OMRON

Control Panel Basics



Basic Information on Control Panel Design



Knowhow on Control Panel Design, from the Latest Information, Environmental Measures, Safety Standards, and Valuable Information.

Changes in the market require handling a wide variety of control panel issues. Control Panel Basics describes OMRON's wealth of knowhow and information and provides easy-to-understand descriptions of the knowledge required to solve these issues through concrete examples.

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Control Panel Efficiency Starts with the Terminals

Change from Tightening Screws to Inserting Wires You Can Increase Production Efficiency by Rethinking Wiring Wor

Wiring Work

Wiring work is essential to manufacturing control panels, and it accounts for the majority of the lead time for control panel manufacturing. Therefore, if you can make wiring work easier and faster, you can dramatically shorten the manufacturing lead time for control panels.

Current Issues

Normally when people hear about wire connection methods, many of them tend to think about securing wires by tightening screws. And in reality, many of the control devices used in control panels use screw terminals, and such devices have become common. Also, screw terminals have a long track record, are the method most recognized by customers, and are therefore considered reliable. However, screw terminals require that you loosen the screw, attach the wire (crimp terminal), and then tighten the screw, which is a lot of work.

New Screwless Connections

Screwless connections, which have recently become common in Europe, eliminate the need to tighten screws to dramatically reduce the work required for wiring and they are gradually becoming popular in control panels around the world.

The work of loosening and tightening screws has been replaced by merely inserting wires to complete wiring work, greatly reducing work time. First you need to learn about screwless connections and then experience how efficient this method is.

Push-in Terminals

Push-in terminals are one type of screwless terminal. Wiring is completed simply by inserting a wire with a crimped ferrule. The strength of a spring presses the ferrule against the terminal wall to connect the wire.

Mechanism



No Retightening Work

Note: Test conditions: IEC 60947-7-1

Differences in Wiring Work



What Are Push-In Plus Terminal Blocks?

Push-In Plus Terminal Blocks were independently developed by OMRON for easy wire insertion and firm wire holding ability. It's as easy as inserting an earphone jack: No tools are required for wiring.

Easy to Insert

OMRON's Push-In Plus terminal blocks are as easy as inserting to an earphone jack. This reduces the load on worker fingers.



Work with Both Hands

Optimized shape to hold the screwdriver was created by the resin parts and the spring. Work goes smoothly when connecting stranded wires directly to the terminal because it's easier to aim at the desired terminal.



Held Firmly in Place

Even though less insertion force is required, the wires are held firmly in place. The advanced mechanism design technology and manufacturing technology produced a spring that ensures better workability and reliability.



* Information for Push-In Plus terminal blocks and Screw terminal blocks is based on OMRON's actual measurement value data for the XW2R.

Wiring Possible with Stranded Wires

You can insert wires with ferrules or you can also insert solid wires or stranded wires.



Recommended Products with Push-In Plus Terminals



Application of Electrical Control CAD

Electrical Control CAD Significantly Increases the Efficiency and Quality of Electrical Control Designs

What Is an Electrical Control CAD?

Electrical control CAD is specialized software to design circuit diagrams (elementary wiring diagrams), cable production diagrams, and control panel layout diagrams. Specialized electrical CAD previously existed, but CAD that unifies management of design data have recently received a lot of attention.



The use of high-quality electrical control CAD libraries is important to maximizing the functionality of electrical control CAD.



E3.series is a product name of Zuken Inc. for their Electrical and Control Cable Design Solution. EPLAN is a registered trademark of EPLAN Software & Service GmbH & Co. KG.

Benefits of Introducing Electrical Control CAD

Automatic Creation of Diagrams and Lists

The unified management of design information in a database makes it easy to automatically create diagrams, such as cable production diagrams, as well as many different types of lists.



Achieve Consistency between Diagrams in Realtime

The results of designing work (circuit diagrams, cable production diagrams, control panel layout diagrams, terminal block layout diagrams, connector lists, etc.) can be edited from any diagram and the changes will be reflected in all the related diagrams and lists in real time. This helps eliminate entry mistakes and forgotten corrections to greatly increase design quality.



Flexible Panel Design, Including Wiring, Interference Checks, and Wire Processing

Simplified 3D designing allows you to consider interference checks and prohibited areas in designs. Wire length measurement function allows wires to be prepared in advance.

Greater Manufacturing Efficiency

More efficient designing is accompanied by more efficiency in panel manufacturing preparations, assembly, and installation.





terminal connections



Simplify and Accelerate Panel Designing. Information to Solve Your Control Panel Manufacturing Issues

Panel Assist Web New Value For Control Panels

The Panel Assist Web is a new website for our customers that work with control panels. You can select products and search for documents. Or you can find solutions for the issues you face in control panel manufacturing and you can manage BOM. Use this website to more efficiently design control panels.

Take a Look Now!

www.ia.omron.com/solution/panel/





Help Solve ssues

You can find information to help you solve control panel issues, such as downsizing or work reduction issues.

(e.g., explanatory videos for Push-In Plus Terminal Blocks are available.)

| | Narrow down items by specs. |
|------------------------|--|
| | Reset the condition |
| Class | Analog Timer O Digital Timer O Time switch |
| Value Design for Panel | ${\rm ZI}$ Compliant (Unified aim size, Close mountable at 55 $\%$, Plath-in plus terminal block, Wire front-inflort veloces, Conforms to EUUCSA) |
| Mounting method | DIN track mounting Panel mounting PCB mounting Socket |
| Wiring method | Screw terminal block PCB terminals Socket |
| | ✓ Push-in terminal block/Screwless clamping terminal block |
| Width | 20 mm mux. * |
| Operation surface size | □ 12.8 x 31.2 □ 17.5 x 80 |
| | DIN48×48 DIN96 x 96 |
| Power supply voltage | 24 VAC 44 VAC 100/110 VAC 122 VAC 220220230 VAC 240 VAC |
| | |



Just the right products and documents will be recommended in response to operations. You can find the information you need quickly and select the optimum products.





Easy Selection of In-panel Devices

It can be added to BOM

You can greatly reduce model selection work. You can filter selection by model and then compare product specifications for easy selection.





Even More Convenient Functions with Member Registration (Free Registration)



BOM to

products with the most suitable up-to-date products.

Create BOM Easily

You can create and save BOM of OMRON and non-OMRON products. Convenient tools are provided for more-advanced designing.



Reduce Design Work

You can use the tool and various kinds of convenient functions starting from BOM.

| Reduce Work with the Terminal Block Support Tool The electrical specifications and applicable wires are automatically displayed for the selected devices. | | ВОМЕ | Example | the selected item(| Checking in Advance with Thermal Simulation Tool Just input basic control panel information in addition to the selected device |
|--|------------|------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| You can easily select the Termin | al Blocks | | | | thereby reduce the need of working later. |
| required to wire devices withou | it wasting | lodel number | Product Cat egory | Manufacti | Production Statu |
| ume. | | E5CC-RX2ABM-000 | Temperature Controllers | omron | |
| | 0 | E5CC-RX2ASM-000 | Temperature Controllers | omron | |
| | 8 | H3DT-A1 AC/DC24-2 | Timers/Time Switches | omron | |
| Daula com ant with the Latest Draduet | | i2RV-SR500 AC/DC 24 | General Purp ose Relays/P ower Relays | omron | Download Documents as Soon as You Select Parts |
| Replacement with the Latest Products | | XW5T-P1.5-1.1-1 | Terminal Bloc | omron | Download Documents as soon as rou select raits |
| You can import an existing BOM to check product | | 1 | 10 | | You can download CAD data or catalogs |
| manufacturing status and stock status, a | | | | in multiple languages. | |



The correct Fan must be selected to suppress temperature rise inside the panel.

If the temperature inside the panel increases, the lives of devices and parts inside the panel will be reduced and malfunctions could result. Particularly devices and parts that generate heat are greatly affected by heat.

Panel cooling and Fan selection are extremely important to long-term usage of the panel and parts inside the panel.

Selecting Fans



Note: This calculation example assumes that the control panel contains only two Power Supplies.

Airflow Direction and Inlet/Outlet Cooling Effect Differences

When the Heat-generating Portions Are **Concentrated at One Location**



Advantages of Inlet Installation

- You can concentrate cooling on

the heat-generating portions.

- The pressure inside the box increases, which reduces dust entry from other openings.

Recommended Axial Fans

When the Heat-generating Portions Are at Many Locations



Advantages of Outlet Installation - A wide area can be cooled.

Reference Information: The Fan airflow is in one direction, which is indicated on the top of the Fan.





Options



Manual High Humidity Measures

If a control panel is installed in a location with high humidity, measures against short-circuits are required.

Condensation will occur in the control panel as the result of a difference in the device temperature and external air temperature. This condensation may adhere to a PCB and if condensation and dust repeatedly collect on the PCB, short-circuits will occur.



Preventing Short-circuits with Products with Coated PCBs or Modifications



Recommended Products with Coated PCBs

Ask your OMRON representative for more information on coating.

Switch Mode Power Supplies S8VK-S S8FS-G

Micro PLCs CP1E CP1L CP1H CP1W





Counters H7CX H7E - N





Single-phase Power Controller G3PW



Search for OMRON with the model name

MEMO

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Examples of and Measures to Prevent Motor Failures

Implementing Protective Measures for Failures of Important Devices

In general, when devices are used for a long period of time, they deteriorate over that time, and ultimately fail. To minimize the effects of device failure, we recommend that you implement protective measures in advance for important devices. This section discusses motors, which are important devices.

Motors

A motor converts electrical energy to mechanical energy. Due to its characteristics, a motor has both an electrical structure and a mechanical structure , and it fulfills very important roles.



There are various failure types that lead to motor failure.

By detecting abnormal signals and using them to stop the motor, motor failure and damage to the motor's load can be avoided. Major examples of motor failures and products that can be used to detect motor abnormalities are introduced on the right-hand page.



Motor Failure Examples (Phenomena)



Recommended Protective Relays

Detect Phase loss and Phase sequence Models added with transistor outputs for stable operation with PLC.

Phase-sequence Phase-loss Relays **K8DT-PH**





Relay Selection: "Better Too Big Than Too Small" Does Not Apply

Circuit Reliability will be Increased by Selecting a Suitable Relay for the Load.

With a computer or smartphone, you may want to select a hard disk or memory with extra capacity.

In general, something larger often works well to substitute for something smaller, as in the saying "better too big than too small".

However, that does not work with relays. The structural conditions required in a control relay to carry a large current as opposed to

a minute current are different, so a suitable relay must be selected.

Selecting a suitable relay will help increase the reliability of the relay circuit.

You need to understand relay characteristics and correctly select relays to increase the quality of control circuits.

Relay Selection Methods

Switching High-capacity Loads

An important thing that determines the contact breaking capacity is the size of the gap between contacts of the same pole. Double-break contacts (see right-hand page) with a wide gap are effective. An Ag alloy with high conductivity is generally used for the contact material. However, Ag alloys are not suitable to switch minute loads that do not generate arcs when switching because organic films easily forms on the contact surfaces.

Switching Minute Loads

To reduce the probability of contact failure, using bifurcated contacts (see right-hand page) with two contact points is more effective than using single contacts with one contact point. Also, the arcs that are generated when switching minute loads are small, so they do not remove oxide and other films. Therefore, Au or Au alloys that resist corrosion are used for the contact material.

However, they are not suitable to switch large currents due to the smaller contacts and lower conductivity in comparison with Ag alloys.

Differences and Trends in Contact Materials



| ifferences in Contact Con | figuration and Application E | xamples | |
|------------------------------|--|--|-------------|
| Contact Configuration | Common Loads | Application Examples | |
| Double-break contacts | High-capacity loads Guideline: Loads over 15 A Note: For relays, 40 A for AC and 10 A for DC. | Switching compressors and heaters Control applications for switching motors | High capac |
| Single contacts | General loads Guideline: 0.05 to 15 A | General sequence circuits | |
| Bifurcated contacts | Minute loads Guideline: Less than 0.05 A | PLC inputs, signal applications, and self-holding circuits | _ |
| Crossbar Bifurcated Contacts | Minute loads Guideline: Less than 0.01 A Note: Contact reliability is increased because nearly line contact is achieved and the weight per surface area is larger. | Alarm applications (Infrequent applications) | _ Low capac |

Major Examples of Relay Models, Contact Configuration, and Contact Materials

| Dolovo for | | | | | | | Model | Contact configuration | Contact materials |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------|----------------|-----------------------|--|
| Control Circuits | (2) MK | (3) MI | igher Load Capaci /I | ity → | | (1) | MY | Single | 2-pole: Ag alloy 3-pole: Ag alloy 4-pole: Au cladding + Ag alloy |
| (| Circuit Operation Confirmation | Higher | Load Canacity | - | | (2) | МК | Single | Ag alloy |
| | (4) MY(S) | (5) MP | (-S | 1 | | (3) | MM | Single | Ag alloy |
| | Greater Contact Reliability | Even G | reater Contact | | | (4) | MY(S) | Single | 2-pole: Ag alloy 4-pole: Au cladding + Ag alloy |
| | (Minute Loads) | Reliabil | lity (Minute Loads) | ALC: N | | (5) | MK-S | Single | Ag alloy |
| | (0) IVI 14Z | | 42-6Du | → 👑 | | (6) | MY4Z | Bifurcated | Au cladding + Ag alloy |
| Install | Greater Resistance | Resista | ince to | 100 <u>0</u> 1. | | (7) | MY4Z-CBG | Crossbar bifurcated | Au cladding + Ag alloy |
| | to Environments | Corrosi | ve Gases | | | (8) | MYQ | Bifurcated | Au plating + Ag alloy |
| | | | 40 | \rightarrow | | (9) | MY4H | Bifurcated | Au plating + Ag alloy |
| 0000000 | | Mecha | nically | THE REAL PROPERTY AND A DECEMBER OF A | Even Higher | (10) | MY2K | Single | Au plating + Ag alloy |
| | Holding Circuits | Held Re | elays | Higher Load Capacity | | (11) | G7K | Single | Au plating + Ag alloy |
| | | | | | | (12) | МКК | Single | Ag alloy |
| | High-capacity DC Load | | | | - | (13) | MMK | Single | Ag alloy |
| | Switching | Large M | Number of Poles | (Mars | | (14) | MK-S(X) | Double break | Ag alloy |
| | | | | $\rightarrow X$ | | (15) | MMX | Single | Ag alloy |
| | · · · · · · | | | | | (16) | G2R-□-S | Single | Ag alloy |
| | Slim Relays | | | | | | | | |
| | | JH 👅 | | | | (17) | G2R-□-S | Single | Ag alloy |
| Note: Mainly Two-nole Relays | are used in control circuits | , | | | | (18) | LY | Single | Ag alloy |
| Note: Mainly two pole holdys | | | | | | (19) | G7J | Double break | Ag alloy |
| | | | | | | (20) | G7Z | Double break | Ag alloy |
| Relays for | High AC Capacity | Even Higher Ca | apacity | Even Higher Capacity 🛛 🔬 | | (21) | MMX | Single | Ag alloy |
| I/O Applications | (18) LY | (19) G7J | and the second | (20) G7Z | | (22) | MK-S(X) | Double break | Ag alloy |
| | | | | \longrightarrow | 1 | (23) | G2RV-□-AP | Single | Au plating + Ag alloy |
| | High DC Capacity | Even Higher Ca | apacity 📣 | | | (24) | G7T for input | Crossbar bifurcated | Au cladding + Ag alloy |
| South South | (21) MMX | (22) MK-S() | () 🚺 | Types of Terminal Belays | | (25) | G7T for output | Single | Ag alloy |
| | | | | Terminal Delaus (4 Deinte) | I/O Blocks | (26) | G2RV_SR | Single | Ag alloy |
| - in in it is in it is i | Minute Loads | Even Higher Re | liability 🔊 💦 | (27) G6B-4BND/4CB | (29) G70V-SI Series | (27) | G6B-4BND | Single | Ag alloy |
| | (23) G2RV-□-AP | (24) G7T | | (28) G6D-F4B | (30) G70V-SO Series | (27) | G6B-4CB | Single | Ag alloy |
| | | | | | (31) G7TC-I Series | (28) | G6D-F4B | Single | Ag alloy |
| (17) G2R-L - S | Slim Design 👘 🎘 | Even Slimmer F | lesian | | (32) G/IC-U Series | (29) | G70V-SI Series | Single | Au plating + Ag alloy |
| | (25) G7T | (26) G2RV | The state | | | (30) | G70V-SO Series | Single | Ag alloy |
| Note: Mainly One-note Relays or | e used for I/O applications | | \rightarrow \Im | W | | (31) | G7TC-I□ Series | Crossbar bifurcated | Au cladding + Ag alloy |
| Note. Manny One-pole helays al | o used for it's applications. | | ~~ | | | (32) | G7TC-O□ Series | Single | Ag allov |

Sandards Types of UL Certification

There are UL Listing and UL Component Recognition for UL certification.

UL certification is required for control panels used in the USA. Here we describe the difference between certification as a UL listed component (listing) and certification for a UL recognized component (R/C).

Actions Required for New or Revised Components Used in Control Panels for the USA

Industrial control panels used in the USA are required to comply with UL508A. Of the components used in control panels that comply with UL 508A, there are differences in the requirements depending on the UL certification (UL listed components or UL recognized components).





UL 508A Compliance



Using UL Listed Components

Application to the UL is **not required**.

- New or upgraded components can be used at any time.
- If urgent changes to components become necessary for adjustments or to handle problems, they can be made immediately.



Using UL Recognized Components

Application to the UL is required.

- These components must be registered. The documents and data required for registration must be prepared and an application must be made to the UL.
- The UL will check the certification conditions and process the changes, so time will be required to use new or upgraded components.

Component registration is required, which delays application.



There are also differences based on whether the component is directly connected to devices or equipement outside of the control panel.

Example in Final Installation Site of Control Panel



Note: There are some exceptions.

Point ! For People Who Want to Know More

UL Listing

- In general, this certification applies to end products that are operated by general users, such as machine tools, robots, and other equipment that are directly controlled by an operator.
- Because it is assumed that the equipment will be used by an operator or a general user, there are many restrictions and evaluation tests for designs and configuration components.

UL Component Recognition

- \

 This certification applies to components that are built into end products that do not function by themselves or have limited functionality (molded products, wires, PWB, and general-purpose Automation Systems).

Using UL Recognized Components

Wiring is not allowed.

Device/

Equipment

 Components for which UL Listing is not required fall under UL Component Recognition.

Recommended UL Listed Components

A Perfect Fit for Small Control Panels Coated PCBs for Better Resistance to Environment Connections for Easy Wiring

S8VK-S

Switch Mode Power Supplies (60-W, 120-W, 240-W, 480-W)



Search for "OMRON S8VK-S" for details.

Reliable and Easy Operation-Worldwide Power Supply Resistant in tough environments Easy and fast installation The most compact class on the market

Switch Mode Power Supplies (15-W, 30-W, 60-W, 120-W, 240-W, and 480-W models)

S8VK-G



Search for "OMRON S8VK-G" for details.

Worldwide 3-phase Power Supply Resistant in tough environments Easy and fast installation The most compact class on the market

Switch Mode Power Supplies (120-W, 240-W, 480-W, and 960-W models)

S8VK-T



Search for "OMRON S8VK-T" for details.

Control Panel Design Considering Electrical Safety Standards

The IEC 60204-1 electrical safety standards related to machine control panels must be considered.

The power supply breakers, device locations, and electric-shock prevention for control panel design are described from the viewpoint of safety standards.

| Power Supply Cutoff (Breaker) Devices | ON " " and OFF " ()" must be indicated. There must be an external operation means (e.g., handle). There must be a means to lock the device in the OFF position. There must be a suitable cutoff capacity. Etc. | Power Supply Cutoff (Breaker) Devices |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Device Locations | (1) Power supply cutoff devices: 0.6 to 1.9 m, recommended max.: 1.7 m (2) Manual operation devices: 0.6 m or higher | |
| | (3) Terminals: 0.2 m or higher (4) Devices that must be approached for periodic maintenance or adjustn | nents: 0.4 to 2.0 m |

Enclosure Degree of Protection: IP22 or Better

| Electric Shock Prevention | When Enclosure Is Opened: It must be possible to open the enclosure when charged sections are cut off. If the enclosure can be opened without cutting off a charged section, all charged sections must have IP2X or IPXXB protection. If a barrier is provided, a tool must be required to remove it or the charged section must be automatically cut off when it is removed. |
|------------------------------|--|
| Additional Information | IP2X: Protection against foreign objects with a diameter of 12.5 mm or larger (equivalent to a finger) IPX2: Protection against vertically falling water drops when enclosure tilted up to 15° IPPXXB: Protection against an approaching finger |

Reference Illustration

(Numbers 1 to 4 correspond to items 1 to 4 under Device Locations.)



Control Panel Component Colors

It is important to correctly understand the meaning of the colors of indicators, operation parts, and wires.

| | | Machine status indicate | d by indicator cold |
|--------|-----------|---|--|
| Color | Meaning | Description | Operator action |
| Red | Emergency | Hazardous situation | Immediate action for the hazardous situation |
| Yellow | Caution | Abnormal situation An impending critical situation | Monitoring and/ or intervention |
| Green | Normal | Normal situation | No specific action required |
| Blue | Mandatory | Indication of situation requiring operator action | Required action |
| White | Neutral | Other situations Situation in which the use of red, yellow, green, or blue does not seem appropriate | Monitoring |
| | | | |

| General meaning of oper | | Genera | l rules | |
|--|--|--------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Description | Application example | | Human or environmental safety | Process status |
| Actuate in the event of a hazardous situation or emergency | Emergency stop Stopping or turning OFF for emergency stop Initiation of emergency function | | Hazard | Emergency |
| Actuate in the event of an abnormal condition | Intervention to suppress abnormal condition Intervention to restart an interrupted automatic cycle | | Caution | Abnormality |
| Actuate to initiate normal conditions | •White is the most suitable color for a device (operation part) for starting or turning ON something, but green is also acceptable. | | Safe | Normal |
| Actuate for a condition requiring mandatory action | ndition datory •Reset function Mandatory | | atory | |
| Initiation of functions | •White can be used for any function other than an emergency stop. | | | |



- Color Requirements for Emergency Stop Switches



Wire Colors (IEC 60204-1)

| Applicable conductor | Color |
|--|---------------------|
| Ground (earth) circuit | Green-yellow spiral |
| Power neutral circuits | Light blue |
| Primary power circuits | Black |
| DC control circuits | Blue |
| AC control circuits | Red |
| Excepted circuits (e.g., interlock circuits) | Orange |

Note: Excerpt from IEC 60204-1

Recommended Operation Devices

Globally applicable switches conceived for compactness, simplicity, and safety.

Pushbutton Switches **A22N**



Emergency Stop Switches That Conform to Various Standards

Emergency Stop Switches A22E

Search for OMRON A22E for details.



Search for OMRON A22N for details.

Saving Space in Control Panels with No Transformers

Eliminating Transformers for Control Circuits (Using a Switch Mode Power Supply with a Transformer Conforming to IEC 61558-2-16)

IEC 60204-1 in the Machinery Directive specifies that, if AC power is supplied to a control circuit, a transformer must be used in the control circuit and the transformer must have separate (compound) windings.



Control Circuit

The transformer can sometimes be eliminated.

IEC 61558-2-16 also states that a switch mode power supply that uses a transformer with separate (compound) windings satisfies the above condition.

That means that a transformer in a control circuit can be eliminated by using this type of switch mode power supply.

Recommended Power Supplies

For 380 to 480 VAC

Worldwide 3-phase Power Supply Resistant in tough environments Easy and fast installation The most compact class on the market

Switch Mode Power Supplies (120-W, 240-W, 480-W, and 960-W models)

S8VK-T



Search for "OMRON S8VK-T" for details.

For 100 to 240 VAC

Panels Coated PCBs for Better Resistance to EnvironmentConnections for Easy Wiring

Switch Mode Power Supplies (60-W, 120-W, 240-W, 480W)

S8VK-S



Search for "OMRON S8VK-S" for details.

For 100 to 240 VAC

Reliable and Easy Operation-Worldwide Power Supply Resistant in tough environments Easy and fast installation The most compact class on the market

Switch Mode Power Supplies (15-W, 30-W, 60-W, 120-W, 240-W, and 480-W models)

S8VK-G



Search for "OMRON S8VK-G" for details.

| One Point ! The industrial power supply voltage in the world is often 380 to 480 VAC. | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Area | Industrial power supply voltage | Area | Industrial power supply voltage | | |
| USA | Three-phase, 460 or 480 V | China | Three-phase, 380 V | | |
| Europe | Three-phase, 380, 400, or 415 V | India | Three-phase, 400 or 415 V | | |
| Thailand | Three-phase, 380 V | Japan | Three-phase, 200 V | | |

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Color Universal Design



Adding Kindness to Manufacturing

What Is Color Universal Design?

Color universal design was developed to provide products, facilities, buildings, environments, services, and information to as many individuals as possible in consideration of people with color weakness.

Percentage of People with Color Weakness

In Japan, one man in 20 and one woman in 500, and over 3.2 million people across Japan are assumed to have color weakness. The percentage of people with color weakness is even higher in Europe and the United States, and it is 8% to 10% in the West and 2% to 4% in Africa among men. Over 200 million people are assumed to have color weakness in the world.

The Value of Color Universal Design

Designing for poeple with color weakness will benefit people with normal color vision because it will produce well-organized, easy-to-understand designs. Therefore, color universal design is valuable to all people.

Pushbutton switches and other operation switches are used not only on production lines in factories, but in public facilities, transportation, other infrastructure applications, food machines, and medical equipment, as just a few examples. At a medical site, an operating mistake can end up in life-threatening accidents. In the infrastructure, fatal accidents, traffic accidents, fires, and other accidents can be the result of a single operating mistake. Let us build a kinder working environment by improving the social color environment to make it easier to use by people with various types of color vision.

Simulations of How People with Non-standard Color Vision See Colors

People with Normal Color Vision (Type C)

Simulation of People with Color Weakness (Type P)



We need to provide a clear contrast in the use of colors on nameplates and in text displayed on touch panels and other devices.



The information on this page is based on information, estimation results, concepts, and examples from the Color Universal Design Organization (NPO).

Recommended Operation Devices



Display Innovations for On-panel Devices

Increase Visibility by Using White Characters on Black Backgrounds

Control panels always include control amounts (e.g., temperatures or pressures).

The control amounts are important parameters that affect workpiece quality, and displays of the control amounts are generally provided on the fronts of control panels. Although touch panels are becoming popular display methods for high-end models, the cost involved results in many control panels using controllers with displays.

Control panels are installed in various lighting environments, from well-lit to dimly-lit locations. You need on-panel devices with good visibility. The visibility of displays increases with the difference in the brightness of the colors used, so displays with a large difference in color brightness are easily recognized from a distance or in bright or dark locations.

If the background is black, white offers the largest difference in brightness, but the chromatic color yellow draws attention better.

Visibility of Various Colors on Black



Creating Panels with a Good Sense of Design and Good Visibility

By incorporating large display devices with white or yellow characters on a black background into panels, not only is visibility improved, but also panels with a high sense of design are made possible.

Also, control panels are not always viewed from directly in front of them, so viewing angles are also important.

Consider the visibility from an angle when you select components.





The display remains easy to read even from wide viewing angles.

Recommended Controllers with Displays

- Large, white PV displays that are easy to read and provide better visibility.
- Easy to use from model selection to setup and operation.
- A complete range of I/O capacities, functions, and performance.
- Handles more applications.

Digital Temperature Contollers





Product Catalogs for Control Panels



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