

*DOC'S BLOCKS*  
**AUTOMOTIVE AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR**

**Question:**

Can an orifice tube be put in backwards?

**Answer:**

The orifice tube assembly is made with, what is referred to, as a set of bat wings. There are tabs near the end of the tube for the purpose of installing a tool for the removal of the orifice from the pipe. These bat wings may be on either end of the orifice because of where the orifice is installed. The majority are located some where in the liquid line but it could also be in the condenser.

As stated, previously, the orifice is just a piece of tubing, incased in plastic and protected by screens. To put an orifice in backwards, the bat wings may have to be cut off. This could make it difficult to remove the orifice at a latter time. The operation of the orifice would still be the same. Either end of the tubing inside the orifice tube assembly is an inlet or outlet. The only difference is the screens. The smaller screen that was to be the outlet is a finer mesh. It is, in its self, a restriction regardless of the direction of flow of the refrigerant. The only way it could effect the operation of the system is that the screen would require less foreign material to stop it up. The o-rings on the assembly will seal regardless of the direction it is installed.

The orifice assembly should be installed with the end with the larger screen toward the flow of the refrigerant.

