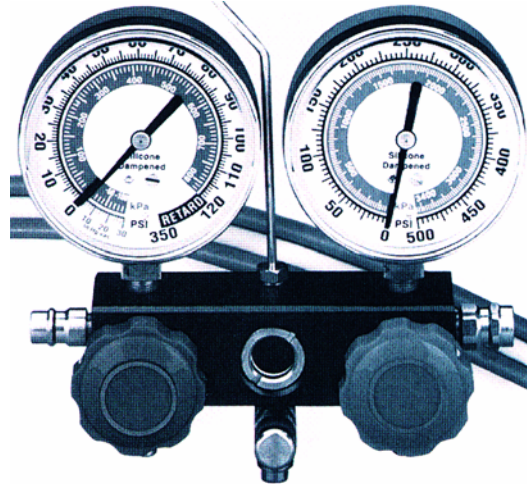


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**AUTOMOTIVE AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR**

**Question:**

What do gauge readings mean?

**Answer:**



The accepted method of determining if the system is operating correctly is by reading pressures in the system. There is a high or discharge side and a low or suction side. The high side pressure will be relevant to the outside air temperature. The low side will be relevant to the expansion valve or orifice tube. Reading pressures at the compressor is an accurate method to determine the operation of the system. Pressure in and pressure out.

Older vehicles all had gauge connections at or near the compressor. Modern vehicles, because the compressor is mounted low on the engine, the service fittings have been located away from the compressor. The ports have been located where it is convenient to get to them. These pressures will still indicate how the system is operating, but are not good indicators for troubleshooting the system as when the service ports are located at the compressor.

Pressure indicates the temperature of the refrigerant. There is a direct relationship between the two. Read the pressure, refer to P/T chart and it will give the temperature it should be. Because pressure can't read superheat, temperature could be higher than pressures indicate. This would make it mandatory to read temperature of the AC pipes.