

Fluid Power John R. Leeman GEARS 2023



Fluid power systems consist of components to condition, power, conduct, control, and utilize fluids for force amplification







Image: Fluid Power (Daines)

Hydraulic and air hoses, fittings, etc come in MANY varieties







Images: Grainger

Fluid conductors are drawn like electrical conductors





Power units provide the energy the system needs to move fluids



Cylinders are one of the most common actuators and come in several

varieties



Image: It Still Runs

Cylinders are one of the most common actuators and come in several varieties



Cylinder (Spring Return)



Cylinder Double Acting (Double Rod)



Cylinder Double Acting (Single fixed cushion)



Cylinder Double Acting (Two adjustable cushions)



Differential Pressure



Motors are another convenient tool



Control valves direct our fluid with manual, fluid, or electrical inputs





Images: Grainger, AutomationDirect, MSC











Images: Instrumentation Tools, Quora





















Ports are the number of endpoints shown in a single box





Ports vs. Ways can get confusing when buying a valve





Servo valves are commonly used for precision control of hydraulic systems







Images: Parker, ResearchGate

Servo valves are commonly used for precision control of hydraulic systems





Fluid conditioning for hydraulics is relatively straightforward





Image: Robson Forensic

Pneumatics has a few more steps





Image: SlidePlayer

Keeping a table of symbols is handy since we don't do this full time



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Directional Control Valve Symbols



2-position, 2-way, 2 ported



2-position, 3-way, 3 ported



2-position, 4-way, 4 ported



2-position, 4-way, 5 ported



3-position, 4-way, 4 ported Closed Center



3-position, 4-way, 5 ported Closed Center



3-position, 4-way, 5 ported Pressure Center



3-position, 4-way, 5 ported Open Center

Regulation of system pressure is also important, but very similar











Image: Grainger, OMAX, Machinery Lubrication, Fluid Power World



Accumulators are like fluid power capacitors



Pneumatics store a dangerous amount of energy!





Image: American Chemical Society

Hydraulics can cause injection injury and severe burns





Common things to look for

- Blocked lines
- Bad filters
- Worn seals
- Moisture in the system
- Stuck valves
- Leaking conduits
- Bad pressure reliefs



