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- ① Original spec 16-2-96
- ② Replacement sheet 23-8-96
- ③ Replacement sheet 17-11-97

Title: FLOW CONTROL DEVICE

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a flow control device of the kind for inserting into a conduit to control the flow rate of fluid therethrough. The conduit may be a length of pipe or form part of a tap, valve or other control device.

BACKGROUND ART

Simple prior art flow control devices of this kind have included the use of substantially planar orifice plates comprising a flat plate with a central orifice. However, control devices of this kind are known to be noisy and inefficient.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a simple flow control device that overcomes or at least ameliorates one or more of the disadvantages of the prior art.

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DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

According to the invention as presently contemplated there is provided a flow control device for insertion into a conduit to control the flow rate of fluid flow therethrough, said device comprising:

two opposed dished baffle plates defining a chamber therebetween, each baffle plate having a generally centrally located orifice therein,

said device being adapted for positioning substantially transverse to the longitudinal extent of said conduit to divert fluid flow through said spaced orifices.

Preferably the curvature of the dished baffle plates, expressed as a ratio of maximum axial depression relative to average conduit width, is approximately 1 to 5.

In a preferred embodiment, the baffle plates are approximately circular in profile, adapted to suit a conduit of similar circular cross-section.

Desirably, the ratio of the diameter of the orifice formed in each baffle plate to the average conduit width or diameter is in the range of from 0.1 to 0.4.

In a preferred form, the flow control device includes, on a downstream side, one or more additional dished baffle plates positioned in a nested configuration so as to provide a space between the orifice on the downstream side of the device and the



orifice of the additional plate. These additional baffles are used to fine tune the flow rate.

Preferably, the size of the orifice provided in the downstream plate or plates is smaller than the orifice provided in the upstream plate, the orifice sizes being selected to achieve a predetermined flow rate.

In one preferred form, the baffle plates are formed with substantially planar peripheral flanges for locating the device intermediate two adjoining lengths of conduit.

In an alternate embodiment, the device is mounted on a male threaded member, in the form, for example, of an externally threaded sleeve, for insertion and location within a conduit having a complementary female threaded portion.

Preferred embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a schematic sectional view of a first embodiment of the flow control device according to the invention including planar mounting flanges.

Figure 2 is a schematic sectional view of a second embodiment according to the invention, in which the device is mounted to an externally threaded sleeve.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Referring to the drawings, the device 1 comprises



two opposed dished baffle plates 2 and 3 forming the upstream and downstream sides of the device respectively and defining a chamber 4 therebetween. An additional dished baffle plate 5 is disposed adjacent the downstream plate 3.

Each of the baffle plates 2, 3 and 5 have a generally centrally located orifice designated 6, 7 and 8 respectively. The additional baffle 5 is positioned in a nested configuration so as to provide a space between the adjacent orifices 7 and 8. These extra baffle plates are used to fine tune the flow rate.

Referring now to Figure 1, the baffle plates 2, 3 and 5 are each provided with substantially planar peripheral flanges 10, 11 and 12 respectively, which serve to locate the device intermediate to adjoining lengths of conduit (not shown).

In an alternate embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, the baffle plates 2, 3 and 5 are pre-assembled to an externally threaded sleeve 15, which enables insertion and location of the device within a conduit having a complementary female threaded portion.

In use, the device is positioned substantially transverse to the longitudinal extent of the conduit as shown in Figure 1, so as to divert fluid flow along the conduit through the spaced orifices 6, 7 and 8.

The flow rate can be adjusted by selecting baffle plates with varying orifice sizes and varying the size



and number of additional baffle plates 5.

A series of tests were conducted using a basic device comprising only the upstream and downstream baffle plates 2 and 3 located in a conduit or pipe having a 15 millimetre internal diameter. The orifice sizes were varied and the flow rate measured for a 300 KPa pressure reading. The results are as follows.

<u>Valve Size</u>	<u>Flow Rate Litres Per Minute</u>
6mm/6mm	30
6mm/5mm	24
5mm/5mm	20
5mm/4.5mm	18
6mm/4.5mm	16
6mm/4mm	15
5mm/4mm	14
6mm/3.5mm	11
5mm/3.5mm	10.5
6mm/3mm	9
4mm/3mm	8
6mm/2.5mm	6
5mm/2mm	5
4mm/2mm	4.5
6mm/1.5mm	2.5

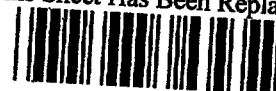
The device can be made from any suitable material including, for example, various sheet metals or

plastics according to the intended application.

It has been found that flow control devices according to the invention are generally of an improved efficiency and quieter than the simple orifice plate style prior art devices. It is thought that these advantages of the invention arise from containing the turbulence generated by flow through the orifices within the chamber formed between the two dished baffle plates.

Although the invention has been described with reference to specific examples, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the arts that the invention can be embodied in many other forms.

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CLAIMS

1. A flow control device for insertion into a conduit to control the flow rate of fluid flow therethrough, said device comprising:

two opposed dished baffle plates defining a chamber therebetween, each baffle plate having a generally centrally located orifice therein,

said device being adapted for positioning substantially transverse to the longitudinal extent of said conduit to divert fluid flow through said spaced orifices.

2. A flow control device according to claim 1 wherein the curvature of the dished baffle plates expressed as the ratio of maximum axial depression relative to average conduit width is approximately 1 to 5.

3. A flow control device according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the orifice diameter in each baffle is in the range of from 0.1 to 0.4 of the average conduit width.

4. A flow control device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the baffle plates are approximately circular.

5. A flow control device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the device includes, on a downstream side, one or more additional dished baffle plates positioned in a nested configuration so as to provide a space between the downstream orifice of the device and the orifice of the additional plate.

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6. A flow control device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the size of orifice provided in the downstream plate or plates is smaller than the orifice provided in the upstream plate, the orifice sizes being selected to achieve a predetermined flow rate.

7. A flow control device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the baffle plates are formed with substantially planar peripheral flanges for locating the device intermediate two adjoining lengths of conduit.

8. A flow control device according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the device is mounted on a sleeve forming a male threaded member for insertion and location within a conduit having a complementary female threaded portion.

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