UNIT III

HYDRAULIC CIRCUITS AND THEIR DESIGN

3.1 INTRODUCTION: A fluid power system can be broken down into three segments. The power input segment consisting of the prime mover and the pump. The control segment consisting of valves that control the direction, pressure and flow rate. The power output segment, consisting of the actuators and the load. This unit is devoted to each of the following categories of control valves.

1. Directional control valves
2. Pressure control valves
3. Flow control valves

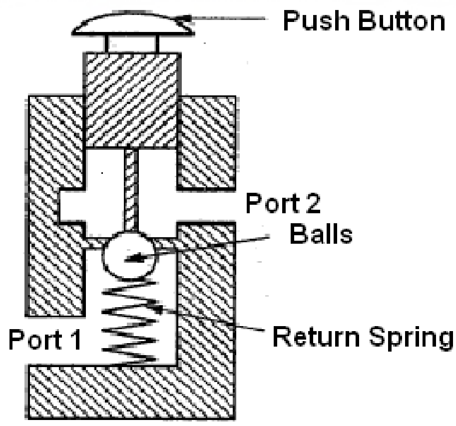
DCVs control the direction of flow in a circuit, which among other things; can control the direction of the actuator. PCVs control the pressure level, which controls the output force of a cylinder or the output torque of a motor. FCVs control the flow rate of the fluid which controls the speed of the actuators.

3.2 VALVE CONFIGURATION: There are the essential types of control valves based on their configuration or modes of operation. They are

1. .Poppet or Seat Valves
2. Sliding Spool Valves
3. Rotary Spool Valves

3.2.1 POPPET OR SEAT VALVES:

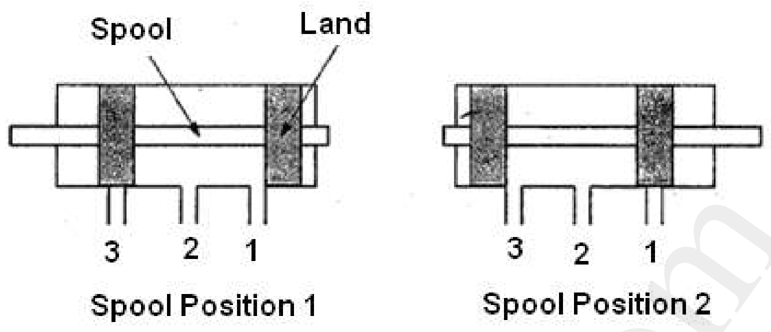
The Figure shows the construction of the poppet valve. Normally this valve is in the closed condition and hence there is no connection between port 1 and port 2. In poppet valves, balls are used in conjunction with valves seats to control the flow. When the push button is depressed the ball is pushed out of its seats and hence the flow is permitted from port1 to port2. When the push button is released spring and fluid pressure force the ball back up against its seat and so closes off the flow.



These types of valves are simple in design and less expensive. The force required to operate the poppet valves are more, so they are suitable mostly for low pressure applications.

3.2.2 SLIDING SPOOL VALVES:

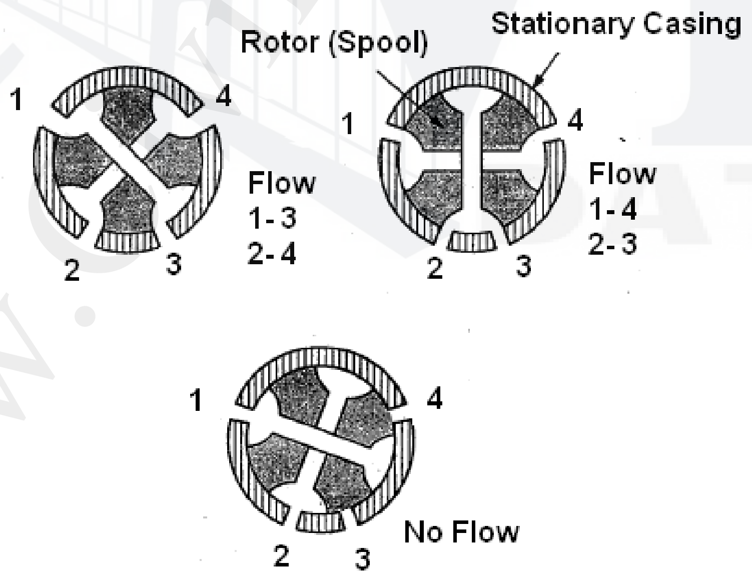
These types of valves are most frequently used in hydraulic system. A spool moves horizontally within the valve body to control the flow. The raised areas called lands block or open port to give the required operation. In first position the port 1 and port 2 is opened and port 3 is blocked so the flow is permitted between ports 1 and 2. In the second position the ports 2 and 3 are open and port 1 is blocked so the flow is permitted between 2 and 3.



By using this type of valves different operations can be achieved with a common body and different spool. It is used for high pressure applications.

3.2.3 ROTARY SPOOL VALVES

These valves have a rotating spool which engages with ports in the valve casing to give the required operation. The Figure shows the cut section of a rotary spool valve. When the spool rotates, it opens and closes ports to allows and prevent the fluid flow through it. There are four ports 1, 2, 3, and 4. In the first position there is flow between 1 and 3, 2 and 4. In second position flow between 2 and 3, 1 and 4. In third position all the ports are blocked by the spool and there is no flow.

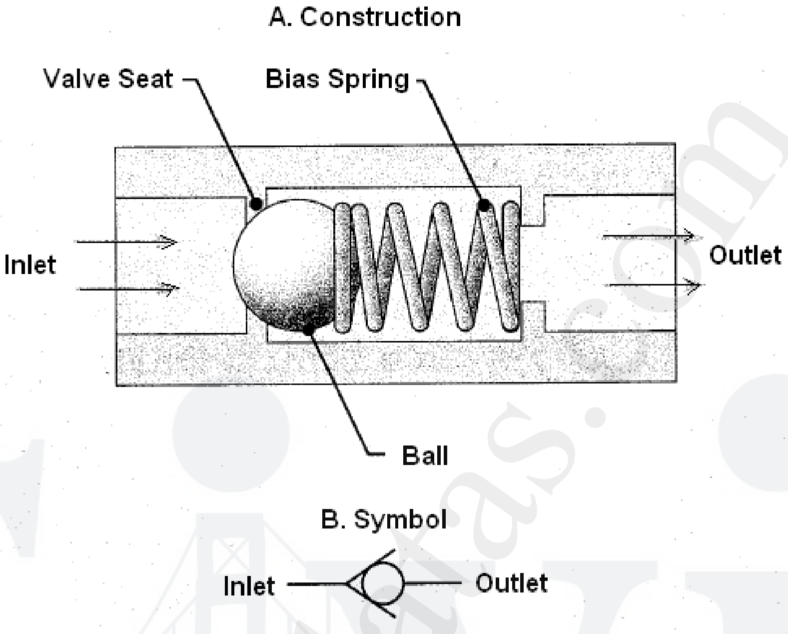


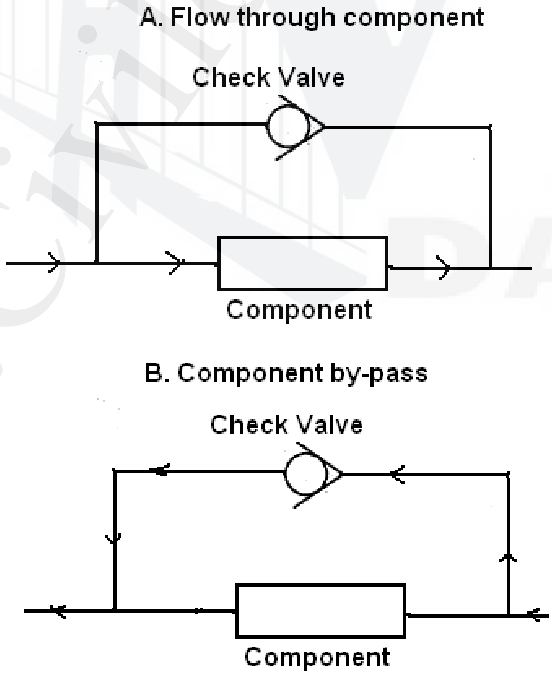
3.4 DIRECTION CONTROL VALVES

These valves are used to control the direction of flow in a hydraulic circuit. According to the construction of internal moving parts it is classified as poppet type and sliding spool type. It may be further classified as one way, two way, three way and four way valves, depending upon the number of port connections available. On the basis of actuating devices, it can be classified as manually operated, mechanically operated, solenoid operated and pilot operated.

3.4.1 CHECK VALVES

The simplest direction control valve is a check valve. It allows flow in one direction and blocks flow in the opposite direction. It consists of a ball with a light bias spring that holds the ball against the valve seat. Flow coming into the inlet pushes the ball off the seat against the light force of the spring and continues to the outlet.



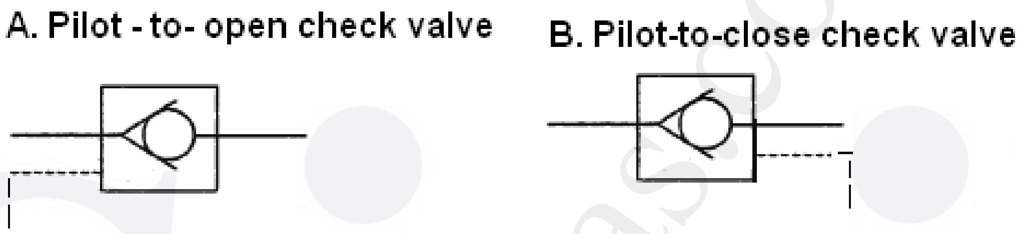


Application of Check Valve

If flow tries to comes in from left it cannot pass through the check valve. It is therefore forced to go through the component. When the flow comes in from the right, however the flow goes through the check valve and the component is bypassed. This occurs because the check valve is designed to have less resistance to flow than the component in this direction.

3.4.2 PILOT OPERATED CHECK VALVE

One commonly used type is the pilot to open check valve. Pilot lines are hydraulic lines that are used for control purposes. They typically send system pressure to component, so that the component can react to pressure changes. The free flow in the normal direction from a port A to port B is achieved in a usual manner. But the reverse flow is blocked as the fluid pressure pushes the poppet into the closed position. In order to permit the fluid flow in the reverse direction that is from port B to port A, a pilot pressure is applied through the pilot pressure port. The pilot pressure pushes the pilot piston and the poppet down. Thus the fluid flow in the reversed direction is also obtained. The purpose of the drain port in the circuit is to prevent oil from creating a pressure building in the bottom of the pilot piston. The pilot lines are shown in dashed lines.

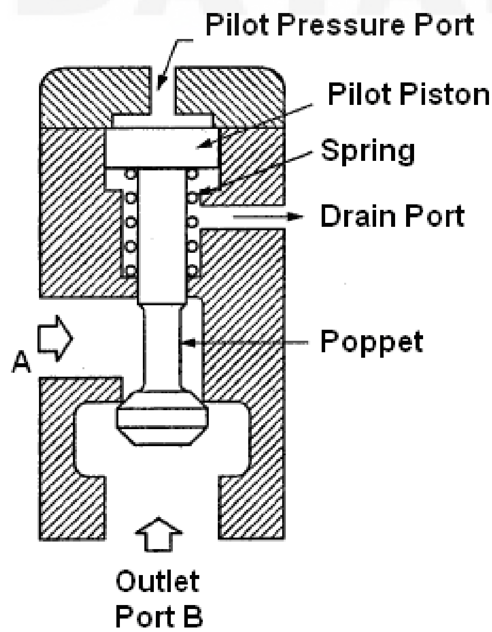


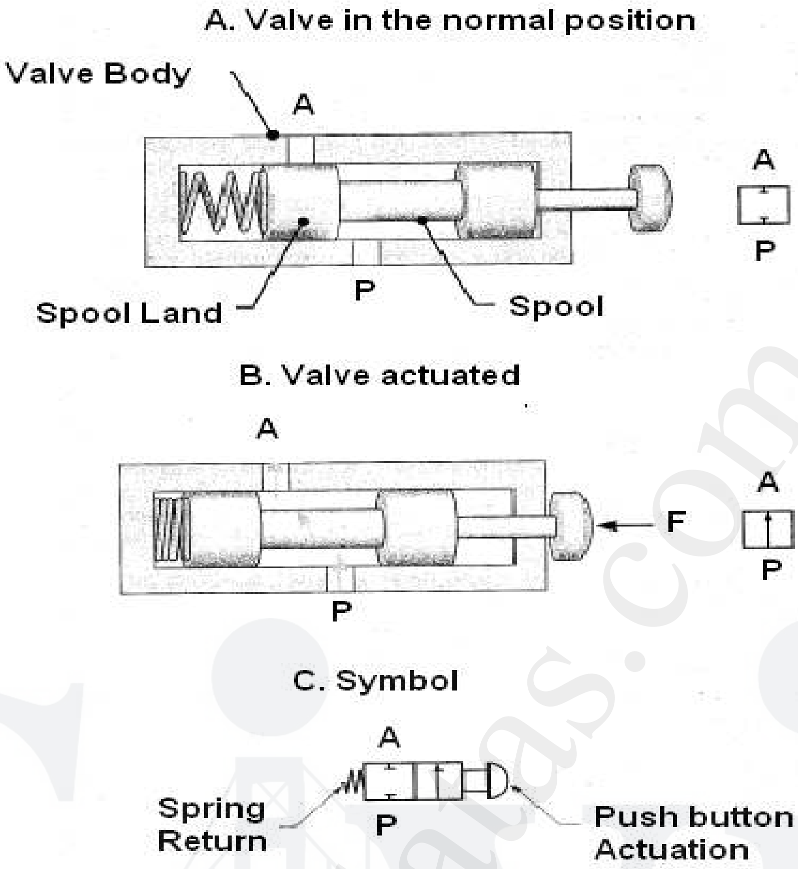
Symbols for Pilot Operated Check Valve

3.4.3 TWO WAY DIRECTIONAL CONTROL VALVE

A spool valve consists of a cylindrical spool that slides back and forth inside the valve body to either connect or block flow between ports. The larger diameter portion of the spool, the land, blocks flow by covering a port. This particular valve has two ports, labeled P and A. P is connected to the pump line and A is the outlet to the system.

'Figure A' shows the valve in its normal state and its corresponding symbol. The valve is held in this position by the force of the spring. In this position, the flow from the inlet port P is blocked from going to the outlet port A.

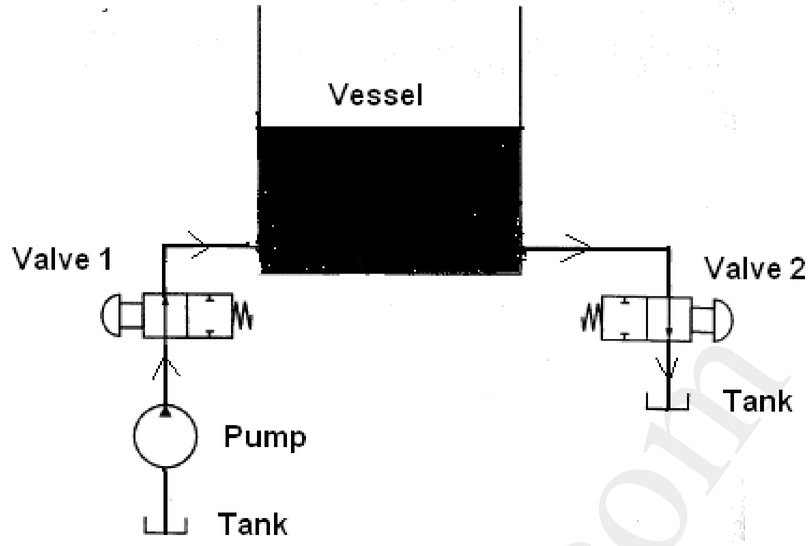




Two way, Two position normally closed DCV

'Figure B' shows the valve in its actuated state and its corresponding symbol. The valve is shifted into this position by applying a force to overcome the resistance of the spring. In this position, the flow is allowed to go to the outlet port around the smaller diameter portion of the spool. The complete symbol for this valve is shown in 'Figure C'. The symbol has two blocks, one for each position of the valve. Valves may have more than two positions. The spring is on the closed position side of the symbol, which indicates that it is a normally closed valve. The symbol for the method of actuation is shown on the opposite side of the valve. In this case, the valve is push button actuated. Thus, the graphic symbol in 'Figure C' represents a two way, two positions, normally closed DCV with push button actuation and spring return.

The below Figure shows the example of an application for a two way valve. Here pair of two way valves is used to fill and drain a vessel. Although two tanks are shown in this schematic, there may in fact be only one tank in the actual system. When valve1 and valve2 are in the closed position then the line from pump and tank are blocked to hold the fluid in the vessel. When the valve1 is shifted to the open position and valve 2 remains closed. This will fill the vessel.

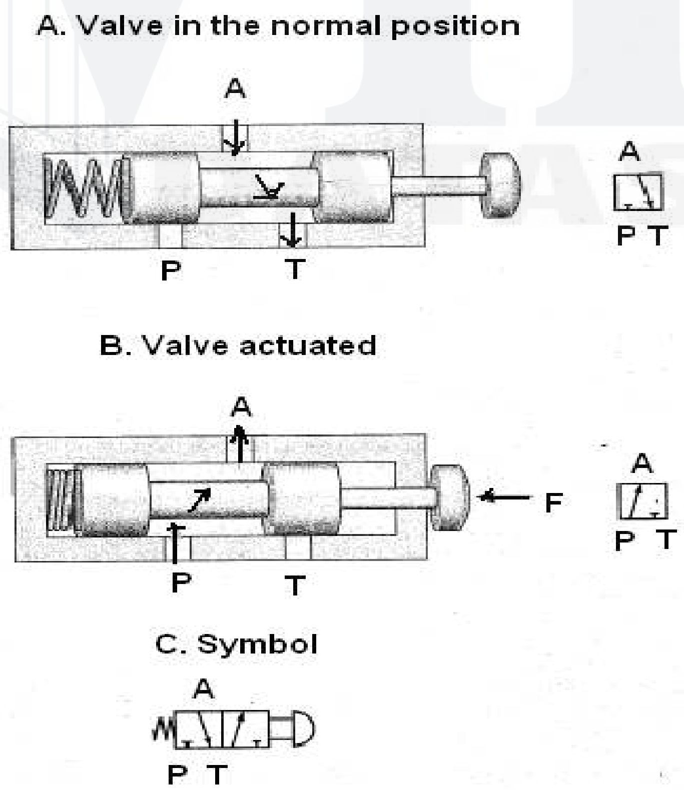


Application of Two way DCV valves

When valve2 is shifted to the open position and valve2 remains closed. This will drain the vessel. The above figure shows that valve1 and valve2 are in open position so that fluid is filled and drain from the vessel. There are other types of construction for two way valves in addition to the spool type are ball valves and gate valves.

3.4.4 THREE WAY DIRECTION CONTROL VALVES

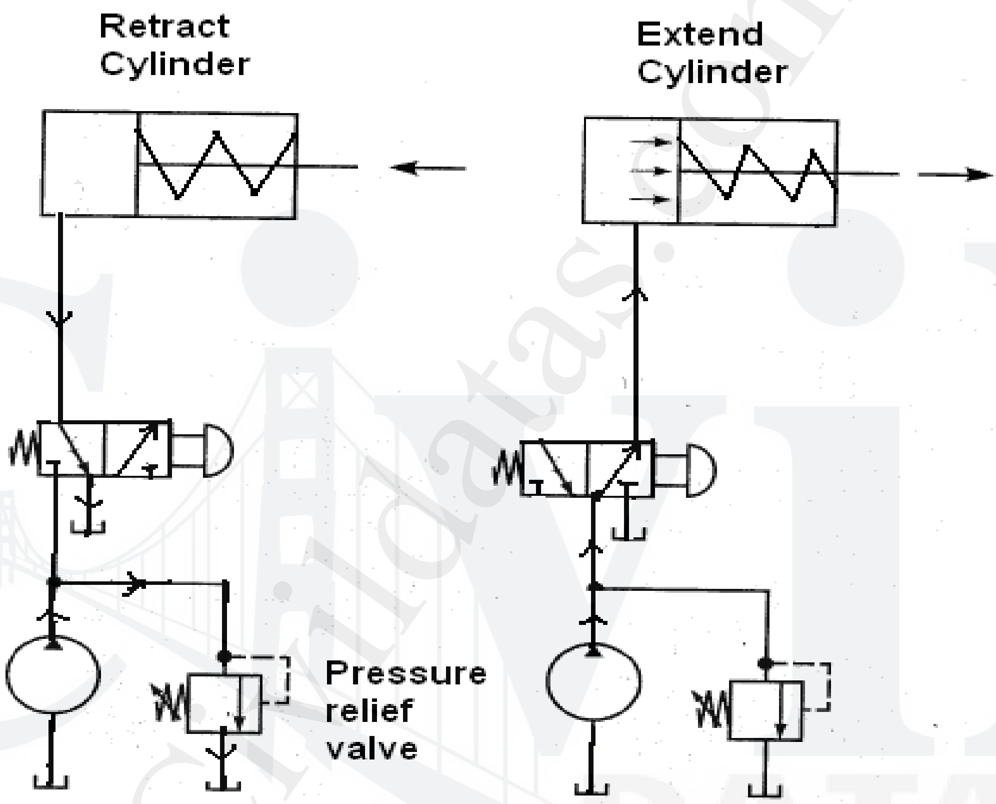
As discussed earlier two way valves are used to start and stop fluid flow in a particular line. They can either allow or block flow from a pump to an outlet line for example. Three way valves also either block or allow flow from an inlet to an outlet. They also allow the outlet to flow back to the tank when the pump flow is blocked, while a 2 way does not. A three way valve have three ports a pressure inlet port (P), an outlet to the system (A), and a return to the tank (T). In its normal position, just as with the two way DCV, the valve is held in position with spring. In the normal position 'Figure A' the pressure port (P) is blocked and the outlet (A) is connected with the tank (T). This depressurizes or vents the outlet port. In the actuated position the pressure port is connected with the outlet and the tank



Three way, Two position normally closed DCV

port is blocked. This sends flow and pressure to the system. The spring is shown on the normal side of the valve symbol and the actuation type is shown in opposite side by push button. The symbol indicates that this is a three way two position normally closed DCV with push button and spring return.

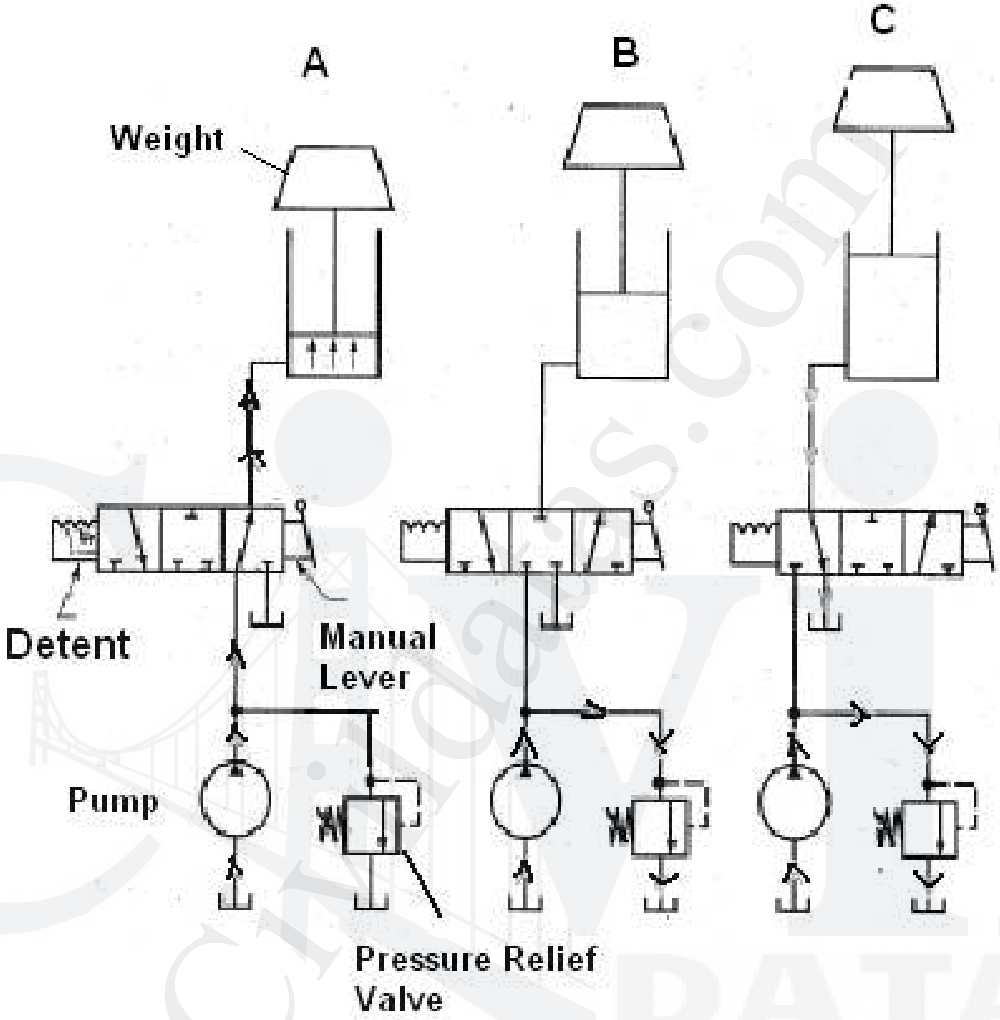
The most common application for a three way valve in a hydraulic circuit is to control a single acting cylinder. Part A shows the valve in normal position in which pressure port is blocked and the outlet is return to the tank. This allows the force of the spring to act on the piston and retract the cylinder. The cylinder will remain retracted as



Application of Three Way Two Position DCV

long as the valve is in this position. In part B the valve is shifted so that the pressure port is connected to the outlet and the tank port is blocked. This applies pump flow and pressure to the piston and extends the cylinder against the relatively light force of the spring. A two way valve could not be used in this application. It would not allow the cylinder to retract when it is in the closed position because the closed position of a two way does not have a return to the tank. A pressure relief valve, a device that limits the maximum pressure in a hydraulic circuit, is included in the previous circuit. These valves are required components in every hydraulic system. The importance of the pressure relief valves are discussed in upcoming topics.

The next figure shows application of three way three position DCV using gravity return type single acting cylinder. A third valve position called neutral may be desirable for this application. This position shown as the center position in the symbol blocks all the three ports. This holds the cylinder in a mid-stroke position because the hydraulic fluid, which is relatively incompressible, is trapped between the valve and the cylinder. Many cylinder applications require this feature. This introduces another type of actuation manual lever and detent. A detent is a mechanism that holds the valve in any position into which it is shifted. Detented valves have no normal position because they will remain indefinitely in the last position indicated.



Application of Three way three position DCV

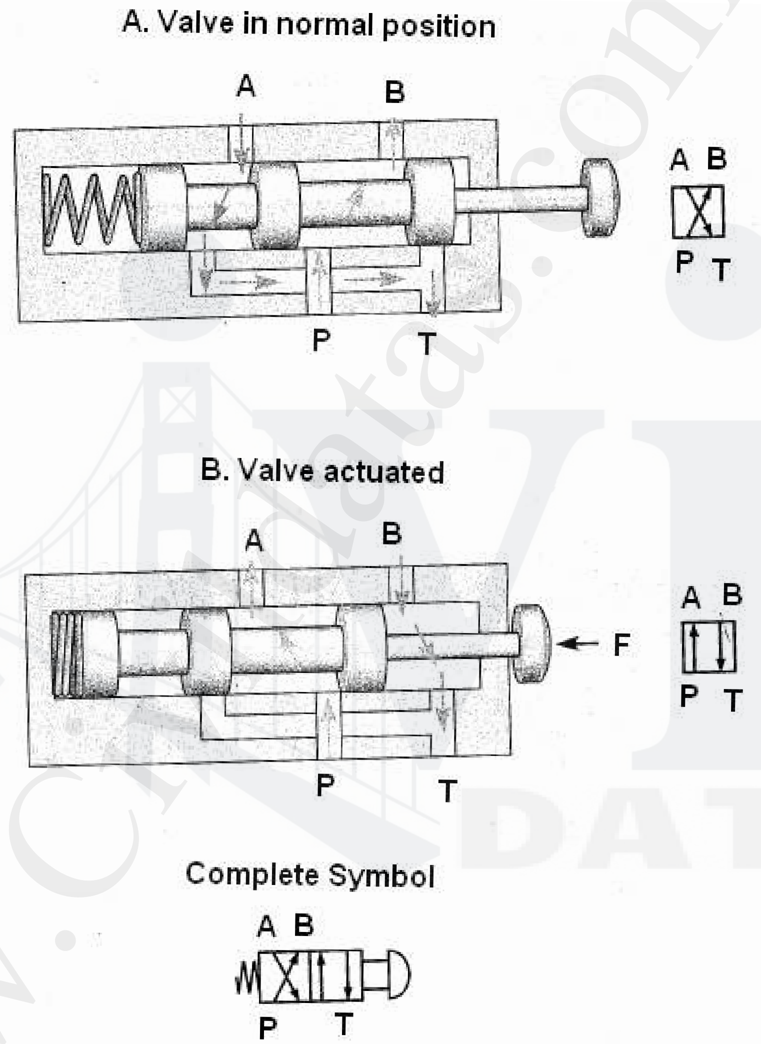
(A) Extend Cylinder (B) Hold Cylinder (C) Retract Cylinder

3.4.5 FOUR WAY DIRECTIONAL CONTROL VALVES

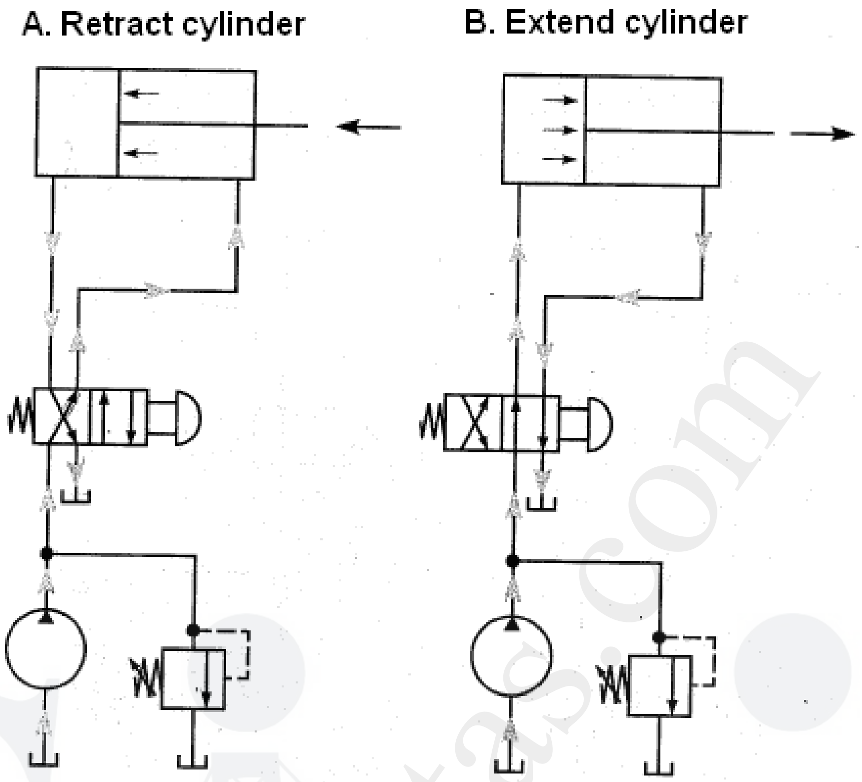
Four way valves are the most commonly used directional control valves in hydraulic circuits because they are capable of controlling double acting cylinders and bidirectional motors. Figure shows the operation of a typical four way, two positions DCV. A four way has four ports, usually labeled P, T, A and B. P is the pressure inlet and T is the return to tank. A and B are outlets to the system. In the normal position, pump flow is sent to outlet B and outlet A is connected to the tank. In the actuated position, pump flow is sent to port A and port B is connected to the tank.

Four way DCV control two flows of fluid at the same time, while two way and three way DCV control only one flow at the time.

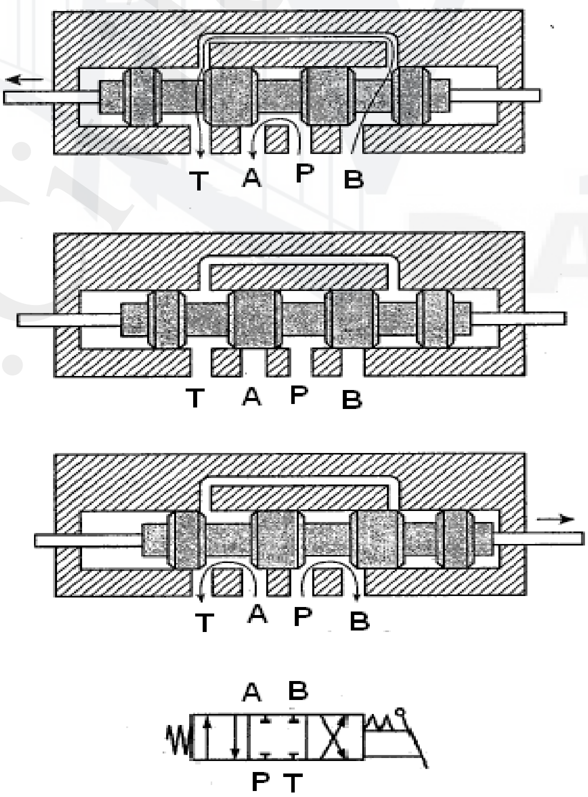
The most common application for a four way DCV is to control a double acting cylinder as shown in below Figure. When the valve is in the normal position, the pump line is connected to the rod end of the cylinder and the blind end is connected to the tank . The cylinder will therefore retracted, the pump flow will go over the pressure relief valve back to the tank, as it must whenever the pump flow cannot go to the system. In Figure B, the pump line is connected to the blind end of the cylinder and the rod end is connected to the tank. This will cause the cylinder to extend. When the cylinder is fully extended, pump flow will again go over the pressure relief valve to the tank.



Four way, Two position DCV

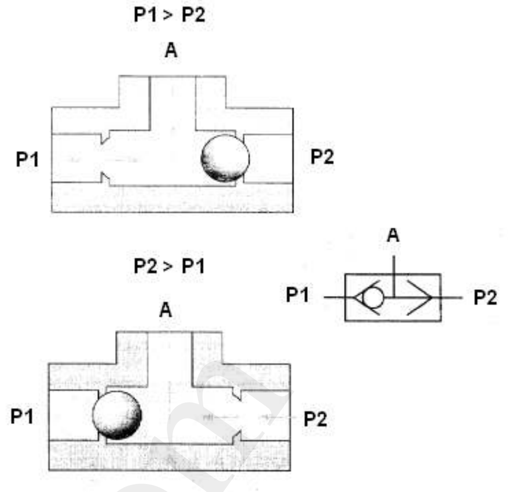


Application of Four way, Two position DCV

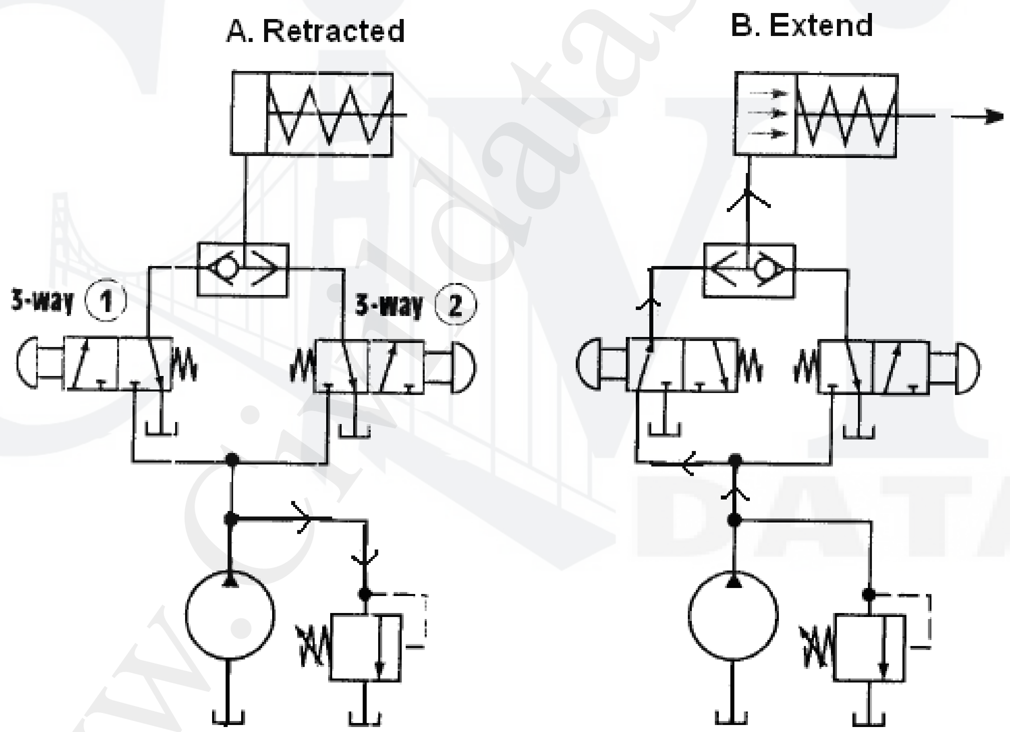


Four way, Three position DCV

3.4.6 SHUTTLE VALVES



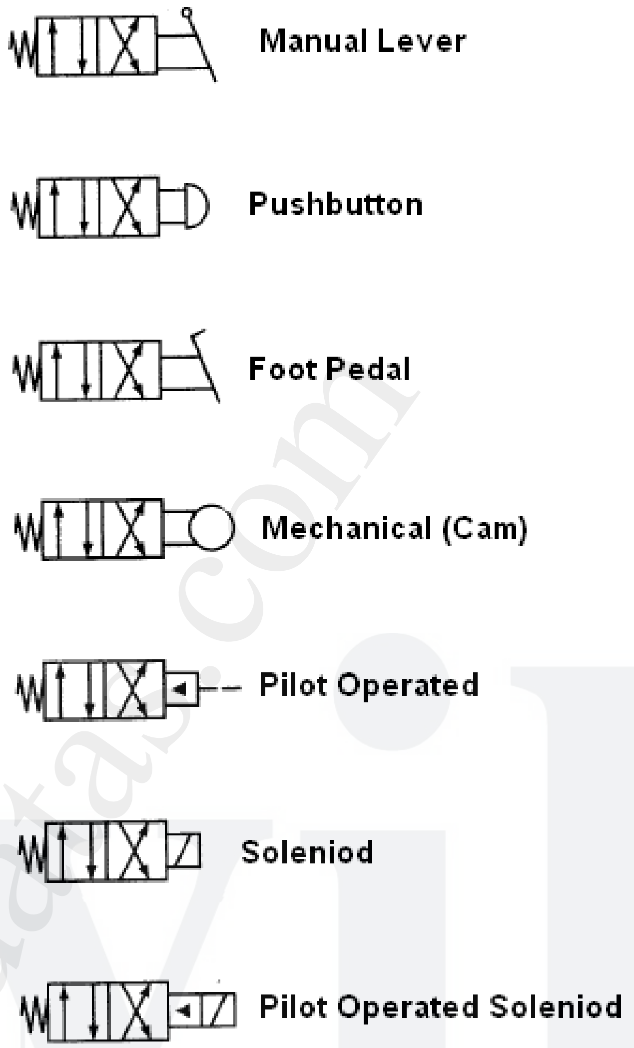
These valves allow two alternate flow sources to be connected to one branch circuit. They have two inlets (P1 and P2) and one outlet (A). Outlet A received flow from whichever inlet is at a higher pressure. If the Pressure at P1 is grater than that at P2, the ball slides to the right and allows P1 to send flow to outlet A. If the pressure at P2 is grater than at P1, the ball slides to the left and P2 supplies flow to outlet A. The Figure shows a circuit that utilizes a shuttle valve. This circuit allows either of two three way buttons to operate a single acting cylinder. 'Figure A' shows both three ways in their normal position. The cylinder is vented to the tank and will remain retracted under the force of the spring. In 'Figure B' three way number 1 is shifted and pump flow is sent to the cylinder through the path shown.



Shuttle Valve Circuit

3.4.7 DIRECTIONAL CONTROL VALVE ACTUATION

Various methods used to shift the valve are shown in Figure. All shown controlling a spring return four way two position valve. Manual lever is a popular method of actuation for DCVs used in mobile equipment applications such as back hoes, bulldozers and farm equipment. Push button actuation is more prevalent in industrial applications.



Foot pedal actuation, which could be used in an application in which hands free shifting of the DCV is required. Cam actuated valves shift when depressed by some mechanical component of the machine. Pilot operated valves are shifted with system pressure. As stated earlier, pilot operated check valves use system pressure to hold a check valve open or closed when pressure is applied to the pilot line. Solenoid actuated DCV valves are shifted using electrical current, which induces a magnetic force that shifts the valve spool. Solenoid valves are widely used in industrial applications on electronically controlled machinery. The pilot operated solenoid valves are essentially two valves in one package. The solenoid is used to actuate a small pilot DCV, which in turn uses the pressure of the system to shift the main valve. This method of actuation is necessary on large valves that operate in systems at high pressures. They are necessary because the solenoid alone cannot generate enough force to shift a large valve against a high pressure. The solenoid can, however, generate enough force to shift the small pilot valve, which can then use the pressure of the system to shift the main valve.

3.5 PRESSURE CONTROL VALVES

The force of a cylinder is proportional to the pressure in a system and the area over which the pressure is applied. Controlling the pressure level in a circuit will therefore allow us to control the output force of a cylinder pressure control valves control the max pressure level and also protect the circuit from excessive pressure, which could damage components and possibly cause serious injury. Some types of pressure control valves simply react to pressure changes rather than control the pressure.

3.6 PRESSURE RELIEF VALVES

Pressure relief valves limit the max pressure in a hydraulic circuit by providing an alternate path for fluid flow when the pressure reaches a preset level.

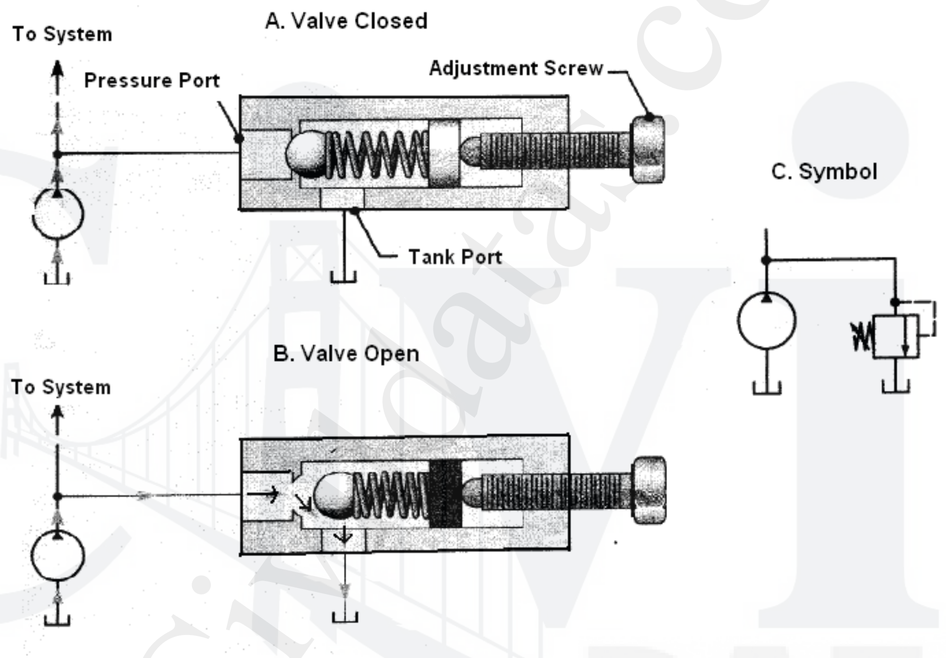
The basic types are

1 Direct acting pressure relief valve

2 Pilot operated pressure relief valve

3.6.1 DIRECT ACTING PRESSURE RELIEF VALVES

All relief valves have a pressure port that is connected to the pump line and a tank port that is connected to the tank. The Figure shows the direct acting press relief valve, a ball or poppet is subjected to pump pressure on one side and the force of a spring on the other. When the pressure in the system creates a force on the ball that is less than the spring force, it remains on its seat and the pump flow will go to the systems as shown in Fig. A. When the pressure is high enough to create a force greater than the spring force, the ball will move off its seat and allow pump flow to go back to the tank through the relief as shown in Fig. B. The pressure at which the relief valve opens can be adjusted by changing the amount of spring compression, which changes the amount of force applied to the ball on the spring side.



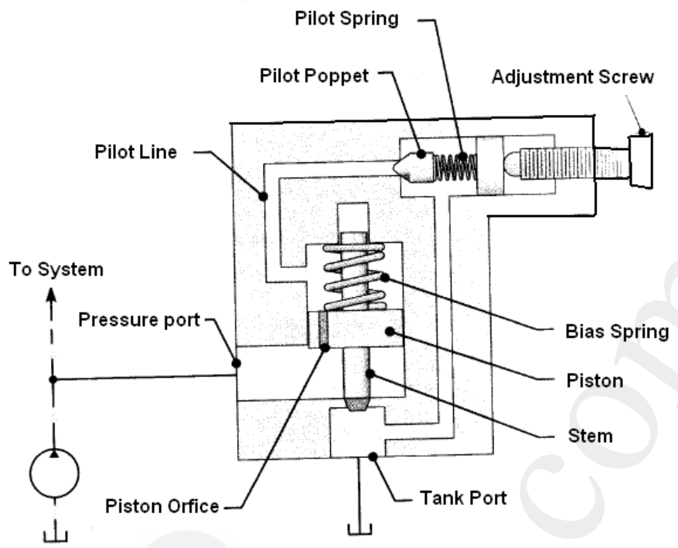
Direct Acting Pressure Relief Valve

This is accomplished with an adjustment screw or knob. This type of relief valve is called direct acting because the ball is directly exposed to pump pressure. The graphic symbol for an adjustable pressure relief valve, along with a pump is shown in Fig. C. The symbol shows that the valve is normally closed on one side of the valve; pressure is fed in to try to open the valve, while on the other side the spring is trying to keep it closed. The arrow through the spring signifies that it is adjustable, allowing adjustment of the pressure level at which the relief valve opens.

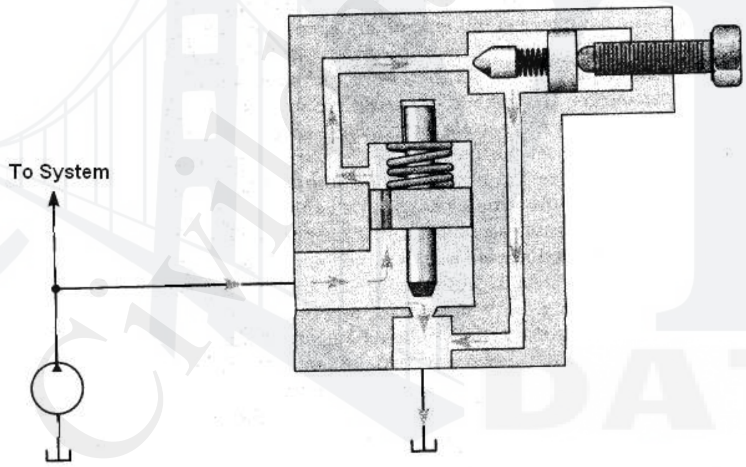
3.6.2 PILOT OPERATED PRESSURE RELIEF VALVE

The Figure A, B shows the pilot operated pressure relief valve, rather than a direct acting relief valve, is used to control the maximum pressure. A pilot operated relief valve consists of a small pilot relief valve and a main relief valve. It operates in a two stage process. First the pilot relief valve opens when a preset maximum pressure is reached, which then causes the main relief valve to open.

Just like the direct acting type, the pilot operated type has a pressure port that is connected into the pump line and a tank port that is connected to tank.

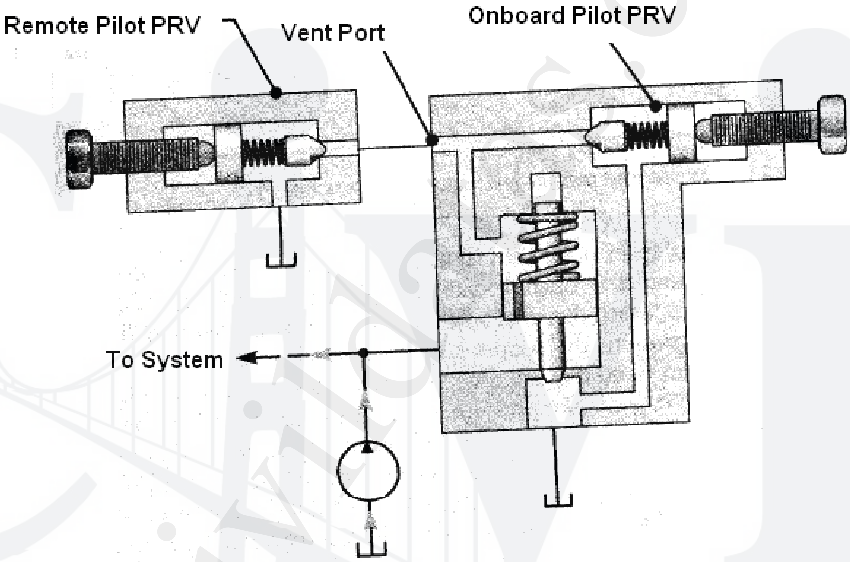


A - Pilot Operated Pressure Relief Valve – Closed



B - Pilot Operated Pressure Relief Valve- Open

The pilot relief is usually a poppet type. The main relief consists of a piston and stem. The main relief piston has a hole called the orifice drilled through it. This allows pressure to be applied to the top side of the piston, as well as the bottom side. The piston has equal areas exposed to pressure on the top and bottom and is therefore balanced it will have equal force on each side. It will remain stationary in the closed position. The piston has a light bias spring to ensure that it will stay closed. When the pressure is less that the relief valve setting, the pump flow goes to the system. The pressure is also applied to the pilot poppet through the pilot line. If the pressure in the system becomes high enough, it will move the pilot poppet off its seat. A small amount of flow begins to go through the pilot line back to tank. Once flow begins through the piston orifice and pilot line, a pressure drop is induced across the piston due to the restriction of the piston orifice. This pressure drop then causes the piston and stem to lift off its seat and the flow goes directly from the pressure port to the tank. The symbol for the pilot operated relief valve is the same as that used for the direct acting relief valve. The advantages are usually smaller than a direct acting type for the same flow and pressure ratings. They also generally have a wider range for the maximum pressure setting. Another advantage is that they can be operated remotely. This is achieved by connecting a direct acting relief valve to the vent port of the pilot operated relief valve as shown in Figure C. Notice that the vent port is connected into the pilot line. The direct acting relief valve, called the remote in this arrangement, acts as a second pilot relief valve. Flow can now go back to tank through either the onboard pilot or the remote pilot. Whichever pilot is set to a lower pressure will cause the relief valve to open. Flow through either pilot will cause the main poppet to lift off its seat and allow full flow back to the tank. The advantage of this type of arrangement is that the on board pilot can be set to the absolute maximum pressure that the circuit is designed for, while the remote can be set for a lower



C - Pilot Operated Pressure Relief Valve with Remote Control

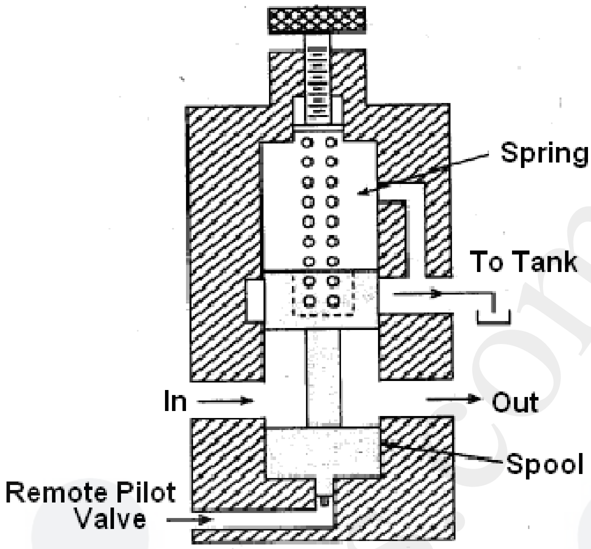
pressure dictated by the current operating parameters. This method of pressure control has two key advantages

1. The on board pilot can be made in accessible so that if the machine operator were to inadvertently set the pressure of the remote too high, the pressure would never rise above the absolute maximum setting determined by the on board pilot.
2. The remote pilot can be located away from the circuit in a safe location that is easily accessible to the operator. In the symbol the lines associated with the remote are dashed because they are control pilot lines.

The pressure at which the relief valve begins to open is known as the cracking pressure. At this pressure, the poppet just begins to lift off its seat and some of the pump flow begins to go through the relief valve back to the tank. The rest of the flow goes to the system. The pressure at which the relief valve is completely open is known as the full flow pressure. The difference between the cracking pressure and the full flow pressure is often called the pressure over ride in manufacture's literature.

3.7 UNLOADING VALVES

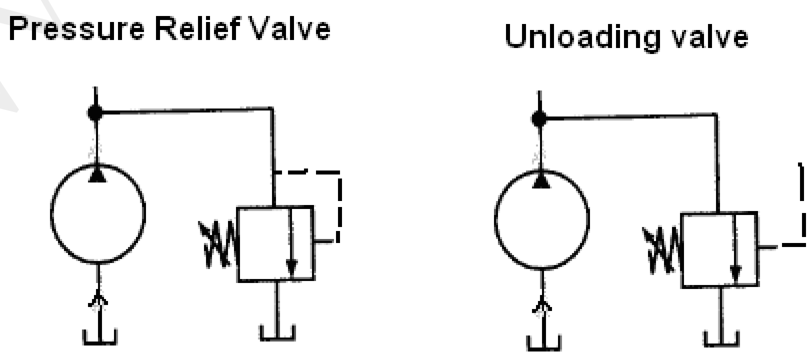
In the case of pressure relief valve, the pump delivers full pump flow at the pressure relief valve setting and thus operates at maximum horse power conditions.



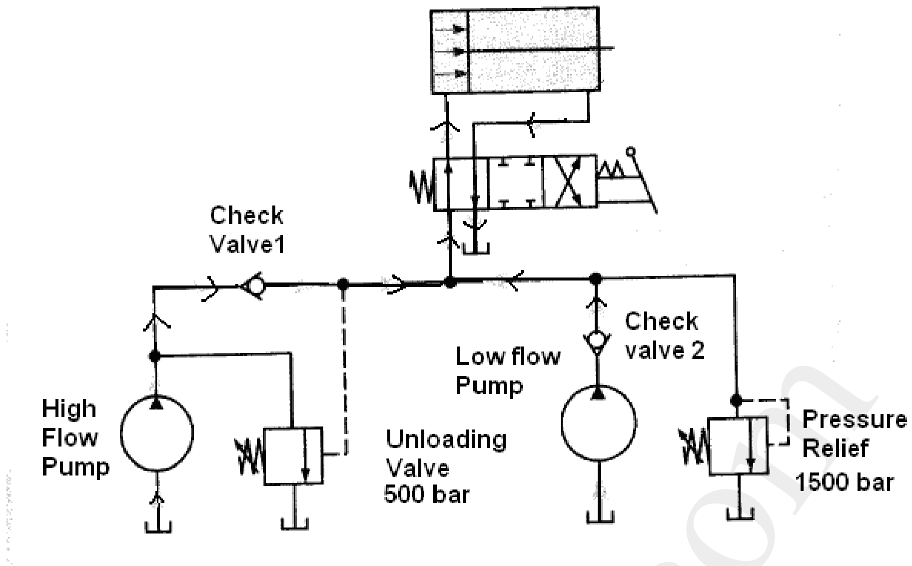
Unloading Valve

The 'In' port of the unloading valve is connected to the line which is to be unloaded. The pilot port is connected to the line which is supposed to send the pressure impulse for unloading the valve. As soon as the system pressure reaches the setting pressure which is available at the pilot port, it lifts the spool against the spring force. The valve is held open by pilot pressure and the delivery from the pump starts going into the reservoir. When the pilot pressure is released, the spool is moved down by the spring and the flow is directed through the valve into the circuit. The unloading valve is useful to control the amount of flow at any given time in systems having more than one fixed delivery pump.

The symbol for each is shown in 'Figure A' for comparison. Both send flow back to the tank when a preset pressure is reached. However, an unloading valve reads the pressure in an external line, rather than in its own line, as indicated by the dashed pilot lines. 'Figure B' shows the application for an unloading valve. This circuit can be used in an application in which high flow (speed) and low



A - Symbol Comparison

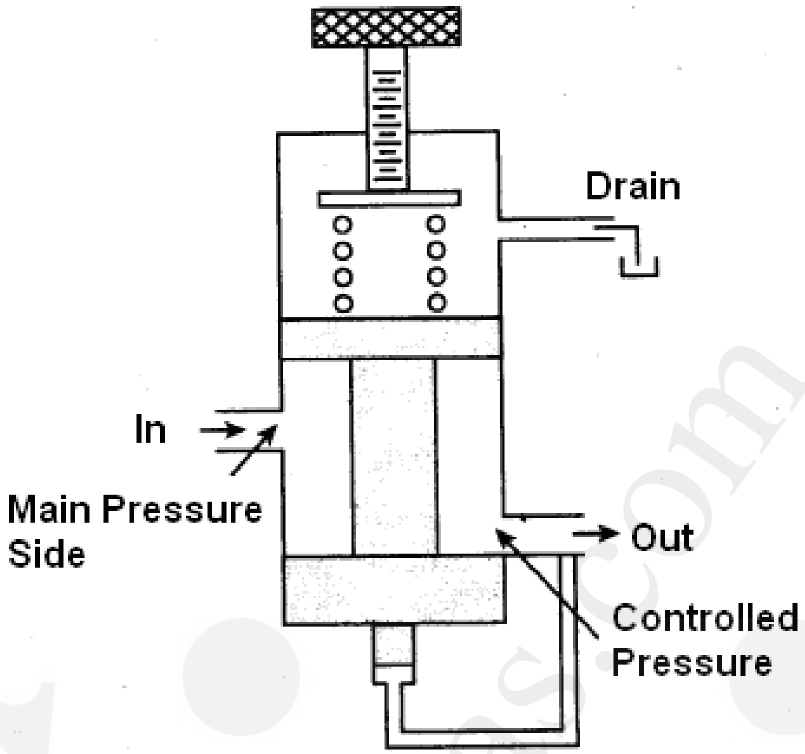


B - Unloading Valve Circuit

pressure (force) is required for a part of the cylinder's stroke, while low flow and high pressure are required for the rest for example a metal stamping machine. In this machine it may be desirable for the cylinder to move into position very quickly, and then slow down when it reaches the work piece. The first part of the cycle requires only minimal pressure because the only resistance is the flow resistance of the components and the friction of the cylinder. The second part of the cycle requires high pressure because the cylinder is deforming the metal. This circuit supplies the cylinder with from both the high flow pump and the low flow pump when the pressure is below 500 bar. When the pressure reaches 500 bar, the unloading valve opens and unloads the high flow pump back to tank at low pressure. Only the low flow pump supplies the cylinder with flow at pressure from 500 bar to 1500 bar. If the pressure reaches 1500 bar, flow from the low flow pump is forced over the relief valve at this pressure. Check valve 1 isolates the high flow pump from the system pressure while it is being unloaded. Check valve 2 prevents the flow the high flow pump from flowing into the low flow pump line. This would reverse the low flow pump, which would cause damage to the power unit.

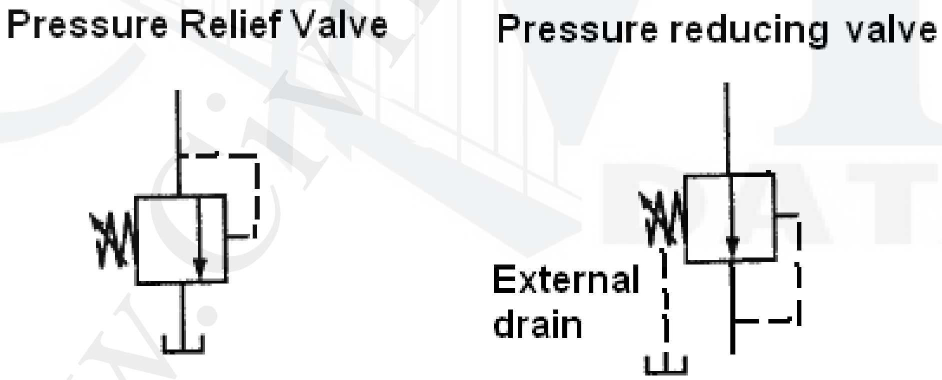
3.8 PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE

This type of valve is used to maintain reduced pressure in specified locations of hydraulic systems. It is normally an open valve. It is actuated by down stream pressure and tends to close as this pressure reaches the valve setting. The figure shows the construction of the valve. This valve is one which uses a spring loaded spool to control the down stream pressure. If down stream pressure is below the valve pressure, fluid will flow freely from the inlet to the out let. When the outlet pressure increases the valve setting, the spool moves to partially block the outlet port. If the valve is closed completely by the spool, it could cause the down stream pressure to build above the valve setting. To avoid this, a drain line is provided to drain the fluid to the tank.



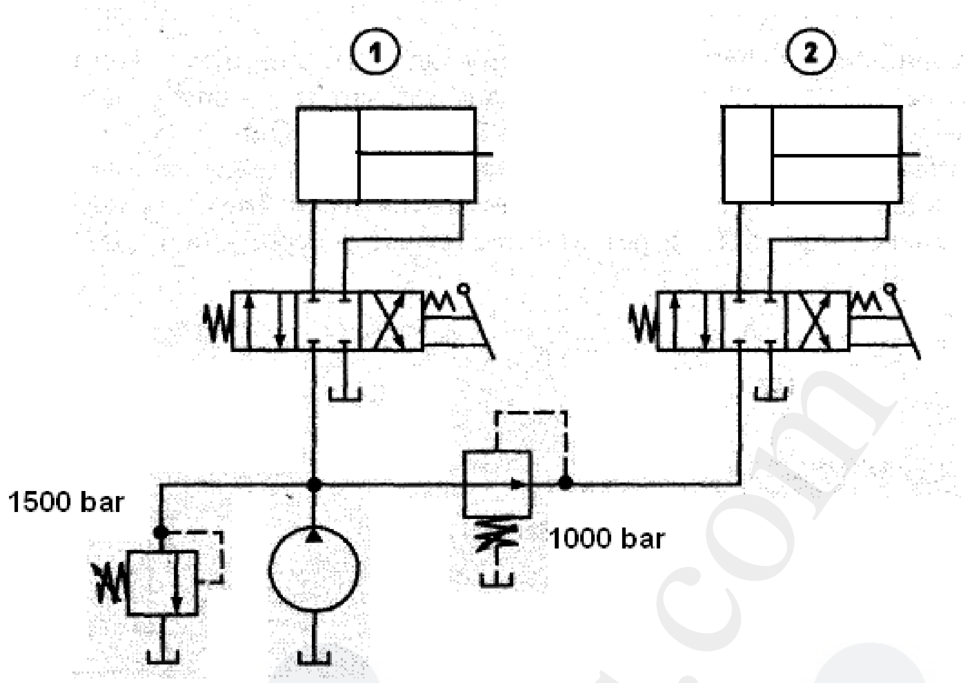
Pressure Reducing Valve

The below Figure compares the symbol for a relief valve and a reducing valve. The reducing valve is normally open, while relief valve is normally closed.



Symbol Comparison

The reducing valve reads the pressure down stream while the relief valve reads the pressure upstream. The reducing valve has an external drain line, while a relief valve does not. When a valve has an external drain, a line must be connected from the valves drain port to the tank. Drain lines, like pilot lines are shown as dashed lines.



Pressure Reducing Valve Application

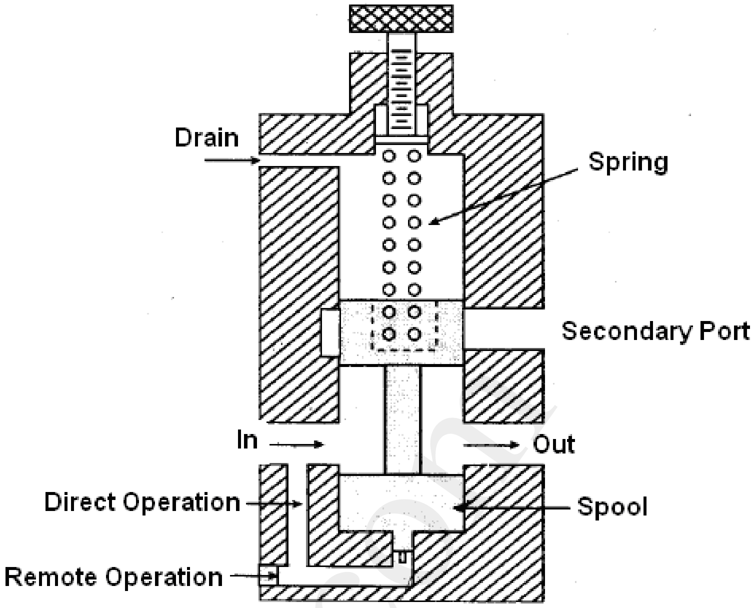
The above figure shows an application for a pressure reducing valve. Here, two cylinders are connected in parallel. The circuit is designed to operate at a maximum pressure of 1500 bar, which is determined by the relief valve setting. This is the maximum pressure that cylinder will see. For a reason determined by the function of the machine, cylinder 2 is limited to a maximum pressure of 1000 bar. This is accomplished by placing a pressure reducing valve in the circuit in the location as shown.

If the pressure in the circuit rises above 1000 bar, the pressure reducing valve will close partially to create a pressure drop across the valve. The valve then maintains the pressure drop so that outlet pressure is not allowed to rise above 1500 bar setting. The disadvantage of this method of pressure control is that the pressure drop across the reducing valve represents lost energy that is converted to heat. If the pressure setting of the reducing valve is set very low relative to the pressure in the rest of the system, the pressure drop will be very high, resulting in excessive heating of the fluid. When the hydraulic fluid becomes too hot, its viscosity reduces, causing increased component wear.

3.9 SEQUENCE VALVES

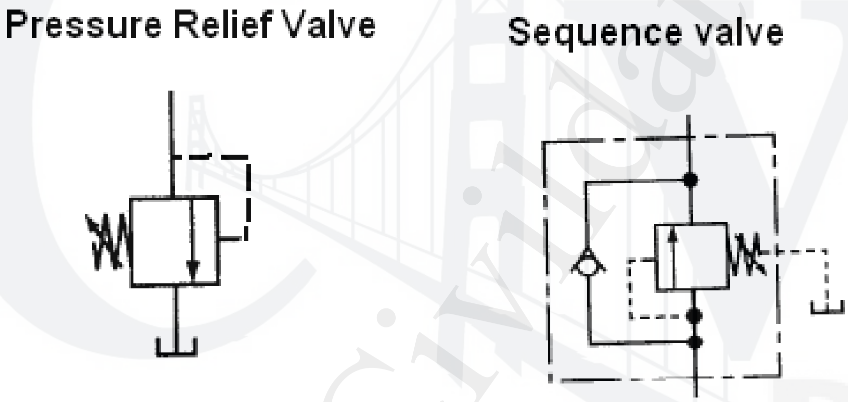
When the operation of two hydraulic cylinders is required to be performed in sequence by using a single direction valve, a special valve is required for this purpose and it is known as the sequence valve.

The sequence valve is to direct flow in a predetermined of sequence. The sequence valve operates on the principle that when system pressure over comes the spring setting, the valve spool moves up allowing flow to the secondary port that is connected with the second operating hydraulic cylinder.

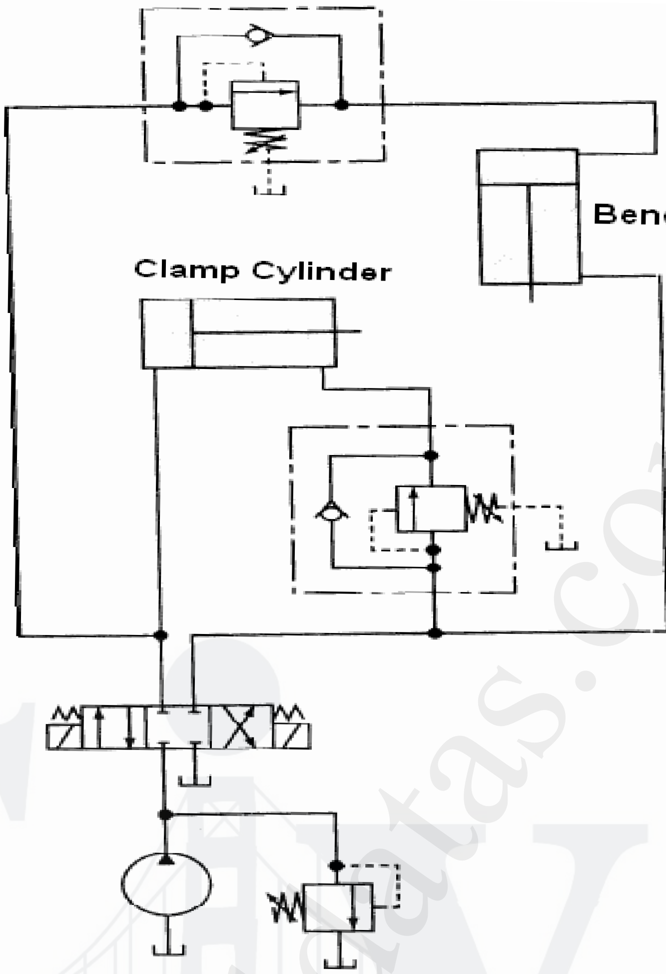


The figure shows the symbol comparison of pressure relief valve and sequence valve.

Instead of sending flow back to the tank, however, a sequence valve allows flow to a branch circuit when a preset pressure is reached. The check valve allows the sequence valve to be by passed in the reverse direction. The component enclosure line indicates that the check is an integral part of the component. The sequence valve has an external drain line, therefore a line must be connected from the sequence valves drain port to the tank.



The below figure shows the circuit of tube bending machines uses sequence valve for clamping and bending tubes in sequence. As per the required sequence first the work piece has to be clamped, then bend to required shape, bending cylinder retract and clamping cylinder retract to unclamp the work piece. In this circuit, the bending cylinder will extend only after the clamp cylinder is fully extended and the clamp cylinder will retract only after the bending cylinder is fully retracted.

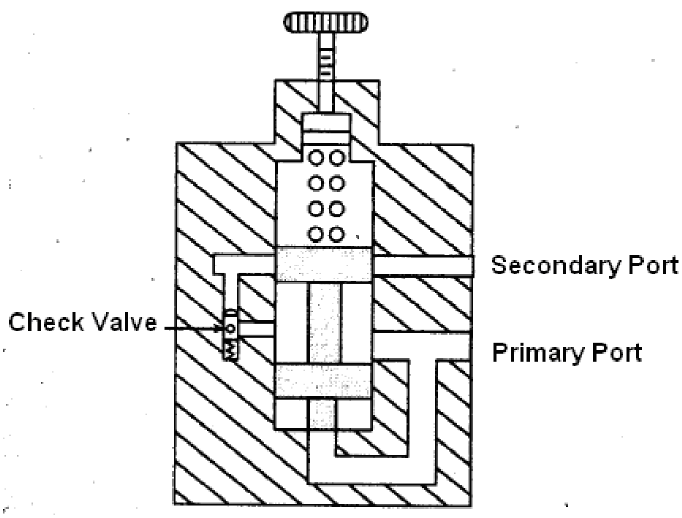


Sequence Valve For Tube Bending Machine

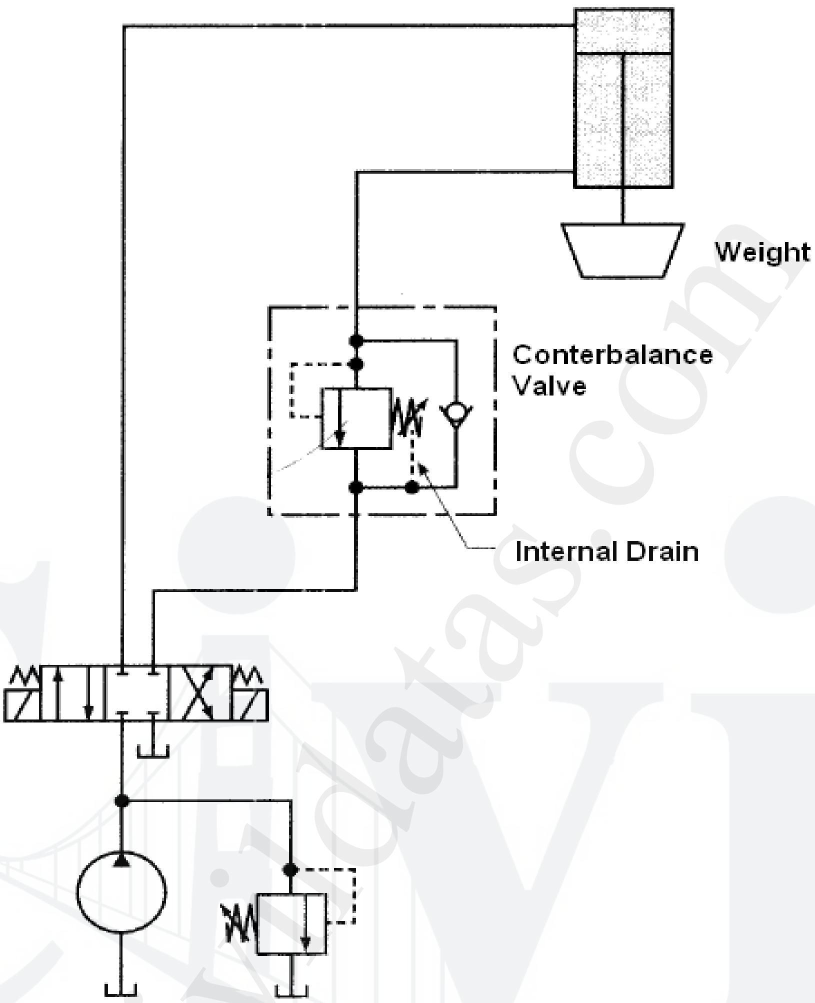
3.10 COUNTER BALANCE VALVES

A counter balance valve is used to maintain back pressure on a vertical cylinder to prevent it from falling due to gravity.

This valve operates on the principle that the line of flow from the bottom of the vertical cylinder into the valve remains closed till a pilot pressure is achieved. As soon as the pressure is developed, it over comes the spring force and the line of flow finds a free passage between primary port and secondary port. When the DCV is shifted to extend the cylinder, the weight may cause the cylinder to accelerate too quickly. When this occurs, the load is driving the cylinder, as apposed to the



more controllable situation of the cylinder driving load. This can cause damage to the load, or even to the cylinder itself, when the load is stopped quickly at the end of its travel. This can be remedied by placing a counter balance valve on the rod end of the cylinder as shown in below figure.



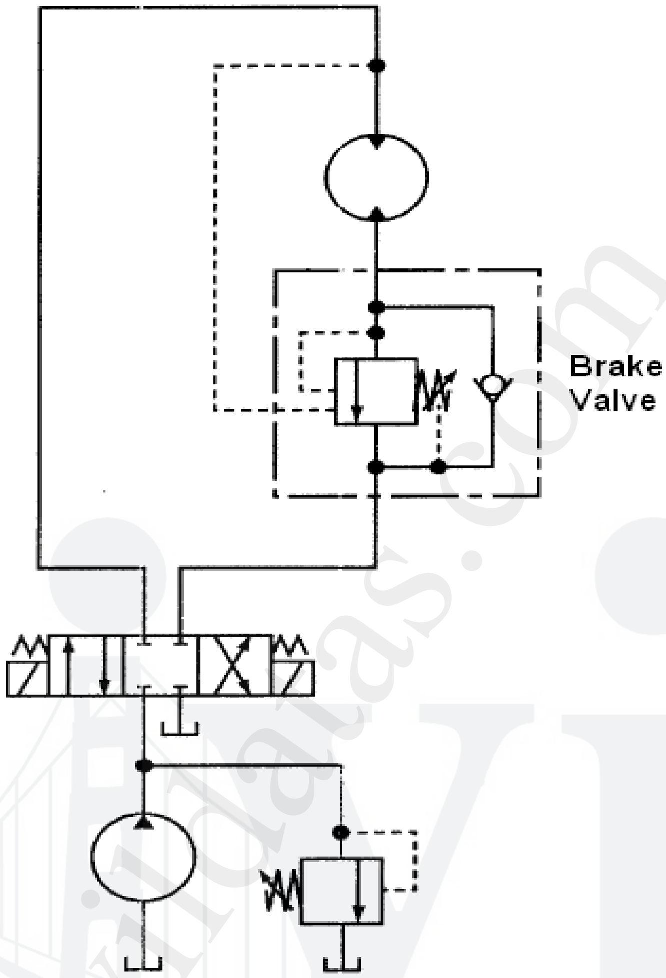
Counterbalance Circuit

When the DCV is shifted to lower the weight, the cylinder will not extend until a preset pressure is reached in the rod end. This provides a back pressure against the rod end of the piston, which acts to stabilize the downward movement of the cylinder. The check valve allows the counter balance valve to be passed when the cylinder is retracted. A counter balance valve has an internal drain, unlike the sequence valve, which has an external drain.

3.11 BRAKE VALVES

Brake valves, like counter balance valves, are used to prevent loads from accelerating uncontrollably. Counter balance valves are used with cylinders, brake valves are used with hydraulic motors. Brake valves are most commonly used in circuits in which the motor must lower a large weight, such as in a winch application. A simple winch circuit is shown in Figure.

When the weight is lowered, it may tend to drive the motor, instead of the motor lowering the weight. This is known as an over running load. In this situation, the load will probably accelerate too quickly. The motor is being driven by the load and is basically acting as a pump. When this occurs, the pressure at the outlet will be higher than the pressure at the inlet. The brake valve senses the pressure in both the inlet and outlet lines of the motor, just as it is with a pump.



Brake Valve In Winch Application

Whenever the pressure at the outlet is lower than the pressure at the inlet, the motor is functioning normally and the brake valve allows nearly unrestricted flow out of the motor. When the pressure at the outlet is higher than at the inlet, however, the brake valve closes partially to provide enough of a back pressure on the outlet of the motor to keep the load in control. The check valve allows the valve to be by passed when the weight is being raised.

3.12 FLOW CONTROL VALVES

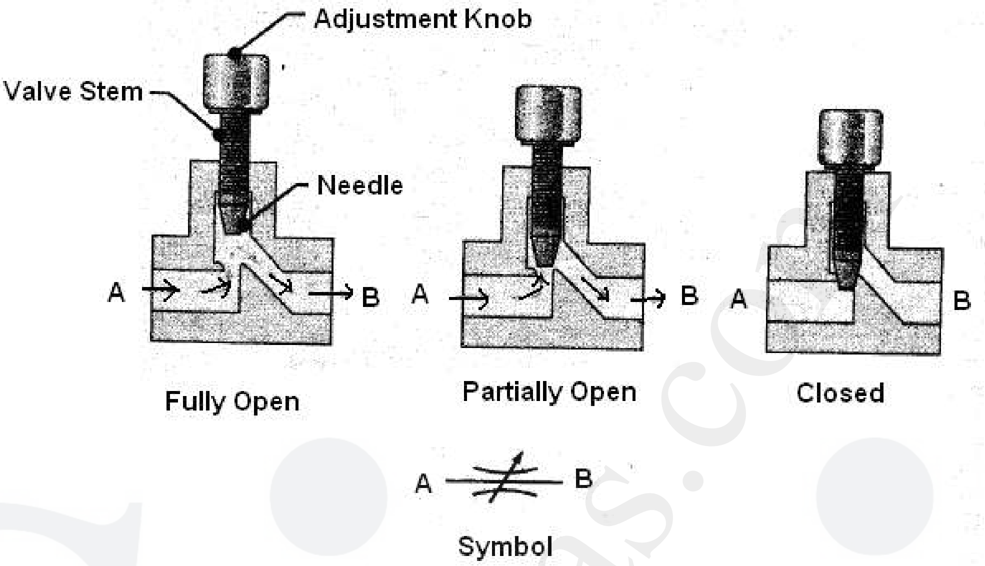
Flow control valves control the flow rate of fluid in a circuit. They accomplish this by incorporating a variable orifice into the circuit that acts like a faucet; closing the flow control valve orifice reduces the flow rate and opening the orifice increases the flow rate. The speed of an actuator depends directly upon the flow rate in the system. Controlling the flow rate therefore allows us to control the speed of actuators. A variable displacement pump's flow output can be varied, even while it is being driven at a constant speed. This will also control the actuator's speed. In spite of this, flow control valves are commonly used because they are much less expensive and easier to control than variable pumps.

Types

1. Needle flow control valve
2. Pressure compensated flow control valve

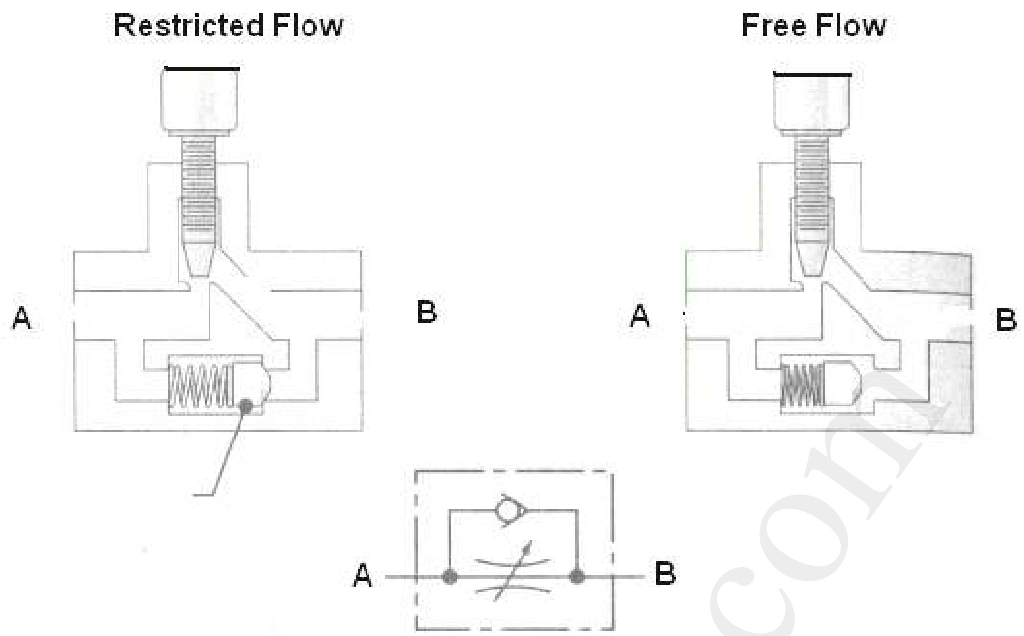
3.12.1 NEEDLE VALVE

The simplest type of flow control valve is needle valve as shown in Figure.



Needle Valve

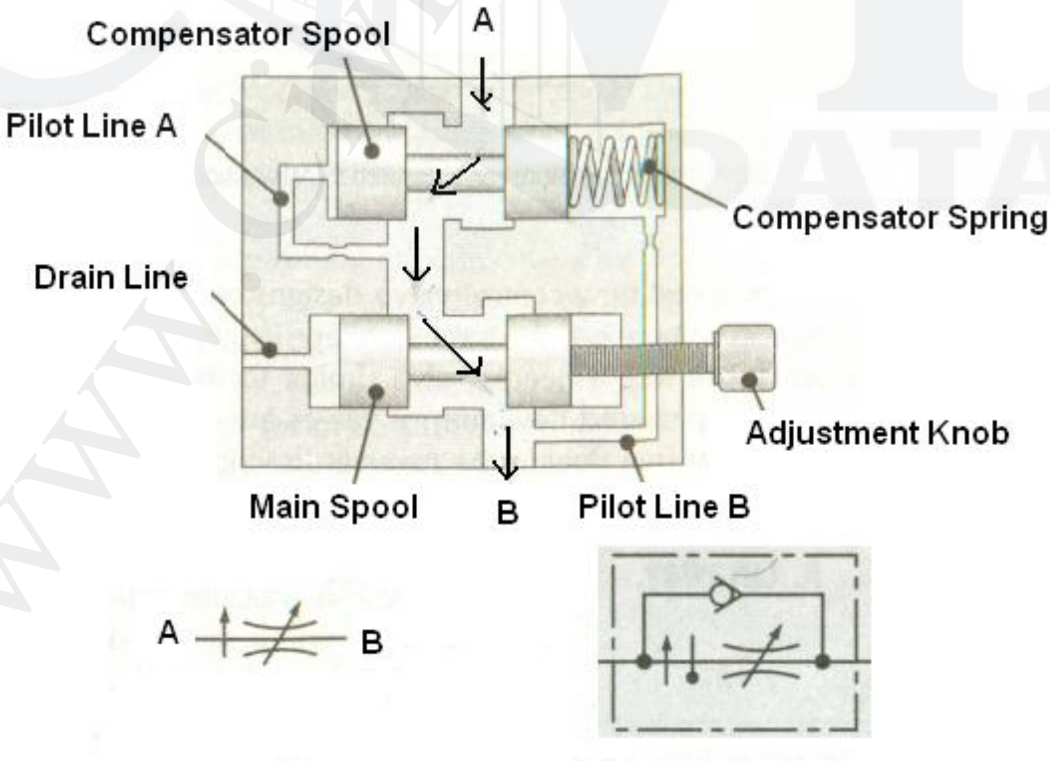
This valve is basically just an adjustable orifice than can be closed to reduce the flow rate in a circuit. The orifice size is adjustment by turning the adjustment knob, which raises or lowers the valve stem and needle. The first figure shows the valve fully open, allowing nearly unrestricted flow. The valve is partially closed and is restricting the flow in the next figure. In the last figure, the valve is completely closed and is therefore allowing no flow. The symbol for a needle valve is shown in D. Needle valves are often used as manual shut-off in applications that require good metering characteristics. In most fluid applications, a needle valve with an integral check valve is used to control the flow rate as shown in below Figure. Part A shows the flow going through the valve from A to B. In this direction, it cannot go through the check and must therefore go through the restriction. In part B, the flow is coming from the opposite direction B to A and can pass through the check valve. The flow is virtually unrestricted in this direction. This flow control valve therefore only controls the flow rate from A to B. From B to A, the flow is uncontrolled because the restriction is by passed through the check.



Needle Valve with Integral Check Valve

3.12.2 PRESSURE COMPENSATED FLOW CONTROL VALVE

The flow control valves blocks the flow in term there is a pressure drop across the valve. This pressure drop affects the motion of the actuators and also increases the temperature of the fluid. To eliminate the above problems pressure compensated flow control valve is designed as shown in below Figure .

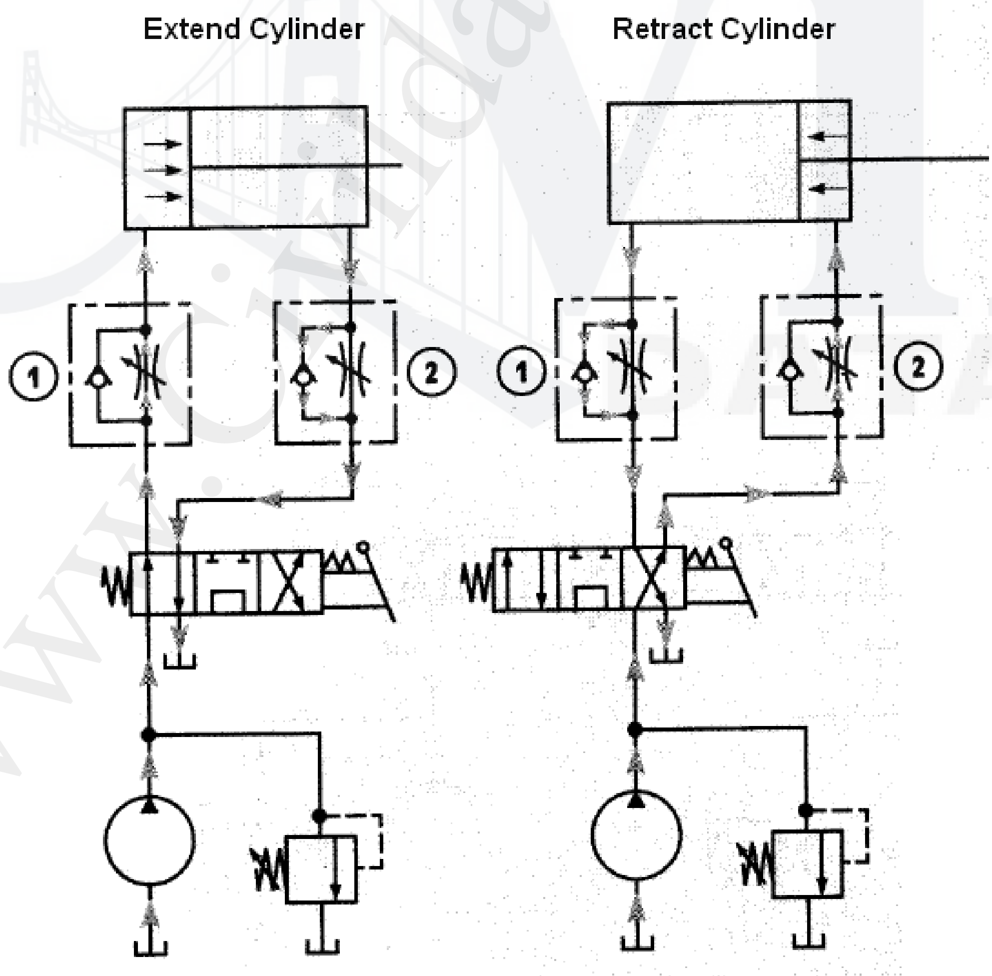


Pressure Compensated Flow Control Valve

This type of flow control valves automatically adjusts the size of the orifice in response to changes in system pressure. It accomplishes this through the use of a spring loaded compensator spool that reduces the size of the orifice when the upstream pressure increases relative to the downstream pressure. Once the valve is set, the pressure compensator will act to keep the pressure drop across the valve nearly constant. This in turn keeps the flow rate through the valve nearly constant. This valve consists primarily of a main spool and a compensator spool. The adjustment knob controls the main spool's position, which controls the orifice size at the outlet. The pressure upstream of (before) the main spool is ported to the left side of the compensator spool through pilot line A. Pressure downstream of (after) the main spool is ported to the right side of the compensator spool through pilot line B. The compensator spring bases the compensator spool to the fully open position. If the pressure upstream of the main spool increases too much relative to the downstream pressure (ie the pressure drop becomes too high), the compensator spool will move to the right against the force of the spring. Thos acts to keep the pressure drop across the main spool and consequently the flow rate nearly constant.

3.13 METER-IN FLOW CONTROL

A cylinder with meter-in flow control of the extend stroke is shown is below Figure.

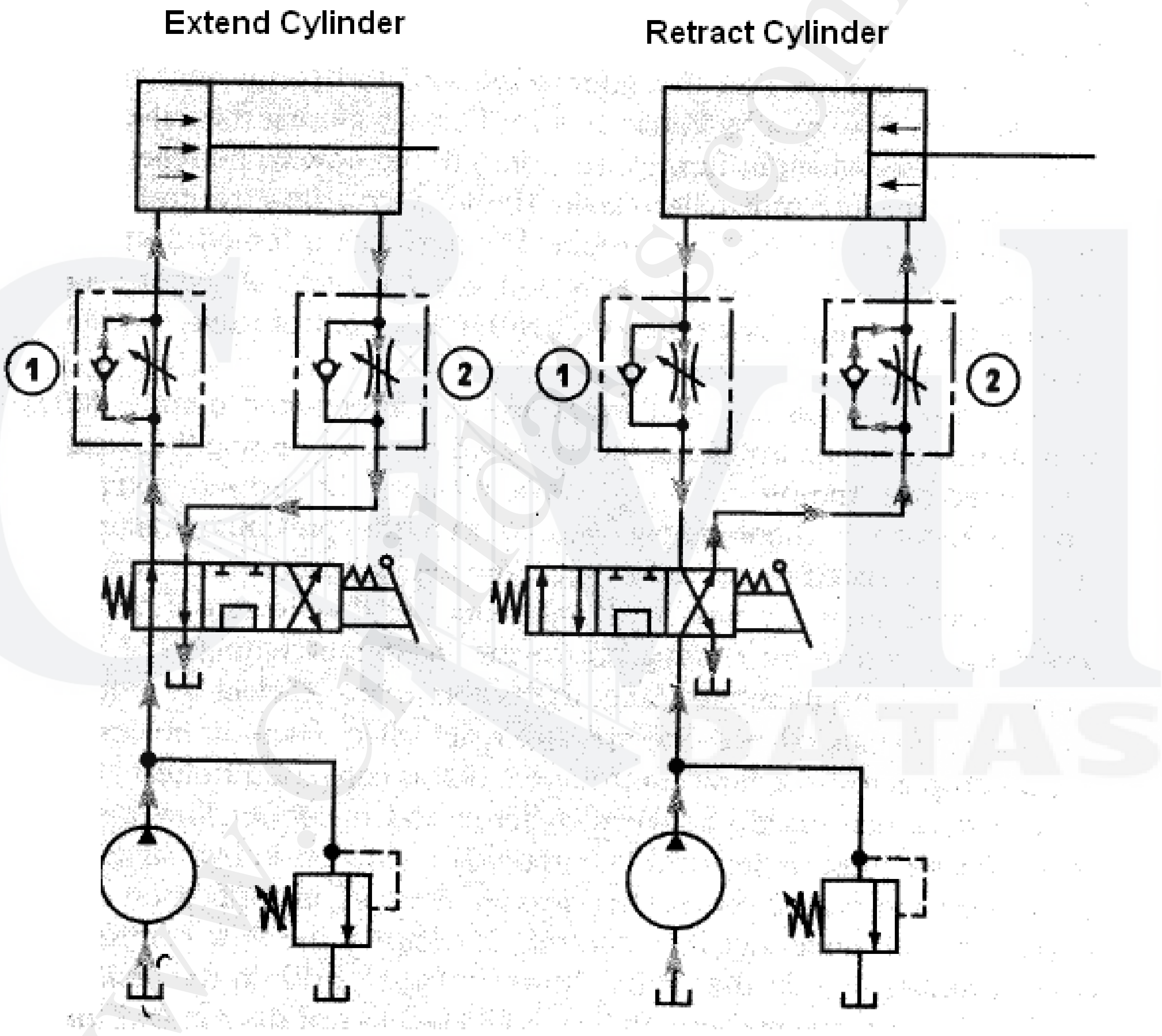


Cylinders with Meter-In Flow Control

When the cylinder is extending, the flow coming from the pump cannot pass through the check valve and is forced to go through the metering orifice (part A). When the cylinder is retracting, the needle valve is being by passed through the check (part B). The net result is that the flow control valve is controlling the extend speed, while the retract speed of the cylinder is uncontrolled. It is common to control only the working stroke of a cylinder, while allowing the return stroke move at full speed.

3.14 METER-OUT FLOW CONTROL

The Figure shows a cylinder with meter-out flow control of the extend stroke.

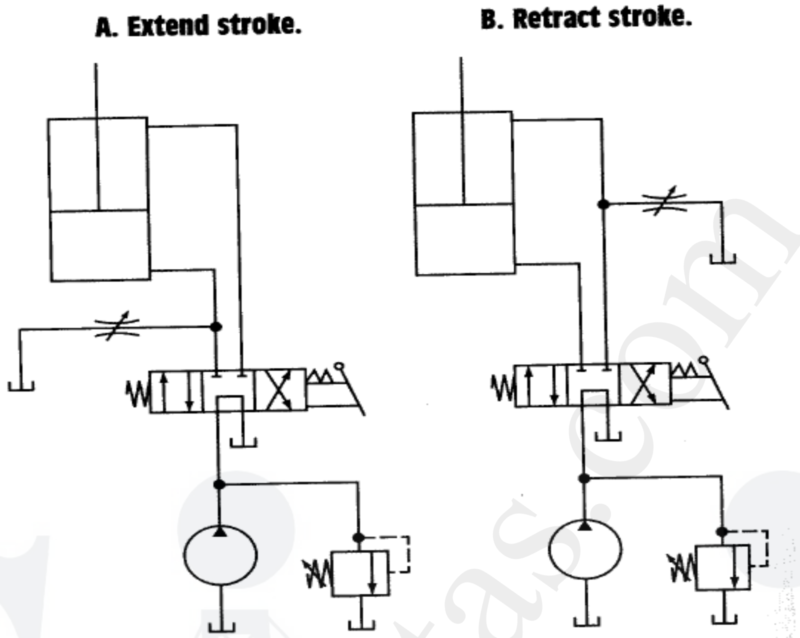


Cylinders with Meter-Out Flow Control

The flow control valve in this circuit is placed in the rod end line. When the cylinder is extending, the flow coming from the cylinder cannot pass through the check and is forced to go through the metering orifice (part A). When the cylinder is retracting, the metering orifice is being by passed through the check (part B). The net result is the same as with the previous circuit. The extend speed is controlled, while the retract speed is uncontrolled. However, in this circuit we control the flow rate act of the cylinder, while in the previous circuit we controlled the flow rate into the cylinder.

3.15 BLEED-OFF CONTROL VALVE

In addition to meter-in and meter-out flow control, there is a less commonly used flow control configuration known as bleed-off.



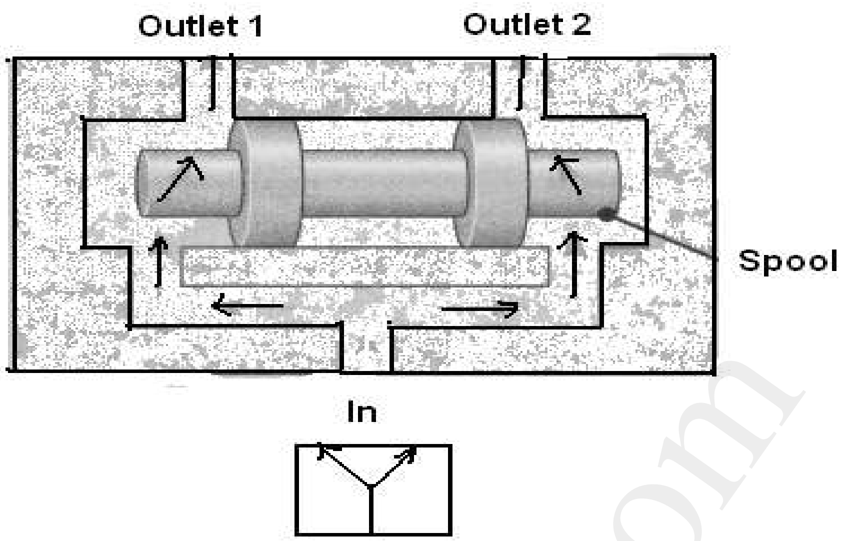
Cylinders with Bleed- Off Control

In this type of flow control, an additional line is run through a flow control back to the tank. To slow down the actuator, some of the flow is bled off through this line, thereby reducing the flow to the actuator 'Figure A' shows bleed off control of the extend stroke, 'Figure B' shows control of the retract stroke. Note that the operation of a bleed-off flow control valve is opposite to a meter-in or meter-out flow control valve. Opening a bleed-off flow control valve slows down an actuator, while opening a meter-in or meter-out flow control valve increases actuator speed.

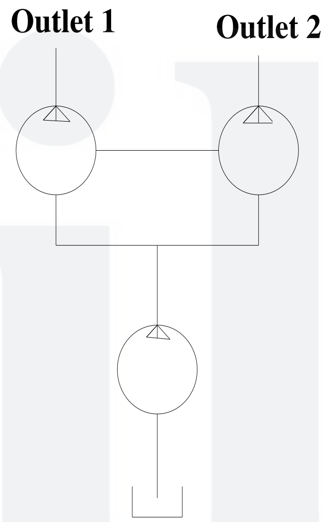
3.16 FLOW DIVIDER

Flow dividers divide the flow from a pump into two or more streams of equal flow rates. They maintain equal flow rates in the branch circuits even if the pressures in the branches are not equal. Without flow divider, the flow from the pump would follow the path of least resistance.

There are two commonly used flow divider designs balanced spool and rotary. The Figure shows a simplified cut away of a balanced spool flow divider. The spool is free to slide back and forth in the housing and will naturally assume a position so that the pressure on either side of the spool will be equal. The spool is therefore pressure balanced. For example if the pressure at outlet 1 was greater than the pressure at outlet 2, the spool would slide to the right to partially cover outlet 2. By partially restricting the more lightly loaded outlet, the flow divider adds more resistance to this path. This acts to equalize the resistance of each path.



Balanced Spool Flow Divider



The rotary flow divider is basically two gear pumps are in one housing whose inlets are joined together as shown in Figure.

Their shafts are also coupled together so that they must turn at the same speed. Because they are forced to turn at the same speed, they will supply equal flow to their outlets when placed in a pump line.

3.17 ACCUMULATORS

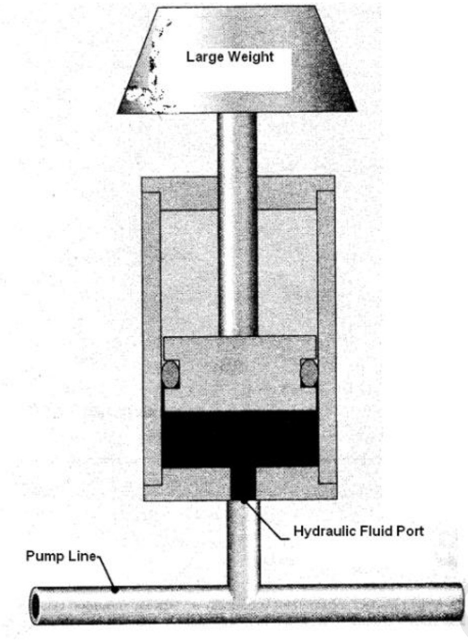
Accumulators are devices that store hydraulic fluid under pressure. Storing hydraulic fluid under pressure is a way of storing energy for later use. Perhaps the most common application for an accumulator is supplementing the pump flow in a hydraulic system in which a high flow rate is required for a brief period of time.

Types;

1. Weight loaded accumulator
2. Spring loaded accumulator
3. Gas charged accumulator
4. Piston type
5. Bladder type
6. Diaphragm type

3.17.1 WEIGHT LOADED ACCUMULATOR

It is basically a vertically mounted cylinder with a large weight as show in Figure.

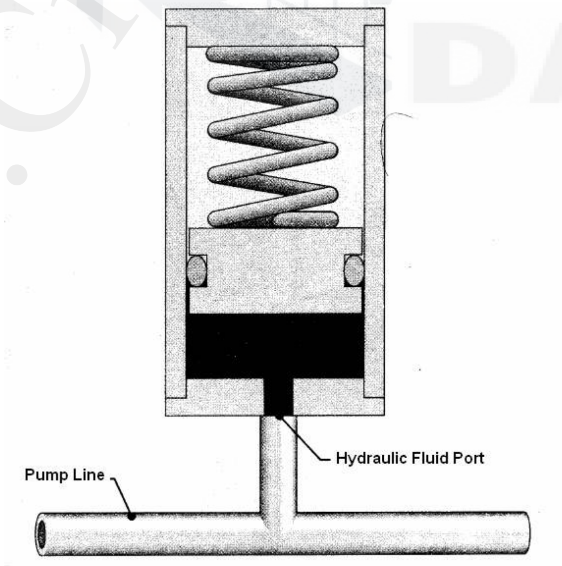


Weight Loaded Accumulator

When hydraulic fluid is pumped into this accumulator, the weight is raised. The weight then applies a force to the piston, which generates a pressure on the fluid side of the piston. The advantage of this type of accumulator over all of the other, it applies a constant pressure on the fluid throughout its entire range of motion. The disadvantage is that a very large weight must be used to generate enough pressure. Because of that this type is seldom used.

3.17.2 SPRING LOADED ACCUMULATOR

A spring loaded accumulator stores energy in the form of a compressed spring as shown in figure.



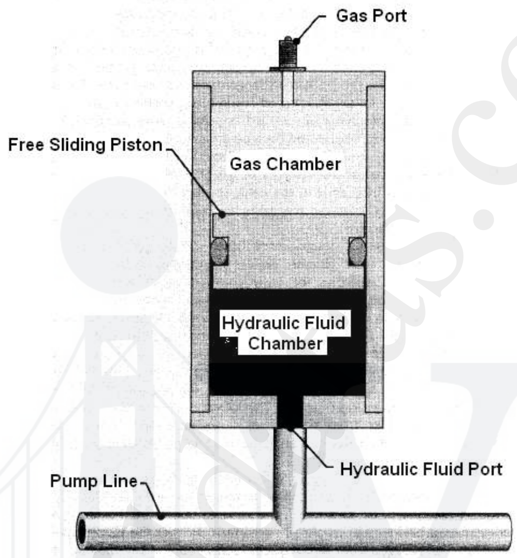
Spring Loaded Accumulator

Hydraulic fluid is pumped into the accumulator, causing the piston to move up and compress the spring. The spring then applies a force on the piston that exerts a pressure on the hydraulic fluid. The pressure is constantly decreasing as hydraulic fluid is drawn out because the spring decompresses and therefore exerts less force on the piston. This type is not commonly used in hydraulic circuit because a large spring must be used to generate enough pressure.

3.17.3 PISTON TYPE ACCUMULATOR

The basic construction of a piston type, gas charged accumulator is shown in Figure.

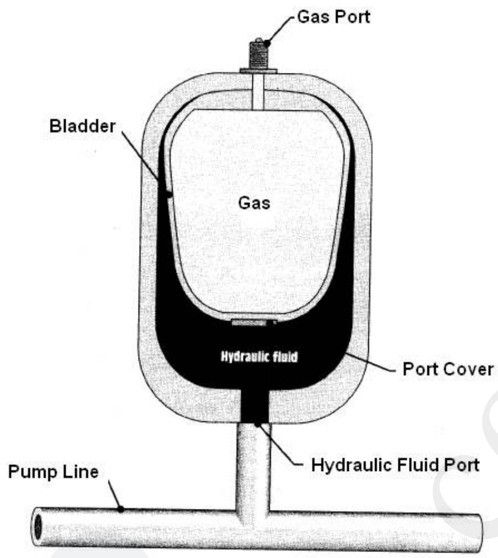
Its operation begins when the gas chamber is filled with a gas to some predetermined pressure called the pre-charge, which causes the free-sliding piston to move down. Once the accumulator is pre-charged, hydraulic fluid can be pumped into the hydraulic fluid port.



As the hydraulic fluid enters the accumulator, it causes the piston to slide up, thereby compressing the gas. Compressing the gas increases its pressure, and this pressure is then applied to the hydraulic fluid through the piston. Because the piston is free sliding, the pressure on the gas and the hydraulic fluid is always equal. Whenever the pressure in the system drops below the pressure in the accumulator, fluid will flow out of the accumulator and into the system. As the hydraulic fluid flows out of the accumulator, the gas decompresses and loses pressure, which in turn causes the pressure on the hydraulic fluid to be reduced. The gas used to pre-charge accumulator is usually nitrogen because it is an inert gas and does not support combustion.

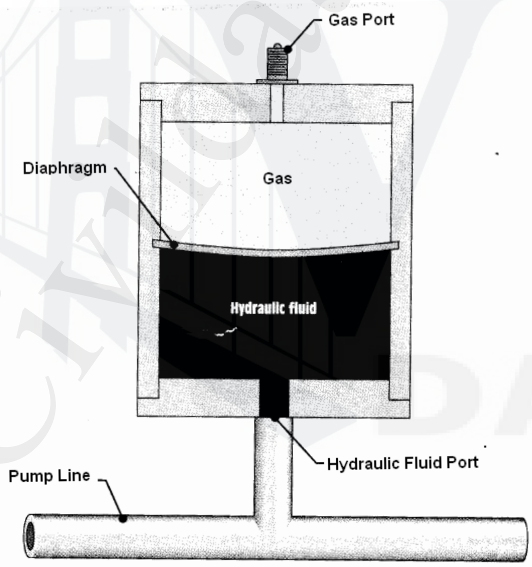
3.17.4 BLADDER TYPE ACCUMULATOR

The basic construction of a bladder type accumulator is shown in Figure. These accumulator functions in the same way as a piston accumulator, storing energy in the form of a compressed gas. However, instead of the gas and hydraulic fluid being separated by a piston, they are separated by a synthetic rubber bladder. The bladder is filled with nitrogen until the desired pre-charge pressure is achieved. Hydraulic fluid is then pumped into the accumulator, thereby compressing the gas and increasing the pressure in the accumulator, just as with the piston type. The port cover is a small piece of metal that protects the bladder from damage as it expands and contacts the hydraulic fluid port.



Bladder Type Accumulators

3.17.5 DIAPHRAGM ACCUMULATOR



Diaphragm Accumulators

The vessel is separated into two components by a flexible diaphragm. One compartment is connected to the hydraulic system and the other to the high pressure gas system. Thus the diaphragm serves as an elastic barrier between the oil and the gas. When the oil is delivered into the accumulator, it deforms the diaphragm. The gas is compressed when the charged oil pushes the diaphragm against it. This gas pressure is used as the potential energy to force the oil out when it is required in the circuit. The advantage of bladder and diaphragm accumulators over the piston type is that they have no sliding surface that requires lubrication and can therefore be used with fluids with poor lubricating qualities. They are also less sensitive to contamination due to lack of any close fitting sliding components.

3.17.6 NON-SEPARATED TYPE ACCUMULATOR

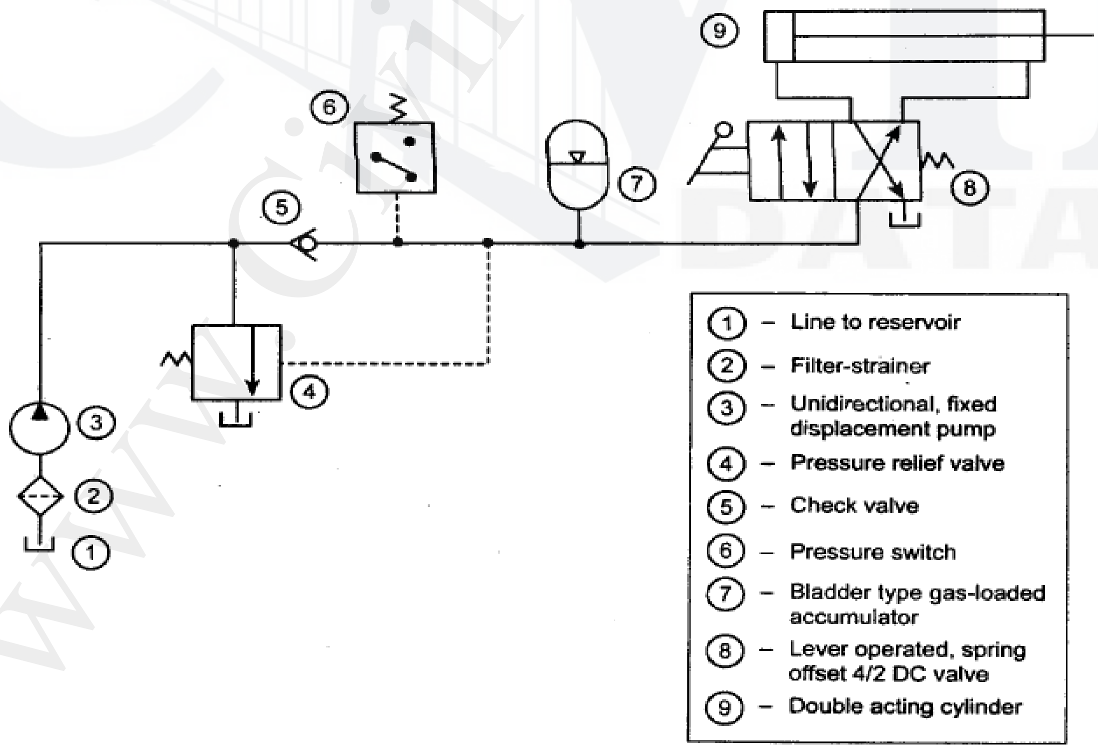
It consists of a fully enclosed shell containing a gas charging valve on the top and an oil port on the bottom. The confines at the top and oil remain at the bottom and there is no physical separator between them. Since the gas has direct contact with the oil, this type is termed as non separator type accumulator. Due to the absence of separator, the gas is absorbed and also entrapped in the oil. This accumulator type is not preferred for use with high speed pumps because the entrapped gas in the oil may cause cavitations and damage to the pump. The problems of aeration of the oil often limit their use in hydraulic system.

3.18 APPLICATIONS OF ACCUMULATORS

Accumulators are used as

1. Leakage compensator
2. Auxiliary power source
3. Emergency power source
4. Hydraulic shock absorber
5. Fluid make-up device

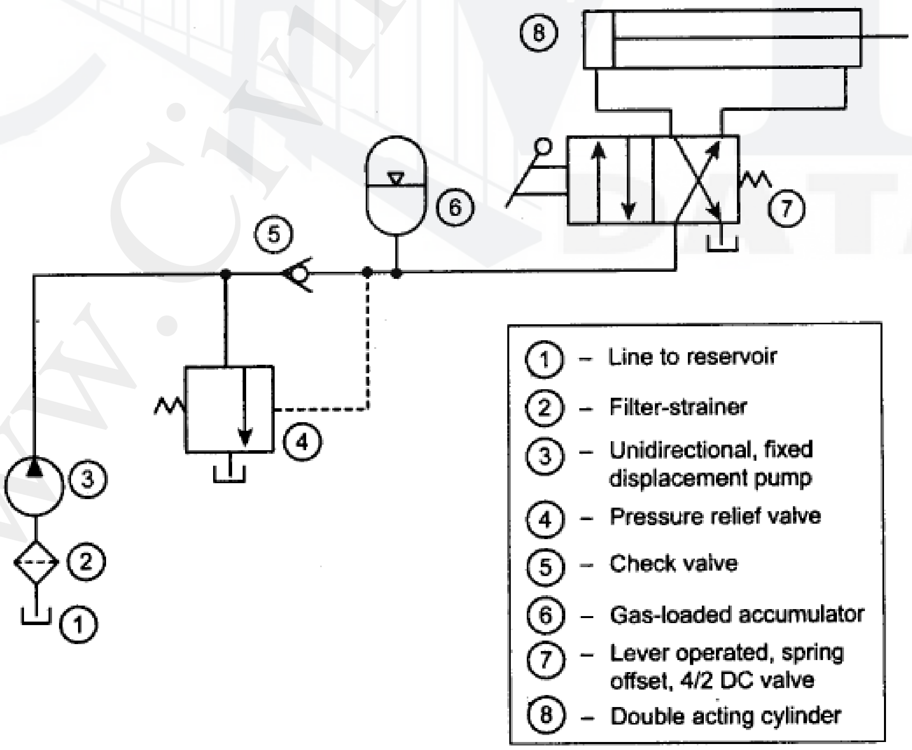
3.18.1 ACCUMULATOR AS LEAKAGE COMPENSATOR



The stored energy of the accumulator can be used to compensate any possible loss of energy due to internal or external leakage in a system. This application is extremely helpful in circuits, such as are used for hydraulic presses, which require high pressure for long periods. First operator places work piece on the press and shifts handle of the 4/2 DC valve. Now the oil flows to blank end of cylinder and piston extends. The pressure builds up and oil fills the accumulator. When maximum pressure is reached, the pressure switch stops the pump motor. In these applications, the cylinder and piston arrangement is required to press the work piece for a longer period of time. During this period, the internal and external leakage may reduce the cylinder pressure. The leakage oil is replaced with the oil from the accumulator. This leakage replacement of oil is carried for a longer period of time. The maximum length of time is determined by the volume of the accumulator and the rate of leakage in the cylinder. When the pressing cycle has been completed, the operator shifts the handle of the 4/2 DC valve to original position. Thus a cycle is completed.

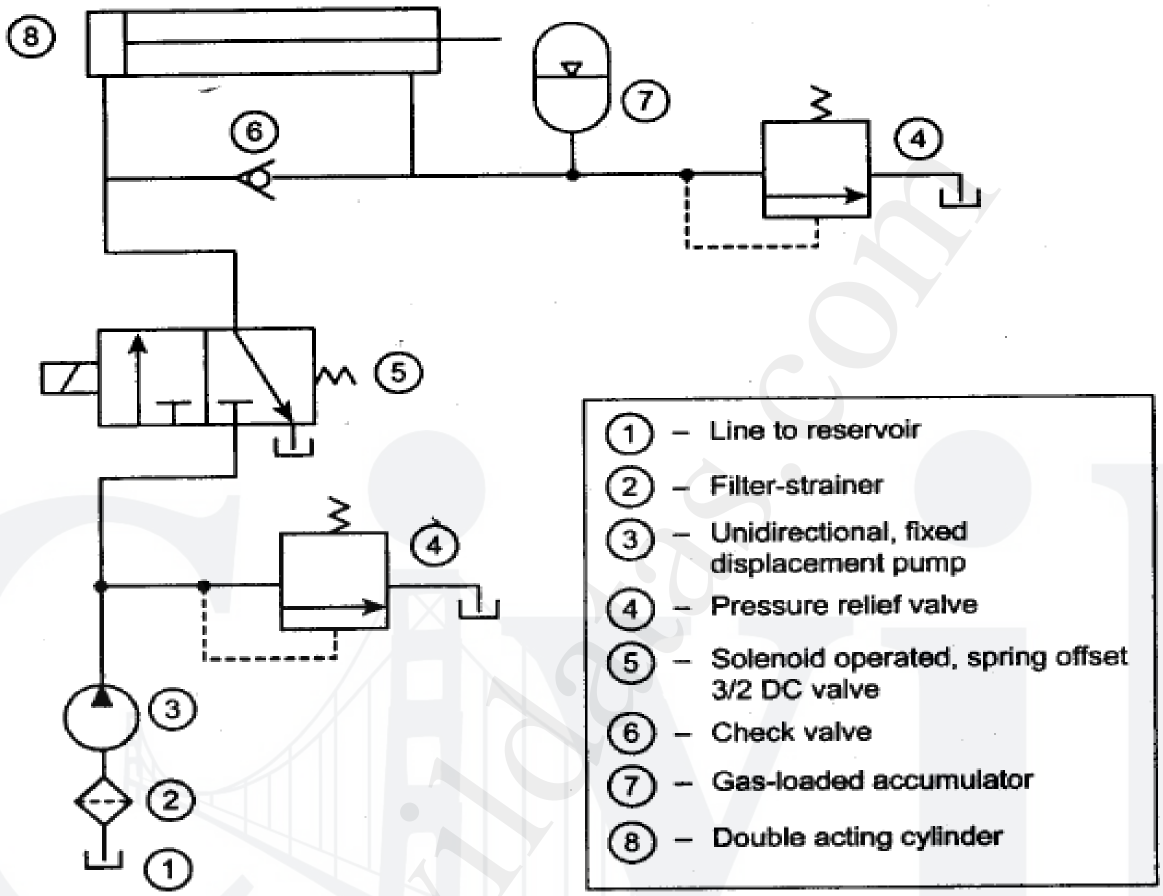
3.18.2 ACCUMULATOR AS AUXILIARY POWER SOURCE

As we know, the electric motor or pump motor is a primary power source. In this application, the accumulator stores the oil during one portion of the work cycle and releases the oil during the remaining cycle. Thus accumulator serves as a secondary power source. Figure shows the circuit using accumulator as a secondary power source. After placing the work piece on slide table and shifts handle of 4/2 DC valve. Now oil flows from the accumulator to blank end of slide cylinder. This extends the piston until slide table reaches end of stroke. When the cylinder is in the fully extended position, the accumulator is charged with the oil by the pump. Then the operator shifts the handle of 4/2 DC valve for the retraction of the cylinder. Now the oil flows from the pump as well as from the accumulator to retract the cylinder quickly.



3.18.3 ACCUMULATOR AS EMERGENCY POWER SOURCE

In some hydraulic applications, it is necessary to retract the pistons of cylinder to their starting position; even there may be an electrical power failure. In such applications, the accumulator can be used as an emergency power source to retract the piston of the cylinder.

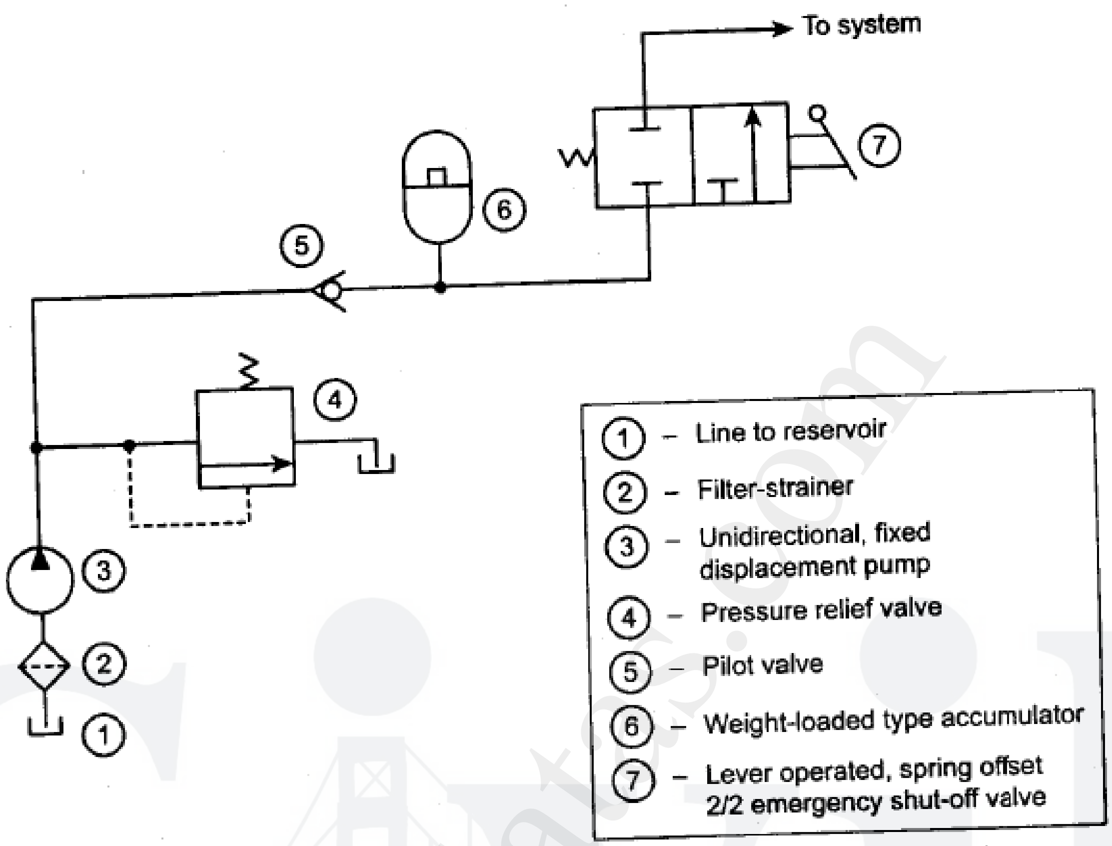


Accumulators as Emergency Power Source

When operator depresses push button energizing solenoid of the 3/2 DCV, oil flows to blank end of cylinder. At the same time, the oil also unseats check valve. So the oil under pressure flow to rod end of cylinder and into the accumulator. When there is a power failure, the solenoid will de-energize. In the absence of solenoid energy, the spring pressure forces the valve to shift to its spring offset mode. Now the oil stored under pressure is forced from the accumulator to the rod end of the cylinder. Thus the piston of the cylinder retracts to the starting position.

3.18.4 ACCUMULATOR AS HYDRAULIC SHOCK ABSORBER

In many high pressure hydraulic systems, the sudden stoppage of a hydraulic fluid flowing at high velocity in pipelines can cause considerable damage to the piping. This hydraulic shock, also known as water hammer, may snap heavy pipes, loosen fittings and cause leaks. By installing an accumulator, this high pressure pulsations or hydraulic shocks can be absorbed. Figure shows the circuit employing accumulator for serving as a hydraulic shock absorber.

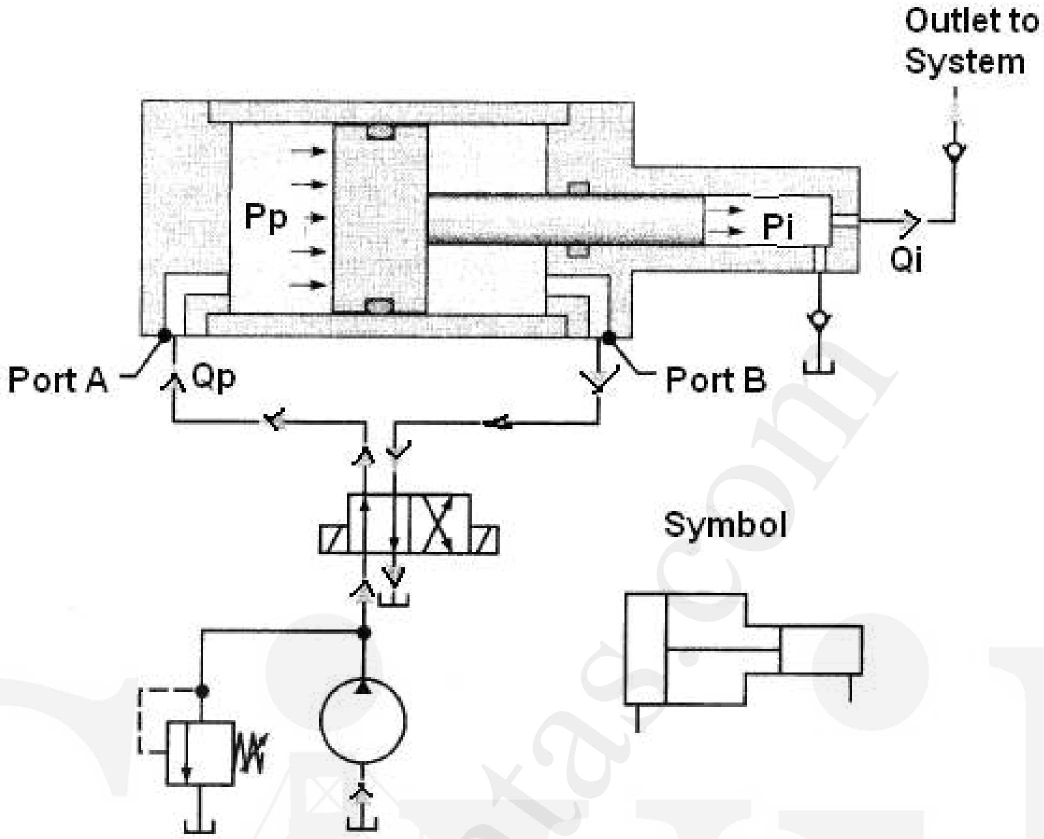


Accumulators as a Hydraulic Shock Absorber

The accumulator installed near the shut-off point in order to be more effective in quickly absorbing the shock wave. When the system demands to shut-off the supply suddenly, a 2/2 shut-off valve is used for the purpose. When operator shifts handle of the 2/2 emergency shut-off valve, the fluid flow is stopped suddenly. This results in high-pressure pulsations or hydraulic shock. The pressure pulsation is blocked by check valve. The surges between the check valve and the shut-off valve are used to store the oil in accumulator and thus the pressure pulsations of the oil in the pipe line are absorbed.

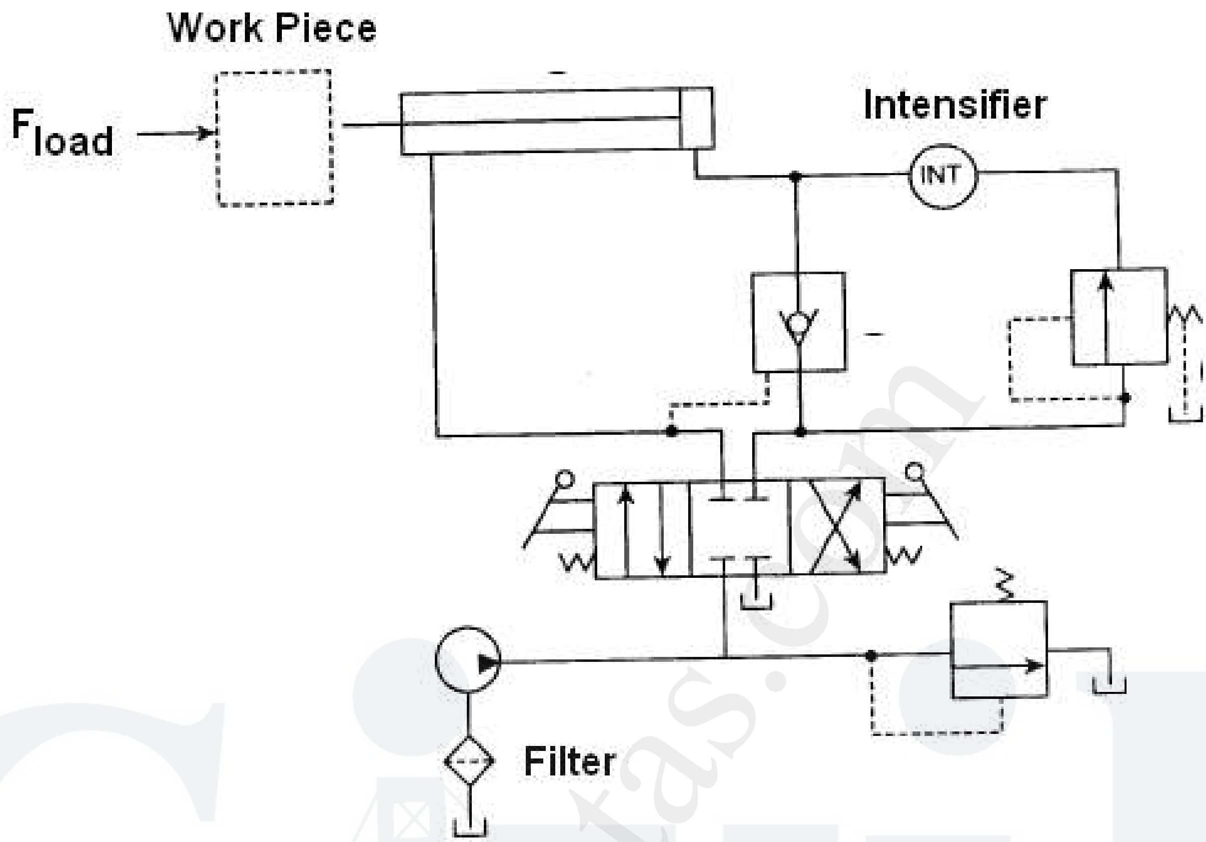
3.19 INTENSIFIER

Pressure intensifier or boosters are devices used to generate pressure greater than those achievable with standard hydraulic pumps alone. They take the inlet flow from the pump and intensify the pressure. A simplified cut way of an intensifier is shown in Figure.



Single Acting Intensifiers

The intensifier is shown on the forward stroke. In this situation, the pump flow (Q pump) is fed into port A of the intensifier, which applies a pressure (P_{pump}) to the piston, causing it to more right. This in turn generates a force that is applied to the rod. The force on the rod then creates pressure and flow at the outlet to the system. When the four way directional control valve is shifted to the opposite position, the pump flow is sent to port B of the intensifier, causing the piston to move left. This causes fluid to be drawn into the rod chamber which completes one cycle. The Figure shows the usage of intensifier in the punching machine. After placing the work piece in the fixture and shifts handle of 4/2 DCV to the right side, the oil flows to the blank end of the cylinder through the check valve. When the pressure in the cylinder reaches the sequence valve pressure setting, the sequence valve opens and supplies the flow to the intensifier. Now the intensifier starts to operate and gives high pressure output. This high pressure output of the intensifier closes the pilot check valve and pressurizes the blank end of the cylinder to perform the punching operation.

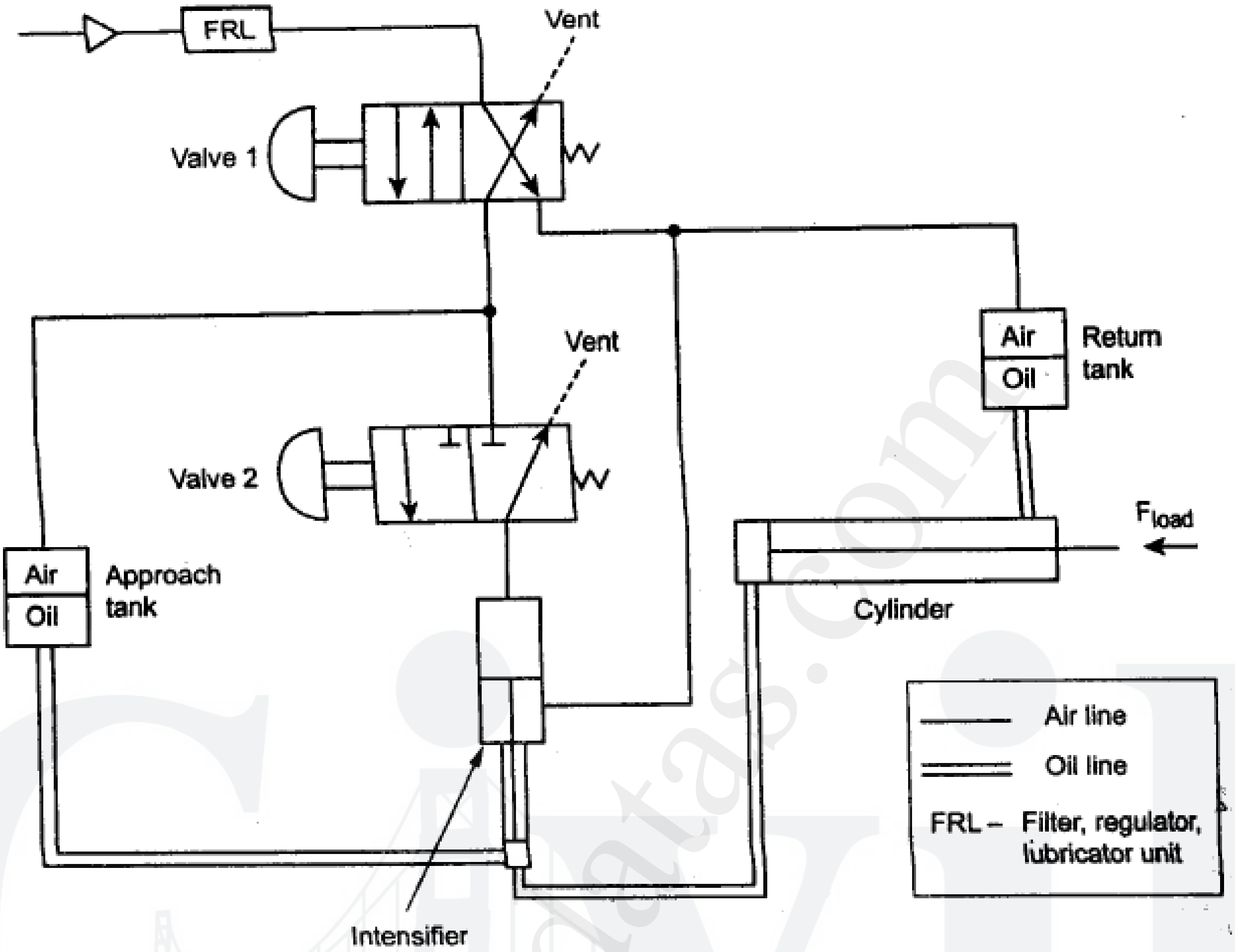


Pressure Intensifier Circuit

When the 4/2 DCV is shifted to the left side position, the oil flows to the rod end of the cylinder. When it builds-up the pressure, the pilot signal opens the check valve. Thus the cylinder is retracted to the starting position.

3.20 AIR-OVER-OIL INTENSIFIER CIRCUIT

In some applications, the hydraulics and pneumatics circuits are coupled to best use of the advantage of both oil and air mediums. This combination circuit is also known as hydro-pneumatic or dual pressure systems. Figure shows a typical air-over-oil intensifier. This circuit can be used for drawing a cylinder over a large distance at a low pressure and then over a small distance at high pressure. This circuit consists of two lines- air lines and oil lines. In the circuit the air lines are shown by single lines and oil lines by double lines. When the first 4/2 DCV valve1 is shifted to left mode, the air from the reservoir flows to the approach tank. In the approach tank, the air forces the oil to the blind end of the cylinder through the bottom of the intensifier, as shown by double lines. Now the cylinder extends. When the cylinder experiences its load, the second 4/2 valve2 is actuated to the left mode. This valve position sends air to the top end of the intensifier. Now the intensifier moves down, and the piston of the intensifier blocks the path of oil from the approach tank. Now the cylinder receives high pressure oil at the blind end to perform the useful work such as punching operation.



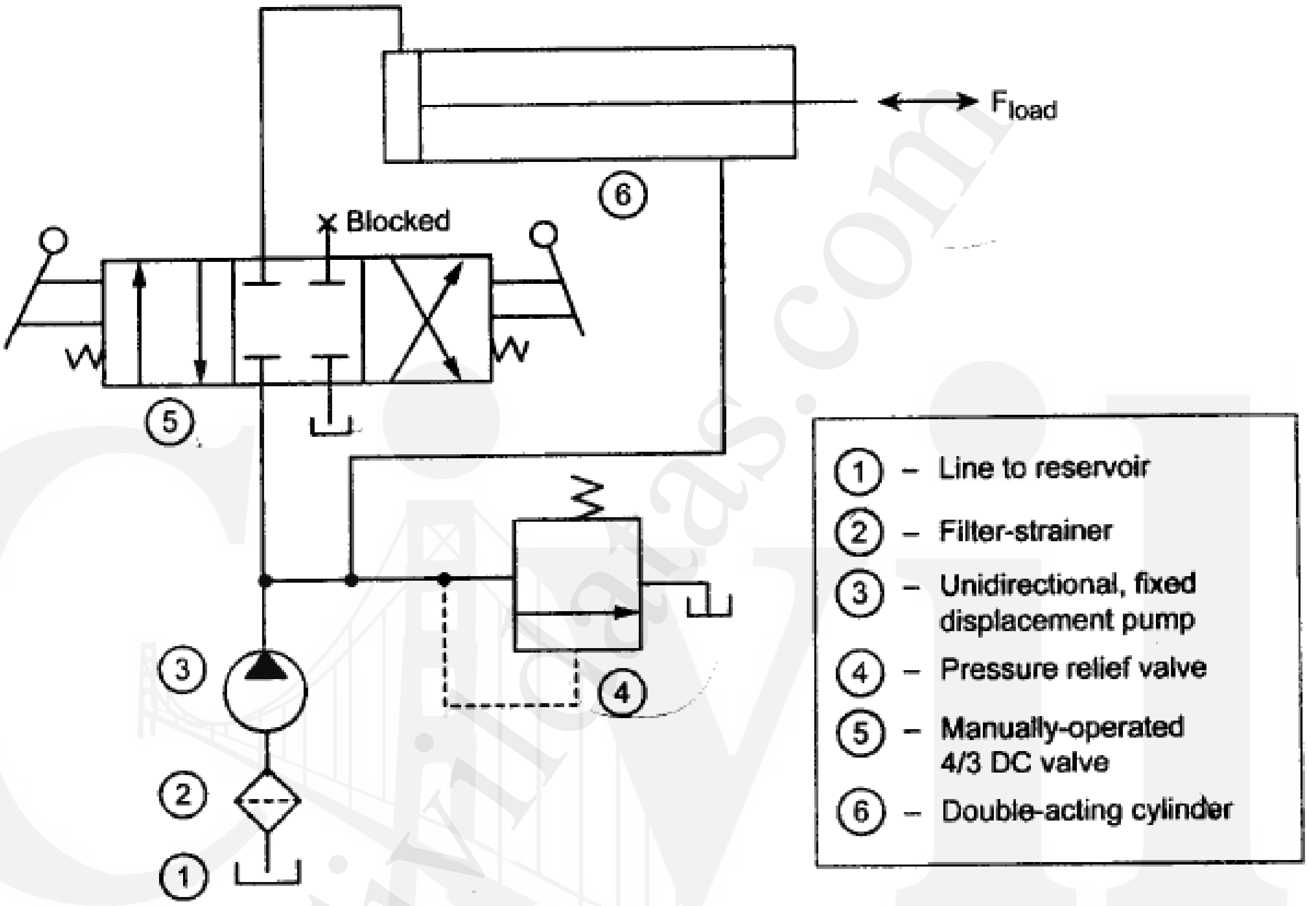
Air-Over-Oil Intensifier Circuit

When the valve2 is released, the air flow from the reservoir is blocked. The air from the top end of the intensifier is vented to the atmosphere. This completes the high pressure portion of the cycle. When valve1 is released, the air flow is diverted to return tank and also the air in the approach tank is vented. The diverted air flow pushes the oil to the rod end of the cylinder. This causes the cylinder to retract. The oil from the piston end of the cylinder is diverted back to the approach tank through the bottom end of the intensifier. This completes the entire cycle of operation.

3.21 INDUSTRIAL HYDRAULIC CIRCUITS

3.21.1 REGENERATIVE CIRCUIT

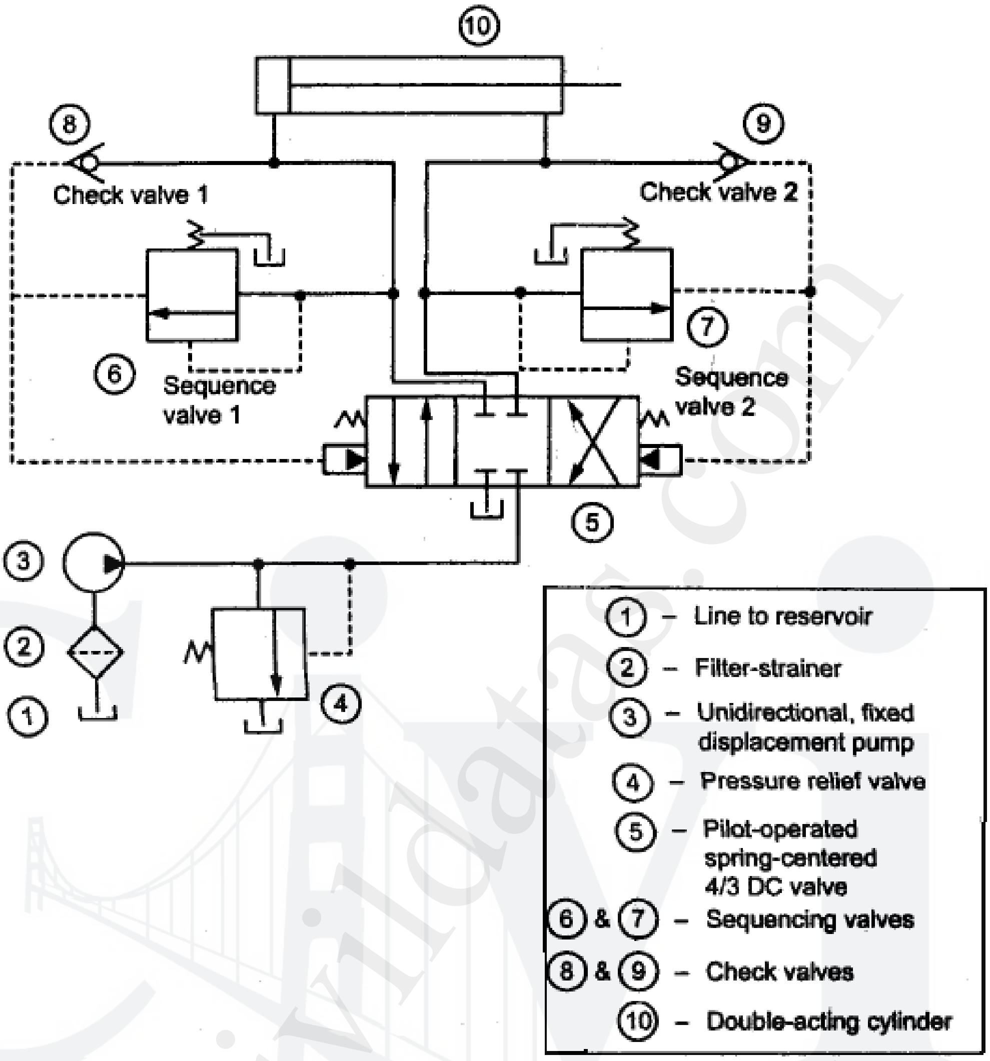
It is used to speed up the extending speed of the double acting cylinder. Figure shows a regenerative circuit that can be used to speed up the extending speed of the double acting cylinder. This circuit uses a manually operated, three position, four way DCV and a double acting cylinder. It should be noted in this circuit that the pipelines to the cylinder are connected in parallel and one of the ports of the DCV is blocked. When the 4/3 DCV is shifted to the left mode, the oil flows from the pump to the blank end of the cylinder. This pump flow extends the cylinder. When the 4/3 DCV is shifted to the right mode, the oil from the pump bypasses the DCV and enters into the rod end of the cylinder. Oil in the blank end drains back to the tank through the DCV as the cylinder retracts. The speed of extension in the regenerative circuit is greater than that for a regular double acting cylinder. But the speed of retraction is similar to the regular double acting cylinder. This is because oil flow from the rod end regenerates with the pump flow to provide a total flow rate, which is greater than the pump flow rate to the blank end of the cylinder.



Regenerative Circuit

3.21.2 AUTOMATIC CYLINDER RECIPROCATING SYSTEM

The sequence valves can also be used to produce continuous reciprocation of a hydraulic cylinder. Figure shows a circuit that automatic reciprocation of the hydraulic cylinder. This can be achieved by using two sequence valves and a pilot pressure operated spring-centered 4/3 DCV. When the 4/3 DCV is shifted to the flow path configuration, oil flows from the pump to the rod end of the cylinder. This pump flow retracts the cylinder. The check valve1 prevents shifting of the 4/3 DCV until the full retraction stroke completes. As the piston reaches its end of stroke, the pressure builds up in the sequence valve1 and it opens. This allows the pilot pressure signal to shift the DCV to the right mode. When the pilot signal shifts the 4/3 DCV to the right mode, the oil flows to the blank end of the cylinder. This pump flow extends the cylinder. The check valve 2 prevents shifting of the DCV until the full extension stroke completes. As the piston reaches its end of stroke, the pressure builds up in the sequence valve2 and it opens. This allows the pilot pressure signal to shift the DCV to the left mode again. Thus the sequence repeats and the cylinder reciprocates continuously.

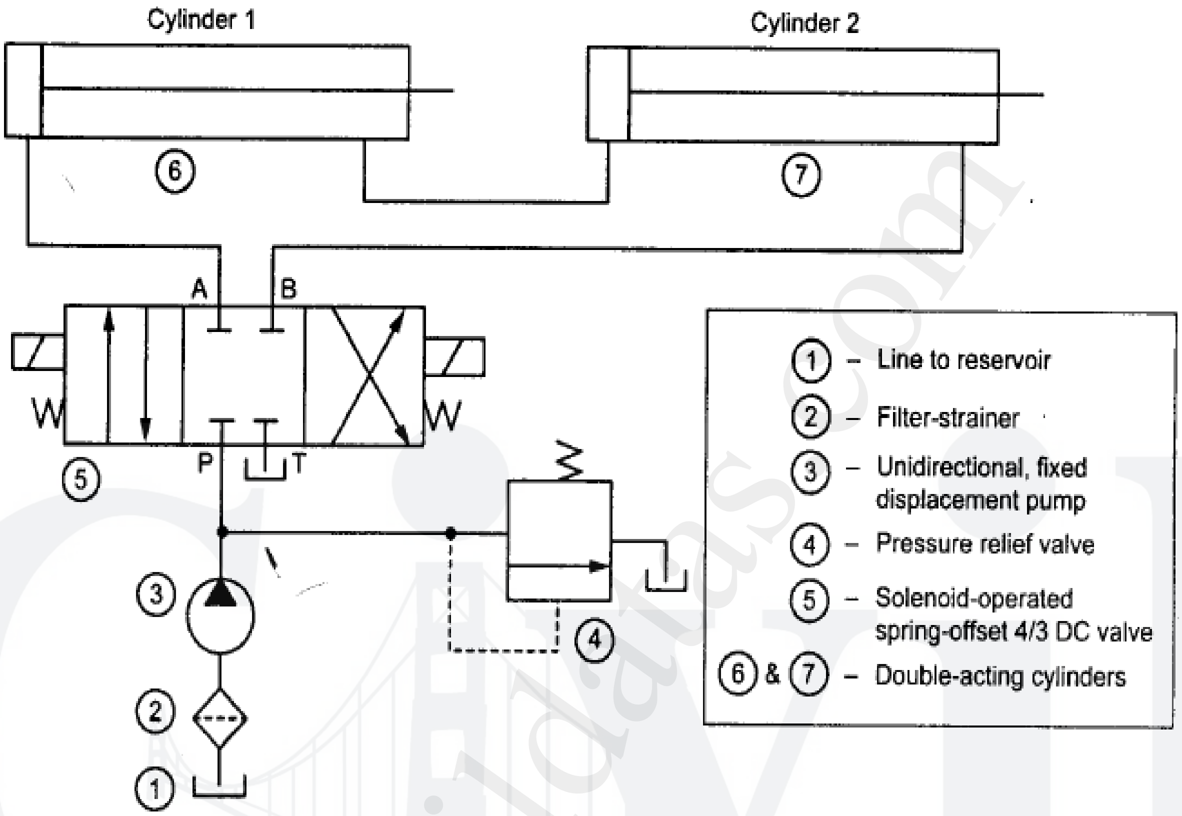


Automatic Cylinder Reciprocating System

3.21.3 SYNCHRONIZING HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS

There are many industrial applications require nearly perfect synchronization of movement of two or more cylinders in order to complete some phase of operation. To accomplish the identical task from the cylinders at the same rate, synchronizing circuits are employed. This is achieved by using double-end cylinders in series, by using mechanically linked pistons, by using hydraulic motors as metering devices and by using flow control valves. Figure shows a circuit to synchronize two cylinders by connecting them in series. This circuit uses a solenoid-operated, spring-offset 4/3 DCV and two double acting cylinders. When the 4/3 DCV is shifted to the left envelope flow path configuration, oil flows from the pump to the blank end of cylinder1 and thus the cylinder1 extends. At the same time, oil from the rod end of cylinder1 is forced to the blank end of cylinder2 and thus the cylinder2 also extends. Now the oil returns to the tank from the rod end of the cylinder2 through DCV. Once full extension of cylinder1 and 2 are over the DCV is shifted to the right mode. When the 4/3

DCV is shifted to the right mode, oil flows from the pump to the rod end of cylinder2 and thus the cylinder2 retracts. As the same time, oil from the blank end of cylinder2 is forced to the rod end of cylinder1 and thus the cylinder1 also retracts.



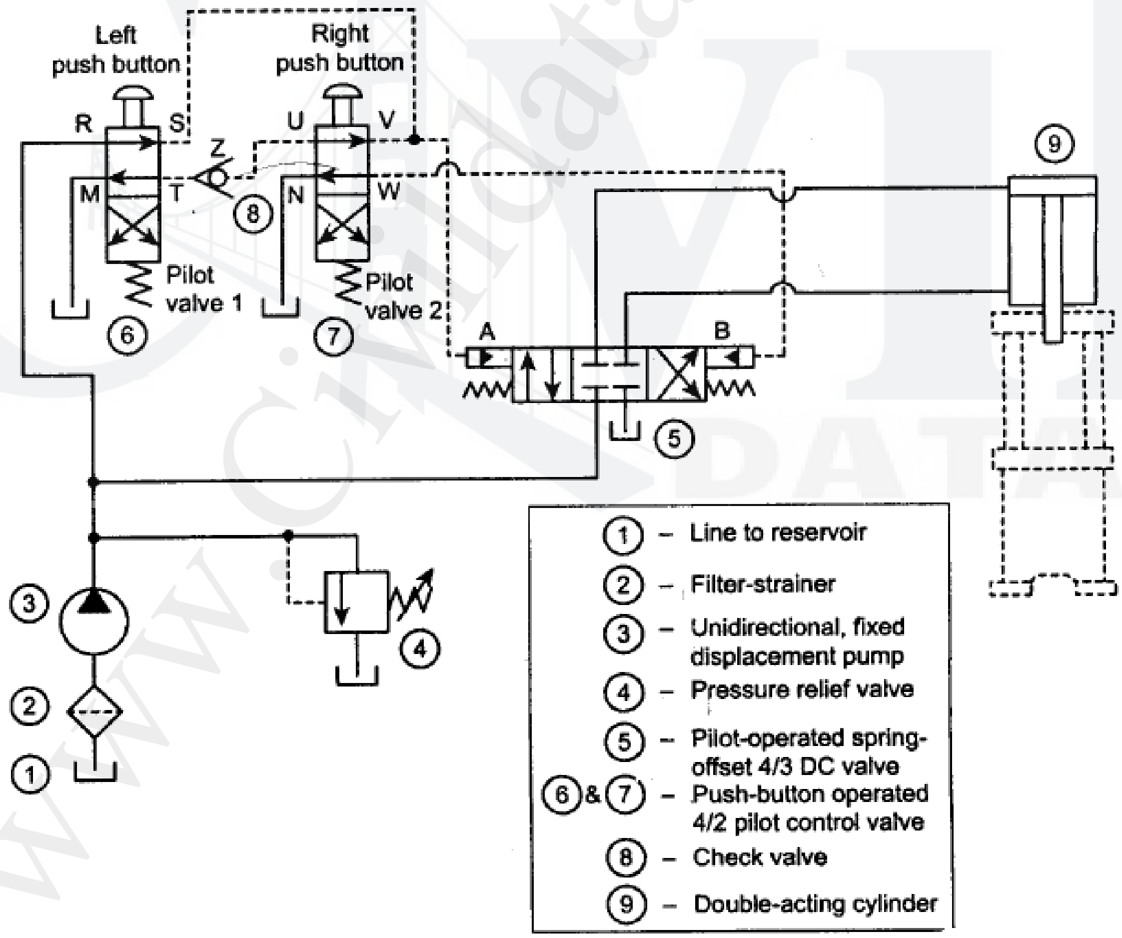
Synchronizing Hydraulic Cylinders

Now the oil returns to the tank from the blank end of cylinder1 through DCV. Thus both extension and retraction operations of both cylinders are synchronized by connecting them is series. But for the two cylinders to be synchronized, the piston area of cylinder2 should be equal to the difference between the areas of the piston and rod for cylinder1.

3.21.4 FAIL-SAFE CIRCUIT

Fail-safe circuit is designed to safeguard the operator, the machine and work piece. These circuits prevent any possible injury to the operator or damage to the machine and the work piece. One such fail safe circuit is explained below. It is also called as two handed safety circuit. Figure shows the two handed safety control circuit. This circuit uses a pilot-operated spring-offset 4/3 DCV and two push buttons. When the 4/3 DCV valve is in its centre position, the oil flows is diverted back to tank through the pressure relief valve. Therefore the cylinder is hydraulically locked. When operator pushes down both left and right push buttons, the oil flows in through port R of pilot valve1 and out through ports, then through port V of pilot valve 2 and out port U. but check valve Z stops flow. At the same time, the oil also flows to pilot connection A of 4/3 DCV causing the DCV to shift to its left mode.

When the cylinder and thus the cylinder extends. Thus extension of cylinder takes place only when the operator depresses both the push buttons. When the operator pushes the right button only, oil flows in through port R to port S of pilot valve1, then through port V to port N of pilot valve2. Thus the oil is drained to the tank through the pilot valve2. This allow the 4/3 DCV to return to neutral position, thus the cylinder is hydraulically locked. When the operator pushes the left push button only, oil flows in port R of pilot valve1 and out port T, then unseats ball in check valve Z, then on to port U of pilot valve2, and out port V. Oil follows the path of least resistance so it passes in port S of pilot valve1, out port M and into sump. It does not build up enough pressure to keep pilot pressure on pilot connection A so 4/3 DCV shifts back to neutral position, thus the cylinder is hydraulically locked. When the operator releases both left and right push buttons, oil flows in port R of pilot valve1 and out port T, then through check valve Z and into port U of pilot valve2. Now the oil flows out port W into pilot connection B of 4/3 DCV shifting its position to right mode. When the 4/3 DCV is shifted to its right mode, the oil from the pump flows into the rod end of the cylinder and hence the cylinder retracts. Thus the retraction of cylinder takes place only when the operator releases both the push buttons.



Two Handed Safety Control Circuit