VIBRATION MONITORING
FOR
AIR HANDLER
APPLICATIONS

WHEN RELIABILITY MATTERS
CONNECT TO CONFIDENCE
Monitoring the vibration of rotating components of enclosed air handling units presents a unique challenge for predictive maintenance programs. The air handling units are expected to maintain consistent environmental conditions, such as flow rate, temperature, and humidity, and often to extremely limited tolerances. In many laboratory, manufacturing, and warehousing spaces, small deviations in operating parameters can result in void product. As a result, opening a unit to access the rotating components to collect vibration data, or even to perform a visual inspection, is impractical because of the potential for ambient air to affect conditions or introduce contaminants.

**Common faults** with air handling units include:
- Unbalance
- Misalignment between the sheaves
- Looseness
- Belt resonance defects / worn belts
- Worn or damaged sheaves
- Bearing defects
- Rubbing
- Motor electrical, including rotor bar faults

**Vibration Monitoring can be used on Air Handlers to:**
- Reduce or eliminate exposure to safety hazards
- Reduce data collection time while increasing repeatability and data accuracy
- Collect data on previously inaccessible fan components
- Prevent high-cost failures
- Help ensure consistent environmental conditions
The first consideration is whether or not Process Monitoring or Dynamic Vibration Analysis is right for your condition monitoring program. Due to access concerns, permanent monitoring is the preferred method for repeatability, human safety, and operational effectiveness.

**Process Monitoring requires 4-20mA Loop Power Sensors**, which will provide the overall vibration level of the machine so that it can be trended and alarmed using the plant DCS, PLC, or SCADA system. Process monitoring will require permanently mounted loop power sensors that output a 4-20mA signal proportional to velocity or acceleration. Process monitoring will provide an overall understanding of machine health, but cannot provide the same level of detailed diagnostic data as Dynamic Vibration Analysis.

**Dynamic Vibration Analysis allows for trended data and machine health diagnostics.** However, Dynamic Vibration Sensors can be paired with CTC’s SC300 Series Signal Conditioners to create a hybrid approach for both Process Monitoring and Dynamic Analysis. A Signal Conditioner converts the signal from dynamic sensor into a 4-20mA output, so it can be tended and alarmed using the plant DCS, PLC, or SCADA system but also used for more in-depth predictive maintenance.

Regardless of whether or not a signal conditioner is the right choice for your program, CTC has a variety of accelerometers for use in air handler applications.
Loop Power Sensor Offerings for Process Monitoring:
4-20mA monitoring will provide a cost effective, online process monitoring solution. Our standard LP200 and LP300 Series can be permanently mounted for a 4-20mA output proportional to vibration in velocity or acceleration respectively. For more in-depth data, our LP400 Series provides both a 4-20mA Output and Dynamic Vibration Data. Using an LP400 Series Dual Output Loop Power Sensor enables data to be trended and alarmed, and also for a vibration analyst or engineer to analyze more detailed data about faults and defects.

CTC’s Loop Power Sensors can be paired with our PMX enclosures to trigger alarm and shutdown.

CTC’s PMX2000 is a stainless steel, 1-2 channel process control enclosure with display and relay or display only. These enclosures are designed for loop power sensor input, and the relays can trigger alarm or shutdown.
**General Purpose Accelerometers:**
General Purpose Accelerometers typically meet the needs of air handling units. In limited access areas, like near belt guards, side exit connector accelerometers are typically suggested. CTC’s Dynamic Vibration IEPE Ultrasound Sensors also provide an excellent solution for general purpose monitoring with the ability for high frequency fault detection.

CTC offers a wide variety of General Purpose Accelerometers in top and side exit configurations, including:

- **AC102 & AC104**
  - Multipurpose Accelerometer,
  - 2 Pin Connector,
  - 100 mV/g,
  - ±10%
  - ±80 g, Dynamic Range

- **AC292 & AC294**
  - Premium Compact Accelerometer,
  - 2 Pin Connector,
  - 100 mV/g,
  - ±5%
  - ±80 g, Dynamic Range

- **UEB332 & UEA332**
  - Dynamic Vibration IEPE Ultrasound Sensor,
  - 1/4-28 Mounting,
  - 2 Pin mini-MIL Connector,
  - 100 mV/g,
  - ±10%
  - ±50 g, Peak

**Cables and Connectors:**
Due to the environment within the air handling unit, the cable connecting the accelerometer to the switch box needs to be robust, chemically resistant, moisture resistant, as well as reliable in a caustic environment, such as CTC’s Premium V Series Viton® Boots or A Series Standard MIL-Style Connectors.

*Our Viton® Boot Series (V Series) Connectors* are a premium offering for the best chemical resistance and an IP68 rating for moisture concerns.

*Our A Series Connectors* are a general purpose offering that work in a variety of environments. The A Series comes with a stainless steel locking ring and variety of material options, including Polycarbonate, PPS, and Nylon.
Junction Boxes:
Junction Boxes can be used for local measurements or the transmission of data to online vibration monitoring systems. Junction Boxes can also be used for cable reduction purposes or for switched outputs during manual route data collection of the vibration signals. Depending on the environment in which your junction box is mounted, CTC offers the majority of our offerings in either fiberglass or stainless steel options.

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- Provides connection for remotely installed sensors to portable data collectors: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Optional cord grip or conduit inputs provide quick & secure cable entry to closure: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Withstands harsh factory & outdoor environments: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
  - NEMA 4X / IP66 rated
- Covered BNCs: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Quick release terminal blocks: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Fiberglass & stainless steel options available: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Sloped top & modular box options available: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Optional continuous outputs: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Minimum channel count: 1 1 4 4
- Max channel count: 4 12 48 48
- Online expansion ability: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Fold-forward panel for easy wiring: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- IEPE bias indicator light: ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Cost rating (1-4):
  - MINI-MAXX BOXES: lowest cost option for harsh factory environments
  - MAXX BOXES: low cost option for higher channel counts in harsh environments
  - SB BOXES: high-end offering for ease of data collection & ability for online expansion
  - JB BOXES: premium offering with the most benefits & features in one NEMA 4X enclosure

CTC

NEMA 4X / IP66 rated

CTC

MINI-MAXX BOXES

MAXX BOXES

SB BOXES

JB BOXES

Premium switch box series

CTC
CTC is the world leader in the design and manufacture of industrial accelerometers, piezo velocity transducers, 4-20 mA vibration sensors, and proximity probes as well as all related mounting hardware, cabling, and junction boxes. Our products enable efficient vibration monitoring for predictive maintenance in a wide variety of industries. Industries served include cement, mining, petrochemical, food & beverage, auto, steel, wind, paper & pulp, power generation, water & wastewater treatment, pharmaceutical, hospitals, bottling, and more. Our mission is to offer the widest variety of accelerometers and vibration hardware products, which are compatible with data collectors and online monitoring systems, as well as the tools for installation.

The CTC product line features vibration analysis hardware for heavy industry.

All CTC products are backed by our unconditional, lifetime warranty. If any CTC product should ever fail, we will repair or replace it at no charge.

The PRO line offers standard and hazardous rated proximity probes, drivers, extension cables and accessories.

All PRO line products are backed by a lifetime warranty on materials and workmanship. CTC will repair or replace any PRO line products as long as the product was not subjected to misuse, neglect, natural disasters, improper installation, or modification.

All stock products qualify for a full refund if returned in new condition within 90 days of shipment. Build to order products qualify for a 50% refund if returned in new condition within 90 days of shipment. Custom products are quoted and built specifically to the requirements of the customer, which may include completely custom product designs or private labeled versions of standard products for OEM customers. Custom products ordered are non-cancellable, non-returnable and non-refundable.