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Principle of Operation

Introduction

The BlueLevel Technologies Model BL-50 is a heavy duty automatic level control instrument. It is used to detect the presence/absence of powders and granular materials at predetermined levels within bins, hoppers, silos and other types of vessels. The Model BL-50 operates efficiently within a wide array of industrial settings such as food, plastic processing, grain, feed, biofuel, seed, chemical, concrete, cement and many others. The universal nature of these level control instruments in bulk solids applications is because of their heavy duty and rugged nature, as well as their time proven operating principle.

Use

The Model BL-50 can be used for high (full detection), low (empty detection) and intermediate (demand detection) level monitoring, as well as plugged chute detection, applications. These instruments operate based on a proven principle dating back to the mid-1930's. Time proven, enhanced over the decades, the rotary paddle bin level indicator remains the most universally applied automatic level control for powders and bulk solids.

Function

Units are equipped with a synchronous drive motor housed in a rugged die-cast aluminum enclosure. The drive motor is connected to the paddle by way of a stainless steel output shaft that is supported by three shielded bearing assemblies to ensure a long life and smooth operation in the harshest of environments.

The unit's drive motor is mounted within the enclosure on a spring-loaded mounting plate which also acts as the switch actuator. A circuit board containing user terminal block connections, output relay, and high intensity LED indicators is mounted above the drive motor assembly.

During normal operation, with no material present at the paddle, the Model BL-50 drive motor [1] turns the paddle at 1 RPM freely within the bin that the unit is mounted on. When the material being monitored reaches the rotating paddle, the rotation is impeded by the material. The drive motor will pivot on its spring-loaded mounting plate [5] and the switch actuator will engage the output switch on the circuit board [6], which de-energizes the electromechanical relay [8] and changes the state of the relay contacts indicating material presence. In addition, this switch will change the state of the high intensity LED's [9]. The motor mounting plate will continue to rotate within the enclosure until the actuator activates a second switch on the circuit board that disconnects power to the drive motor.

As the material in the bin recedes away from the paddle, the drive motor will pivot back towards its original position. This will restore power to the drive motor and reverse the state of the relay output and LED indication.

Standard Fail-Safe Alarm Output

Model BL-50 bin level indicators are equipped with a "fail-safe" switch that allows the alarm condition to exist whenever the power supply to the unit fails. In a low-level control application the alarm state occurs (de-energized relay) when the material is ABSENT. In the high-level control position the "fail-safe" switch will cause the alarm condition to occur (de-energized relay) when material is PRESENT. The LED's follow the alarm condition, Red indicates that an alarm condition exists and Blue indicates that a normal condition exists.

Applications

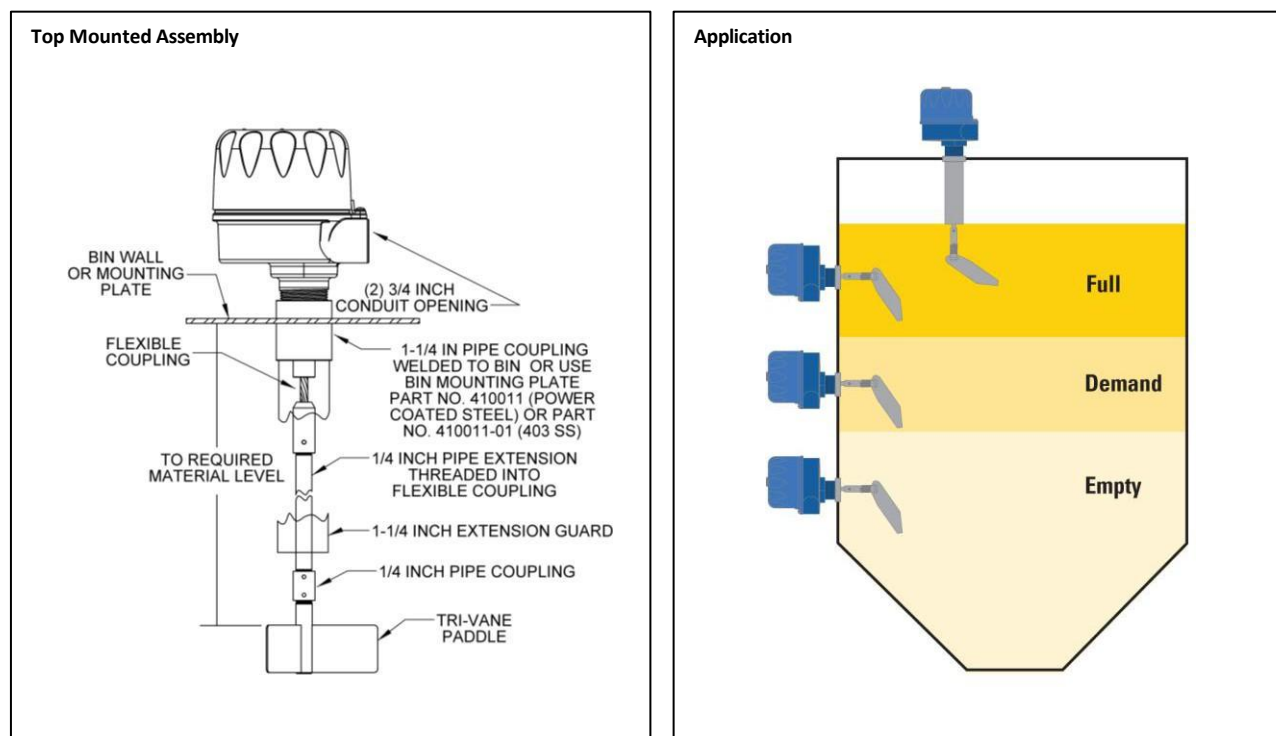
General

High, low, and intermediate level indication and plugged chute detection are common applications within a wide variety of industries. In addition, these units can be provided for use in top or side mounting installations with or without mounting plates. BlueLevel Technologies provides White Papers, Podcasts, Video and other Media about the use and considerations when selection level measurement and monitoring instrumentation at our website www.blueleveltechnologies.com

Model BL-50 units can be mount on the side or top of bins, including at oblique angles. Top-mounted units can be provided with extension shafts and guards for up to 12ft (3.6m) in length (guards must be used when the extension length exceeds 24" (610mm)).

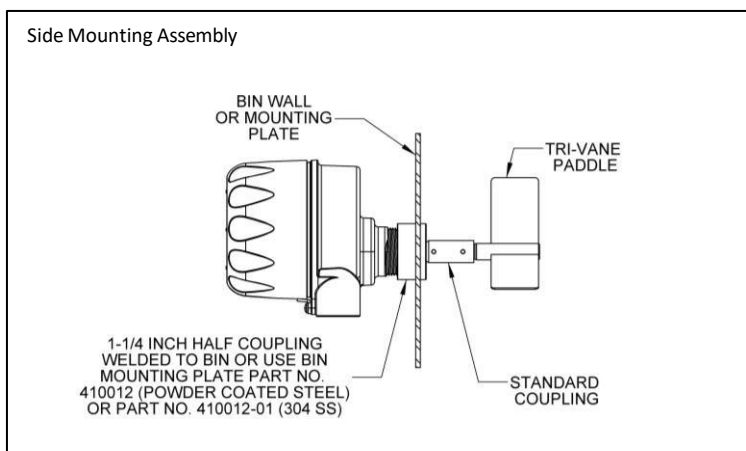
Top Mounted (High/Full Detection)

Top-mounted applications are for monitoring high level (full) conditions. These applications use a Model BL-50 power pack with flexible coupling, extension shaft, guard (for >24"/610mm lengths), full-coupling mounting plate and paddle. See assembly view below.



Side Mounted

Side mounted installations can be used for monitoring high (full), intermediate (demand) or low (empty) level conditions. These can be accomplished using standard Insertable paddles, folding Insertable paddles and regular paddles requiring internal installation or use of a half-coupling mounting plate for insertion from outside the bin.



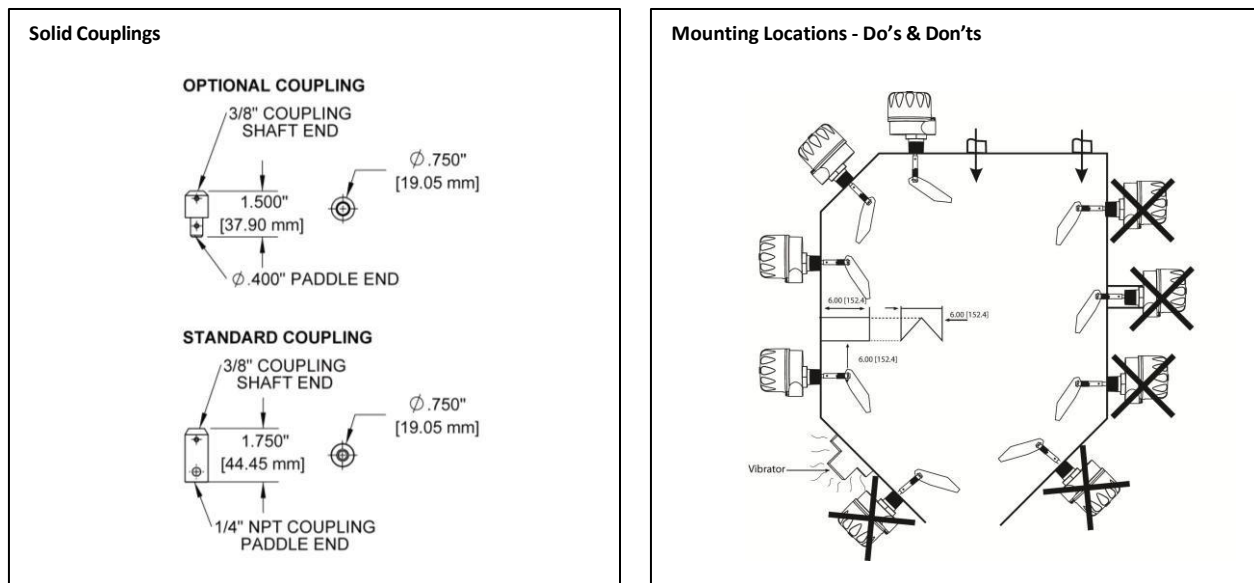
Materials

Typical powder and bulk solid materials that can be monitored using the Model BL-50 rotary paddle bin level indicators include materials with density from 5lbs/ft³ (80kg/m³) for low (empty) and intermediate (demand) level control applications and from 10lbs/ft³ (160kg/m³) for high (full) level indication and control. A wide variety of paddles are available (refer to Options/Accessories section) to fit the application based on Function (high/intermediate/low), Bulk Density and Installation Method. Example materials that can be monitored with the Model BL-50 include:

Plastic Pellet	Food Ingredients	Feed
Grains	Cement	Nuts
Flour	Resins	Aggregates
Sand	Coal	Chemicals
Limestone	Wood	Sawdust

Installation

The Model BL-50 is easily adaptable to replace other brands. By choosing one of the available couplings you can use the paddles from your previous brand, such as ¹Bindicator®, Monitor, ³BinMaster® and others.



Refer to the Installation, Operation and Maintenance Instruction document supplied with the Model BL-50 for specific details and safety precautions.

A switch or circuit-breaker must be included in the installation; it must be suitably located and easily reached; it must be marked as the disconnecting device for the equipment. Assure all disconnect ratings are appropriately sized for the circuit protected.

¹ Bin-dicator is a registered trademark of Venture Measurement

³ BinMaster is a registered trademark of Garner Industries, Inc.

Features

A wide range of Features make the Model BL-50 the best choice for most all of your level detection applications for powders and granular materials. The following is a list of primary features common to all units, unless otherwise noted.

- ✚ All Model BL-50 units include a Blue and Red high intensity LED and an impact-resistant lens for local visual indication of Alarm status.
 - ✚ Three shielded bearing design ensures long life and responsive trouble-free operation.
 - ✚ Heavy-duty synchronous drive motor, along with the sensor' automatic motor shut-off extends motor life in all applications.
 - ✚ Choice of paddle couplings allows for easy replacement of other brands by using your existing paddles.
 - ✚ Use of food grade materials provides compatibility with food and agriculture applications. Includes use of FDA compliant powder coating, NSF listed anti-seize for cover threads, stainless steel shaft, paddles and accessories, and an FDA compliant process seal.
 - ✚ Fail-Safe DPDT relay output is switch selectable for either High or Low. This protects your process against conditions that might arise from power failure to the unit.
 - ✚ Two ¾" NPT conduit entrances improve wiring access.
 - ✚ The Model BL-50 weighs up to 50% less than competing models, and is in a notably smaller form factor.
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Options/Accessories

BlueLevel Technologies offers a variety of options and accessories for the Model BL-50 rotary paddle bin level indicators. These include Couplings, Extensions, Mounting Plates and Paddles.

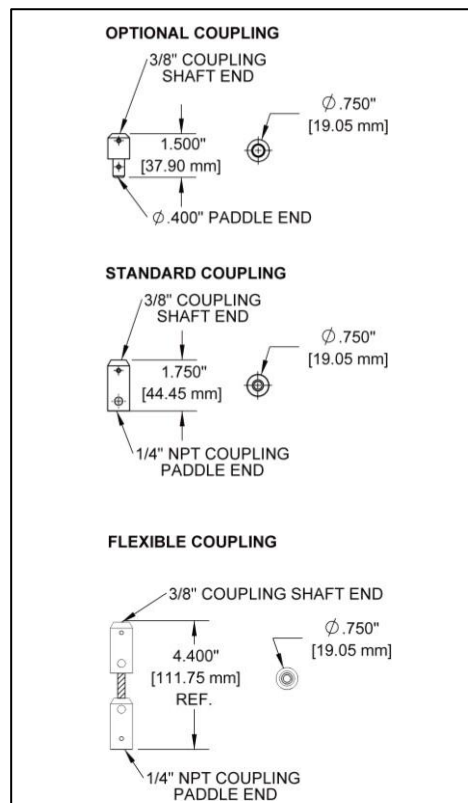
Couplings

Two solid couplings are available. These are the Standard and Optional paddle couplings. When ordered as part of the Model BL-50 they are secured to the output shaft of the unit.

The **Standard Coupling** (PN 410013) is used to attach paddles from BlueLevel Technologies, BinMaster and Monitor Technologies. The Standard Coupling uses a threaded female connection on the paddle end of the coupling and a female receptacle for the output shaft of the level control power pack on the other end (refer to drawing at right). The paddle threads into the Standard Coupling and a secure attachment is made with the roll pin supplied with the BlueLevel Technologies paddle

The available **Optional Coupling** (PN 410014) is used to adapt most paddles from Bindicator, Conveyor Components Company and K-Tek Corporation. This coupling provides a male connector for attaching the paddles and a female receptacle for the units' output shaft. The paddle is secured to the coupling using the roll pin supplied with the BlueLevel Technologies paddle.

A **Flexible Coupling** (PN 410002) is available, which replaces the Standard Coupling, and provides a flexible connection for the paddle to the output shaft of the Model BL-50 unit. When using a Flexible Coupling, order the Model BL-50 unit without a coupling. Then, attach the Flexible Coupling accessory item to the units' output shaft using the roll pin supplied with the Flexible Coupling.

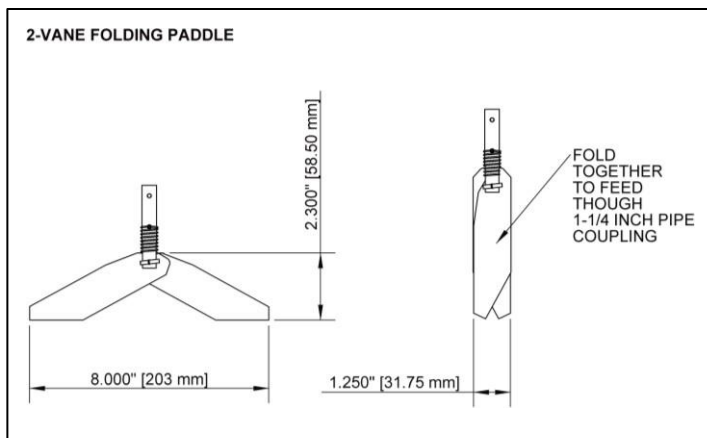


Paddles

A variety of paddles are available to meet the vast majority of applications considering different material densities, particle sizes and flow characteristics.

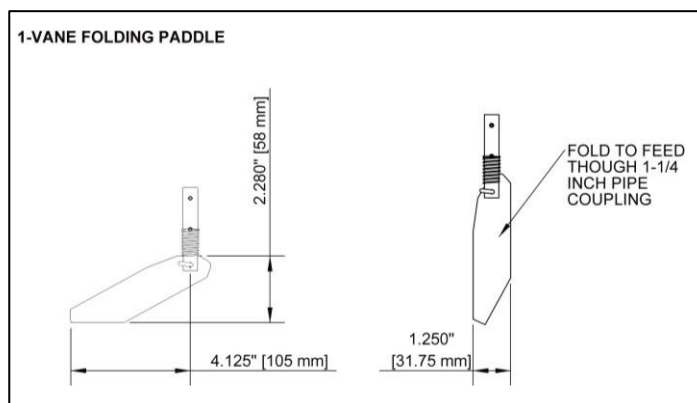
2-Vane Folding Paddle: (PN 410003)

Insertable from outside the bin through the 1¼" process connection. This paddle can eliminate the cost of a solid Standard Coupling. The surface area and 7¾" rotation diameter allows this paddle to be used effectively for detecting the presence of materials with approximate bulk densities of 20-80lbs/ft³ (320-1280kg/m³). 304 stainless steel construction. CAN BE USED FOR SIDE AND TOP MOUNTING.



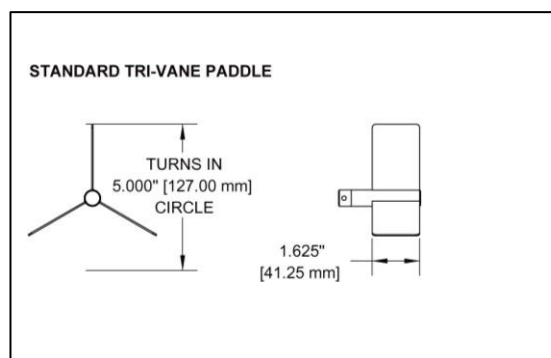
1-Vane Folding Paddle: (PN 410004)

Insertable from outside the bin through the 1¼" process connection. This paddle can eliminate the cost of a solid Standard Coupling. The surface area is half that of the 2-Vane Folding Paddle but with the same 7¾" rotation diameter. This paddle can be used for materials with bulk densities of approximately 40-80lbs/ft³ (640-1280kg/m³). 304 stainless steel construction. CAN BE USED FOR SIDE AND TOP MOUNTING.



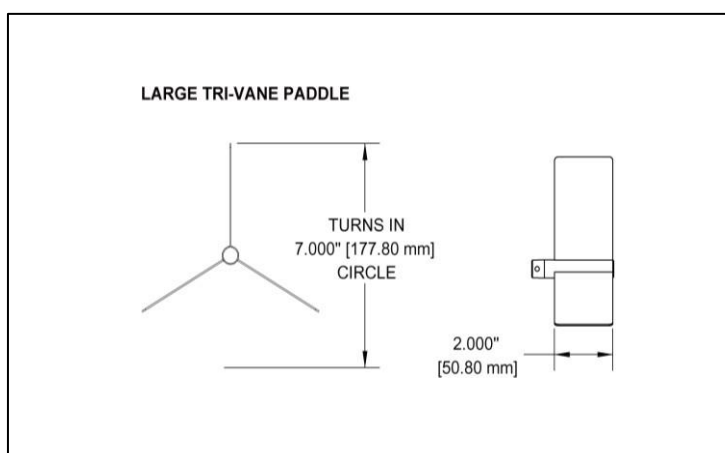
Standard Tri-Vane Paddle: (PN 410000)

3-Vane paddle rotates in 5" diameter. This paddle requires the use of the solid Standard Coupling or Flexible Coupling for attachment. It is installed from inside the bin or from outside with the use of a Mounting Plate accessory. This paddle can be used for detecting materials with bulk densities of approximately 30-70lbs/ft³ (480-1120kg/m³). 304 stainless steel construction.



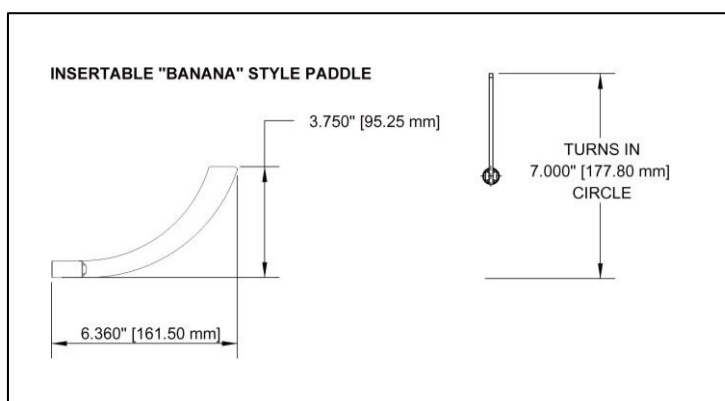
Large Tri-Vane Paddle: (PN 410001)

3-Vane paddle rotates in 7" diameter. This paddle requires the use of the solid Standard Coupling or Flexible Coupling for attachment. It is installed from inside the bin or from outside with the use of a Mounting Plate accessory. This paddle incorporates larger vanes than the Standard Tri-Vane and is typically used for detecting lighter weight materials with bulk densities up to 30lbs/ft³ (480kg/m³). 304 stainless steel construction.



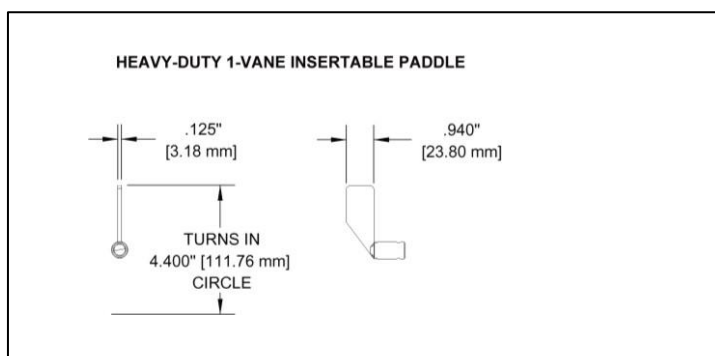
Insertable "Banana" Style Paddle: (PN 410015)

Single-vane "banana" style paddle is Insertable from outside of the bin. This paddle requires the use of the solid Standard Coupling or Flexible Coupling. The "banana" paddle turns in a 6¾" diameter rotation. The surface area and rotation diameter allow this paddle to be used to detect materials with bulk densities of approximately 30-70lbs/ft³ (480-1120kg/m³). 304 stainless steel construction.



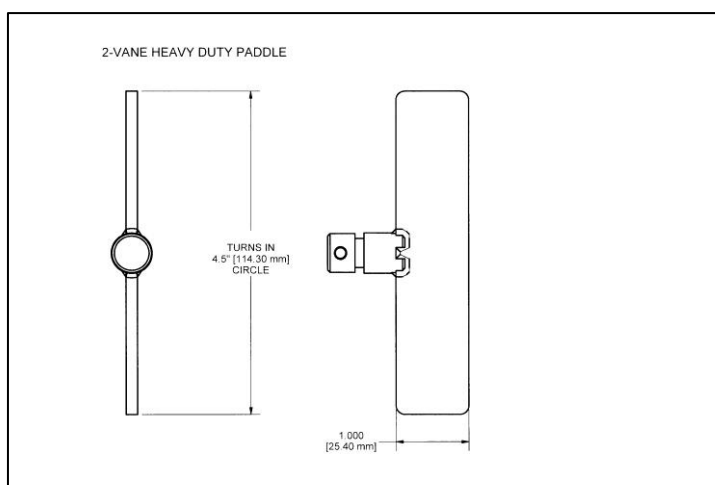
Heavy-Duty 1-Vane Insertable Paddle: (PN 410016)

The Heavy Duty insertable 1-vane paddle incorporates an 1/8" thick stainless steel paddle blade and is used for detecting the presence of bulk materials with densities $\geq 50\text{lbs/ft}^3$ (800kg/m^3). This paddle requires the use of the solid Standard Coupling or Flexible Coupling for attachment. 304 stainless steel construction.



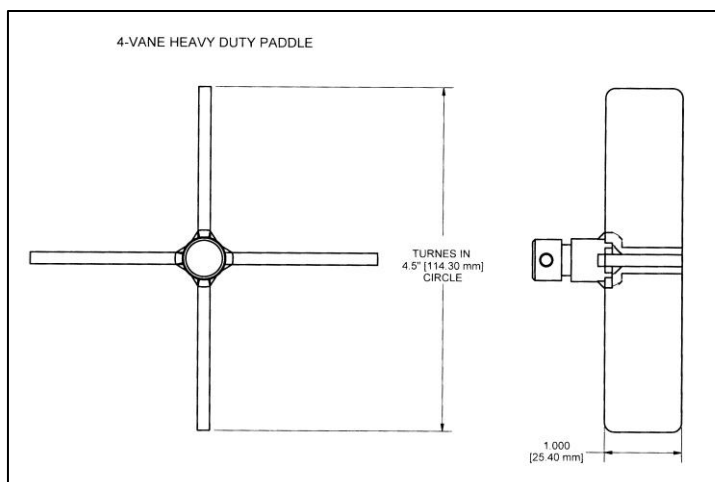
Heavy-Duty 2-Vane Paddle: (PN 410019)

The Heavy Duty 2-vane paddle incorporates an 1/8" thick stainless steel paddle blade and is used for detecting the presence of bulk materials with densities $\geq 45\text{lbs/ft}^3$ (800kg/m^3). This paddle requires the use of the solid Standard Coupling or Flexible Coupling for attachment. 304 stainless steel construction.



Heavy-Duty 4-Vane Paddle: (PN 410020)

The Heavy Duty 4-vane paddle incorporates an 1/8" thick stainless steel paddle blade and is used for detecting the presence of bulk materials with densities $\geq 45\text{lbs/ft}^3$ (800kg/m^3). This paddle requires the use of the solid Standard Coupling or Flexible Coupling for attachment. 304 stainless steel construction.

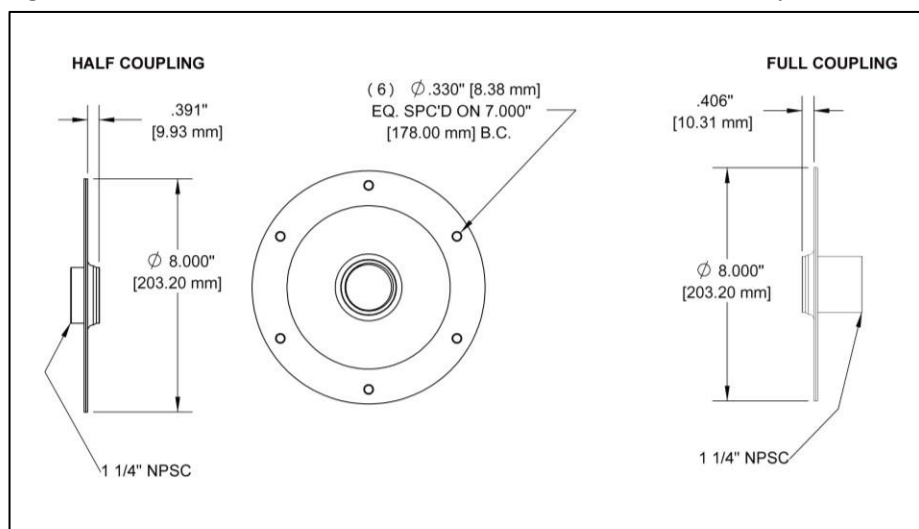


Mounting Plates

Half and Full Coupling Mounting Plates are available for use to install the Model BL-50 assembly from outside the bin when using a paddle, such as the Standard and Large Tri-Vane paddles, that cannot be inserted from outside the bin. Both Half and Full Coupling Mounting Plates are available in powder coated carbon steel or 304 stainless steel materials.

Half Coupling Mounting Plates are typically used for side mounting applications.

Full Coupling Mounting Plates are used for top mounting applications where an extension guard is used and is threaded into the underside of the Mounting Plate.



Half-Coupling Powder Coated Steel - PN 410012

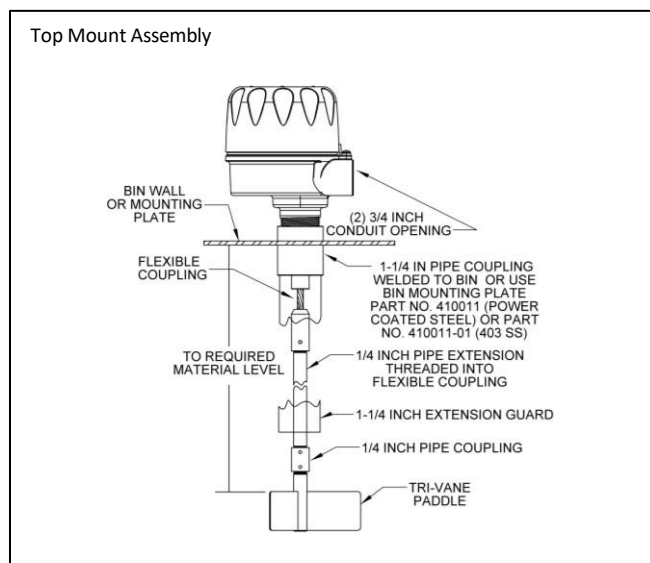
Half-Coupling 304 Stainless Steel - PN 410012-01

Full-Coupling Powder Coated Steel - PN 410011

Full-Coupling 304 Stainless Steel - PN 410011-01

Shaft Extensions / Guards

High level detection applications that are mounted on top of the bin require the sensing paddle to extend into the bin to the predetermined level for proper monitoring and control. Solid Shaft Extensions are available in galvanized or 304 stainless steel material and can be used to extend the paddle reach up to 144" (3.6m). Extension lengths > 20" (510mm) requires the use of an extension shaft Guard. Guards are available in galvanized or 304 stainless steel. Shaft Extensions and Guards are cut to the specific length for the application.





A Flexible Coupling should be used to attach the Extension Shafts to the Model BL-50 unit as shown in the above drawing. When ordering Extensions and Guards the customer specified length must be included.

Galvanized Shaft Extension - PN 410007

Stainless Steel Shaft Extension - PN 410008

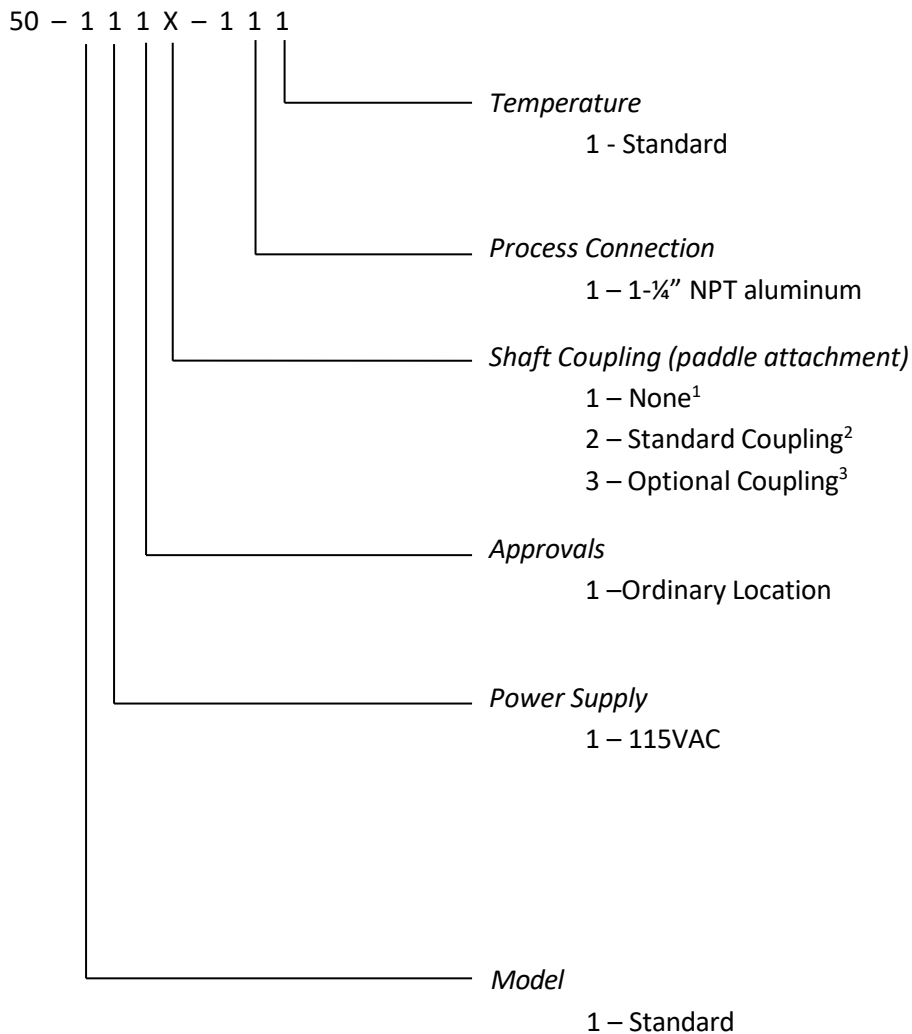
Galvanized Shaft Guard - PN 410009

Stainless Steel Shaft Guard - PN 410010

Ordering Information

Model BL-50 Rotary Paddle Bin Level Indicator

Part Number Structure



¹ Use with BlueLevel, and most BinMaster brand folding paddles.

² Use with BlueLevel, and most BinMaster and Monitor brand paddles. Comes assembled to output shaft when ordered with the unit.

³ Use with Bindicator, and most KTek and Conveyor Components brand paddles. Comes assembled to output shaft when ordered with the unit.

Technical Data

Power Supply:	115VAC; 50/60Hz
Supply Tolerance:	+10%/-15%
Power Consumption:	5.5VA, 10W
Ambient Temperature:	-40°F to +158°F (-40°C to +70°C) -40°F to +140°F (-40°C to +60°C)
Pollution:	Pollution Degree II: Normally only nonconductive pollution occurs. Temporary conductivity caused by condensation is to be expected.
Overvoltage Category:	Installation Category II
Altitude:	For use under 2000M
Environment:	For indoor or outdoor use
Process Temperature:	Up to +300°F (+149°C)
Enclosure:	NEMA 4X, IP65, Die-Cast Aluminum with FDA Compliant Powder Coat
Output:	DPDT Relay, 8A @ 250VAC, Fail-Safe on Power Failure
Fail-Safe Selection:	Switch Selectable, High or Low
Process Connection:	1¼" NPT
Conduit Entry:	Two (2) ¾" NPT
Bearings:	Three (3) Sealed Bearings
Shaft Seal:	½ Micron, 30psi (2bar)
Materials of Construction:	
Enclosure	Powder Coated Die-Cast Aluminum
Output Shaft	304 SS
Couplings/Paddles	304 SS
Shaft Seal	304 SS w/ FDA Compliant FKM

Mounting Plates
Extension Shafts/Guards

Powder Coated Carbon Steel or 304 SS
Galvanized or 304 SS

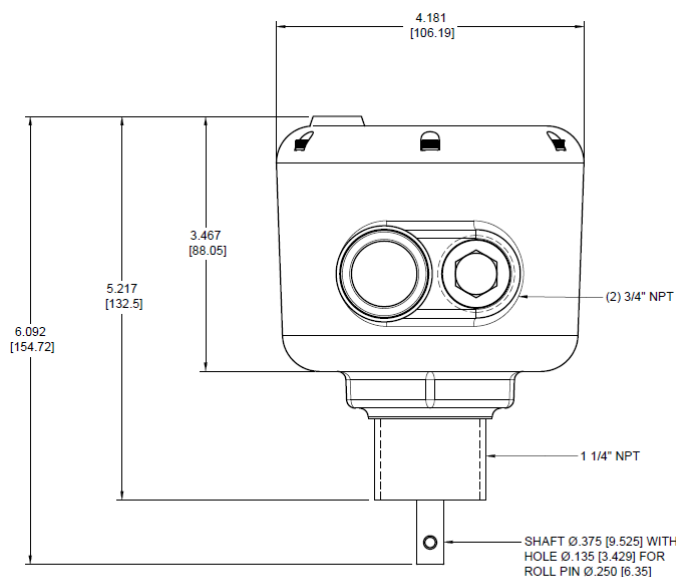
Weight

2.66lbs (1.20kg)

Certifications (Certified to UL, CSA and EU Standards):

CE Mark, _cSGS_{US} Ordinary Locations
UL 61010-1, CSA C22.2 No. 61010-1

Dimensions



UNITS XX" [XXmm]



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Form 435

BL-50 Rev. 001