

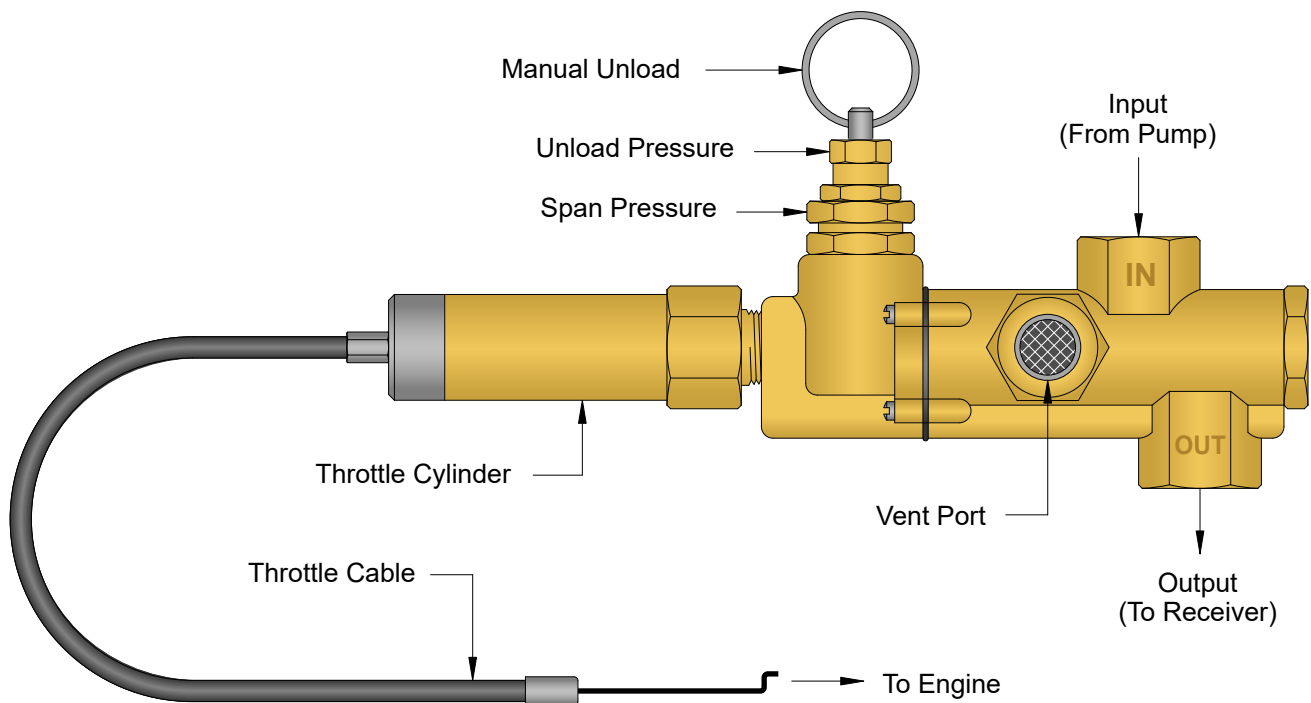
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Continuous-Run Unloader Valve

by Brian S. Elliott

A continuous-run unloader valve is intended to operate an air compressor while the motor remains at rotational output. To do this, the output of the pump is unloaded and vented to the atmosphere when the peak pressure is reached. The pump reloads when the receiver pressure drops below a preset lower limit. On electric compressors, the continuous-run function is typically handled with a solenoid valve. The type of unloader valve illustrated below is normally used on engine-driven compressors. When the upper limit is reached, the pump is vented and the throttle cylinder brings the engine down to idle. When the lower limit is reached, the pump is reloaded and the engine is brought up to full RPM.



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