

Tech Tips

**Manifold Gauges
R12 to R134a**

TCD's Technical Hot Line has received several phone calls requesting the part number of an adapter that will attach an R-12 manifold gauge set to an R-134a equipped vehicle.

The EPA determined that removable adapters would allow a greater chance of cross contamination of R-12 and R-134a. EPA requires standard fittings to be used at the end of the hoses attaching to the manifold gauges, but unique fittings must be **permanently** attached on the ends that connect to the vehicle's A/C system. This insures that the hoses are changed when going from one refrigerant to the other.

Manifold hose assemblies can hold several ounces of refrigerant. When an R-12 manifold hose assembly is attached to an R-134a system using removable adapters, the possibility exists that R-12 will be injected into the R-134a system. Cross contamination can cause several problems that may lead to compressor failure.

TCD offers a conversion kit that meets EPA requirements for adapting an R-12 gauge set to fit an R-134a system. The kit contains all three hoses and both quick couplers.



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For safety reasons, TCD does not recommend charging a vehicle through the low pressure access port with a single hose.