

An All-New Version of the ProxPac* Probe Housing Assembly

Now with 3300 XL technology

A conventional proximity transducer system installation consists of the probe, its extension cable, and a Proximitor® signal conditioning module. While the probe must obviously be mounted at the measurement location (i.e., on the machinery), the Proximitor signal conditioning modules for several probes are typically grouped together in a common junction box, located off the machine where they are easily accessible. From the junction box, the Proximitor modules are connected by field wiring to their associated monitoring system (such as 3300 or 3500). This arrangement is shown in Figure 1.

While many users find it convenient to group the Proximitor modules into junction boxes in this manner, and while this method is specified for those installations that must strictly conform to API 670 requirements¹, other customers prefer our ProxPac solution, which reduces installation costs. The ProxPac design was first introduced in 1995 and is essentially a standard proximity probe housing assembly with the Proximitor module mounted inside. This innovative design eliminates the need for an extension cable and allows the field wiring from the monitor to be run all the way to the probe housing, rather than via an intermediate junction box (Figure 2).

The original ProxPac design was based on 3300 proximity transducer technology, which—while very good—cannot deliver the enhanced electrical performance and mechanical improvements of the backward-compatible 3300 XL system. Today, we're pleased to announce that ProxPac assemblies are available with 3300 XL technology. Customers that choose an installation using the ProxPac approach can now benefit from both ease-of-installation and our most advanced transducer technology in a single package. A slightly larger housing cover has been designed that accommodates a standard² 3300 XL Proximitor module,

allowing customers the benefit of not just improved electrical performance, but a more rugged design that is easier to connect to field wiring using innovative SpringLoc* wiring terminals. This design keeps the mechanical footprint nearly the same, meaning the new ProxPac will work wherever the previous ProxPac design would work³.

To learn more, talk to your nearest GE Energy sales professional specializing in Bently Nevada* Asset Condition Monitoring products. You can also request a copy of the ProxPac datasheet by using the Reader Service Card inserted in this issue of ORBIT, or by accessing the online version of the Reader Service Card at www.orbit-magazine.com. 

*Denotes a trademark of the General Electric Company.

¹ API 670 requires that oscillator/demodulator (i.e. Proximitor) modules be mounted in junction boxes off the machine, and that all junction boxes be mounted on the same side of the machine for ease of access. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that oscillator/demodulator modules are not subject to mechanical vibration that could fatigue connections inside and outside the device. Our ProxPac assemblies, however, are specifically designed to operate reliably in such environments without concern that internal or external connections will vibrate loose.



The new 3300 XL ProxPac assembly combines ease-of-installation and lower installation costs with our most advanced transducer technology.



²The Proximitor module used in the 3300 XL ProxPac assembly is identical in construction and appearance to our standard 3300 XL 8mm version. It has been tuned, however, to accept a 1 meter cable length,

³The dimensions of the new ProxPac assembly are identical to the previous version and to our standard 31000 proximity probe housing with exception of the depth which has increased by 17.8 mm (0.7 inches). Conduit connection locations remain identical as well, and can be made at the top, left, or right side side of the housing.

Figure 1 – A conventional proximity transducer system installation using a junction box to house the Proximitor modules.

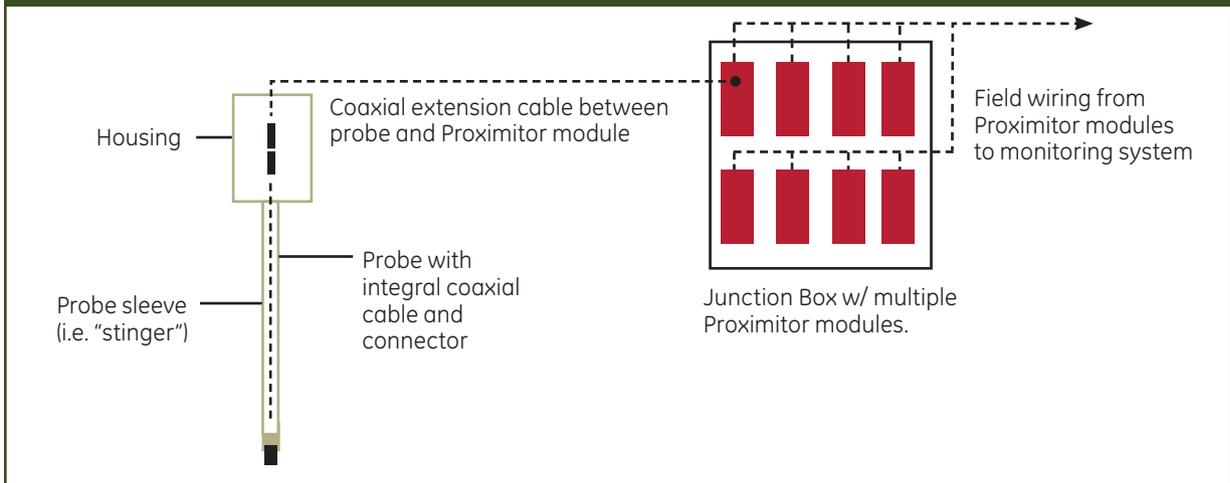


Figure 2 – A proximity probe installation using the ProxPac assembly. This design eliminates the need for an extension cable and an intermediate junction box, lowering installation costs.

