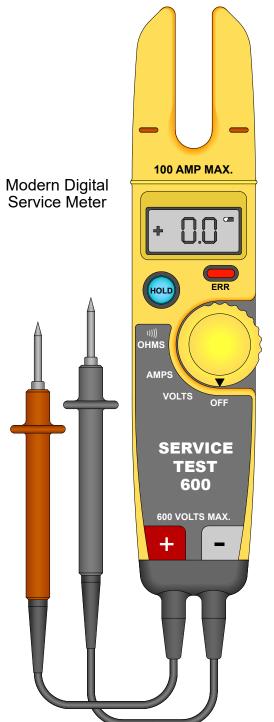
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Electrical Service Meter

by Brian S. Elliott



More often then not, when an air compressor goes down, it's an electrical fault. This is especially true of two-stage industrial compressors. When this happens, most service technicians can diagnose the problem with an ordinary service meter, like the one shown in the illustration.

These instruments are fairly inexpensive and have all of the amenities that are required to effectively service most compressors. In the case of the unit shown, it can read 0-600 volts, both AC and DC. It has an ohms scale and a continuity alarm. These functions are supported with an integral set of probes. This type of meter can read very high currents using the inductive forks on the top of the unit. In this case, the meter can read up to 100 Amps, with a resolution of 10um. Most of these types of service meters use a pair of AA batteries as their power source.

In addition to the features outlined above, they are compact and exceptionally rugged. They are ideal for a technician's tool box and/or maintenance cart.

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