

INNOVATIONS

PRODUCTS – Process Display devices

Pulling your own pint in the pub – right at your table, thanks to a display counter

Competition is tough for pubs and restaurants – but success stories can be written with the help of new ideas. In this instance by a resourceful landlord. His innovative business idea: he equipped each table in his bar restaurant with its own beer tap, so the customer can not just drink his pint, but now he can pull it himself too.



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The customers can reserve their own table, where they can then serve themselves a cold beer whenever they wish. The advantages for both parties – landlord and customer – are obvious. The customer benefits as he does not get warm or even stale beer in his glass; the landlord benefits as his beer tastes better and so more of it gets consumed. But how is the bill going to be worked out? The customer is only going to pay for the quantity of beer that he has drunk. This is where the solution from the Kübler company plays its part.

A flow sensor is needed to record the volume, as well as a display device that cannot be tampered with and reset only by authorised persons. This device needs the ability to be scaled, so that it offers the choice of display in whole litres or fractions of a litre, (i.e. with decimal places). In this current instance a flow sensor with output pulses and a totalising counter with a multiplication and division factor were used, so as to accurately calculate and scale the display in tenths of a litre.

The “Codix 521” proves to be just the right counter for the job. During operation the programming mode cannot be called up, thus eliminating the risk of manipulation; only the landlord has the possibility to reset the device as required. The counter is sealed to IP 65 from the front, protecting it from water splashes and allowing it to be safely installed directly into the beer dispensing equipment. The large, bright LED display makes it easy to read even in low-light conditions, as are commonly

found in bars and restaurants. Of course, an analogue flow sensor could also be used for this application, and the quantity of beer drawn could then be scaled and totalised using a Codix process device.

This is how it all works: as soon as the dispensing head is activated and cold beer flows into the glass, the flow sensor sends a stream of pulses to the totalising counter. The latter then scales and calculates these, displaying the quantity of beer drawn in litres. The customers therefore only pay for the amount of beer that they have taken and consumed. So now there is also no argument about half-filled glasses and the beer requested is always cold and fresh. A further benefit that is not to be underestimated lies in the saving in bar staff, as well as the reduction in risk carrying the cold gold to the consumer!

The “Codix” counters are easy to operate thanks to their menu-driven programming. The high-quality connectors save on valuable installation time and the minimal installation depth means the devices can be fitted even where space is at a premium. Large keys mean that these devices, with their modern design, can be programmed even when the operator is wearing gloves. They offer a wide array of functions and programming options. These include division factors as well as a SET function for timers. A faster tachometer measuring principle and extra count functions such as UpUp (totalising both inputs) and Quad4 (quadrature with 4-times evaluation) open up more application possibilities and thus offer the user an increased level of flexibility. Versions with 5V signal level are available as standard. The devices are ideal for use as totalising counters, timers and short-time meters, frequency displays and tachometers. One single universal combination device can be programmed as a totalising and frequency display, a dual totalising counter, a totalising and time display or as a dual timer. The multifunction device offer the functions count, positioning, frequency and time.

The “Codix” process displays can easily be adapted to the individual circumstances. So, for example, a key on the front, as well as two additional inputs, can be programmed to suit a specific application. As well as simple programming, the “Codix” process displays boast a comprehensive list of specifications. The measuring rate is ten measurements per second, and characteristic curves with up to 12 control points can be programmed. The devices come with 2 relay outputs (changeover contacts) for monitoring of the limit values, with hysteresis and an ON/OFF delay function. The MIN/MAX memory is independently resettable and the inputs and outputs are galvanically isolated. The time-controlled totaliser function adds up the measured values, which once again are separately resettable. The auxiliary sensor power supply also facilitates connection.





Enjoying a nice cold beer with friends.
Small photo: Freshly pulled and counted at the table by "Codix".
Photos: Deutscher Brauer-Bund e. V./Kübler.