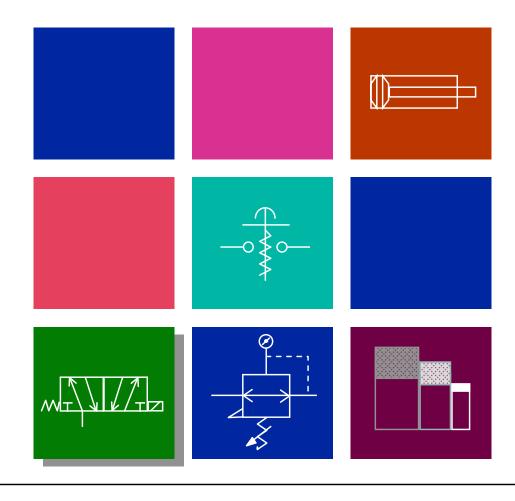


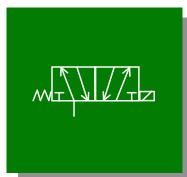


TRAINING GROUP

# Valves Training Manual



# Valves Training Manual



This manual was prepared and published by:

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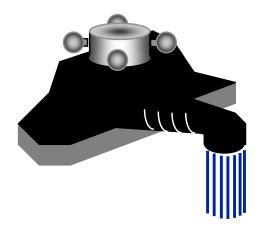
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Printed in U.S.A.. OM- 11/94

#### **Basic Information**

#### What is a Valve?

A mechanical device used to direct the flow of a fluid -- pneumatic directional control valves are used to direct air flow.



Valves are described by:

- Flow directions
- Normal or start condition
- Number of ports
- Operator type
- Number of positions

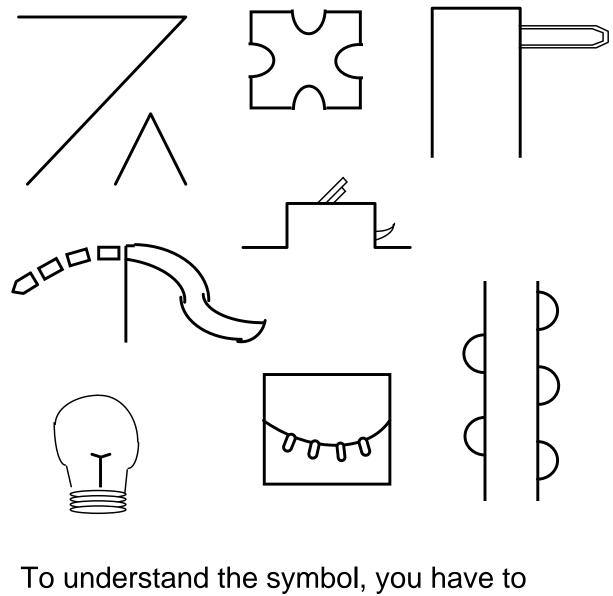
### OR

Valves are defined by their respective symbol

### CONCEPT

### What is a Symbol?

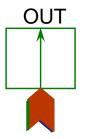
A graphic representation of an idea.



possess some understanding of what the symbol is showing.

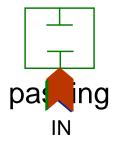
### **Flow Paths**

With pneumatic symbols, our concern is flow



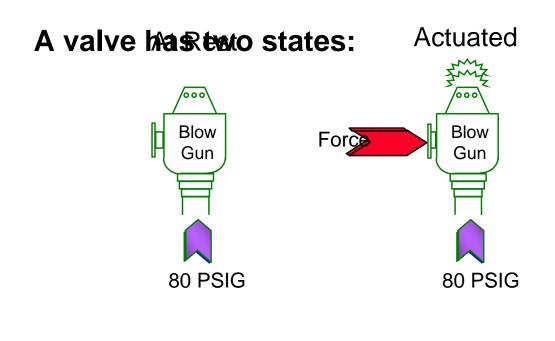
A flow path May be called <u>open</u> or <u>passing</u> Shows flow in the direction of the arrow

#### -- AND --

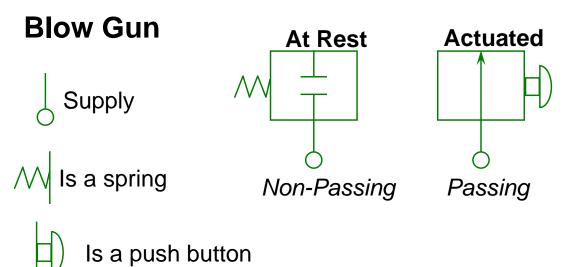


No flow path May be called closed or non-

Shows a blocked flow path



### Basics



### **Blow Gun**

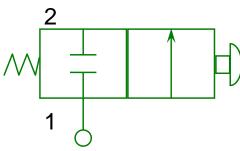
- When the button is pushed, air flows through the device
- Release the button, air does not flow through the device because a spring provides a force to return the valve to its initial or original closed condition
- We say: At rest the spring is in command
- At rest is the normal position of the valve
- There are two conditions for the blow gun -- each has its own box
- A complete symbol shows both conditions

#### **Basic Information**

2/2



Valves



#### Description

2 Way 2 Position Normally non-passing Push button, spring return Operator type 2 Ports

2 Flow directions Actuated/At rest At start condition 1 and 2

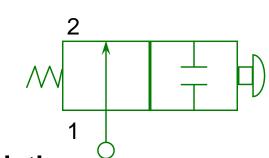
- Two flow directions -- either passing or non-passing
- Start condition (normal or at rest condition) is determined by the spring
- Two ports -- although both conditions are shown, the valve shown has only two ports.

The symbol shows the valve as it is (non-passing) and as it can be (passing)

- Operators appear at both ends of the flow path symbols
  - When the operator is in command, the flow path next to the operator is caused.

2/2

### Two Way



#### Description

2 Way 2 Position Normally-passing Push button, spring return 2 Ports

2 Flow directions Actuated/At rest At start condition Operator type 1 and 2

- At rest, this valve allows supply to pass through when actuated, flow is interrupted.
- There is no standard for labeling ports that is universally accepted by all manufacturers.
- Referred to as 2/2 for two ported/two position without regard for flow path.

#### **Operators**

**Common Pneumatic Operators** 

- Push Button
  - Solenoid
- Air Pilot
  - Solenoid/Air 
     Pilot

0

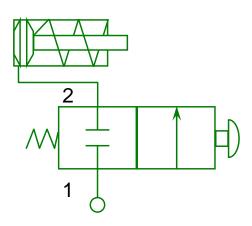
 $| \triangleleft |$ 

- Detent
- Hand Lever
- Cam Roller
  - Spring
  - Treadle/Foot Pedal

Manual

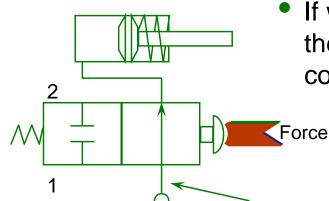
### Application





#### Single acting air cylinder

- Requires air pressure to extend -- spring will retract the cylinder
- Only one port, rod end open to atmosphere --Avented At Rest



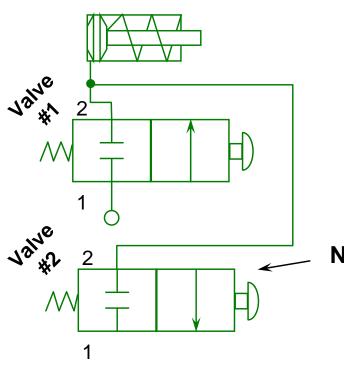
 If we push the button, the cylinder extends, compressing the spring

Symbol shows valve actuated

as shown above, we now release the button --after shifting the valve and extending the cylinder ...

### WHAT HAPPENS?

### Application



Note: Arrow has changed direction indicating correct flow direction

#### The only way to retract the cylinder is to exhaust (vent) the trapped air downstream of valve #1 Now -- @ Start:

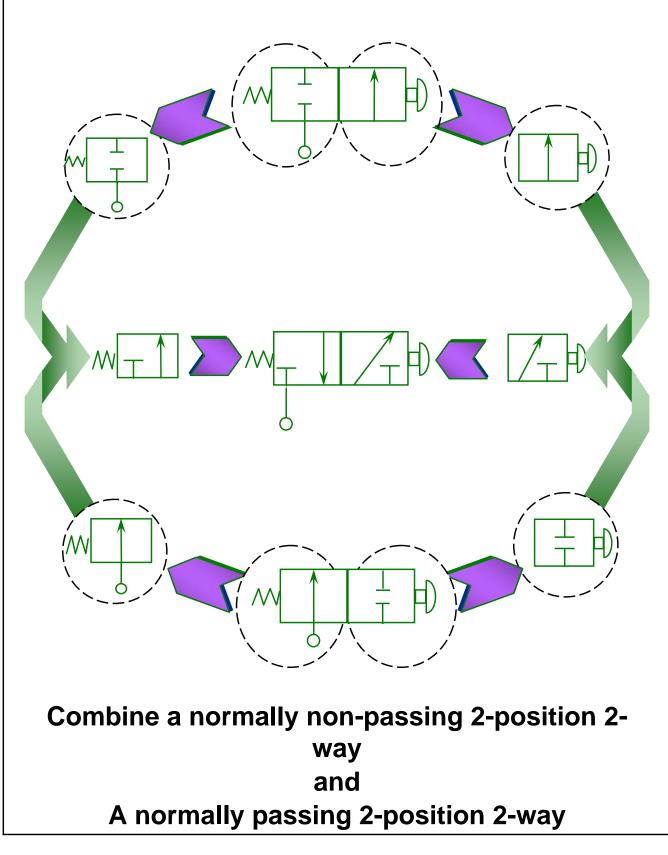
Valve #1 at rest Cylinder is retracted (spring) Actuate Valve #1 Cylinder extends Release Valve #1 Cylinder stays extended Actuate Valve #2 Cylinder retracts Release Valve #2 No action



If the cylinder was a double acting air cylinder -- we'd have to do this at both ports...

#### Symbology

#### **Flow Paths --- Three Way Valves**



### Three Way

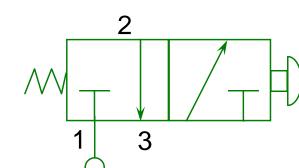


3-Way3 flow directions2-PositionActuated/At restNormally Non-PassingAt start conditionPush Button, Spring ReturnOperator type3 Ports1, 2, and 3

3 Flow Directions --- Non-passing, flow from 2 to 3, flow from 1 to 2

Start condition determined by spring

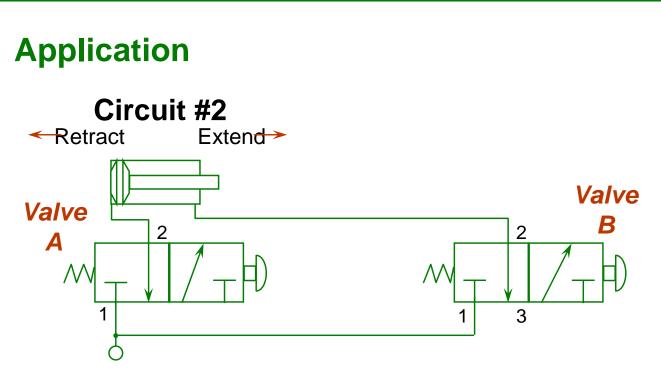
3 Ports --- there is no one standard --- may be identified as P, C, E or P, C, X or various other systems. You must verify function --- do not assume!



### 3/2

Symbology

Symbology



- *Note:* Supply to both valves is from one source, so pressure at valve A is the same as at valve B
- What is the cylinder's position at start? (Start is when we've piped the circuit as shown and the first time supply is presented to both valves).
- What happens when we actuate only valve A?
- What happens when we actuate only valve B?
- What happens when we actuate both valve A and valve B?

### Are You Certain?

#### **Can You Explain Why?**

### **Three Way**

**Description:** 

3-Way3 flow directions2-PositionActuated/At restNormally PassingStart conditionPush Button, Spring ReturnOperator type3 Ports1, 2, and 3

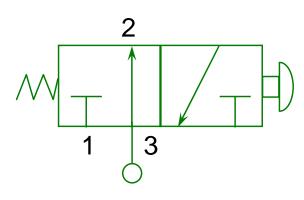
3 Flow Directions ---Non-passing, flow from 1 to 2 flow from 2 to 3

Start condition determined by spring

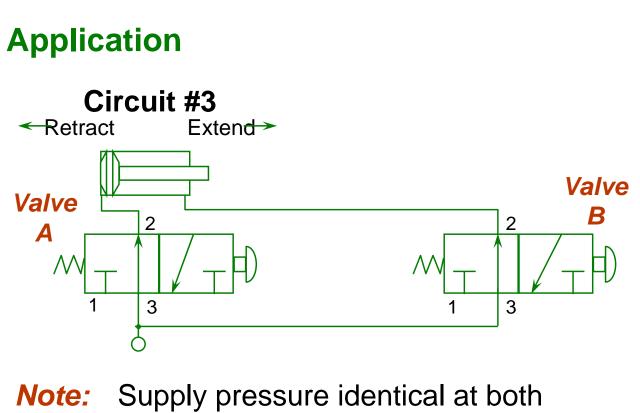
Ports may be labeled in different ways

#### Symbology

3/2



Symbology

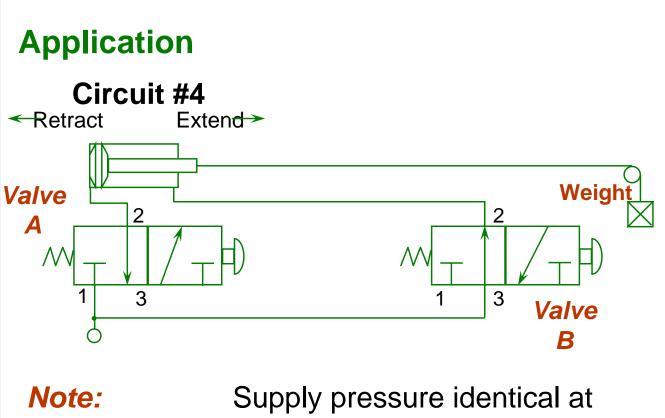


valves

Observe arrows representing correct flow directions

- What is the cylinder's position at start?
- What happens when we actuate only valve A?
- What happens when we actuate only valve B?
- What happens when we actuate both valve A and valve B?

Symbology

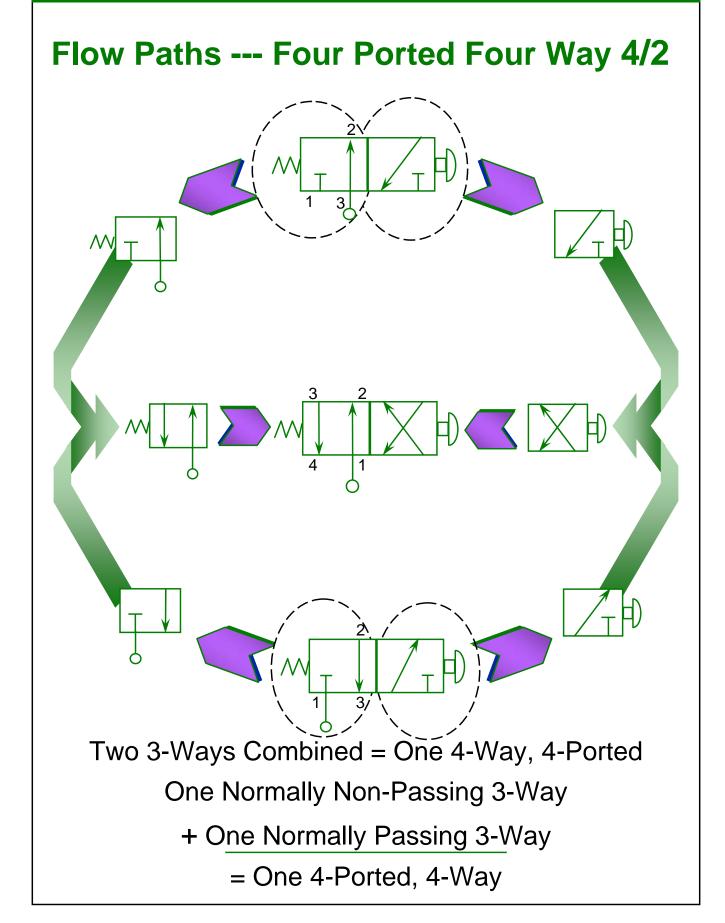


both valves;

note also -- piping determines function Observe arrows representing correct flow directions

- What is the cylinder's position at start?
- What happens when we actuate only valve A?
- What happens when we actuate only valve B?
- What happens when we actuate both valve A and valve B?

#### Symbology

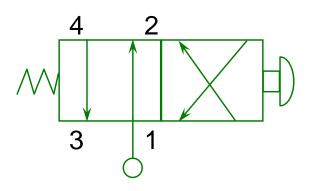


### Symbology



4/2

#### 4-Ported/2-Position



#### **Description:**

4-Way4 flow directions2-PositionActuated/at restNormally Passing ClassificationN/APush Button, Spring ReturnOperator type4 Ports1, 2, 3, and 4

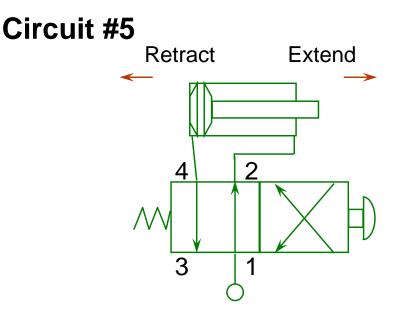
4 Flow Directions ---1 to 2, 3 to 4, 1 to 4, 2 to 3

Ports may be labeled in various ways. Verify function at each port --- do not assume.

#### Symbology

### Application

4/2



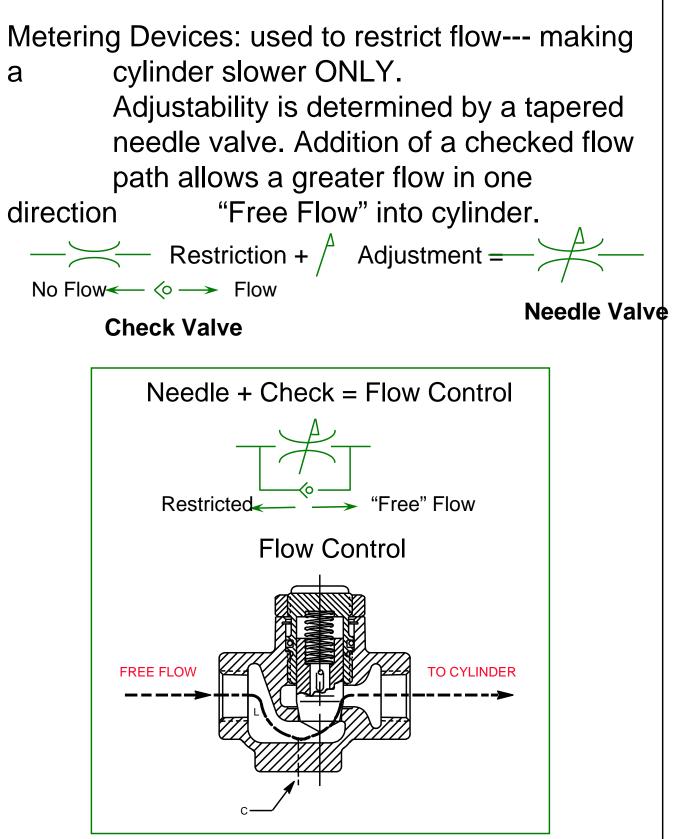
# Observe arrows indicate correct flow directions

- What is the cylinder's position at start?
- What happens when the valve is actuated?

Does the cylinder extend and retract at the same speed?

At what point would a metering device need to be installed to make extend and retract speeds identical?

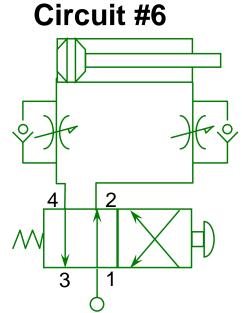
### Flow Controls



#### Symbology

### Application

4/2



#### Controlling Cylinder Speed

Objective: Extend and retract at the same speed

#### **Observe arrows indicate correct flow directions**

- Flow controls restrict exhaust at each cylinder port.
- While adjustments can be made to the flow controls to achieve the objective of making extend speed equal to retract speed, there is a penalty for doing so. The cylinder is slowed in <u>both</u> directions (extend more than retract) to make the speeds equal.
- Even at "free flow" the flow control is a restriction to flow of the circuit.

# What if our objective is to have equal thrust in both directions?

Where would we use a regulator in the circuit?



### Application

same force 3-way valve used as Selector Selects line pressure or • Regulators are not designed for exhausting a cylinder --- unless they are

**Objective**:

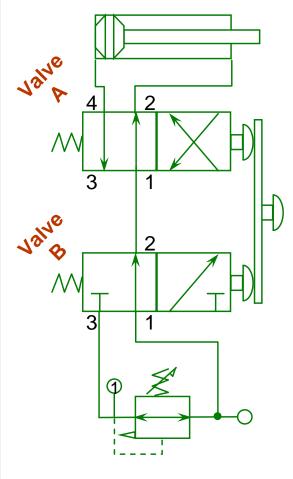
and retract

- cylinder --- unless they are equipped with an "internal check" bypass.
- Do not use a regulator down-stream of a valve without verifying "check/bypass" function

#### "check/bypass" function. Note: Both valves are simultaneously actuated

- Which port is the exhaust port for the circuit?
- Regulator is adjusted until extend and retract forces are identical.

#### Circuit #7



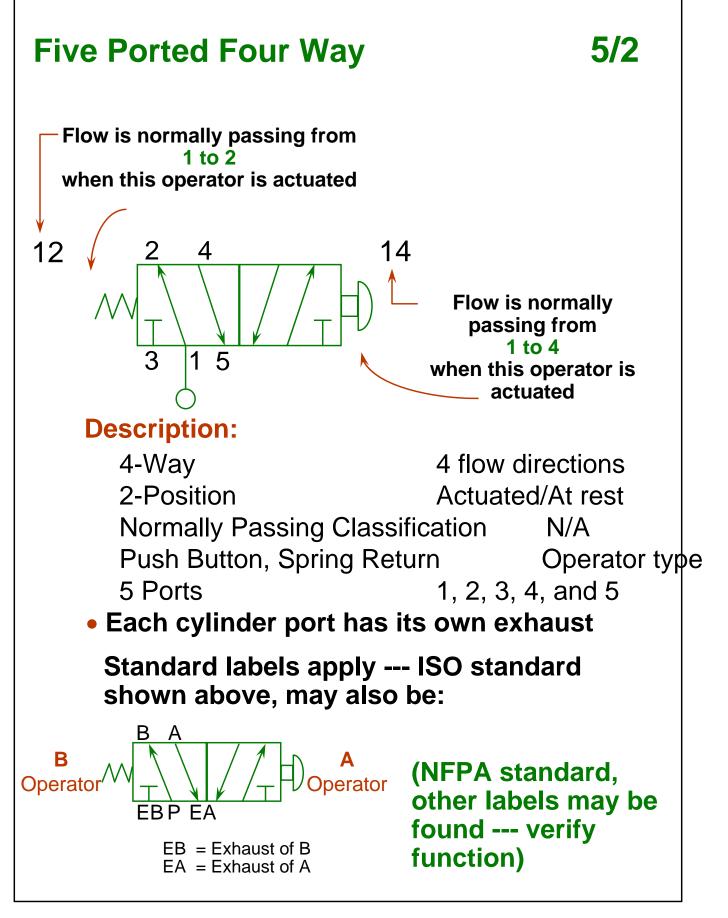
#### Symbology

Extend

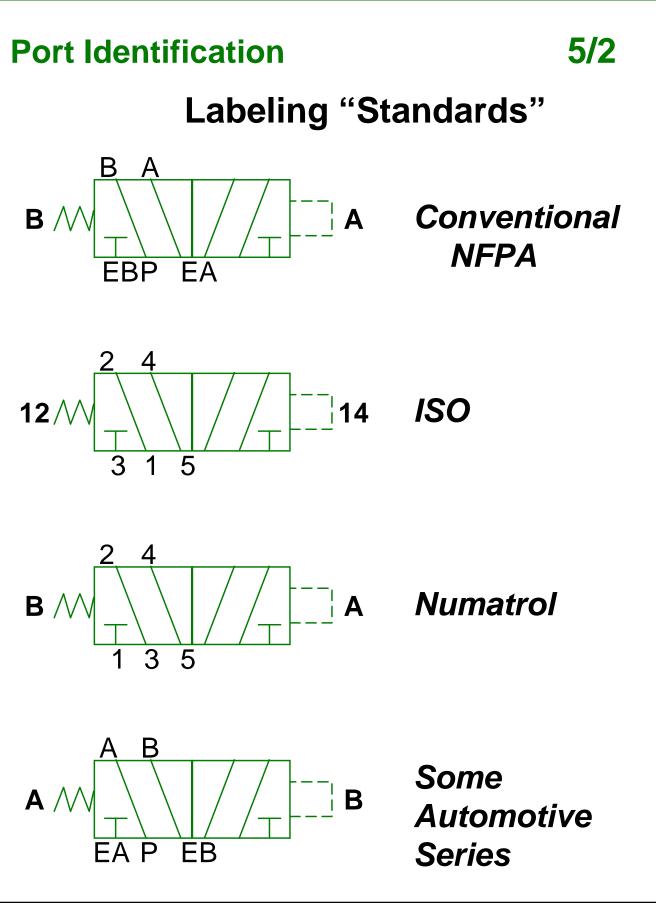
4/2

with





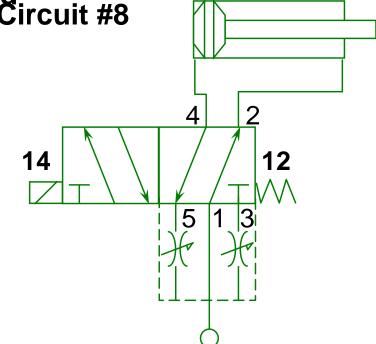
#### **Basic Information**



### Application

5/2

Objective: Extend and retract at the same speed



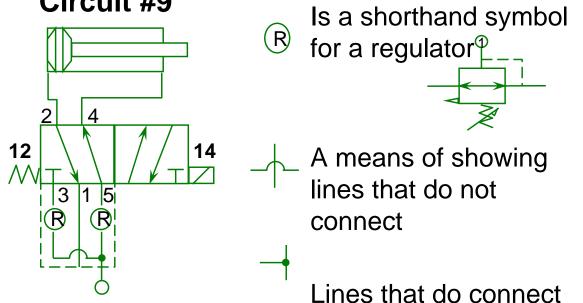
#### NOTE:

- Dotted line indicates an assembly --- a modular combination of devices; in this case a valve and a speed control sandwich.
- Metering devices are needle valves and serve to restrict only the exhaust --- supply is **full** flow.
- Modular design allows control from the valve (often the cylinder is inaccessible or in a protected cell).
- Only by restricting both exhaust flow paths can we extend and retract at the same speed

### Application

5/2

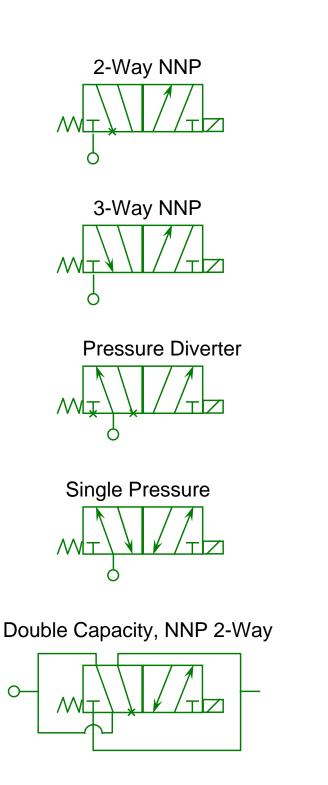
#### Objective: Extend and retract with same force Circuit #9

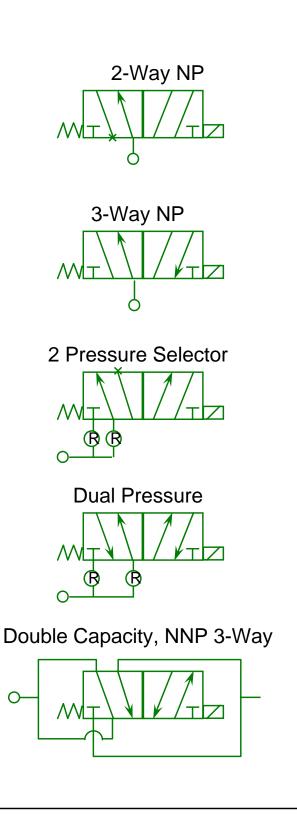


NOTE:

- Dotted line indicates an assembly --- a modular combination of devices; in this case a valve and a double regulator sandwich.
- IMPORTANT! Observe that the addition of the sandwich regulator has altered the valve flow paths.
- Modular design allows control from the valve's location.
- A direct acting multi purpose valve can have supply and even different pressures at ports other than 1 or P --- achieving different functions.

### **Common Multi-Purpose Pipings**





#### Symbology

### **Double Solenoid Detent**



 Shows which position is in command at start

**DETENT:** A means of maintaining position of a spool

#### **Description:**

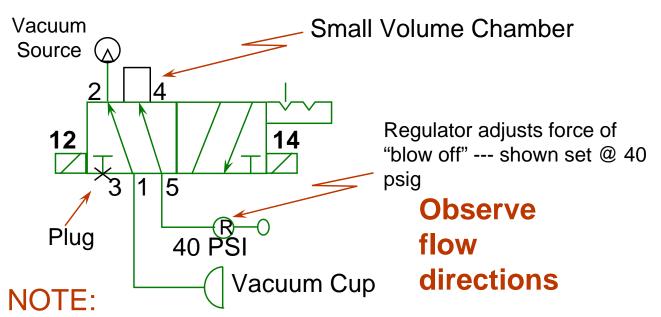
4-Way4 flow directions2-Position DetentedHeld shifted w/momentary signalNormally Passing ClassificationN/ADouble SolenoidOperator type5 Ports1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

- Advantage the detent offers --- valve stays shifted with a momentary pulse to the solenoid --- no need not be held energized.
- Valve has "memory" -- remembers last signal received.
- Useful in sequencing, reducing energy consumption, or as a safety precaution.

### Application

#### Circuit #10

#### **Objective:** Vacuum cup picks up/blows off part

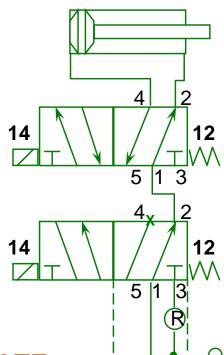


- Valve in "12" condition has vacuum at the cup and regulated air fills a small volume chamber
- Valve in "14" condition has vacuum blocked and a puff of air breaks the vacuum lock and blows off the part. Force is adjustable.
   Volume chamber is sized for requirement of the circuit.
- Valve selected to maintain position in the event of power failure --- double solenoid detent also only requires momentary pulse of electricity
- Single valve solution: saves energy, adds fail safe function and allows adjustability of the

### Application

#### Circuit #11

**Objective:** Cylinder Deceleration Circuit or Varying Clamp Force



Main Valve

Selector Valve observe port #4 is plugged

#### NOTE:

- Cylinder extends and retracts with signal to main valve
- Pressure to main valve controlled by selector valve
- Cylinder can extend, then, with higher pressure selected, clamp with greater force

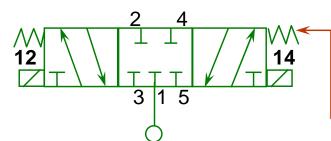
Varying selected pressures can
 Celerate/accelerate the cylinder
 How can we stop the cylinder in mid
 stroke?

#### Symbology

#### **Three Position**

# 5/3

#### **3-Position Valves ---- All Ports Blocked**



#### **Description:**

4-Way

3-position valves have a center function The center position is described

# Springs center valve when not energized

4 Flow Directions

3-Position Spring Center Energized/Center/Energized
All Ports Blocked at Center Describes at rest condition
Double Solenoid Operator type
5 Ports 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

#### Note: Center is often referred to as MID position

- Useful if some condition other than full extend or full retract is desired.
- Most frequently selected to stop or jog an air cylinder.
- **Be Aware** --- there are limitations with potentially serious consequences. Not always a good choice.
- Best used to stop an air motor, blow-off or where there is no volume of trapped air.

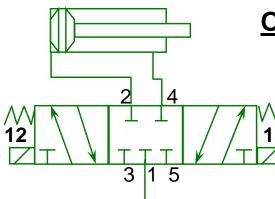
#### Note: a towpcad you tell their 2 and the trathe depend and a sould be avoided when possible.

Double solenoid valves can be difficult to determine flow paths --- always verify function.

#### Symbology

### **Three Position**

5/3 All Ports Blocked Center



Circuit #12

**Objective:** Stop the cylinder in mid stroke

#### **OBSERVE:**

Cylinder will not stop until the back pressure rises high enough to balance the forces on the piston --- analysis follows.

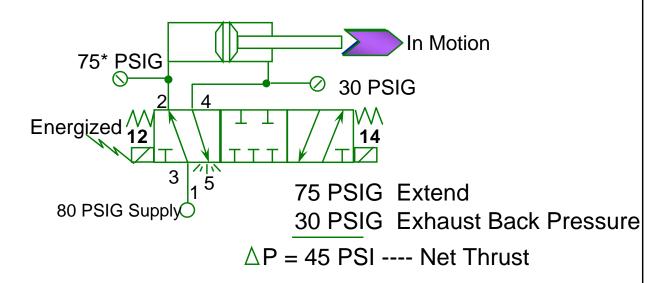
#### NOTE:

- Air is trapped in the cylinder. Any leakage (fittings, piston seal, rod seal, valve) will allow the cylinder to move or drift
- When air is exhausted by a lockout or dump valve, air will be trapped in cylinder
- If load is vertical --- any cylinder lines' inadvertent • exhaust will cause the load to drop unexpectedly
- During start up --- the all ports blocked center valve does not allow the air to pressurize the cylinder. First stroke could be at high speed due to potential lack of air at either end of cylinder
- **Disconnecting any air lines for maintenance may** cause unexpected rapid movement of the cylinder --- even if OHSA lock out has been correctly actuated

#### These actions may occur when least 33

### Application

Circuit #12 --- Analysis --- Part One



\* 75 PSIG (not 80 PSIG) due to line loss, fittings, valve inefficiencies

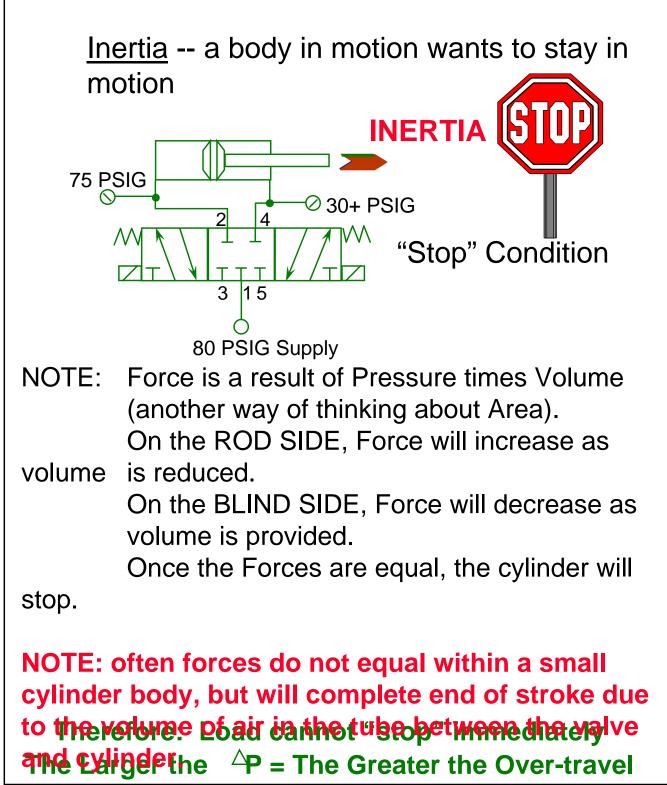
NOTE: The cylinder is in the <u>process</u> of extending. In a moment, we'll try to stop that movement.

There is resistance to movement in thecylindercaused by the air trying to exhaust. At thisexactmoment we have a net extend force (Thrust)of 45psig pushing on the piston.

Now we'll try to stop the cylinder.

### Application

#### Circuit #12 --- Analysis --- Part Two



#### Symbology

#### **Three Position**



**3-Position Valves** --- Cylinder ports pressurized exhaust ports blocked

14

NOTE: Description related to center position

#### **Description:**

12

4-Way
3-Position, Spring Center
Energized/Center/Energized
Exhaust Blocked, Cylinder
Ports Pressurized
Double Solenoid
5 Ports
1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

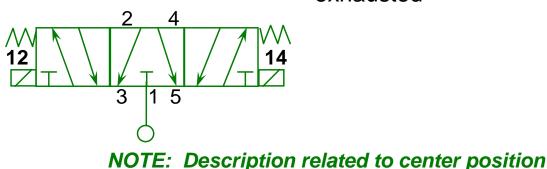
Note: Most often used with single pressure piping to stop and hold a balanced cylinder, such as rodless or double-rodded cylinder in a mid-position, with a mechanical rod-lock or carriage-lock.

## Symbology

## **Three Position**



**3-Position Valves** ---- Supply blocked, cylinder ports exhausted



#### **Description:**

**4** Flow Directions 4-Way 3-Position, Spring Center Energized/Center/Energized Supply Blocked, Cylinder Describes at rest condition Ports Exhausted **Double Solenoid Operator type** 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 5 Ports

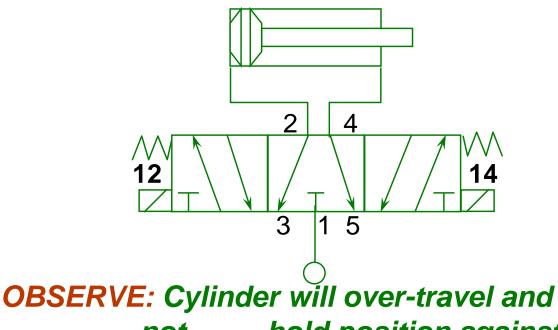
Note: Most often used with dual pressure piping to stop and hold a double acting cylinder in a mid-position, with a mechanical rod-lock.

## Application



#### Circuit #13

**Objective:** Stop the cylinder in mid stroke



## not hold position against external loads

#### NOTE:

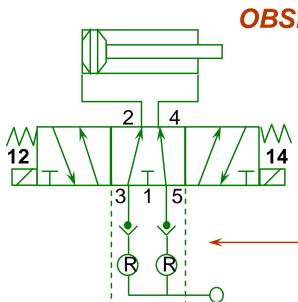
- If cylinder is in mid position, actuating the valve will cause rapid (potentially dangerous) movement due to large  $\Delta P$
- Not suitable for vertical loads
- Desirable only for specific applications where center position function applies

#### What if the valve was able to be piped in another

## Application

#### Circuit #14

### **Objective:** Stop the cylinder in mid stroke



OBSERVE: Center position of valve shows being piped with supply to ports #3 and #5

> Available as an assembly --module that installs between valve and base

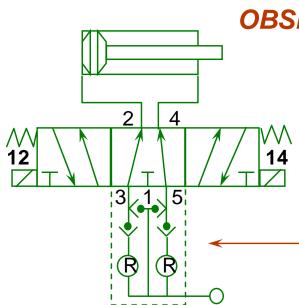
#### NOTE:

- Check valves stop and hold cylinder in mid position
- Two regulators balance pressures
- In case of electrical failure, valve defaults to mid position, check valves stop and maintain cylinder position
- In case of pneumatic supply failure, valve defaults to mid position, check valves stop and maintain cylinder position
- During start up, first cycle does not cause rapid cylinder motion as pressure is present on both sides of the piston
- Be aware that air will be trapped even if an exhaust or lock out valve is opened upstream of this valve

## Application

#### Circuit #15

### **Objective:** Stop the cylinder in mid stroke



OBSERVE: Center position of valve shows being piped with supply to ports #3 and #5

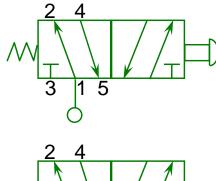
> Available as an assembly --module that installs between valve and base

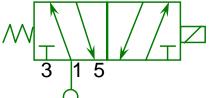
#### NOTE:

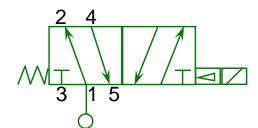
- Two regulators balance pressures
- In case of electrical failure, valve defaults to mid position, dual pressure stops and maintains cylinder position
- During start up, first cycle does not cause rapid cylinder motion as pressure is present on both sides of the piston
- The Quad-check prevents any back flow of air through the regulators, while providing an exhaust path for air during a lock-out procedure after an "estop."
- Should always be applied with a mechanical rodlock on double acting cylinders.
- BEST "E-Stop" or "iog" circuit

#### Construction

## **Actuation Methods**







MANUAL (Direct Acting) Force to shift valve supplied by mechanism -- linkage directly acts on valve

**SOLENOID** (Direct Acting) Electromagnet pushes valve. Force is supplied by electrical current -- wattage

#### **SOLENOID AIR PILOT**

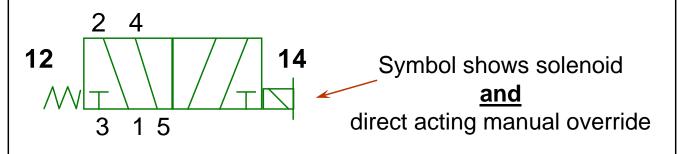
(Direct Acting Solenoid Powers Air Pilot Valve)

Solenoid air pilot requires minimum supply pressure, or, if not available --- must be externally supplied. Typically, internal supply provided only when supply is provided at port #1. Uses air pressure at inlet to shift main valve element.

#### Construction

## Valves



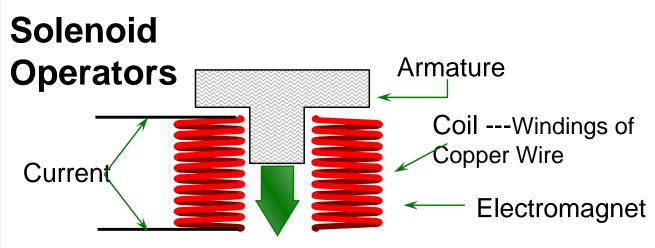


 NOTE: Flow path arrows omitted to show multi purpose nature of valve. How the valve is piped will determine flow paths.
 Action: Solenoid pushes spool directly,

#### compressing spring

#### **ADVANTAGES:**

- Valve shifting force is independent from supply pressure --- allows multi purpose piping of valve --- constant solenoid force
- Simple design --- three moving parts (solenoid armature, spool, spring)
- Override acts upon spool directly --- positive feedback
- Operates with vacuum, pressure or dual supplies
- Generally faster response time to shift valve, especially in DISADVANTAGES:
- Requires low shift force mechanism --- rules out friction seals/dynamic o-rings as valve designs
- Larger solenoid required versus solenoid air pilot typically requires more electricity (wattage)



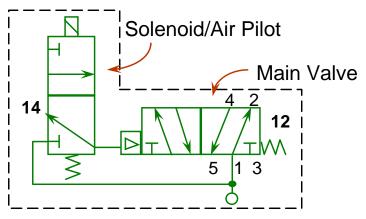
With current supplied to the **coil**, an electromagnet is created.

A laminate iron T **armature** is drawn to the electromagnet. It is this force that shifts the valve mechanism.

An electromagnet takes more energy to create the magnetic force. Once created, less energy is required to maintain the circuit once the armature has been drawn completely to the electromagnet. (Similar to the "flywheel concept – it takes more energy to get the flywheel moving than it does to maintain its motion. Inrush\* ----- current required to create the electromagnet Holding\* ---- current required to maintain the electromagnet AC coils typically are strately than DC coils. AC coils typically generate more force per winding ---

but they get warm in doing so. (135°F is about maximum)

#### **Solenoid/Air Pilot**



# **NOTE:** Internal passage connects supply to the solenoid/pilot section; a minimum pressure is required to shift the main valve.

#### **ADVANTAGES:**

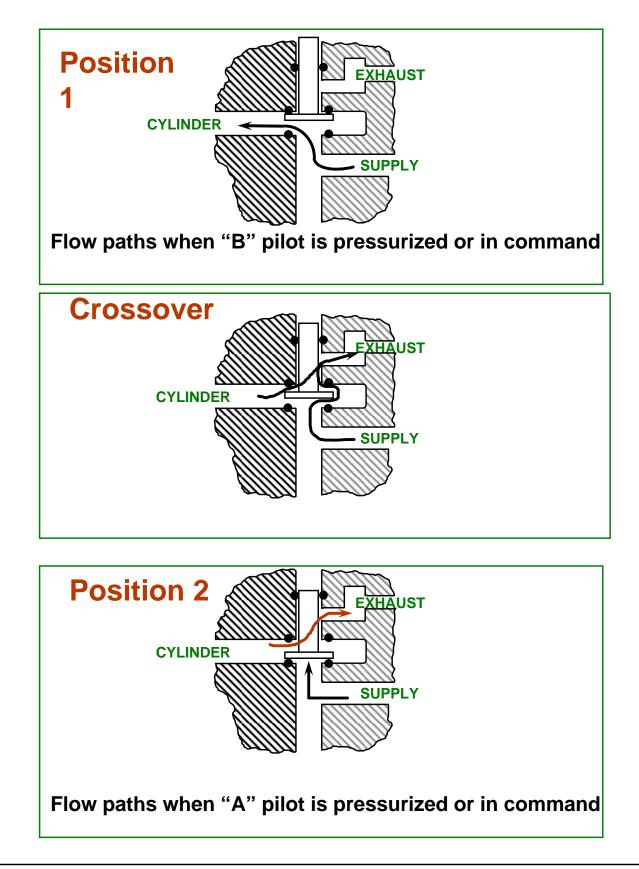
- Main valve shifted with supply air pressure --- typically more shifting force available than with a direct acting solenoid: required by friction seals and various other valve designs
- Smaller solenoid (less electrical power required) -- small three way valve, not much flow required
- May be faster ---depending on supply pressure and net shifting force --- than direct acting valves of similar size.

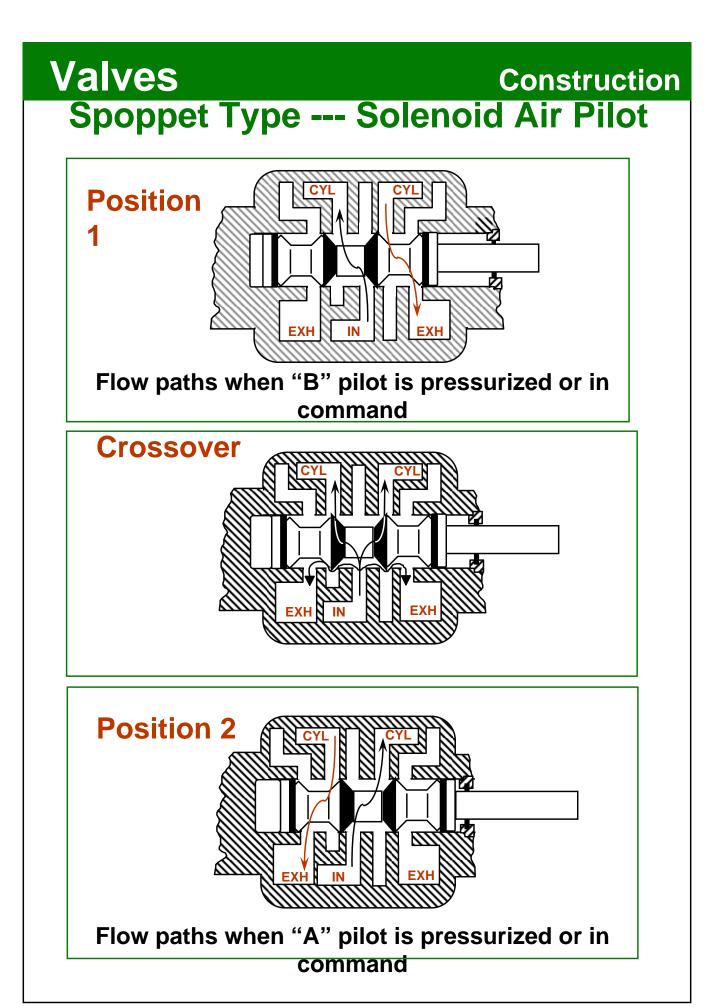
#### DISNAD VasterAas Easgeneral rule.

- Valve shifting force is dependent upon supply pressure ---may require external supply
- Requires external pilot supply to become multi purpose
- Solenoid pilot valve has light shifting force with very small air passageways --- susceptible to sticking and failure (some designs/manufacturers)
- Manual override acts upon pilot section only, not the main valve
- More parts

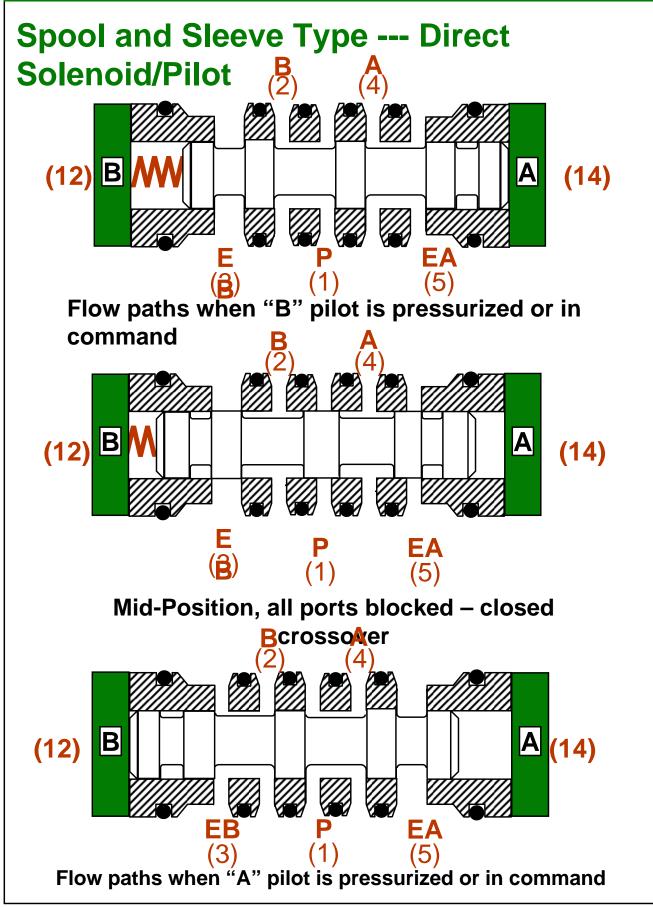
#### Construction

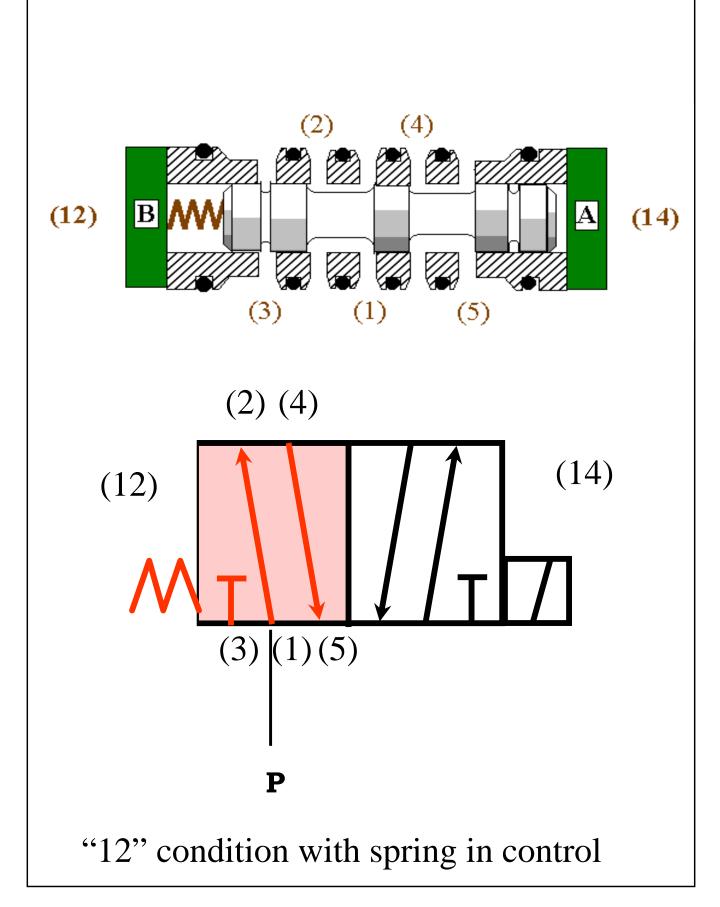
#### Poppet Type --- Mechanical/Solenoid/Pilot

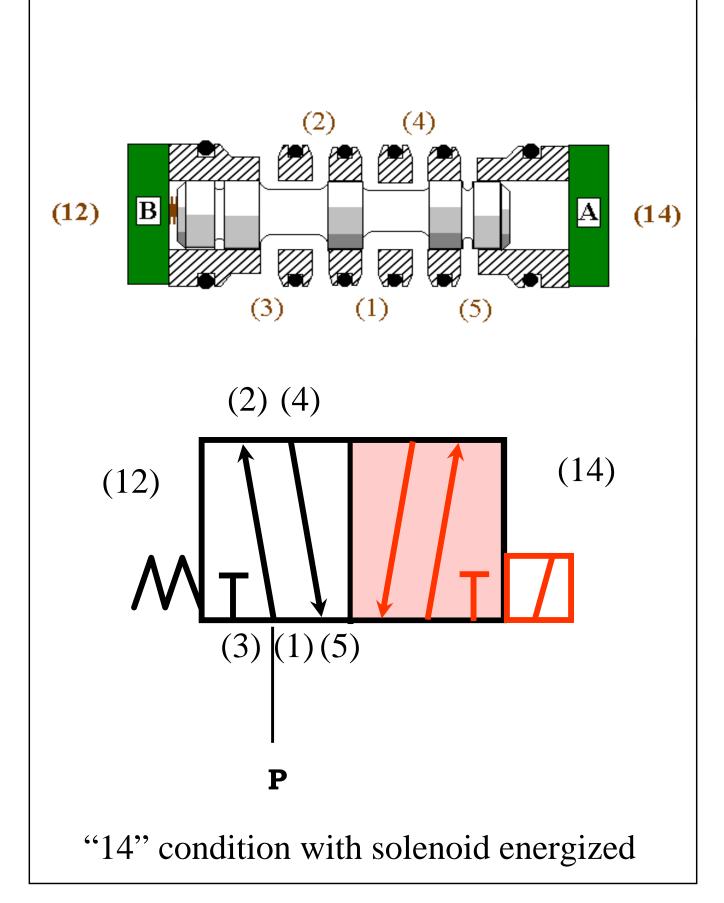




#### Construction





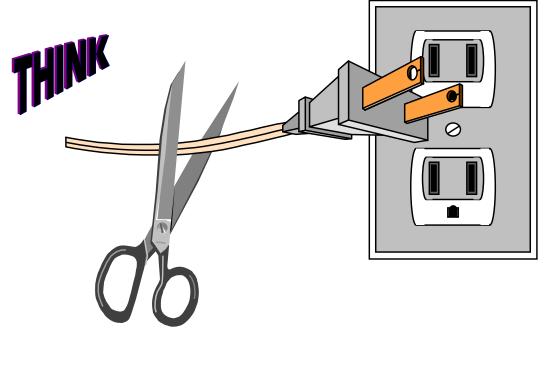


## When selecting a valve .....

What type of valve is best for this application?

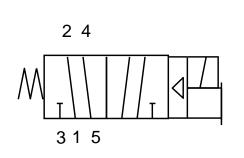
Is the circuit design as safe and simple as possible?

What would happen if the lights went out --- will the valve default to a safe condition?







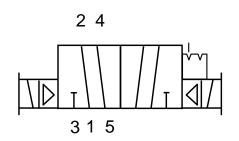


14

14

2 position, 5 ported, 4 way, Single Solenoid Air Pilot Actuated, Spring Return

12



2 position, 5 ported, 4 way, Double Solenoid Air Pilot Actuated, Detented

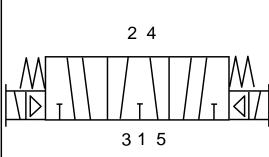


## Function

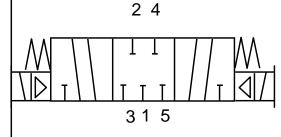
14

14

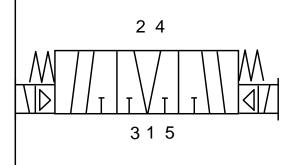




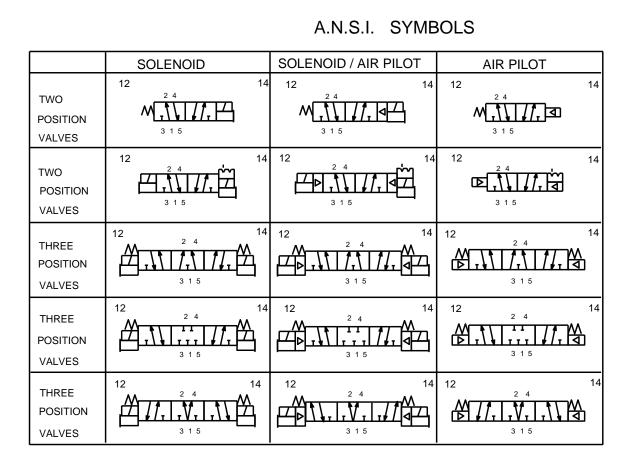








- <sup>14</sup> 3 position, 5 ported,
  4 way, Double Solenoid
  Air Pilot Actuated,
  7 Spring Centered,
  5 Function
  - 3 position, 5 ported,
    4 way, Single Solenoid
    Air Pilot Actuated,
    Spring Centered,
    6 Function
  - 3 position, 5 ported,
    4 way, Single Solenoid
    Air Pilot Actuated,
    Spring Centered,
    7 Function

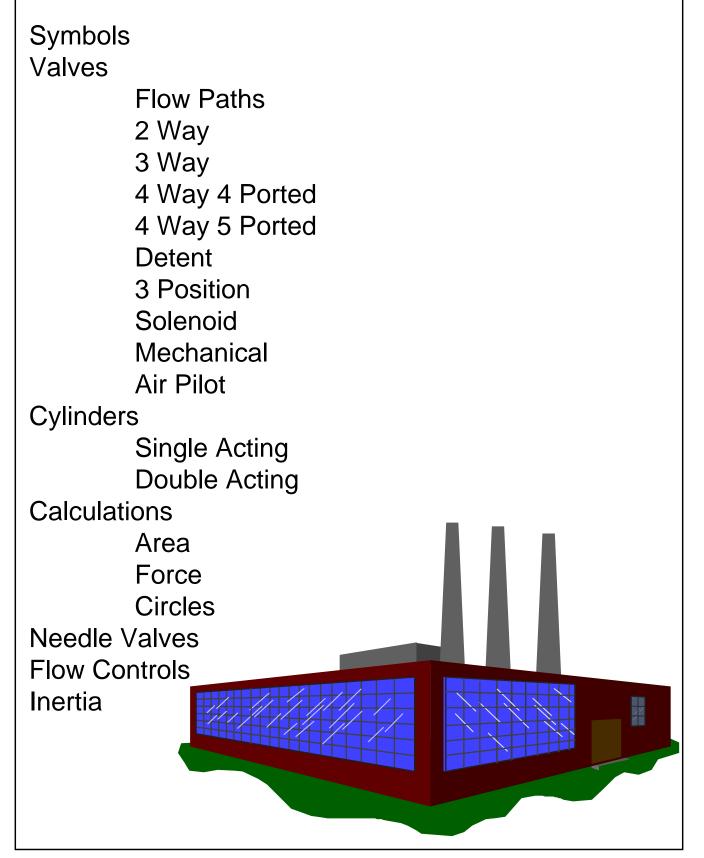


The circuit requirements determine the valve's function.

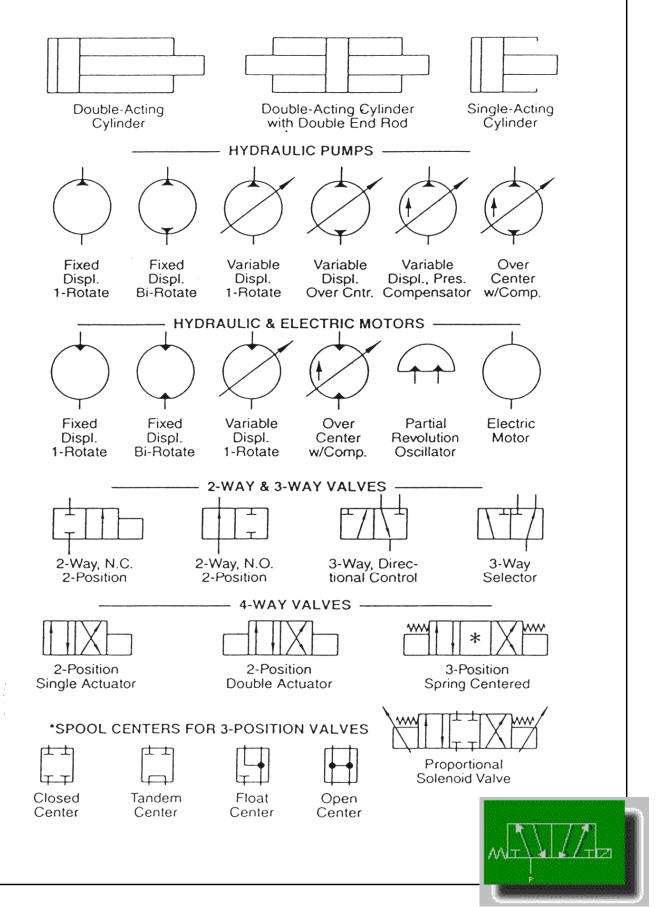
Knowing when to use each configuration is the responsibility of the designer and no one else. An educated choice is the first step towards safety, economy, and reliability.

## Conclusion

## REVIEW



#### **More Symbols**



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#### **More Symbols**

