

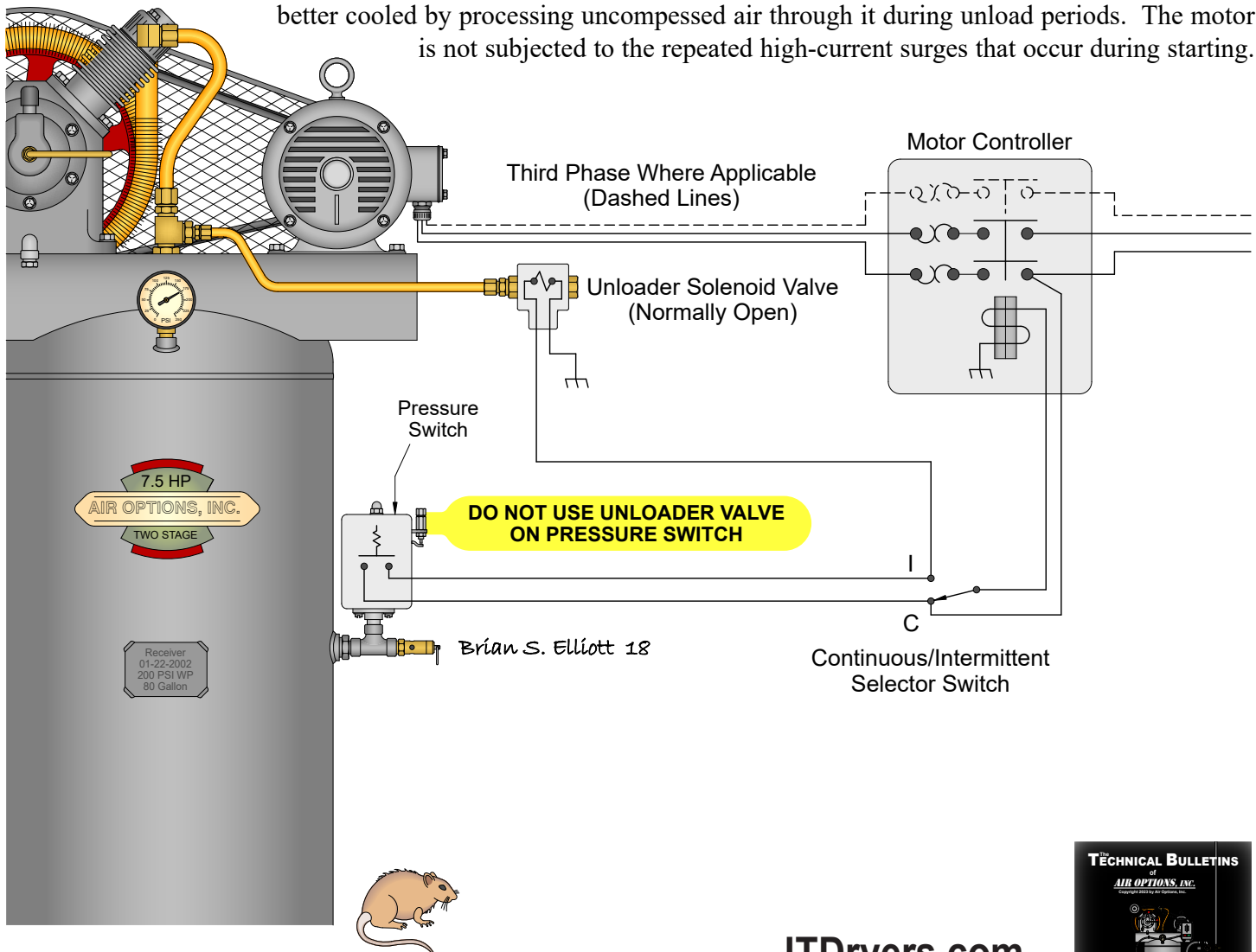
# Technical Bulletin 08

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## Modifying an Air Compressor for Continuous-Run Operation

by Brian S. Elliott

Generally, any piston compressor should operate at no more than a 50% duty cycle. That is to say that if the compressor runs for five minutes, then it should be off for at least five minutes. Operating the compressor at a higher duty cycle doesn't give the equipment time to properly cool during the off interval. This will result in increased water contamination in the system. Additionally, severe motor damage may occur from the repetitive start cycles. Switching over to continuous-run mode can help alleviate these problems. The pump is better cooled by processing uncompressed air through it during unload periods. The motor is not subjected to the repeated high-current surges that occur during starting.



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