIN clip on the top flange of the DIN rail, press down and rotate to the locked position to install. To remove, push down to depress the spring latch and rotate off of the DIN rail.





Wall Mounting

The system can be easily wall mounted by attaching the provided wall mount ears and hardware. Attach the wall mount ears by following the instructions below.



Wall Mounting



Front Panel LEDs



SFP Transceiver

This system requires MSA compliant, Gigabit fiber optic SFP transceivers. An Industrial grade SFP is recommended to enable reliable operation throughout the entire operational range. SFP transceivers are sold separately.

- Dual fiber systems require identical SFP transceivers.
- Single fiber systems require a matching pair, side A and side B.
- Close clasp and slide the SFP transceiver into the port.
- To remove, pull the clasp back to release it, and then slide it out



SFP Transceiver

Connect Fiber Optic Cable

The optical ports are for use with SFP transceivers only. Remove the dust caps from the SFP transceiver and fiber connectors. Plug the cable(s) securely into the SFP.

- Dual fiber systems require the fiber port to be connected to the fiber port on the other end.
- Once the system is properly connected and power is applied, the LINK LED should turn ON.



Connect Copper Wire Pairs

The wire pairs from the sensor or controller equipment connect to the green screw-down terminals on the transmitter and receiver modules labeled Input and Output.

- Observe polarity on the Input and Output connectors.
- The contact terminals may be removed and accept wire sizes 16~26 AWG.
- Fully seat the terminal block back into the connector before operating the system.
- When using 3-Wire devices, ensure common terminals are connected.

Receiver Alarm Contact Wiring

The contact will alarm when the fiber link is down or due to a power failure.

- Use the NO or NC contact positions as required.
- The alarm terminal block may be removed and accepts wire sizes 16~26AWG.
- Fully seat the terminal block back into the connector before operating the system.
- An alarm terminal is present on both the Transmitter and Receiver.

Connect Power Cable

Ensure power supply is OFF prior to wiring the system. Connect a 12-48VDC power supply to the screw down terminals located on the top of the unit.

- Requires one (1) 12-48VDC power supply. Use a second power source for redundant power.
- The terminal blocks are removable and accept wire sizes 16~26 AWG.
- Fully seat the terminal blocks back into the connector before operating the system.

Note: The power inputs are polarity insensitive. Be sure to convert the appropriate power source is being used before wiring.



Power and Alarm Terminals

Troubleshooting

Ensure power supply is OFF prior to wiring the system. Connect a 12-48VDC power supply to the screw down terminals located on the top of the unit.

- Requires one (1) 12-48VDC power supply. Use a second power source for redundant power.
- The terminal blocks are removable and accept wire sizes 16~26 AWG.
- Fully seat the terminal blocks back into the connector before operating the system.

If trouble is encountered, verify all copper, serial cable and fiber connections, signal and voltage levels, if the alarm is on, check the fiber cable and connections, or the power supply and connections of the unit on the other end. If trouble persists, contact technical support at RLH Industries, Inc.

support@fiberopticlink.com Toll Free: 1-855-754-2497



Analog Inputs 1~4 (differential inputs)

Operating Range	0~20mA (DC)
Impedance	250 Ohms
Protection	24mA

Analog Outputs 1-4 (single-ended, unipolar)

Loop Voltage	23.7VDC
Maximum Loop Resistance	1000 Ohms
Maximum Output Signal	20mA

General Specifications

Accuracy:	99.8% or Better Guaranteed			
	Note: Accuracy for Fiber Link System, both Transmitter and Receiver at 25°C and powered by 24VDC			
Ambient Temp Effect	Approximately 0.4% over range -40°F to +158°			
Update Rate	2µs (500,000 updates per second)			
Signal Resolution	16 Bits			
Sensitivity	2^16 (65,536) Steps			
Fiber Port	1 Gigabit SFP Slot, Accepts MSA compliant 1.25Gbps SFPs (Available separately)			
LED Indicators	Power, Fiber, Input/Outputs 1~4			
	12~48VDC (11~53V)			
Power Input	-A powering option 125VDC (42~160V)			
	Dual redundant power options - Polarity insensitive			
Power Concumption	Input Device 5 Watts Maximum			
Power Consumption	Output Device 8 Watts Maximum			
DC Input Isolation (In/Out)	1.5KV			
Overcurrent Protection	1.0A Automatic Recovery			
System Alarm	Normally Open / Closed Relay			
Tomporatura	Storage -40°C to +85°C (-40°F to +185°F)			
lemperature	Operating -40°C to +70°C (-40°F to +158°F)			
Dimensions	2.0" (W) x 4.3" (D) x 5.1" (H), (51mm x 109mm x 130mm) - not including DIN clip			
Mounting	Includes standard T-35 DIN rail clip and wall mount ears			
Humidity	95% non-condensing			
Safety	FCC Class B, CE, RoHS, UL Listing and CB Scheme In-Process			
Warranty	Lifetime - Visit www.fiberopticlink.com for warranty information and coverage details			



Ordering Information

Description	Part Number
4~20mA Fiber Optic Converter, Input, 4 Channels, 1 SFP Slot, powered by 12~48VDC	FBX-420-INPUT-1
4~20mA Fiber Optic Converter, Output, 4 Channels, 1 SFP Slot, powered by 12~48VDC	FBX-420-OUTPUT-1

• A complete system requires one INPUT and one OUTPUT unit.

• Add -A to the end of the part number for 125VDC powering option.

• Single fiber (bi-directional) SFP transceivers must always be paired, side A and side B.

RLH Certified SFP Transceivers

Description	Mode	Conn.	Distance	Fibers	Wavelength	Part Number
Multimode, LC, 550m/1804 feet, Dual Fiber, 850nm	MM	LC	550m/1804 feet	Dual Fiber	850nm	SFP-1G-03-2
Multimode, LC, 2km/1.2 miles, Dual Fiber, 1310nm	MM	LC	2km/1.2 miles	Dual Fiber	1310nm	SFP-1G-04-2
Singlemode, LC, 20km/12.4 miles, Dual Fiber, 1310nm	SM	LC	20km/12.4 miles	Dual Fiber	1310nm	SFP-1G-30-2
Singlemode, LC, 60km/37 miles, Dual Fiber, 1550nm	SM	LC	60km/37 miles	Dual Fiber	1550nm	SFP-1G-31-2
Singlemode, LC, 120km/74 miles, Dual Fiber, 1550nm, with Digital Diagnostic Monitoring	SM	LC	120km/74 miles	Dual Fiber	1550nm	SFPD-1G-34-2
Singlemode, LC, 20km/12.4 miles, Single Fiber – Side A, Tx1310/Rx1550	SM	LC	20km/12.4 miles	Single Fiber Side A	T-1310/ R- 1550	SFP-1G-20-2
Singlemode, LC, 20km/12.4 miles, Single Fiber – Side B, Rx1310/Tx1550	SM	LC	20km/12.4 miles	Single Fiber Side B	T-1550/ R- 1310	SFP-1G-21-2
Singlemode, LC, 60km/37 miles, Single Fiber – Side A, Tx1310/Rx1550, with Digital Diagnostic Monitoring	SM	LC	60km/37 miles	Single Fiber Side A	T-1310/ R- 1550	SFPD-1G-24-2
Singlemode, LC, 60km/37 miles, Single Fiber – Side B, Rx1310/Tx1550, with Digital Diagnostic Monitoring	SM	LC	60km/37 miles	Single Fiber Side B	T-1550/ R- 1310	SFPD-1G-25-2

• Single fiber (bi-directional) SFP transceivers must always be paired, side A and side B

Contact

By Mail	AN: Sales	3		
	RLH Indu 936 N. M Orange, (istries, Inc. lain Street CA 92867		
By Phone:	Local	714-532-1672		
Sales/Sevice	Toll Free	800-877-1672		
Mon - Fri, 6am - 6pm, PST		866-DO-FIBER		
By email:	info@fiberopticlink.com			
By Fax:	714-532-1885			

Support

By email:	support@fiberopticlink.com		
By Phone:	Toll Free	855-754-2497	
		855-RLH-24X7	