

# SOLAR DIFFERENTIAL TEMPERATURE CONTROLLER DDT2

## USER MANUAL

### Description of the controller

DDT2 is a digital differential thermostat (the controller) for solar water heating and other applications with one relay output and two inputs for temperature sensors.

The controller consists of the front panel, with alphanumeric liquid crystal display (LCD) and two buttons, and the case.

The display on the front panel (in default view) shows both sensors temperatures in degrees Celsius: temperature A, temperature B, and their difference when applicable. It also indicate the current operational status of the running mode and of the relay output (**R:1** – on, **R:0** – off).

The display features a background light that is activated by pressing any key. When background light is active, the left button has SELECT/CONFIG function and the right button has UP/DOWN function.

When no button is pressed for approximate 5 seconds, backlight turns off.

The case also houses power supply and screw terminals for connecting wires. For more information about wiring see section [installation](#).

### Running modes

The controller can run in one of the four modes: MODE OFF, MODE ON, MODE ONE (differential thermostat) or MODE TWO (thermostat).

In first two modes, output relay is constantly turned on or off, regardless of the temperature readings. In remaining two modes the controller operates by comparing two (or four) values and decides the state of the output relay.

To select running mode or set the hysteresis (made of first,  $\Delta 1$ , and second difference,  $\Delta 2$ ), refer to [configuration](#) section.

#### MODE ONE (differential thermostat)

This mode is commonly used in solar heating and other applications with daily variable temperature of energy source.

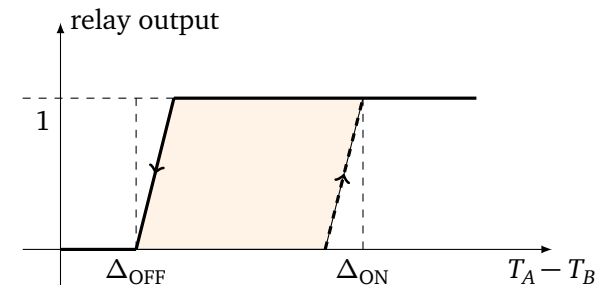
The controller running this mode compares four values: source temperature at sensor A ( $T_A$ ), sink temperature at sensor B ( $T_B$ ), target point ( $T_{stop}$ ) temperature and minimal starting ( $T_{start}$ ) temperature as follows.

The controller will switch relay output on, and will

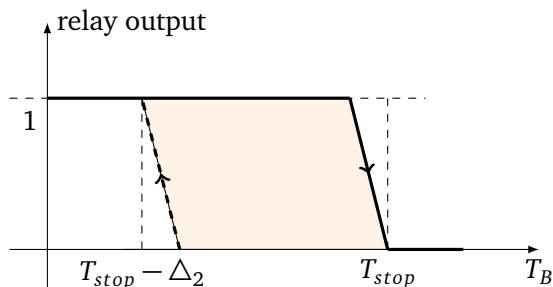
show ▲ (black triangle up) next to relay output status, when all the following three conditions are satisfied:

- source temperature  $T_A$  is greater or equal minimal starting  $T_{start}$  temperature,
- sink temperature  $T_B$  is less that target  $T_{stop}$  temperature, and
- the difference between source temperature  $T_A$  and sink temperature  $T_B$ , i.e.  $T_A - T_B$ , is above or equal to  $\Delta_{ON}$  degrees.

When the difference  $T_A - T_B$  falls below or is equal to  $\Delta_{OFF}$  degrees (the last criterion is not satisfied), the controller displays ▼ (black triangle down) and switches relay output off.



Furthermore, if temperature  $T_B$  reaches target point temperature, i.e.  $T_B \geq T_{stop}$ , then the controller displays **Tm** and the relay switches off. When temperature  $T_B$  falls below  $T_{stop}$  for  $\Delta 2$  degrees, status of output relay depends on temperature  $T_A$  as described in this paragraph.



Note, that relay response might be delayed due to relay delay protection.

### Turn on $\Delta_{ON}$ and turn off $\Delta_{OFF}$ difference

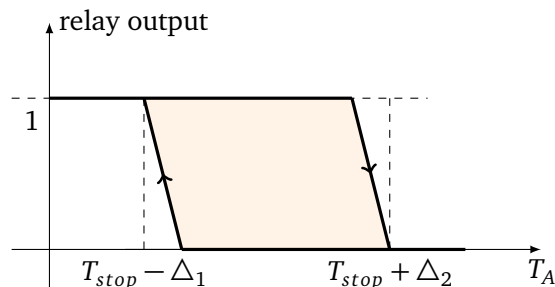
Values of  $\Delta_{ON}$  and  $\Delta_{OFF}$  are derived from  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  as minimum and maximum. For instance, if  $\Delta_1 < \Delta_2$ , then  $\Delta_{OFF} = \Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_{ON} = \Delta_2$ . When  $\Delta_1 = \Delta_2$ , then  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  are adapted, eg.  $\Delta_1$  lowers for 0.5 degrees and  $\Delta_2$  increases for 0.5 degrees.

### MODE TWO (thermostat)

In this mode, the controller compares two values: temperature at sensor A ( $T_A$ ) and target point ( $T_{stop}$ ) temperature as follows.

When the temperature  $T_A$  falls below target temperature  $T_{stop}$  for  $\Delta_1$  degrees, the controller will display ▼, negative temperature difference, and will switch relay output on.

When the temperature  $T_A$  rises above  $T_{stop}$  for  $\Delta_2$  degrees, the controller displays ▲, positive temperature difference, and switches relay output off.



This mode is useful for turning on the heater (for more powerful heater or air conditioner an additional external relay must be used), but it is also suitable for cooling with air conditioner since the relay state could be inverted (in configuration under *invert output* option).

### MODE ON and MODE OFF

These two modes are most used for testing connection to the pump and when operation of pump is not desired, e.g. winter time.

Note that MODE OFF does not disconnect power to the pump completely.

### Other functions

#### Indicator for warning

When an error occurs: absent sensor, sensor reading error, insufficient flow or overheat protection, the display backlight blinks each second.

**Indicator of insufficient flow** If the temperature of source increases for additional 2 °C in 120 seconds after turning the relay on when running in MODE ONE the display shows F.

### Solar panel overheat protection

When the temperature value of 90 °C is exceeded at the source sensor A, the controller displays P and switches relay on, until the temperature has dropped for 5 °C. Note, target temperature could be heated over the adjusted  $T_{stop}$  value. This function is only active in MODE ONE.

### Relay delay protection

When operating in MODE ONE or MODE TWO the delay protection make sure that relay always stays in same state for at least half a minute.

### Running hours counter

The controller counts the seconds of its operation and of the relay output activity. Moreover, it also counts the minutes the relay was on in last two hours (if the controller is already running for two hours). These values are shown at **debug mode** and are lost at power loss. Furthermore, the controller also counts full hours of its operation and of its relay output. These values are not lost at power loss.

## Configuration

To configure the controller press SELECT/CONFIG button at default view. Depending on selected option, there could be plus (+), minus (-), or arrow sign (→) before its name. If a option has numeric type, its value is increased or decreased by UP/DOWN button, depending on sign, otherwise the button iterates between values. To change the sign and move between options use SELECT/CONFIG button. After the end of configuration options or at backlight shut down the display

returns to default view and configuration is saved.

#### Options: $\Delta 1$ and $\Delta 2$

These two configuration options represent turn on and turn off difference – hysteresis. It is advisable, that values of  $\Delta 1$  and  $\Delta 2$  differ for at least 2 °C.

#### Options: Target T and Start T

**Target T** ( $T_{stop}$ ) represents desired temperature of water storage tank, and **Start T** ( $T_{start}$ ) minimum source temperature required to start operating. This setting is useful when the controller is operating with oil or wood furnace and this function is operating only when running in MODE ONE.

#### Option: Offset

If the value of sensor is too high or too low, this could be improved by setting sufficient offset.

#### Option: Invert output

When running in MODE TWO and when desired temperature is higher than current, the controller applies power to the output screw connector. This behaviour is suitable for heating, but in case of cooling, **Invert out** must be set to YES, hence enabling the power will be applied when desired temperature is lower than current.

#### Options: Sensors type

By default controller at power on detects the type of sensors used. If it fails these two options could override its detection.

#### Option: Run on error

This option controls the relay output at error, e.g. missing sensors. By default the output turns on, thus protecting energy source. This safety option can be turned off in configuration (setting: –) or changed so that relay output switches off in case

of error (setting: NO).

## Summary

The summary of available options, with their default values in bold, in the following table.

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$\Delta 1$	from 1,0 to 20,0 °C, <b>6,0 °C</b>
$\Delta 2$	from 1,0 to 20,0 °C, <b>2,0 °C</b>
Program	<b>OFF</b> , ON, M1, M2
Target T	from 6,0 to 90,0 °C, <b>60,0 °C</b>
Start T	from 6,0 to 60,0 °C, <b>30,0 °C</b>
Offset A	from –2,0 to 2,0 °C, <b>0,0 °C</b>
Offset B	from –2,0 to 2,0 °C, <b>0,0 °C</b>
Invert output	<b>NO</b> , YES
Sensor A	<b>automatic</b> , DS1820, NTC10k
Sensor B	<b>automatic</b> , DS1820, NTC10k
Run on error	NO, <b>YES</b> , –

All numeric values are adjustable in 0.5 °C steps.

## Installation

When used as a controller for water pump, the first (source) sensor is fitted to the outlet pipe of the solar heating panel (usually on the roof), and the second sensor under the insulation on the side of the hot water tank. For any other differential thermostat applications — e.g. turning on a fan to drive warm air from a sunny conservatory into the rest of the house, the first sensor is to be located at the heat source, and the second sensor at the location to be heated. Since the source is warmer than sink, for source sensor high temperature resistant sensor

should be used.

The most common way to install the controller is by attaching it on the wall at eye level and its wiring as well. First, open the controller by loosening four screws, and disconnect front display panel by disconnecting ribbon cable. Then unscrew two (or four) screws to remove the circuit board. Attach the case to the wall (with screws) and fill holes with rubber parts. Put circuit board back on.

Cable extensions, up to 10 m length, should be made with cables from 0.25 mm<sup>2</sup> to 0.75 mm<sup>2</sup> for sensors, and from 2 × 0.75 mm<sup>2</sup> to 2 × 1.5 mm<sup>2</sup> for mains and pump.

All wires must go through four glands at the side (usually bottom) of the case. Power input (mains AC 230 V) wires are connected to the screw terminal named **POWER**. Water pump (or an additional external relay for more power-demanding devices) is connected directly to the output screw terminal named **PUMP** and it's protected by a fuse. In other words, this screw terminal outputs main voltage. Connect the source temperature sensor – sensor A – to screw terminal **IN A** and sink temperature sensor – sensor B – to **IN B**.

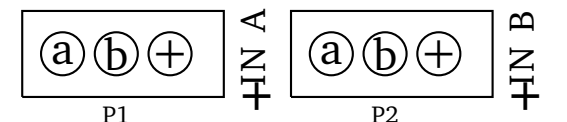
Sensor B when running in MODE TWO is not required.

Analog, two pin, sensors use left two pins (a) and (b), colors are not important.

Digital, three pin, sensors use all three pins, where wire color of sensors is important. Wires of supplied sensors might come in two different color arrangements: green, white and brown or black, yellow and red. Connect as follows: **green** (a),

white **(b)** and brown wire **(+)** or black **(a)**, yellow **(b)** and red wire **(+)**.

Input pins for both terminals are labeled as in the following picture. Plus sign is also printed on circuit board. Bottom line represents the bottom edge of the circuit board.



#### DS18B20 (3 pin)

pin	color	description
(a)	green or black	ground
(b)	white or yellow	data
(+)	brown or red	VCC

#### NTC10k (2 pin)

pin	color	description
(a)	brown or red	pole 1
(b)	white or blue	pole 2

Connect display unit back (using ribbon cable), close the controller and apply power to the controller.

At first powering on, the controller will load default values and detect type of sensors: digital (DS18B20) or analog (NTC10k) and start running mode: MODE OFF (manual off).

## Troubleshooting

At the default view, values of the two temperature sensors are displayed, or a question mark (?), when sensor is missing, or an x (X), when sensor wires are in short circuit, or a dash (-) in case of sensor error reading. Moreover, the controller will display E when a running mode is unable to access sensor reading and making a decisions. In this case output relay status is defined by configuration: "Run on error".

If sensor is present, but error persists, check cable and joints. In case of automatic sensor detection, sensor must be present at powering the controller on. This, automatic sensor detection, could be turned off in the configuration. Then make sure you selected right option: DS1820 for digital three pin sensor and NTC10k for analog two pin sensor.

## Debugging

The controller has a debug mode build-in that could be accessed from the default view by long-pressing UP/DOWN button. To display next value – move between displays – press the same button again.

The following values are shown (in this sequence): running hours counters, input sensor status, ADC values, and output status, software revision and built date.

## Warning

When working on the controller and the connected consumers (heating/cooling devices) all poles of the mains voltage must be disconnected first!

Do not expose a digital temperature probe with PVC wires to temperatures higher than 80 °C and longterm higher than 70 °C. Do not expose an analog temperature probe with silicone wires to temperatures higher than 150 °C.

## Limited liability

We take no liability for damage that occurred at device installation, during power outage, or due to misconfiguration.

Solar systems should be equip with all necessary safety elements, e.g. pressure relief valve, and filled with antifreeze, e.g. glycol, or emptied when heat transfer liquid inside the system might freeze to prevent damages.