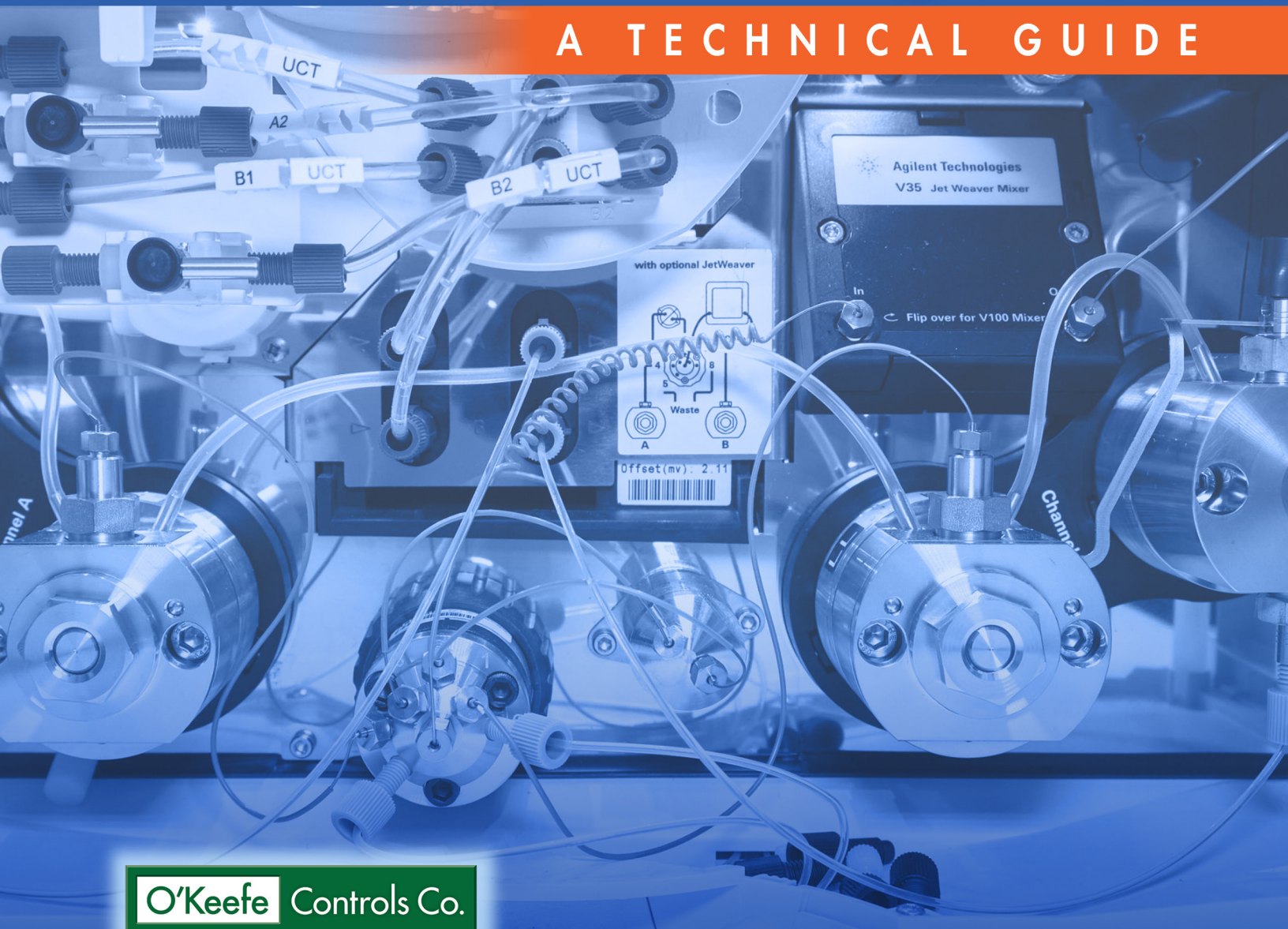




Calculating Liquid Flow Through Orifices

A TECHNICAL GUIDE



O'Keefe Controls Co.

If it's about precision, it's O'Keefe.



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For the broad array of industrial applications concerned with liquid flow control, extremely accurate, repeatable results are necessary to successful operation. To achieve such precision, it is crucial to understand the various factors that are involved in determining the correct orifice size that will create the desired results.

Technical factors which must be considered when calculating liquid flow through orifices include pressure, temperature, type of liquid, and others. To help simplify the selection process, precision orifice manufacturers often provide flow charts within a common range to help engineers specify the correct orifice size for their application. However, not all applications fall within the data set included on the charts.

In addition to providing such charts, our Technical Guide details a number of formulas which can be used to extend orifice flow data beyond the charts, when specific factors of the application require it. These include pressure conversions, liquids other than water, and more. Examples are shown for each, making this a valuable resource for engineers and system designers. If further help is needed regarding a specific application, the engineers at O'Keefe Controls Co. are readily available.

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203.261.6711**

LIQUID FLOW RATE – C_v METHOD

The C_v method of rating flow capacity of various devices employs empirical data based on water flow.

The basic formula for water flow is:

$$Q = C_v \sqrt{\Delta P}$$

Q = flow in GPM

ΔP = pressure differential in psi

C_v = flow factor

For a flow of 1 GPM at $\Delta P = 1$, the $C_v = 1$

To obtain the water flow rate through precision orifices, use the above equation and obtain the C_v value from the charts on pages 5-6.

Example:

Size No. 100 (.100" dia.) has a $C_v = .23$

For a 25 psig pressure differential: $Q = C_v \sqrt{\Delta P} = .23 \sqrt{25} = 1.15$ GPM

Selected flow data is presented on pages 5-6. The chart data assumes flooded conditions on both sides of the orifice. This is particularly important for orifices less than .020" diameter because of surface tension influences.

FLOW CONVERSIONS

GPM x **3.785** = LPM

GPM x **3785** = CCM

GPM x **.1337** = CFM

GPM x **8.021** = CFH

CCM x **.001** = LPM

GPM – gallons per minute

LPM – liters per minute

CCM – cubic centimeters per minute

CFH – cubic feet per hour

CFM – cubic feet per min.

Example:

25 GPM x 3.785 = 94.625 LPM

SPECIFIC GRAVITY — OTHER LIQUIDS

Specific gravity (SG) measures a liquid's density relative to water. Fluids with higher SG (heavier than water) flow more slowly at a given pressure, while lower SG (lighter) fluids flow faster. It acts as a correction factor for calculating volumetric flow rates, pump motor power, and pipe pressure drops.

For liquids other than water, the equation becomes:

$$Q = C_v \sqrt{\frac{\Delta P}{SG}}$$

Where:

SG = Specific gravity of the liquid
(The specific gravity of water is 1.0)

To obtain the flow rate of an oil with S.G. = .85, use the above equation and obtain the C_v value from the charts on pages 5-6.

Example: Size No.100 (.100" dia.) has a C_v =.23

For a 25 psig pressure differential: $Q = C_v \sqrt{\frac{\Delta P}{S.G.}} = .23 \sqrt{\frac{25}{.85}} = 1.25 \text{ GPM}$

Specific Gravity of Various Liquids Relative to Water @ 60°F

Alcohol, Ethyl	.79	Diesel Oil	.85
Gasoline	.75	Lube Oil	.90
Glycerine	1.26	Turpentine	.87
Kerosene	.80	Water	1.00

OTHER ORIFICE SIZES (not on charts)

Using the C_v method for liquid flow, and using measured C_v data we can derive the following formula to calculate required orifice sizes.

$$d_L = \sqrt{\frac{1}{22.5} \frac{Q_L}{\sqrt{\Delta P}}}$$

Where:

d_L = diameter of unknown orifice (in.)

Q_L = required flow (gpm)

Example: Flow rate required = .5 GPM @ $\Delta P = 1.0$ psi

$$d_L = \sqrt{\frac{1}{22.5} \frac{.5}{\sqrt{1}}} = .149 \text{ in. dia.}$$

Also, to obtain the C_v

$$C_{vL} = \frac{Q_L}{\sqrt{\Delta P}} = \frac{.5}{1} = .5$$

C_{vL} = the C_v for the orifice with diameter = d_L

PRESSURE CONVERSIONS

PSIG x **.0703** = Kg/CM²

PSIG x **6.895** = KPA

PSIG x **.0689** = Bars

PSIG x **27.68** = In. H₂O

PSIG - pounds per square inch gage

Kg/CM² - kilograms per square centimeters

KPA - kilo pascals

Bar - unit of pressure equal to 1 atmospheric pressure at sea level

In-H₂O - pressure produced by 1" H₂O

Example:

25 psig x 6.895 = 172.37 KPA

Metal Orifice Water Flow – Gallons/Minute



If it's about precision, it's O'Keefe.

Orifice Diameter Inches	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	31	32	33
1	0.00035	0.0006	0.0009	0.0012	0.0015	0.0019	0.0025	0.0032	0.0040	0.0050	0.0066	0.0083	0.0101	0.0114	0.0132	0.0146	0.0177	0.0193	0.0212	0.023	0.025	0.029	0.032	0.034	0.037	0.042	0.045	0.048	0.050	0.058	0.063	0.066
2	0.00049	0.0009	0.0012	0.0017	0.0021	0.0027	0.0035	0.0044	0.0054	0.0067	0.0083	0.0101	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071
3	0.00061	0.0011	0.0015	0.0021	0.0026	0.0033	0.0043	0.0048	0.0059	0.0074	0.0087	0.0099	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071
4	0.00070	0.0012	0.0017	0.0024	0.0030	0.0038	0.0048	0.0056	0.0066	0.0077	0.0087	0.0099	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071
5	0.00078	0.0014	0.0019	0.0027	0.0034	0.0042	0.0052	0.0061	0.0072	0.0083	0.0093	0.0105	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071
6	0.00086	0.0015	0.0021	0.0029	0.0037	0.0047	0.0056	0.0066	0.0077	0.0087	0.0099	0.0105	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071
7	0.00093	0.0016	0.0023	0.0032	0.0040	0.0050	0.0060	0.0071	0.0083	0.0093	0.0105	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071	
8	0.00099	0.0017	0.0024	0.0034	0.0044	0.0054	0.0066	0.0077	0.0087	0.0099	0.0105	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071	
9	0.00105	0.0018	0.0026	0.0036	0.0045	0.0055	0.0066	0.0077	0.0087	0.0099	0.0105	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071	
10	0.00111	0.0019	0.0027	0.0038	0.0047	0.0058	0.0069	0.0080	0.0091	0.0102	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071	0.075	
15	0.00136	0.0024	0.0033	0.0044	0.0054	0.0065	0.0076	0.0087	0.0099	0.0102	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071	0.075	
20	0.00157	0.0027	0.0038	0.0047	0.0058	0.0069	0.0080	0.0091	0.0102	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071	0.075	0.079	
30	0.00192	0.0033	0.0044	0.0054	0.0065	0.0076	0.0087	0.0099	0.0102	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071	0.075	0.079	
40	0.00221	0.0039	0.0054	0.0066	0.0077	0.0087	0.0099	0.0102	0.0114	0.0129	0.0146	0.0165	0.0190	0.0206	0.0226	0.025	0.027	0.031	0.034	0.037	0.040	0.045	0.048	0.051	0.054	0.062	0.067	0.071	0.075	0.079	0.083	
50	0.00247	0.0043	0.0061	0.0076	0.0091	0.0106	0.0120	0.0134	0.0147	0.0161	0.0175	0.0188	0.0202	0.0216	0.0229	0.0243	0.0256	0.0269	0.0282	0.0295	0.0308	0.0321	0.0334	0.0347	0.0360	0.0373	0.0386	0.0399	0.0412	0.0425	0.0438	
60	0.00271	0.0047	0.0067	0.0083	0.0101	0.0116	0.0131	0.0146	0.0161	0.0176	0.0191	0.0206	0.0221	0.0236	0.0251	0.0266	0.0281	0.0296	0.0311	0.0326	0.0341	0.0356	0.0371	0.0386	0.0401	0.0416	0.0431	0.0446	0.0461	0.0476	0.0491	
70	0.00293	0.0051	0.0072	0.0100	0.0125	0.0159	0.0209	0.0234	0.0268	0.0304	0.0340	0.0376	0.0412	0.0448	0.0484	0.0520	0.0556	0.0592	0.0628	0.0664	0.0700	0.0736	0.0772	0.0808	0.0844	0.0880	0.0916	0.0952	0.0988	0.1024	0.1060	
80	0.00313	0.0055	0.0077	0.0107	0.0134	0.0170	0.0224	0.0250	0.0294	0.0340	0.0386	0.0432	0.0478	0.0524	0.0570	0.0616	0.0662	0.0708	0.0754	0.0800	0.0846	0.0892	0.0938	0.0984	0.1030	0.1076	0.1122	0.1168	0.1214	0.1260	0.1306	
90	0.00332	0.0058	0.0082	0.0114	0.0142	0.0180	0.0237	0.0266	0.0323	0.0360	0.0408	0.0456	0.0504	0.0552	0.0600	0.0648	0.0696	0.0744	0.0792	0.0840	0.0888	0.0936	0.0984	0.1032	0.1080	0.1128	0.1176	0.1224	0.1272	0.1320	0.1368	
100	0.00350	0.0061	0.0086	0.0120	0.0150	0.0190	0.0250	0.0280	0.0340	0.0380	0.0430	0.0480	0.0530	0.0580	0.0630	0.0680	0.0730	0.0780	0.0830	0.0880	0.0930	0.0980	0.1030	0.1080	0.1130	0.1180	0.1230	0.1280	0.1330	0.1380	0.1430	
0.035	0.037	0.038	0.039	0.04	0.041	0.042	0.043	0.044	0.045	0.046	0.047	0.048	0.049	0.050	0.051	0.052	0.053	0.054	0.055	0.056	0.057	0.058	0.059	0.060	0.061	0.062	0.063	0.064	0.065	0.066	0.067	
0.068	0.072	0.074	0.077	0.080	0.083	0.086	0.089	0.092	0.095	0.098	0.101	0.103	0.106	0.109	0.112	0.115	0.118	0.121	0.124	0.127	0.130	0.133	0.136	0.139	0.142	0.145	0.148	0.151	0.154	0.157	0.160	
0.180	0.188	0.191	0.194	0.197	0.200	0.203	0.206	0.209	0.212	0.215	0.218	0.221	0.224	0.227	0.230	0.233	0.236	0.239	0.242	0.245	0.248	0.251	0.254	0.257	0.260	0.263	0.266	0.269	0.272	0.275	0.278	
0.280	0.288	0.291	0.294	0.297	0.300	0.303	0.306	0.309	0.312	0.315	0.318	0.321	0.324	0.327	0.330	0.333	0.336	0.339	0.342	0.345	0.348	0.351	0.354	0.357	0.360	0.363	0.366	0.369	0.372	0.375	0.378	
0.380	0.388	0.391	0.394	0.397	0.400	0.403	0.406	0.409	0.412	0.415	0.418	0.421	0.424	0.427	0.430	0.433	0.436	0.439	0.442	0.445	0.448	0.451	0.454	0.457	0.460	0.463	0.466	0.469	0.472	0.475	0.478	
0.480	0.488	0.491	0.494	0.497	0.500	0.503	0.506	0.509	0.512	0.515	0.518	0.521	0.524	0.527	0.530	0.533	0.536	0.539	0.542	0.545	0.548	0.551	0.554	0.557	0.560	0.563	0.566	0.569	0.572	0.575	0.578	
0.580	0.588	0.591	0.594	0.597	0.600	0.603	0.606	0.609	0.612	0.615	0.618	0.621	0.624	0.627	0.630	0.633	0.636	0.639	0.642	0.645	0.648	0.651	0.654	0.657	0.660	0.663	0.666	0.669	0.672	0.675	0.678	
0.680	0.688	0.691	0.694	0.697	0.700	0.703	0.706	0.709	0.712	0.715	0.718	0.721	0.724	0.727	0.730	0.733	0.736	0.739	0.742	0.745	0.748	0.751	0.754	0.757	0.760	0.763	0.766	0.769	0.772	0.775	0.778	
0.780	0.788	0.791	0.794	0.797	0.800	0.803	0.806	0.809	0.812	0.815	0.818	0.821	0.824	0.827	0.830	0.833	0.836	0.839	0.842	0.845	0.848	0.851	0.854	0.857	0.860	0.863	0.866	0.869	0.872	0.875	0.878	
0.880	0.888	0.891	0.894	0.897	0.900	0.903	0.906	0.909	0.912	0.915	0.918	0.921	0.924	0.927	0.930	0.933	0.936	0.939	0.942	0.945	0.948	0.951	0.954	0.957	0.960	0.963	0.966	0.969	0.972	0.975	0.978	
0.980	0.988	0.991	0.994	0.997	1.000	1.003	1.006	1.009	1.012	1.015	1.018	1.021	1.024	1.027	1.030	1.033	1.036	1.039	1.042	1.045	1.048	1.051	1.054	1.057	1.060	1.063	1.066	1.069	1.072	1.075	1.078	
1.080	1.088	1.091	1.094	1.097	1.100	1.103	1.106	1.109	1.112	1.115	1.118	1.121	1.124	1.127	1.130	1.133	1.136	1.139	1.142	1.145	1.148	1.151	1.154	1.157	1.160	1.163	1.166	1.169	1.172	1.175	1.178	
1.180	1.188	1.191	1.194	1.197	1.200	1.203	1.206	1.209	1.212	1.215	1.218	1.221	1.224	1.227	1.230	1.233	1.236	1.239	1.242	1.245	1.248	1.251	1.254	1.257	1.260	1.263	1.266	1.269	1.272	1.275	1.278	
1.280	1.288	1.291	1.294	1.297	1.300	1.303	1.306	1.309	1.312	1.315	1.318	1.321	1.324	1.327	1.330	1.333	1.336	1.339	1.342	1.345	1.348	1.351	1.354	1.357	1.360	1.363	1.366	1.369	1.372	1.375	1.378	
1.380	1.388	1.391	1.394	1.397	1.400	1.403	1.406	1.409	1.412	1.415	1.418	1.421	1.424	1.427	1.430	1.433	1.436	1.439	1.442	1.445	1.448	1.451	1.454	1.457	1.460	1.463	1.466	1.469	1.472	1.475	1.478	
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