

DOC'S BLOCKS
AUTOMOTIVE AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR

Question:

How can a test be done to determine if a reed valve is broken or leaking?

Answer:

The symptoms of a leaking reed valve are higher than normal low side pressure and no cooling. The high side pressures may be normal to a little lower than normal. Generally, the suction hose would be nearly as hot as the discharge hose.

The test is nearly the same as testing for a leaking orifice tube o-ring. With gauges connected, start car and turn on the unit. The gauge pressures should read higher than normal on the low side and normal to lower than normal on the high side. While watching the pressures, increase the RPM sharply to about 2000 RPM. A normal system, the low side pressure would drop. If the reed valves are leaking, the low side pressure will increase and the suction line will likely get warmer. When the system is turned off, the high and low side pressure would equalize rapidly. The compressor would have to be replaced if this test proves the valves are leaking.