

Warranty, Service & Repair

To register your product with the manufacturer, fill out the enclosed warranty card and return it immediately to:

Flowline Inc.
10500 Humbolt Street
Los Alamitos, CA 90720.

If for some reason your product must be returned for factory service, contact Flowline Inc. to receive a Material Return Authorization number (MRA) first, providing the following information:

1. Part Number, Serial Number
2. Name and telephone number of someone who can answer technical questions related to the product and its application.
3. Return Shipping Address
4. Brief Description of the Symptom
5. Brief Description of the Application

Once you have received a Material Return Authorization number, ship the product prepaid in its original packing to:

Flowline Factory Service
MRA _____
10500 Humbolt Street
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

To avoid delays in processing your repair, write the MRA on the shipping label. Please include the information about the malfunction with your product. This information enables our service technicians to process your repair order as quickly as possible.

FLOWLINE®

RicoRelay™ Small Tank Ultrasonic Level Controller Model LA16 Owner's Manual



Version 1.4A

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Manual # LA900004

08/00

WARRANTY

Flowline warrants to the original purchaser of its products that such products will be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use and service for a period which is equal to the shorter of one year from the date of purchase of such products or two years from the date of manufacture of such products.

This warranty covers only those components of the products which are non-moving and not subject to normal wear. Moreover, products which are modified or altered, and electrical cables which are cut to length during installation are not covered by this warranty.

Flowline's obligation under this warranty is solely and exclusively limited to the repair or replacement, at Flowline's option, of the products (or components thereof) which Flowline's examination proves to its satisfaction to be defective. FLOWLINE SHALL HAVE NO OBLIGATION FOR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES TO PERSONAL OR REAL PROPERTY, OR FOR INJURY TO ANY PERSON.

This warranty does not apply to products which have been subject to electrical or chemical damage due to improper use, accident, negligence, abuse or misuse. Abuse shall be assumed when indicated by electrical damage to relays, reed switches or other components. The warranty does not apply to products which are damaged during shipment back to Flowline's factory or designated service center or are returned without the original casing on the products. Moreover, this warranty becomes immediately null and void if anyone other than service personnel authorized by Flowline attempts to repair the defective products.

Products which are thought to be defective must be shipped prepaid and insured to Flowline's factory or a designated service center (the identity and address of which will be provided upon request) within 30 days of the discovery of the defect. Such defective products must be accompanied by proof of the date of purchase.

Flowline further reserves the right to unilaterally waive this warranty and to dispose of any product returned to Flowline where:

- a. There is evidence of a potentially hazardous material present with product.
- b. The product has remained unclaimed at Flowline for longer than 30 days after dutifully requesting disposition of the product.

THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES WHICH EXTEND BEYOND THE DESCRIPTION ON THE FACE OF THIS WARRANTY. This warranty and the obligations and liabilities of Flowline under it are exclusive and instead of, and the original purchaser hereby waives, all other remedies, warranties, guarantees or liabilities, express or implied. EXCLUDED FROM THIS WARRANTY IS THE IMPLIED WARRANTY OF FITNESS OF THE PRODUCTS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE AND THE IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANT ABILITY OF THE PRODUCTS.

This warranty may not be extended, altered or varied except by a written instrument signed by a duly-authorized officer of Flowline, Inc.

SPECIFICATIONS

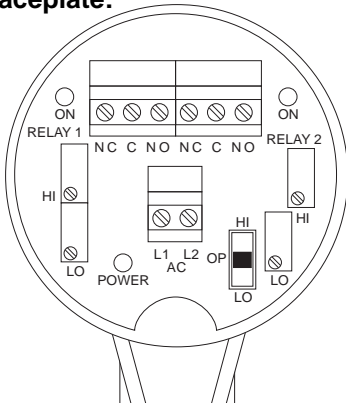
Step One

Range: 3.6" to 6' (9 cm to 1.8 m)
Accuracy: $\pm .25\%$ of span in air
Resolution: 0.125" (3 mm)
Frequency: 83 kHz (nominal)
Pulse rate: 3 pulses per second
Beam width: 8° conical
Blocking distance: 3.6" (9 cm) minimum
LED Indication: Power, relay & fail-safety
Fail-safety: Power and echo fail-safe
Supply voltage: 50_1: 120 VAC
58_1: 18-30 VDC
Set points: 2 per relay
Adjustments: Potentiometer
Relay types (2) latched, SPDT
Relay rating: 50_1: 250 VAC, 10A, 1/2 hp.
58_1: 250 VAC, 10A, 1/4 hp.
Relay mode: Selectable NO or NC
Relay latch: ON or OFF
Hysteresis: Adjustable over range
Temperature rating: F: -40° to 140°
C: -40° to 60°
Temp. compensation: Automatic over entire range
Pressure rating: 30 psi (2 bar) @ 25 °C., derated @ 1.667 psi (0.113 bar) per °C. above 25 °C.
Enclosure rating: NEMA 4X (IP65)
Enclosure material: Polypropylene, U.L. 94VO
Transducer material: PVDF
Mounting conn.: 3/4" NPT (3/4" G)
Mounting gasket: Viton (3/4" G) metric only
Conduit connection: 1/2" NPT
CE compliance: EN 50082-2 immunity
(pending) EN 55011 emission
EN61010-1 Safety

About Alphasonic Technology:

An ultrasonic sound wave is pulsed three times per second from the base of the transducer. The sound wave reflects against the process medium below and returns to the transducer. The microprocessor based electronics measures the time of flight between the sound generation and receipt, and translates this figure into the distance between the transmitter and process medium below.

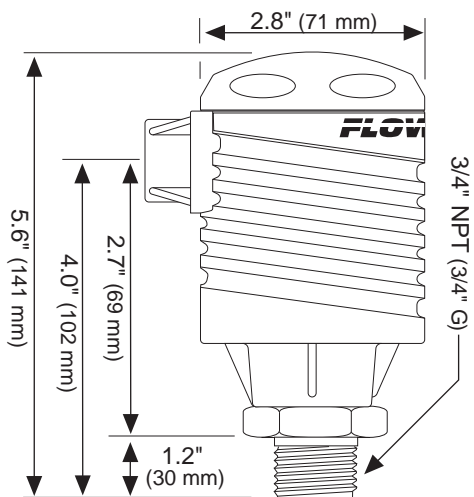
RicoRelay Faceplate:



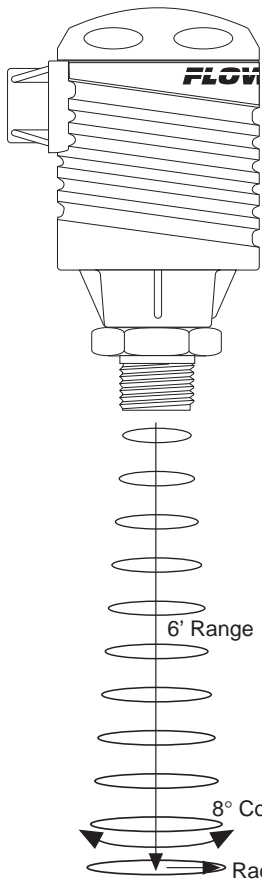
RicoRelay Model Chart:

Model	Power	Relay	Mounting
LA16-5001	120 VAC	250 VAC, 10A, 1/2 Hp.	3/4" NPT
LA16-5801	18-30 VDC	250 VAC, 10A, 1/4 Hp.	3/4" NPT
LA16-5061	120 VAC	250 VAC, 10A, 1/2 Hp.	3/4" G
LA16-5861	18-30 VDC	250 VAC, 10A, 1/4 Hp.	3/4" G

Dimensions:

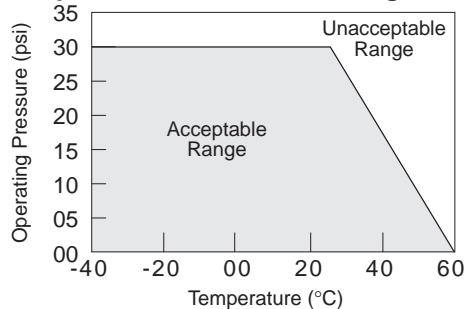


Beam Cone Radius:



Range Feet	Radius Inches	Radius cm
1	1.2	3.1
2	2.1	5.2
3	2.9	7.3
4	3.7	9.5
5	4.9	11.6
6	5.4	13.7

Temperature/Pressure Derating Chart:



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Step Two

⚠ About this Manual:

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE MANUAL PRIOR TO INSTALLING OR USING THIS PRODUCT. This manual includes information on the RicoRelay™ small tank ultrasonic level controller from FLOWLINE: LA16-50_1 and LA16-58_1. Please refer to the part number located on the sensor label to verify the exact model which you have purchased.

⚠ User's Responsibility for Safety:

FLOWLINE manufactures a wide range of liquid level sensors and technologies. While each of these sensors is designed to operate in a wide variety of applications, it is the user's responsibility to select a sensor model that is appropriate for the application, install it properly, perform tests of the installed system, and maintain all components. The failure to do so could result in property damage or serious injury.

⚠ Proper Installation and Handling:

Because this is an electrically operated device, only properly-trained staff should install and/or repair this product. Use a proper sealant with all installations. *Note: Always install the 3/4" Viton gasket with the LA16-5_61. The G threaded version of the RicoRelay™ will not seal unless the gasket is installed properly.* Never overtighten the transmitter within the fitting. Always check for leaks prior to system start-up.

⚠ Wiring and Electrical:

A supply voltage of 120 VAC is used to power the LA16-50_1 controller. The sensor systems should never exceed a maximum of 120 volts AC. The supply voltage used to power the LA16-58_1 series should never exceed a maximum of 30 volts DC. Electrical wiring of the sensor should be performed in accordance with all applicable national, state, and local codes.

⚠ Material Compatibility:

The RicoRelay™ enclosure is made of Polypropylene (PP). The transducer is made of Polyvinylidene Fluoride (PVDF). Make sure that the model which you have selected is chemically compatible with the application liquids it will contact. *Note: even though the transmitter is a non-contact device, the effects of corrosion from chemical fumes and vapors should be checked.*

⚠ Enclosure:

While the transmitter housing is liquid-resistant when installed properly, it is not designed to be immersed. It should be mounted in such a way that the enclosure and diaphragm do not come into contact with fluid. *Note: use a proper sealant with the 1/2" NPT conduit connection.*

⚠ Make a Fail-Safe System:

Design a fail-safe system that accommodates the possibility of transmitter or power failure. In critical applications, FLOWLINE recommends the use of redundant backup systems and alarms in addition to the primary system.

⚠ Flammable, Explosive and Hazardous Applications:

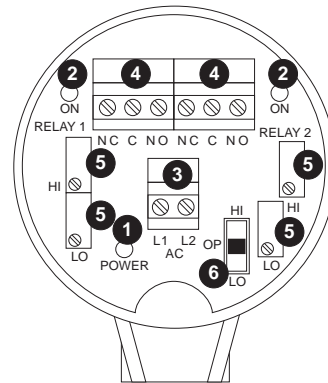
The LA16 controller systems should not be used within flammable or explosive applications.

⚠ Warning ⚠

Always install the 3/4" Viton gasket with all versions of the LA16-5_61. The G threaded version of the RicoRelay will not seal unless the gasket is installed properly.

GUIDE TO CONTROLS

Step Three



- 1. Power indicator:** This green LED lights when AC power is ON. LED will also flash when a lost echo condition occurs.
- 2. Relay indicators:** These red LED's will light whenever the transmitter energizes the relay, in response to the proper condition with the set points.
- 3. AC Power terminals:** Connection of 120 VAC power to the controller. Polarity (neutral and hot) does not matter.
- 4. Relay terminals (NC, C, NO):** Connect the device you wish to control (pump, valve, alarm etc.) to these terminals: supply to the COM terminal, and the device to the NO or NC terminal as required. The switched device should be a noninductive load of not more than 10 amps; for reactive loads the current must be derated or protection circuits used. When the red LED is ON and the relay is in the energized state, the NO terminal will be closed and the NC terminal will be open.
- 5. Relay Potentiometers:** Adjusts the switching positions for each relay with its own independent Hi and Lo adjustment.
- 6. Selector Switch:** Allows for independent adjustment of the Hi or Lo setting.

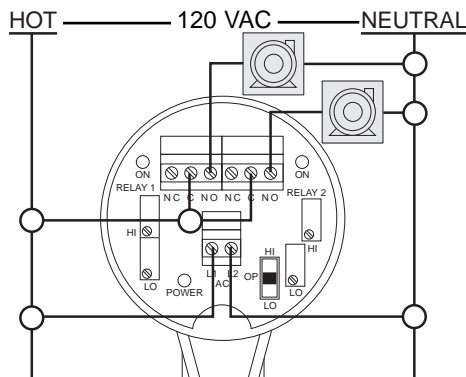
WIRING

Step Four

A supply voltage of 120 VAC is used to power the LA16 controller. Electrical wiring of the sensor should be performed in accordance with all applicable national, state, and local codes.

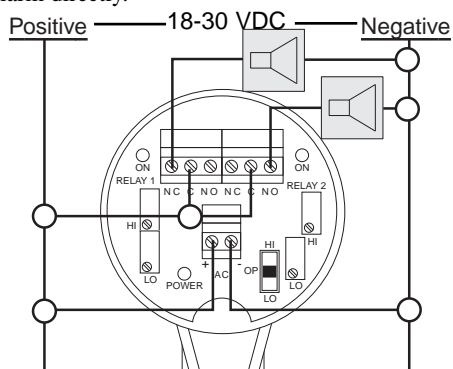
Wiring AC Power to LA16 (LA16-50_1):

Polarity does not matter for the LA16-50_1. Do not exceed the 120 VAC power rating. The 2 relays can be connected to pumps, valves, alarms, PLC's, etc. as long as they do not exceed th 10A, 250 VAC, 1/2 Hp rating. Below illustrates using the same 120 VAC power supplying the LA21-50_1 to control two independent pumps directly.



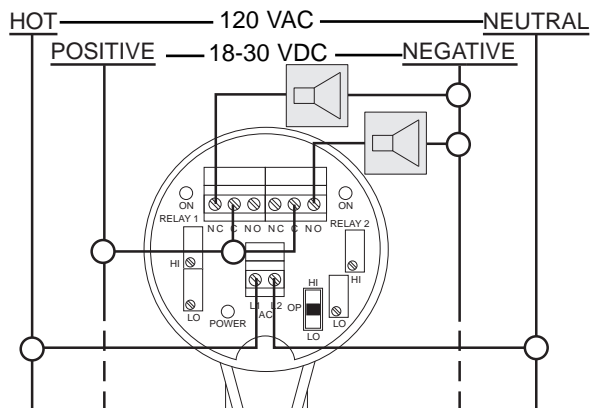
Wiring DC Power to LA16 (LA16-58_1):

Please observe polarity for the LA16-58_1. The 2 relays can be connected to pumps, valves, alarms, PLC's, etc. as long as they do not exceed th 10A, 250 VAC, 1/4 Hp rating. Below illustrates using the same VDC power supplying the LA21-58_1 to control a high level and low level alarm directly.



Wiring to the Relays:

The 2 relays are isolated from the power required to operate the LA16. The relays can be used to control a device on a separate power system. The illustration below demonstrates the LA16-50_1 controlling two alarms powered from a different power supply. All relay ratings will still apply.



INSTALLATION

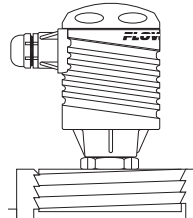
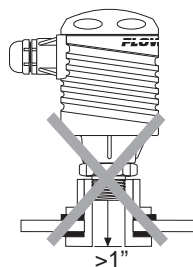
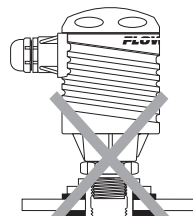
Step Five

FLOWLINE's LA16 controller may be installed through the top wall of a tank. Installation requires a 3/4" NPT fitting or drum adapter.

1. Install the appropriate 3/4" fitting in the top wall of the tank. Prior to installation, make sure that the fitting has been installed properly and checked for leaks. Use a proper sealant at the time of installation to ensure a liquid-tight seal. Secondly, make sure that the fittings threads are not damaged or worn.
2. Insert the controller into the fitting and tighten to hand tight.
3. Always check for leaks prior to system start-up. To ensure proper installation, a complete leak test and simulation of actual process conditions should be preformed.

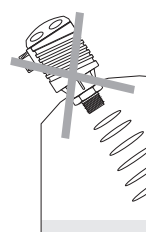
Installation Tips:

1. Avoid using a fitting where the opposite end of the fitting has pipe threads such as a T x T coupling. The unused threads causes interference with the sound pulses similar to a pipe that is not continuous and has been joined together with welded seams. For best results, use a S x T fitting.
2. Do not hide the LA16 within a fitting where the walls of the fitting will interfere with the beam angle. Hiding the LA16 more than an inch inside a fitting will reduce the transmitters overall distance reading. For best results, use a fitting which is shallow or even a 1/2 coupling.
3. Before attaching the RicoRelay to the Drum Adapter, cut open the sealed cap above the 3/4" female thread. Use a sharp knife to remove any plastic which would interfere with the sound pulses. Attach the RicoRelay to the Drum Adapter so it is hand tight. Turn the RicoRelay by the wrench flat and not by the housing.

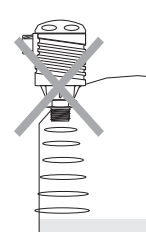


Warning

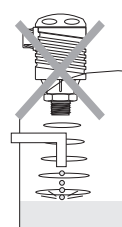
Do not install the LA16 in pressurized applications above 30 psi. Always install the 3/4" Viton gasket with all versions of the LA16-5061. The G threaded version of the LA16-5061 will not seal unless the gasket is installed properly and checked for leaks.



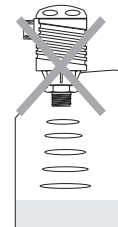
Do not install
LA16 at an
angle



Avoid
Interference from
side of tank



Avoid
Interference from
obstructions in
tank

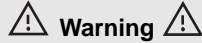


LA16 will not
operate in
vacuum

VACUUM

CALIBRATION

Step Six



Warning

A supply voltage of 120 VAC is used to power the LA16 controller. If making adjustments during powered operation, use extreme caution and use only insulated tools. Also calibrate the LA16 to a static liquid level or stationary object. Wiring should be preformed by qualified personnel in accordance with all applicable national, state and local electrical codes.

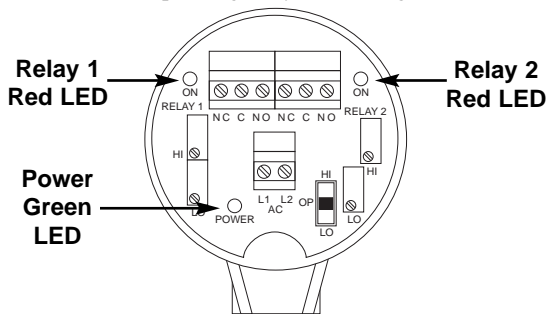
Power LED Indication

The LA16 features a single Green LED which indicates power and fail-safe conditions. During normal operation, the LED will be ON continuously to indicate that the controller has power and a strong echo signal return strength.

Should the LED begin to FLASH, this indicates that the LA16 has lost the acoustic signal and has gone into a fail-safe condition. During the lost echo condition, both relays will energize indicating a full tank condition. Once re-acquired, the LED will turn back ON continuously and the relays will return to their proper state. Note: during a fail-safe condition, both relays will energize. Design your system such that an energized relay state is a fail-safe condition.

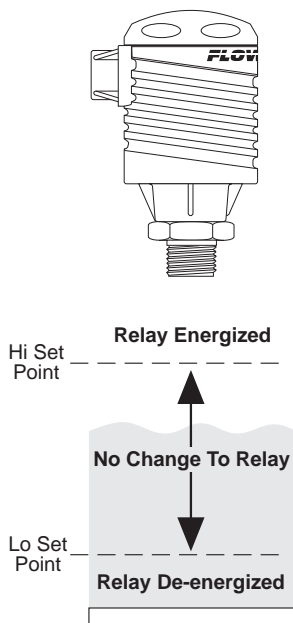
Relay LED Indication

The LA16 features dual Red LED's which indicate relay status. When the LED is On, the corresponding relay is energized. When the LED is Off, the corresponding relay is de-energized.



Relay LED Indication II

The relay's in the LA16 will energize when the liquid level is above both Hi and Lo points. The relay will de-energize when the level falls below both the Hi and Lo points.



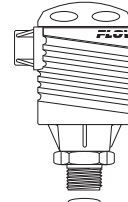
CALIBRATION

Step Seven

Note: If making adjustments during powered operation, go slow, use extreme caution and use only insulated tools.

Note: A dry calibration is possible when using a solid target. Position the LA16 in a secure location at the exact distances required.

Low Level Alarm



The goal is to make sure that the liquid level does not fall below a certain point. If it does, an alarm is supposed to sound, alerting the operator of a low level condition.

To do this, connect the alarm to the NC side of the relay. Connect the source of power to the Com terminal of the relay.

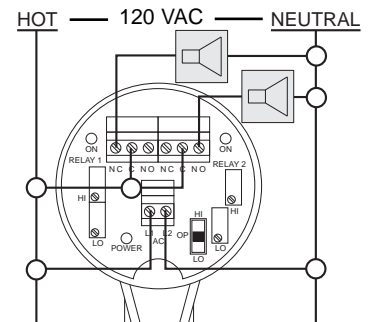
In this application, the switch point is normally wet. In this condition, the relay will be energized so the alarm will not sound: i.e., the Red relay LED will be On. If the fluid level falls below the low switch point, the relay de-energizes, which closes the alarm circuit and the alarm sounds.

High Level Alarm

In the same manor, this system can be used to sound an alarm when fluid reaches a high level, with just a change in the location of the switch point and the reversing of the relay.

The alarm is now connected to the NO side of the relay.

The sensor is normally dry. In this condition, the relay will be de-energized so the alarm does not sound: i.e., the Red relay LED should be Off. If the fluid level rises to the high sensor point, the sensor goes on, the relay energizes, and the alarm sounds.

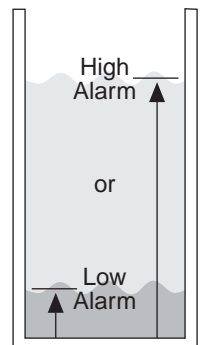


Note: Low level alarm is wired NC and the high level alarm is wired NO. (LA16-50_1 Shown)

Single Point Relay

Each relay can be used as a high or low level alarm. The instructions below can be used for either function.

1. Turn on 120 VAC power supply.
2. Turn the Hi and Lo potentiometers for the relay fully clockwise (about 18 turns).
3. Set the input level to its set point.
4. Flip selector switch to Hi.
5. Adjust Hi potentiometer counter-clockwise until the LED for that relay just turns ON.
6. Turn Lo potentiometer for the relay fully counter-clockwise (about 18 turns).
7. Flip selector switch to Lo.
8. Adjust Lo potentiometer clockwise until the LED for that relay turns OFF.
9. Adjust Lo potentiometer counter-clockwise 1/4 turn, LED will turn ON.
10. Repeat steps 3 to 9 for the other relay.
11. Flip selector switch to OP.



Note: to protect the loads, the relay set points should be adjusted before the loads are connected.

Note: calibrate the LA16 to a static liquid level or stationary object.

CALIBRATION

Step Eight

Note: If making adjustments during powered operation, go slow, use extreme caution and use only insulated tools.

Note: A dry calibration is possible when using a solid target. Position the LA16 in a secure location at the exact distances required.

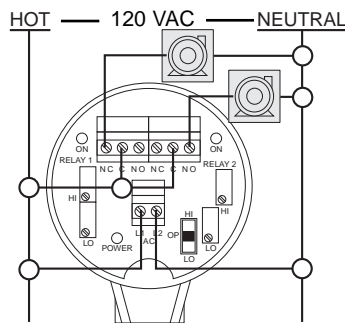
Automatic Fill:

This system consists of a tank with a pump that is controlled by the LA16. We connect the pump to the NC side of the relay. When the relay is de-energized, the pump will turn On and fill the tank. When the relay is energized, the pump will turn Off and stop filling the tank.

NOTE: If the pump motor load exceeds the rating of the controller's relay, a stepper relay of higher capacity must be used as part of the system design.

Automatic Empty:

Note that a similar system logic can be used for an automatic empty operation simply by controlling a pump that pumps fluid out of the tank instead of into it. However, note that the pump will now be connected to the NO side of the relay. When the relay is energized, the pump will turn On and empty the tank. When the relay is de-energized, the pump will turn Off and stop emptying the tank.



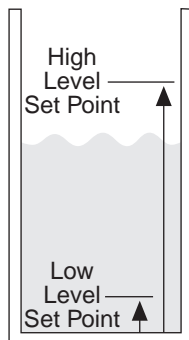
Note: Auto fill pumps are wired NC and auto empty pumps are wired NO.
(LA16-50_1 Shown)

Latching Relay

1. Turn on 120 VAC power supply.
2. Turn the Hi and Lo potentiometers for the relay fully counter-clockwise (about 18 turns).
3. Set the input level to its low set point.
4. Flip selector switch to Lo.
5. Adjust Lo potentiometer clockwise until the LED for that relay just turns OFF.
6. Turn Hi potentiometer for the relay fully clockwise (about 18 turns)
7. Flip selector switch to Hi.
8. Set input level to its highest point.
9. Adjust Hi potentiometer counter-clockwise until the LED for that relay turns ON.
10. Repeat steps 3 to 9 for the other relay.
11. Flip selector switch to OP.

Note: to protect the loads, the relays should be adjusted before the loads are connected.

Note: calibrate the LA16 to a static liquid level or stationary object.



MAINTENANCE

Step Nine

General:

The LA16 series controller itself requires no periodic maintenance except cleaning as required. It is the responsibility of the user to determine the appropriate maintenance schedule, based on the specific characteristics of the application liquids.

Cleaning Procedure:

1. **Power:** Make Sure that all power to the transmitter, controller and/or power supply is completely disconnected.
2. **Sensor Removal:** In all through-wall installations, make sure that the tank is drained well below the sensor prior to removal. Carefully, remove the sensor from the installation.
3. **Cleaning the Sensor:** Use a soft bristle brush and mild detergent, carefully wash the transducer of the LA16. Do not use a harsh abrasive such as steel wool or sandpaper, which might damage the surface of the transmitter. Do not use incompatible solvents which may damage the PVDF transducer or the transmitters PP body.
4. **Sensor Installation:** Follow the appropriate steps of installation as outlined in the installation section of this manual.

Controller Logic

For all controllers, please use the following guide to understand the operation of the LA16-50_1.

1. **Power LED:** Make sure the Green power LED is On when power is supplied to the controller.
2. **Relay LED(s):** The relay(s) LED(s) on the LA16 will be energized when the level is above the Hi point and de-energized when the level is below the Lo point. When the level is between the Hi and Lo points, the relay will no change its state.

Relay Logic:

The relay can either be an independent relay (high or low level alarm) or can be a latching relay (automatic fill or empty).

