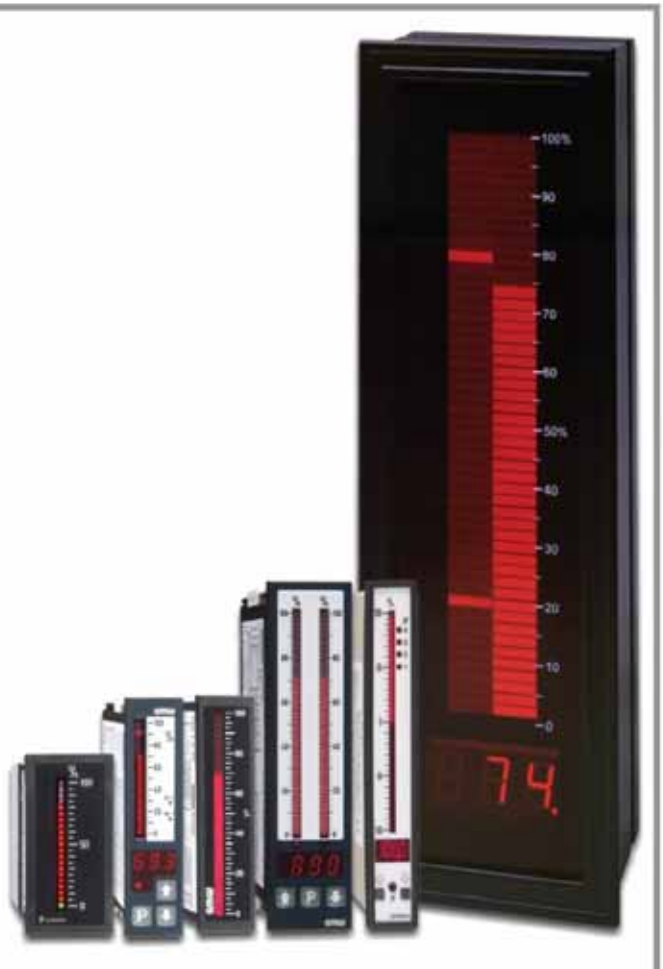
Bar Graph Meters - for the Clearest Indication

Choosing the right display indicator format can significantly simplify the 'usability' and enhance the overall clarity of a control panel or instrumentation. But which style should the system designer choose? There are essentially three formats available today - analogue pointer types, numeric displays or electronic bar graph indicators. As few suppliers offer impartial advice and support for all these formats, the instrumentation specifier is often left to make their selection with limited information.

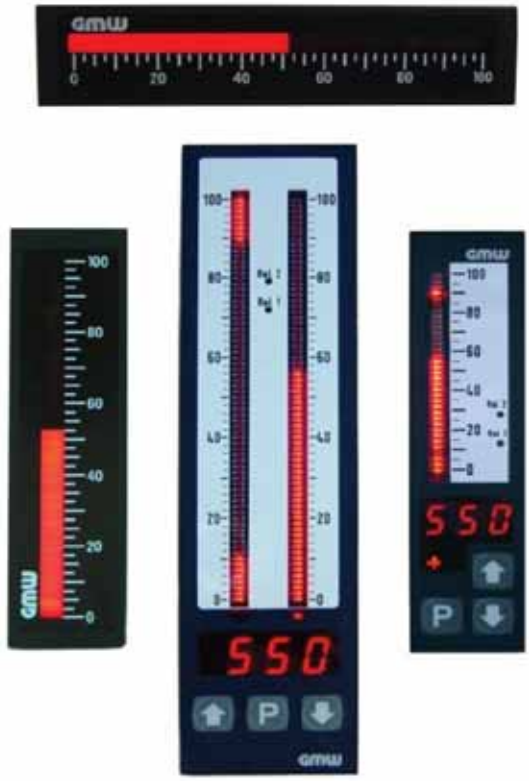
Perhaps the most attractive and flexible, but least known format is the electronic bar graph. Looking in more detail at the specifications and features available today in a modern bar graph meter range reveals an extensive choice of models. These cover simple trend indicators, through general-purpose meters, to sophisticated analogue/digital indicator controller applications.

Electronic bar graph meters are modern alternatives to normal analogue pointer instruments, but with the added advantages of a very wide choice of sizes, greater robustness - making them less sensitive to shock and vibration – and the ability to operate in any orientation. Compared to PC or HMI instrumentation screens, bar graph meters are more intuitive. In industries such as Energy – where installations are rigorously documented and controlled – individual bar graphs avoid the complications inherent with software-driven devices such as plasma or LCD screen displays. For these reasons, bar graph meters are often selected by industries such as power generation when high reliability and predictability are paramount.



Small, Medium or Ultra-large Sizes

Ideal for many process control, automation and laboratory applications, bar graphs display the magnitude of a signal from a sensor, connected directly to the meter inputs, or via a signal conditioning transducer. Direct inputs can include voltage, current, resistance, frequency, temperature sensors and 4-20mA process signals. However, the meters can be scaled to indicate directly in percentage or physical units such as level, speed, flow, temperature and pressure.



Single or Dual Channel, Vertical or Horizontal Versions

View critical information from 10 metres, or more

Particular models offer bargraph scale lengths from a modest 50mm to the ultra-large 1m (1000mm), having between 21 and 201 segments. The largest models can easily be viewed from a distance of 10m, or more. Single or dual channel formats are available that use red, green or multicoloured displays. Most models can be configured with a moving point or ribbon display. This can be either horizontal or vertical in presentation – ideal, for example, to show the level in a storage tank. While the dual channel format provides rapid indication and comparison between two signals 'at a glance'. In some models the bar graph display is complemented by a digital readout – when more precise readings are also required. In addition, the displays can signal input over- or under-range conditions and the alarm limit status of up to four adjustable signal limits that trigger relays or electrical outputs.

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