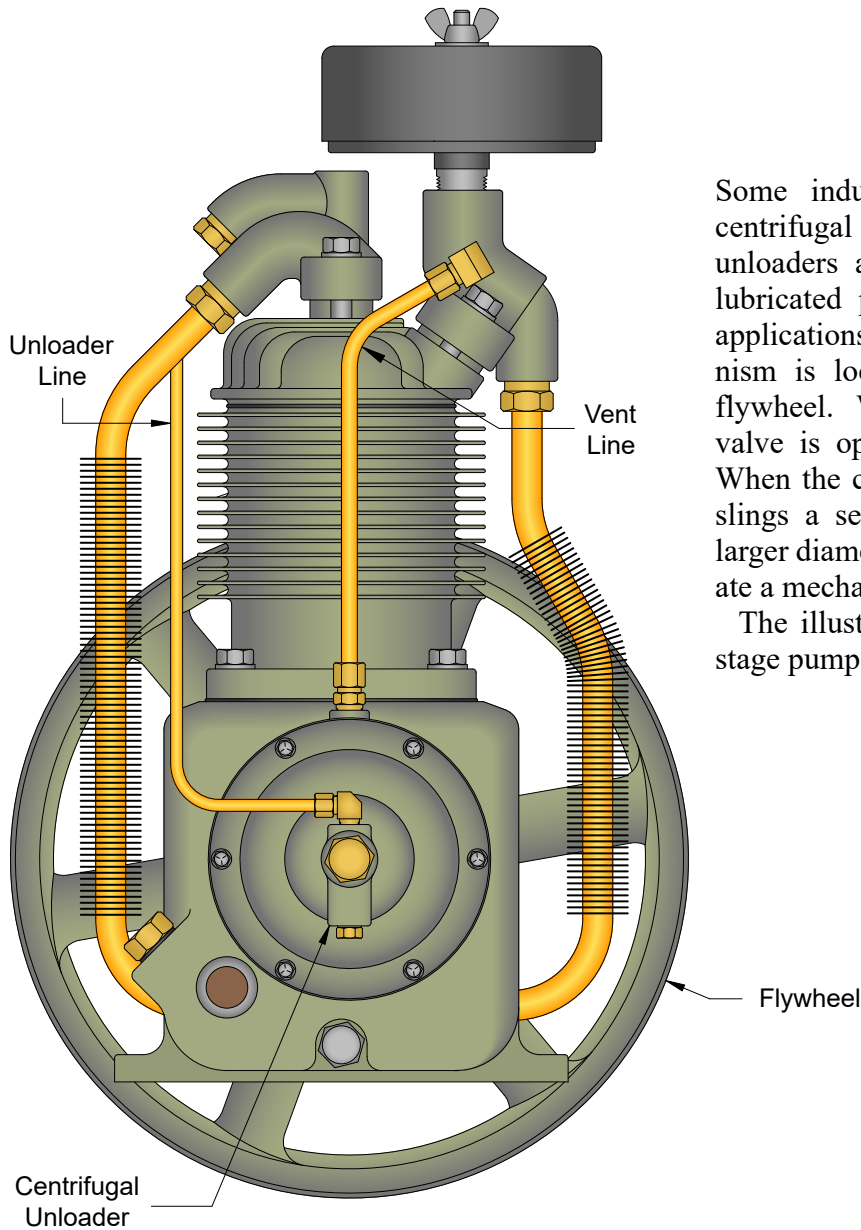


Technical Bulletin 84

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Centrifugal Unloaders

by Brian S. Elliott



**Two-Stage Air Compressor Pump
with a Centrifugal Unloader**

Some industrial compressed air pumps utilize centrifugal unloader valves. Generally, centrifugal unloaders are supplied on heavy duty, pressure-lubricated pumps, intended for more demanding applications. In most cases, the unloader mechanism is located on the crankshaft, opposite the flywheel. When the pump is at rest, the unloader valve is open, venting the head(s) of the pump. When the compressor starts, the pump rotates and slings a set of centrifugal weights out toward a larger diameter. As the weights sling out, they actuate a mechanism that closes the unloader valve.

The illustration to the left shows a typical two-stage pump with a centrifugal unloader.

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