

# ATL's MICRO-CONTROLLER FUEL LEVEL SENDING UNIT

(Capacitance-Based "Sending Unit" Without Adjusting Screws)

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS - Addendum to DS-448

ATL's new MicroController-Based (MCB) fuel level sending units (sometimes referred to as level senders or probes) can be distinguished from our older analog style by a "P" in the part number on the ID Label on the sending unit "head": ie PFLS. MCB sending units do not have adjusting screws on the "head" and are only for use with oil, diesel or gasoline with up to 10% ethanol content.

#### HOW THE SENDING UNIT MEASURES LIQUID LEVEL

ATL's sending units work by measuring the capacitance of a column of fuel. This means that no moving parts are required. In the sending unit, capacitance is measured between the inner-sensing tube and the grounded outer tube, and it requires the fluid to be non-conductive. The electronics in the "head" convert measured capacitance to the programmed output in ohms (or volts by special order).

#### **SHORTENING THE SENDING UNIT (if required)**

A sending unit's outer tube can be shortened using a tubing cutter, and the inner tube snipped with a diagonal cutter. CAUTION: Do not bend, and remember to add aluminum button to foot of tube (See DS 448)

#### **CONNECTIONS**

**NEG:** connect this terminal to DC ground. NOTE: ATL's sending units only work with negative-ground systems.

**SEND:** connect this terminal to the "S" input of your gauge or display. NOTE: The electronic output from this sending unit will confuse an ohmmeter if you try to take a resistance reading.

<u>POS</u>: 3-terminal sending units have an ignition-voltage POS terminal to run their electronics. A fused voltage between 11-28 vdc should be wired to the POS connection. The voltage should turn off when the system is turned off, both for safety and to avoid running down the battery. For a number of brands of 240/33 ohm gauges (not all), we can make a special sender that does not have this POS connection. These 2-terminal senders run their electronics from voltage on the SEND connection.

**LOW-LEVEL:** An alarm or warning light feature can be custom ordered in a 4-terminal sending unit, ususally to indicate low level or high level

\*MAG P/N PFLS24 02/09
cgfp-24-12v-240/33-2t-gas/dsl-2t-5h SND NEG

\*MAG P/N PFLS24 02/09
cgfp-24-12v-240/33-2t-gas/dsl-2t-5h C

Two Terminal Sending Unit (Power from Gauge)



Three Terminal Sending Unit (Power from Ignition Switch)

NOTE: White Dot on Sender Head Indicates Unit Has Been Callibrated At The Factory

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(continued)



#### **CALIBRATION**

OUTPUT RANGE AND LOW/HIGH LEVEL WARNINGS ARE NOT CHANGEABLE BY THE CUSTOMER:

The output range (eg 240/33 ohms) and warning levels (if ordered) are set at the factory. They cannot be changed by the end user. They can only be altered at the factory if needed.

# **A.** <u>SETTING THE **EMPTY LEVEL** ON SENDERS WITH **THREE OR FOUR SCREW** TERMINALS:</u>

The **Empty** level is already calibrated to be the bottom of the sending unit if you use the sender at its factory length. If you have shortened the sender, the **Empty** should be recalibrated with the following steps. Note, the timing is very important. Recalibration will set both the **Empty** level and the **Low** level warning if so equipped

- 1. With the sending unit out of the tank but wired normally, keep the power off.
- 2. Wire the **SEND** terminal temporarily to the **NEG** terminal with a "jumper".
- 3. Turn the power on, and remove the **SEND/NEG** jumper wire after TWO SECONDS (1,000-1, 1000-2). The gauge needle will then do some bouncing and finish on Empty. If it finishes somewhere other than Empty or lower, there is a wiring problem or a mismatched output range. *Please call, email or fax for help.*

#### **B.** SETTING THE FULL LEVEL ON SENDING UNITS WITH THREE OR FOUR SCREW TERMINALS:

The **Full** level is automatically detected by a special sensor each time you fill the tank. The **Full** level does not have to be set manually. However, if you wish to set it manually, follow the steps 1-2-3 listed below, using the appropriate fuel. The special sensor helps the sending unit respond correctly to gasoline with ethanol or to biodiesel. **Full** is calibrated at the factory a couple of inches below the sender's head. If you have shortened the sender, or prefer a different **Full** height, the **Full** level can be recalibrated using these steps:

- 1. With the sender in a full tank (or tube) of the appropriate fuel, but properly wired, keep the power off.
- 2. Wire the **SEND** terminal temporarily to the **NEG** terminal with a "jumper".
- 3. Turn the power on, and remove the **SEND/NEG** jumper wire after FIVE SECONDS (1,000-1, 1000-2, 1000-3, 1000-4, 1000-5). The gauge needle will then do some bouncing and finish on **Full**. If it finishes somewhere other than full or higher, there is a wiring problem or a mismatched output range. *Please call, email or fax for help.*

#### **C.** SETTING SENDING UNITS WITH **TWO SCREW** TERMINALS:

A rare-earth magnet (provided with the sender, or use Radio Shack 64-1895) is used to set **Empty** and/or **Full** on sending units with two terminals. This magnet, when placed vertically over the word MAG on the identification label, performs the same function as the "jumper" wires when you follow the 1-2-3 sequence of paragraphs A & B above. After counting off the seconds (2 for **Empty** and 5 for **Full**), remove the magnet to simulate disconecting the "jumper".

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