

Basics of hydraulics

Autotronics Program

Section3

Cylinders

The hydraulic cylinder converts hydraulic energy into mechanical energy.

There are two basic types of hydraulic cylinder

- Single-acting and
- Double-acting cylinders.

Single-acting cylinder:

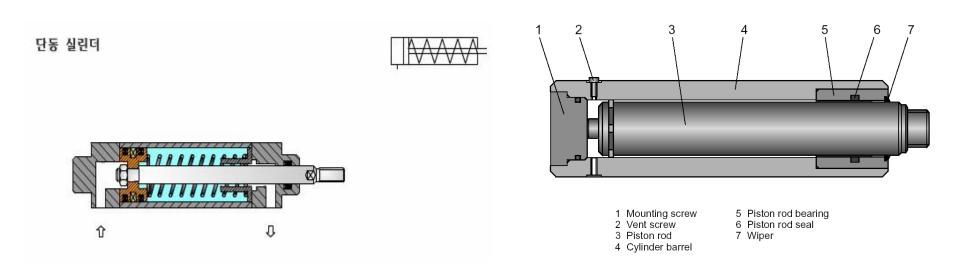


Fig & video: single-acting cylinder

Single acting cylinders just have one port, i.e. only the full piston surface can be pressurized with hydraulic fluid. These cylinders are returned either by the effect of external forces – indicated by the symbol with the open bearing cap – or by a spring. The spring is then also drawn into the symbol.

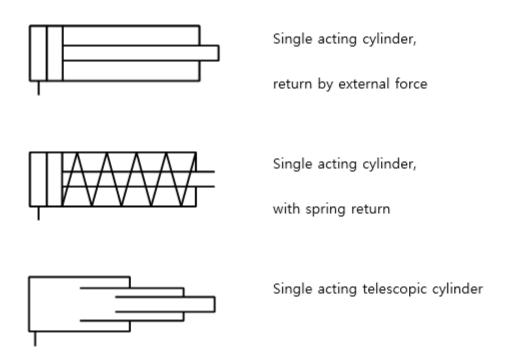


Fig: Single acting cylinder

Double acting cylinder

Double acting cylinders have two ports for supplying either side of the piston with hydraulic fluid.

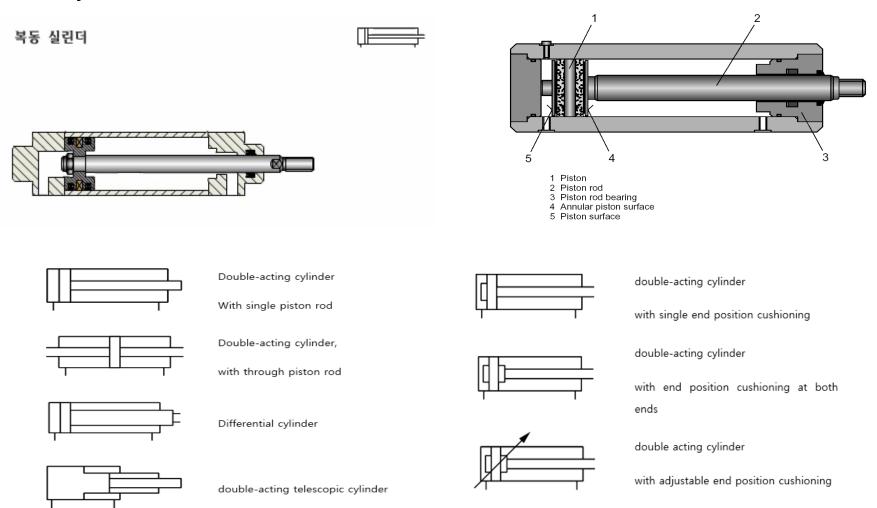


Fig & video: Double-acting cylinder

Electrical Components

1- Power supply unit

2- Electrical input elements

- **Push-button:** A push-button only opens or closes a current circuit for a short time.
- Normally open contact: In this contact, the circuit is open when the push-button is in the
 normal position; i.e. not pressed. The circuit is closed when the control stem is actuated;
 current then flows to the consuming device. When the control stem is released, the pushbutton is returned to its original position by spring pressure.

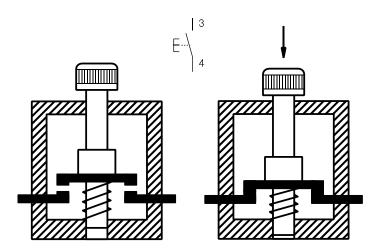


Fig: Normally open contact: sectional view and circuit symbol

Normally closed contact

In this contact, the circuit is closed when the push-button is in normal position. The spring action ensures that the contacts remain closed until the push-button is pressed. When the push-button is pressed, the switching contact is opened against the spring pressure.

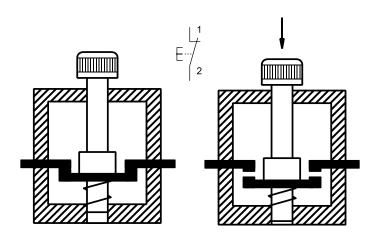


Fig: Normally closed contact: sectional view and circuit symbol

Changeover contact

These contacts combine the functions of normally closed and normally open contacts in one unit. Changeover contacts are used to close one circuit and simultaneously open another.

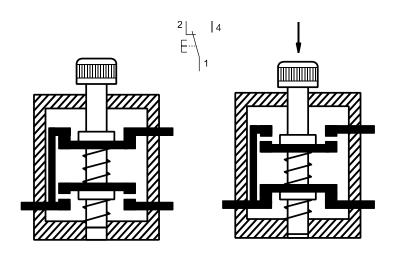


Fig 10.7 Changeover contact: sectional view and circuit symbol

3- Sensors

The sensors may provide an accurate and complete view of how a hydraulic system performs. In short, sensors in a hydraulic system can be used for regulation, control and monitoring of the system performance.

Types of Sensors in Hydraulics

- **Pressure sensors:** It can be found in different industries like the automotive industry. When the pressure reaches the sensing element, the sensing element reacts to that pressure and then create an output signal.
- Level sensors: These sensors are used for monitoring and regulating the level of fluid within a contained space. They are very useful for detecting fluid leakages.
- *Flow sensors*: They are used to monitor and regulate the fluid flow rate through the hydraulic system. Flow sensors are also referred to as flow switches or current sensors or flow meters.
- Temperature sensors: Increase in temperature above a threshold value will
 damage the hydraulic system. Temperature sensors are used in hydraulic circuits
 to detect the temperature in the hydraulic system.
- Contamination sensors: These sensors can effectively and accurately monitor
 the contamination or particle present in the fluid medium and then displays it in
 a digital or analog monitor.



Fig 10.8 Sensors

4- Limit switch: Limit switches are normally equipped with changeover contacts capable of performing closing, opening or changeover of circuits.



Fig: Limit switch with 4mm safety socket and mounting clamp

5- Pressure switch: They can be used to open, close or change between circuits when a preset pressure is reached.



Fig:Pressure switch

6- Relay

Relays are electromagnetically actuated switches. They consist of housing with electromagnet and movable contacts. An electromagnetic field is created when a voltage is applied to the coil of the electromagnet. This results in attraction of the movable armature to the coil core. The armature actuates the contact assembly. This contact assembly can open or close a specific number of contacts by mechanical means. If the flow of current through the coil is interrupted, a spring returns the armature to its original position.

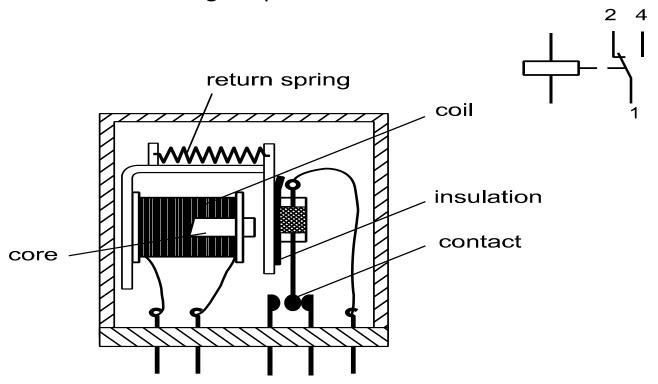
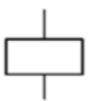


Fig: Relay: sectional view and circuit symbol

Electrical Symbols

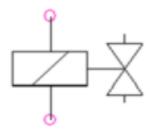
relay, contactor



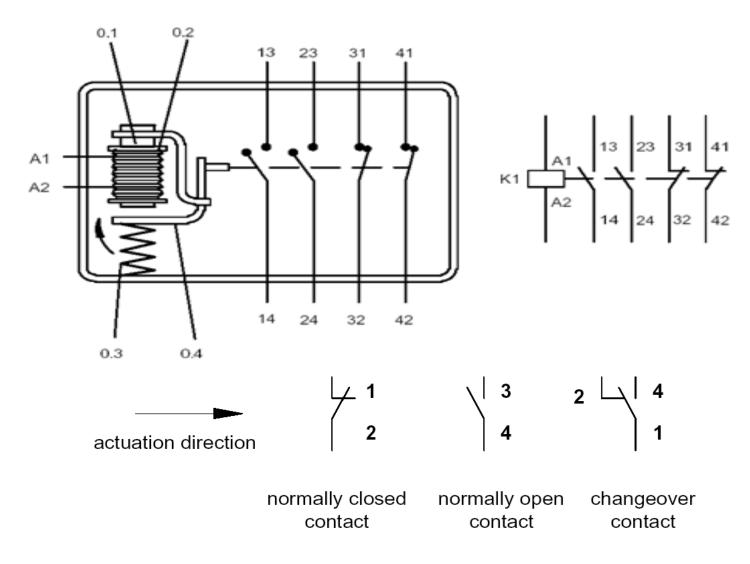
relay with three normally open contacts and one normally closed contact



Solenoid



Electrical Symbols



Relay with A, B, and C contacts

7- Solenoids

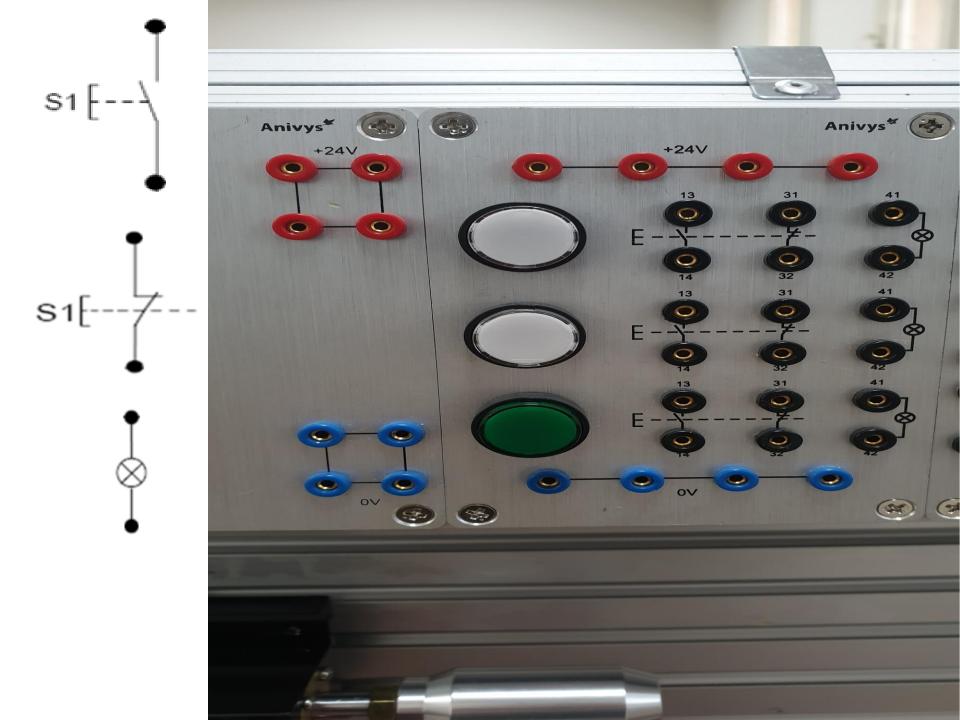
Hydraulic solenoids are primarily used in hydraulic pumps and valves. These solenoids can be designed to perform push, pull, or push/pull actuation functions.

Hydraulic pumps convert mechanical energy into hydraulic energy. They create the flow and pressure of fluid in a hydraulic circuit. A hydraulic solenoid can be used in pumps like a Variable Displacement Axial Piston Pump to control the volume of the hydraulic fluid output.

Hydraulic valves control the flow of hydraulic fluid by opening, closing, or partially obstructing pathways. Solenoids can be used as actuators in valves designed to control the flow, limit system pressure, or control direction.



Fig: Hydraulic kit



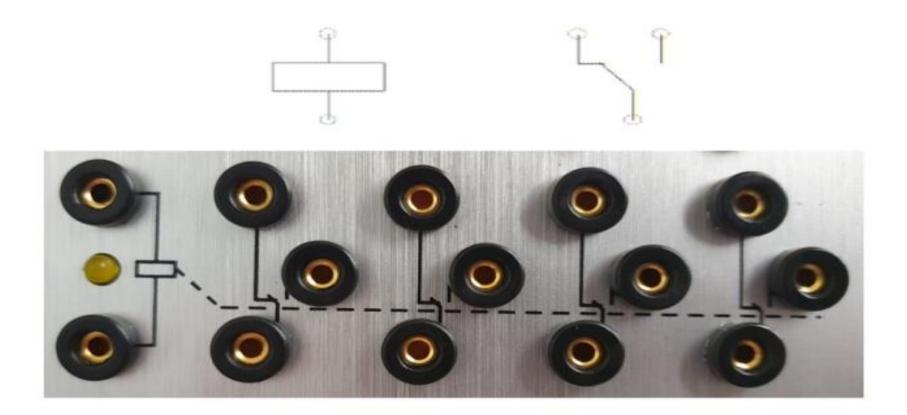


Fig: Relay with 4 changeover contacts



Fig: Directional control valve actuated by a solenoid

Thank you for your attention