



Argonaut Flow Display Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Argonaut Flow Display?

The Argonaut Flow Display is an external device that can directly display several output parameters from a SonTek Argonaut SW, SL, or XR.

Which parameters may be displayed?

Total volume, flow rate, velocity, level, temperature, pressure, SNR, compass (heading, pitch, and roll), and battery voltage. Note that some of these parameters may not be available on certain instrument configurations. If there are any questions about whether a particular parameter can be displayed from your instrument, please contact SonTek.

If I want to use the Flow Display for total accumulated flow (volume of water), can I reset the counter to zero?

Yes, this is a key feature for the Flow Display.

Does the Flow Display support Metric or English units?

The unit supports several different English and Metric units for the various parameters. This includes acre-feet for total flow measurement. For a full listing, please consult the manual or spec sheet.

How do I change the units or parameters used for the display?

This is easily accomplished by using the buttons on the face of the display. Scrolling through these is fairly self-explanatory.

Can I use this unit to control the Argonaut (i.e. send commands to the Argonaut to change the setup, etc.)?

No. This is a “display only”. To change settings in the Argonaut, it is necessary to utilize either a PC running *ViewArgonaut* or *SonUtils* or a PDA running *SonUtils PDA edition*.

Can I use the Flow Display to exhibit simple current magnitude and direction?

Yes. If the Argonaut you are using is equipped with a compass/tilt sensor, and the Argonaut is configured for ENU output, then the Flow Display can exhibit current velocity with a compass direction. This is probably most useful for coastal applications where mariners or port operators require information for watercraft navigation.

Note that SWs do not have the ability to contain a compass/tilt sensor.

How is the Flow Display connected to the Argonaut?

The Flow Display is directly connected to the Argonaut via a 5-pin Switchcraft connector coming off the standard power/communications cable. All Argonaut-SW/SL/XRs shipped after April 1, 2005 have this cable.

I already have an Argonaut, can I just order a Flow Display from SonTek and hook it up myself?

It depends on when your Argonaut was manufactured. Argonauts shipped after April 1, 2005 have the necessary interface and cable built in so that a Flow Display can easily be added at any time. Argonauts (and their cable) shipped prior to this date will need to be returned to the factory for modification. If you wish to have your Argonaut upgraded to this new capability, please contact SonTek support.

Can the Flow Display output data in any other format (analog or digital)?

No. This is a visual display only. RS-232 or SDI-12 data can be obtained by the standard Argonaut communications output, which can be used concurrently with the Flow Display. Analog output (4-20mA or 0-5V) can still be accomplished via the converter module available separately from SonTek.

Is the unit water/weather proof?

The Flow Display enclosure is rated IP66/67 with NEMA 1, 4, 4x, and 6. The connector is rated IP66/68. We consider the Flow Display to be weatherproof to a certain degree; however, we recommend that it be installed under cover or inside an enclosure for added security.

How is the unit powered?

The Flow Display receives its power directly from the Argonaut. As such, whatever power source is powering the Argonaut will also be driving the Flow Display. Note when the Flow Display is being used in conjunction with an Argonaut, you need to plan on a power budget of 1.0 to 1.5 w continuously for the combined setup.

How often is the display updated?

The display is updated at the end of every averaging interval and does not change until the next sample is taken. The averaging interval and sampling interval are set within the Argonaut's user selectable setup parameters.

How do I install this unit?

There are four holes located on tabs protruding from each side of the Flow Display's housing. As such, it is relatively easy to attach the Flow Display to a vertical wall using small screws or bolts. An installation at an irrigation canal in California is shown below.



Can the instrument be used in various lighting conditions?

Yes. If you are familiar with SonTek's FlowTracker, this unit uses a very similar display. It is viewable in direct sunlight and features a backlight for nighttime viewing.

Are there any other use limitations?

The Flow Display cannot be used with any Argonaut system that has an interface to an external CTD (YSI or SeaBird) or with any system that is configured for RS-422.