

**ME444 ENGINEERING PIPING SYSTEM DESIGN**

**CHAPTER 13 : COMPRESSED AIR PIPING**

# CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION
2. AIR COMPRESSOR
3. PIPING SYSTEM
4. PIPE SIZING

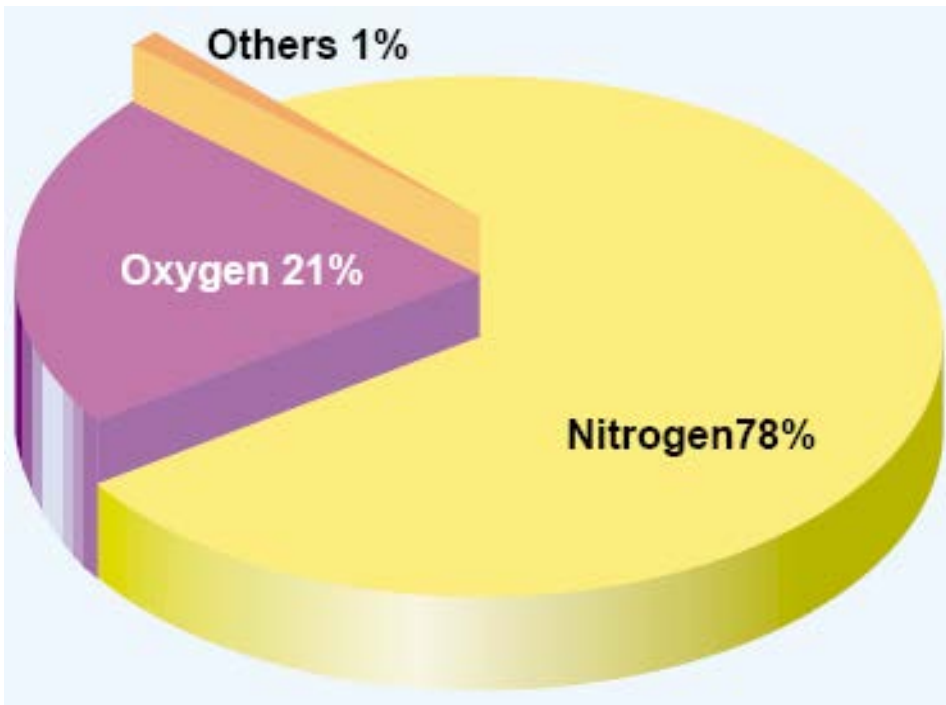
# 1. INTRODUCTION

## COMPRESSED AIR SERVES MANY PURPOSES

- DELIVER MECHANICAL ENERGY (PNEUMATIC SYSTEM)
  - PROCESS AIR SUPPLY (MIXING, AGITATION)
  - DRYING AND CLEANING (NOT RECOMMENDED)
- ETC.



# AIR



$$C_p = 1.01 \text{ kJ/kg.K}$$

$$C_v = 0.72 \text{ kJ/kg.K}$$

$$k = C_p/C_v$$

$$= 1.4$$

AT STP (0 °C and 101.325 kPa), dry air has a density of  $\rho_{\text{STP}} = 1.293 \text{ g/L}$

# COMPRESSION CYCLES

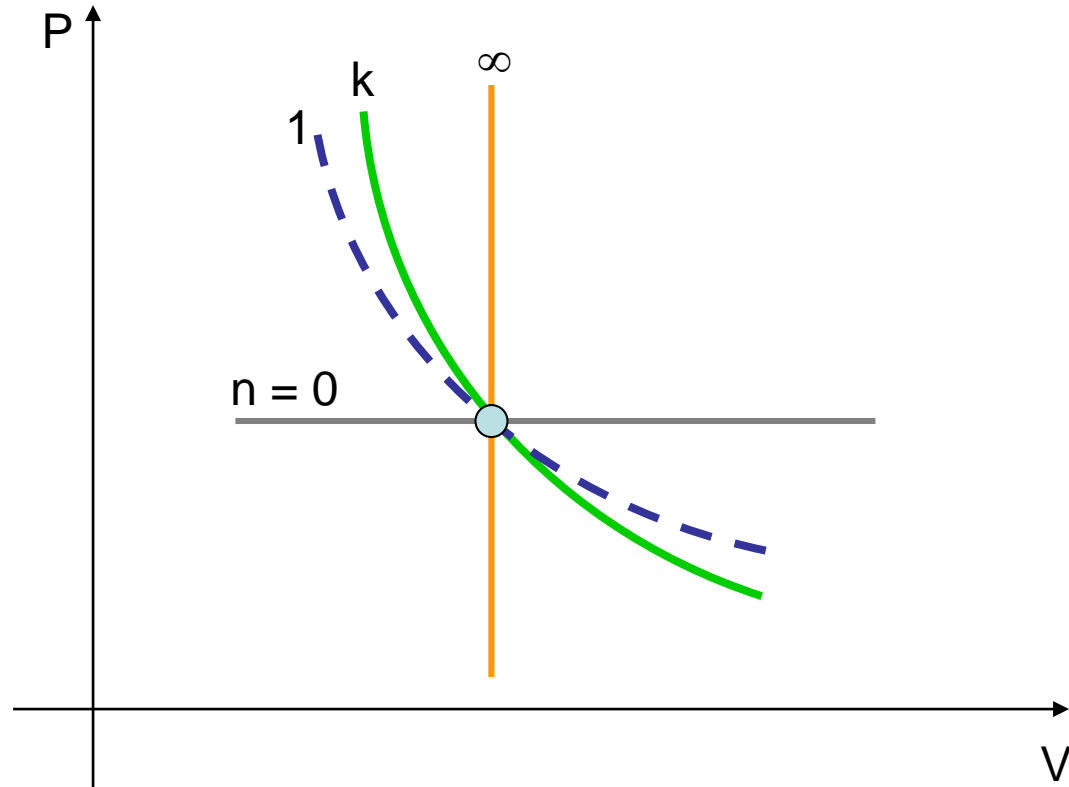
$$PV^n = \text{Constant}$$

$n = 0$  ISOBARIC

$n = 1$  ISOTHERMAL

$n = k$  ISENTROPIC

$n = \infty$  ISOCHORIC



# ISENTROPIC COMPRESSION PROCESS

Fully insulated cylinder

No heat exchange with the surroundings.

Constant entropy

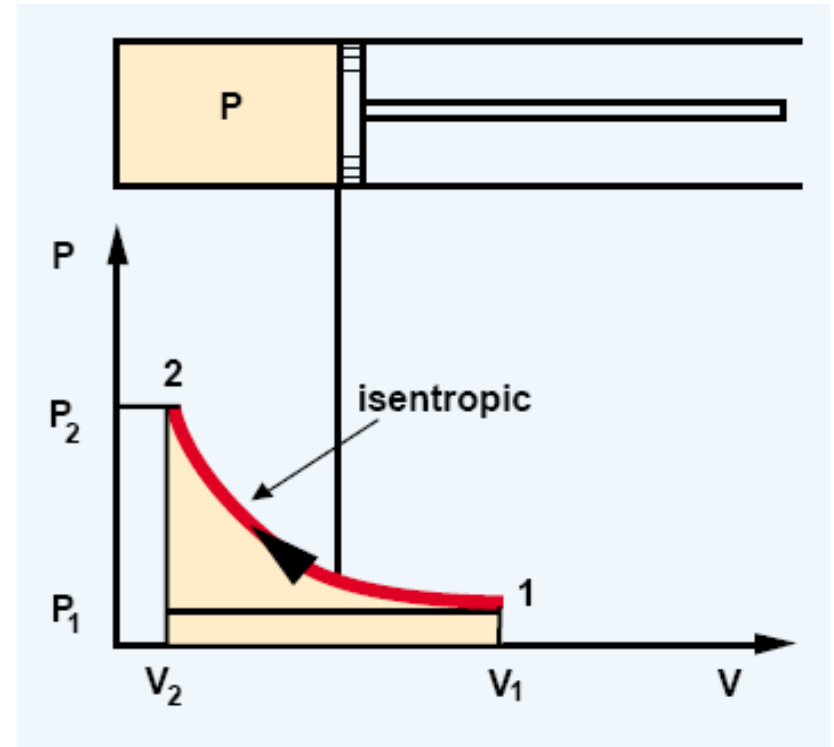
$$\frac{P_2}{P_1} = \left( \frac{V_1}{V_2} \right)^\kappa \Rightarrow \frac{P_2}{P_1} = \left( \frac{T_2}{T_1} \right)^{\frac{\kappa}{\kappa-1}}$$

$p$  = absolute pressure (Pa)

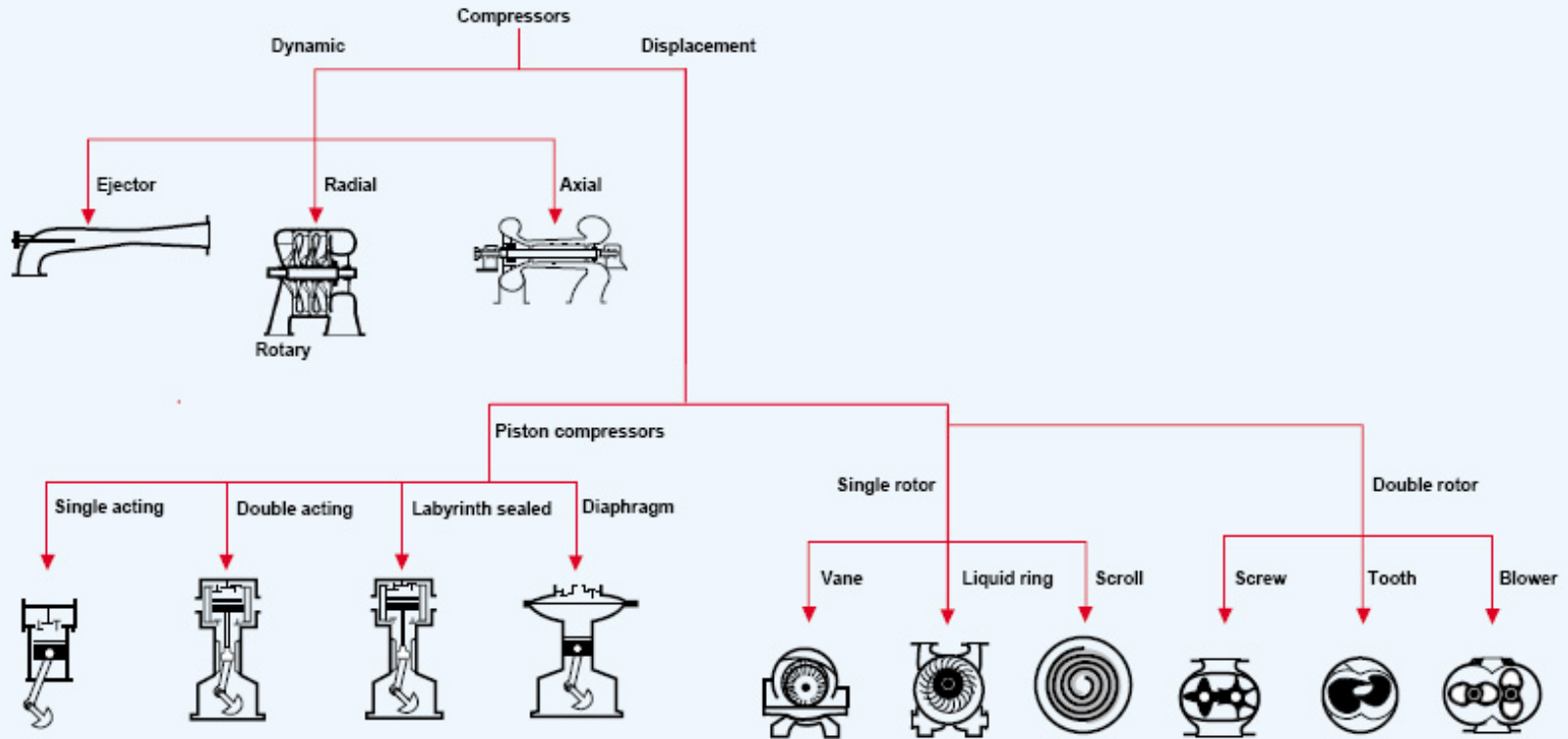
$V$  = volume ( $\text{m}^3$ )

$T$  = absolute temperature (K)

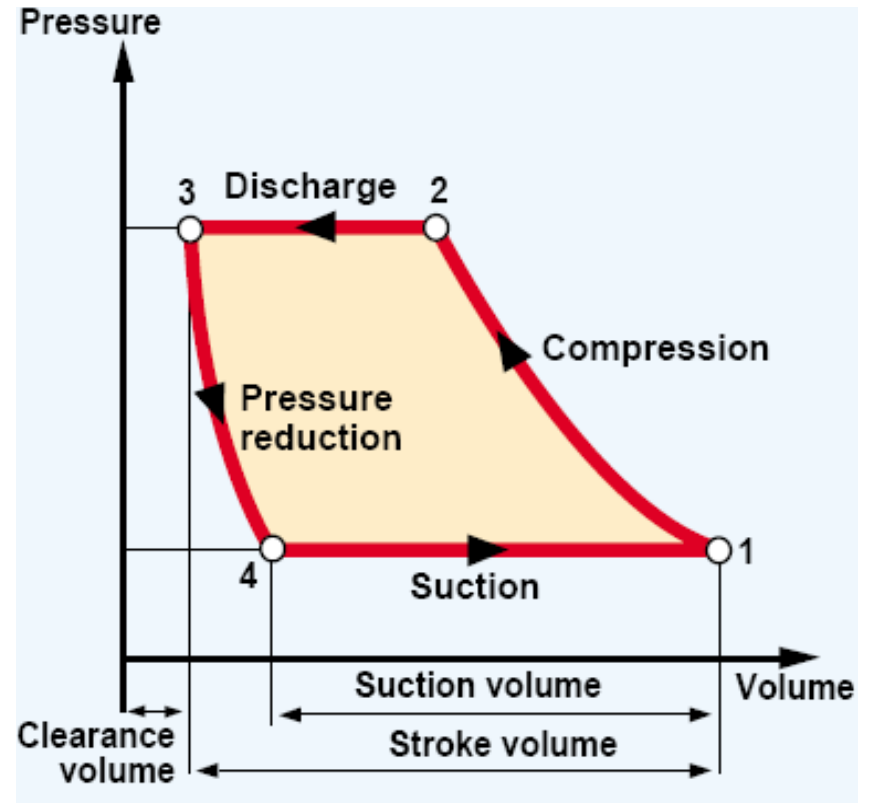
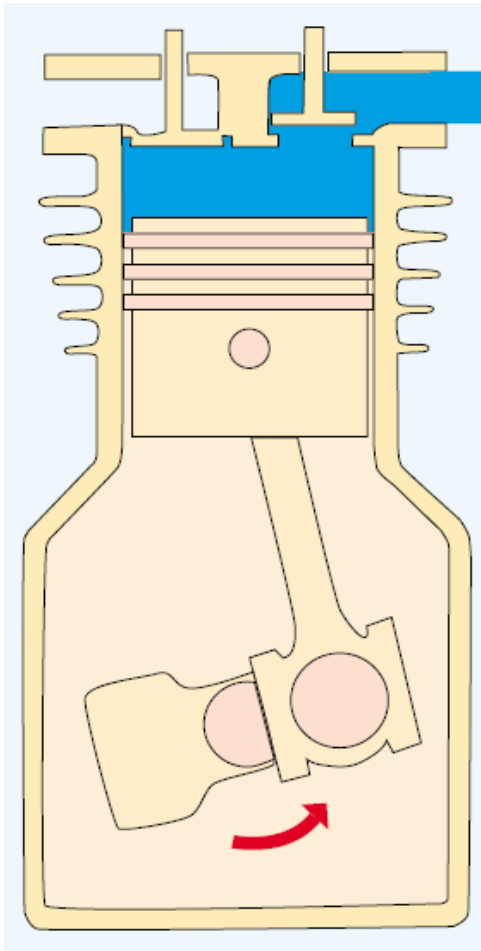
$$\kappa = \frac{c_p}{c_v}$$



# 2. COMPONENTS

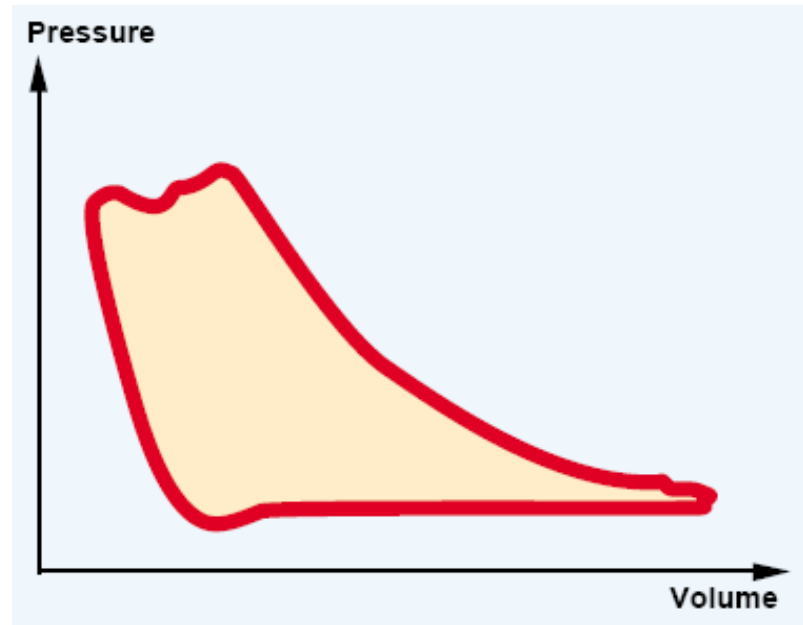
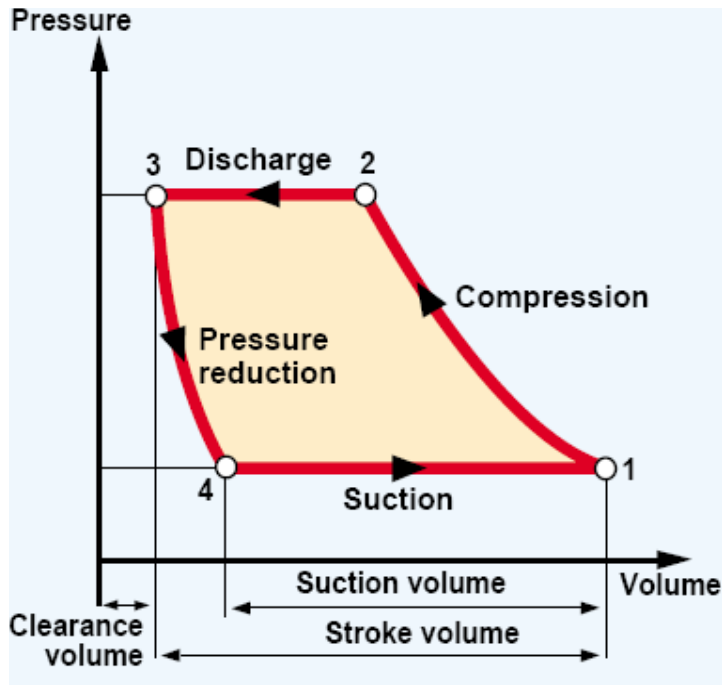


# DISPLACEMENT COMPRESSOR

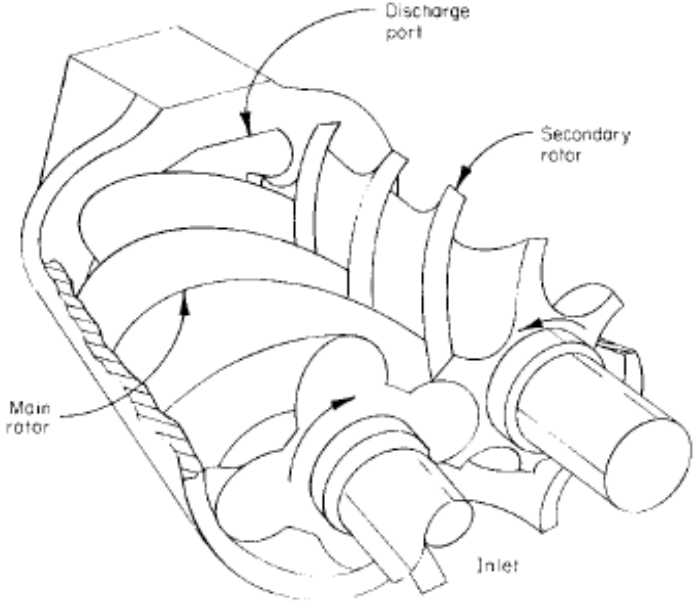




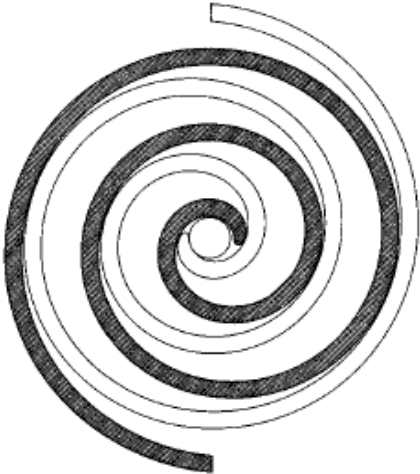
# ACTUAL COMPRESSION CYCLE



# ROTARY DISPLACEMENT COMPRESSORS

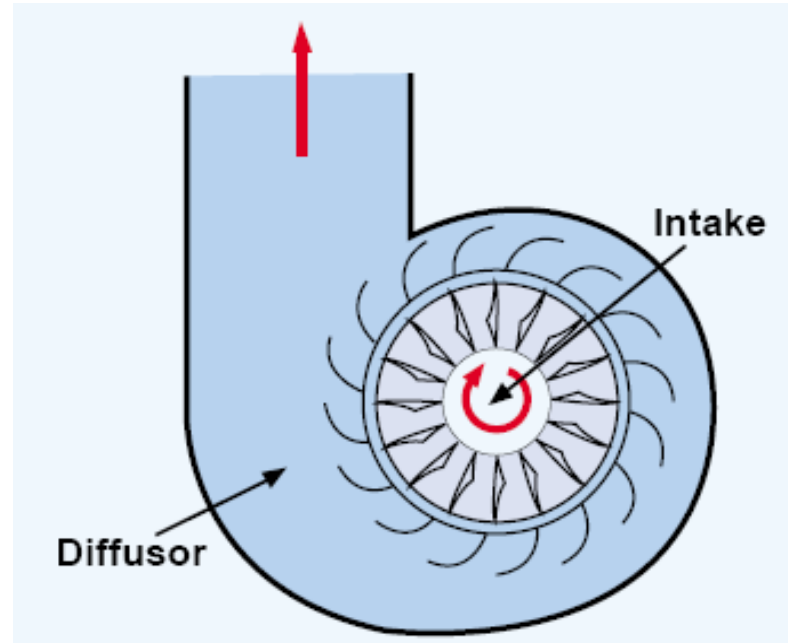


**SCREW**

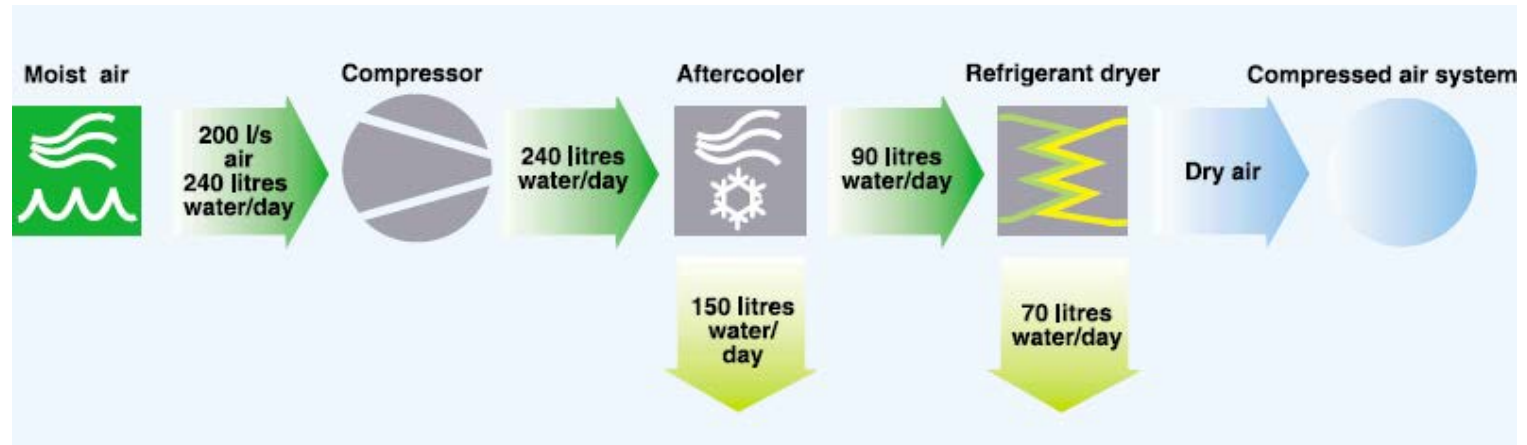


**SCROLL**

# DYNAMICS COMPRESSORS

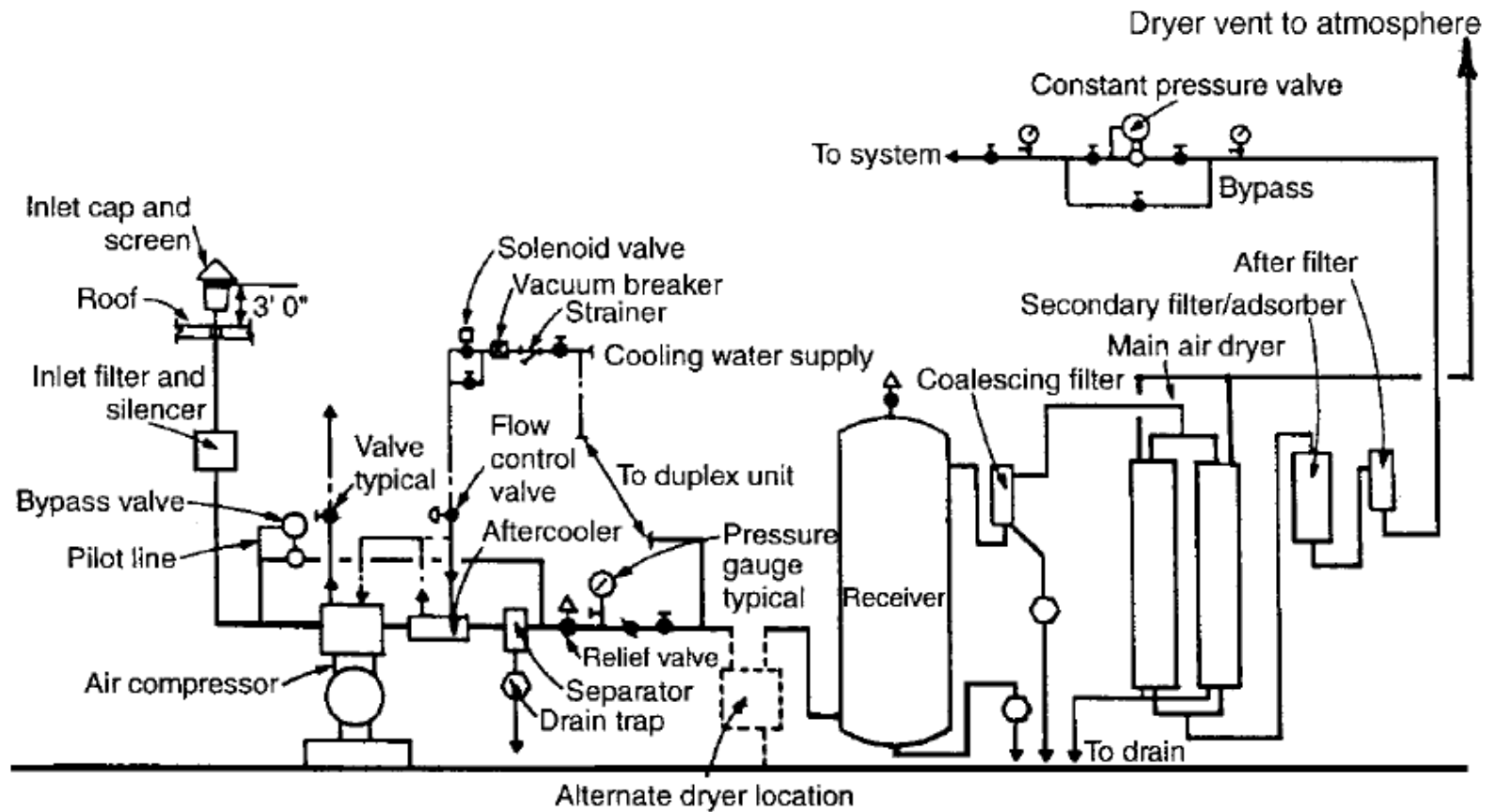


# ACCESSORIES

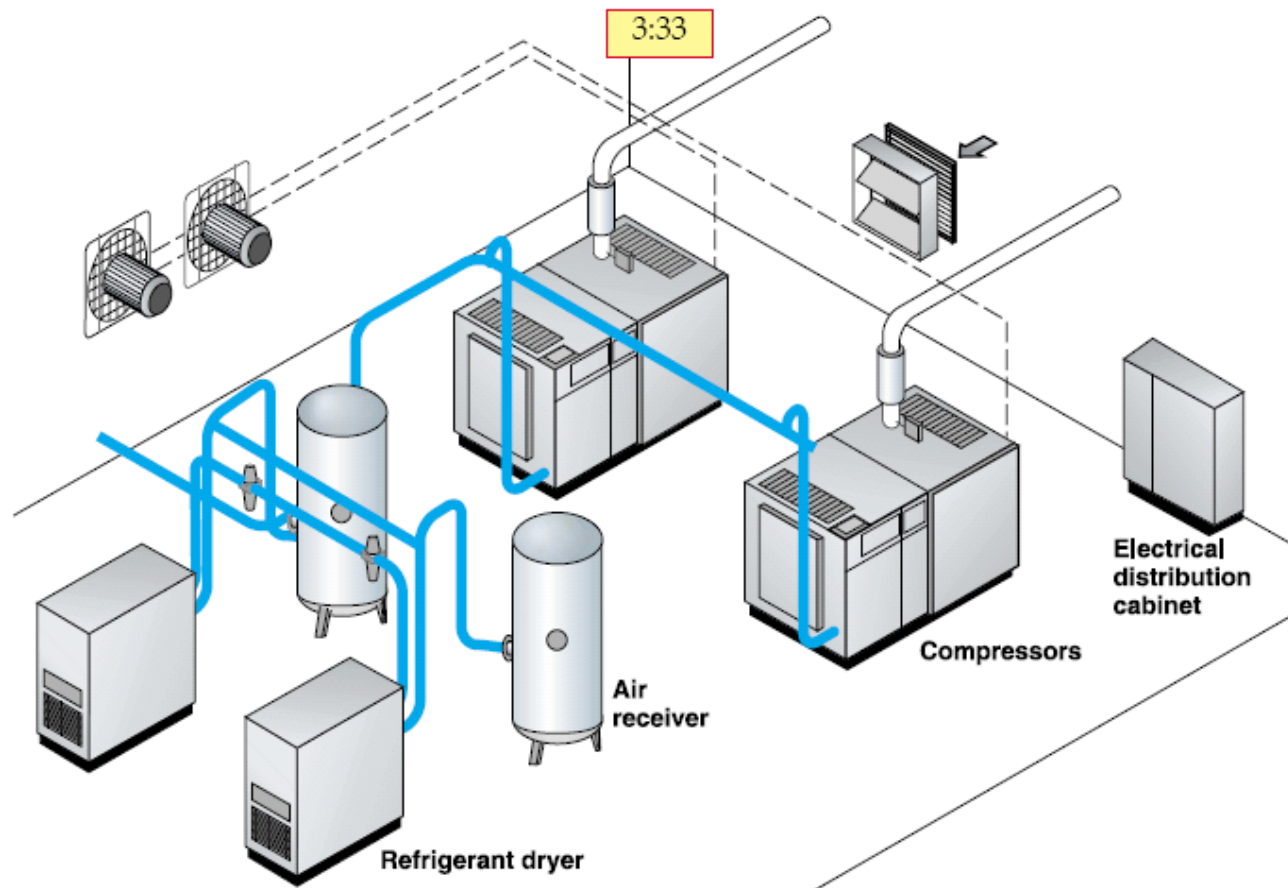


FILTERS  
DRYERS  
SILENCERS  
REGULATORS  
VALVES

# TYPICAL AIR COMPRESSOR ASSEMBLY



# COMPRESSOR ROOM



# AUTOMATIC DRAIN



# PNUMATIC EQUIPMENTS





# 3. PIPING SYSTEM

## General practice

- Tap from top of main pipe
- Slope toward automatic drain
- $V < 6$  m/s
- Use ring loop for large system
- Consider 5% minimum leakage

# PIPING SYSTEM DESIGN SEQUENCES

1. Locate and identify each process, work station, or piece of equipment using compressed air. This is known as the *total connected load*.  
These elements
2. Determine volume of air used at each location.
3. Determine pressure range required at each location.
4. Determine conditioning requirements for each item, such as allowable moisture content, particulate size, and oil content.
5. Establish how much time the individual tool or process will be in actual use for a specific period of time. This is referred to as the *duty cycle*. This information will help determine the simultaneous-use factor by eliminating some locations during periods of use at other locations.

# PIPING SYSTEM DESIGN SEQUENCES

- 6.** Establish the maximum number of locations that may be used simultaneously on each branch, main, and for the project as a whole. This is known as the *use factor*.
- 7.** Establish the extent of allowable leakage (2%-5% for good system).
- 8.** Establish any allowance for future expansion.
- 9.** Make a preliminary piping layout, and assign preliminary pressure drop.
- 10.** Select the air compressor type, conditioning equipment, equipment and air inlet locations making sure that consistent scfm (scmm) or acfm (acmm) is used for both the system and compressor capacity rating.
- 11.** Produce a final piping layout, and size the piping network.

# COMPRESSOR SELECTION

## Flow rate

Survey the requirement  
Consider use factor  
Account for leakage  
Apply margin of safety

## Pressure

Description	Pressure drop bar(e)
End user	6
Final filter	0.1–0.5
Pipe system	0.2
Dust filter	0.1–0.5
Dryer	0.1
Compressor's regulation range	0.5
Compressor's max working pressure	7.0–7.8

# ABOUT AIR PRESSURE AND FLOW RATE

ACFM – ACTUAL MEASUREMENT OF COMPRESSED AIR

SCFM – EQUIVALENT TO FREE AIR AT 0 PSIG

$$\begin{aligned} 100 \text{ ACFM @ } 100 \text{ PSIG} &= 100 \times (100+14.7) / 14.7 \\ &= 780 \text{ SCFM} \end{aligned}$$

$$1 \text{ psig} \times 7 = \text{kPa.}$$

$$1 \text{ cfm} \times 0.03 = \text{m}^3 / \text{min.}$$

FAD = Free Air Deliverly

# AIR REQUIREMENT

Machine type and size	Air requirement max. l/s
<b>Drilling machines, <math>\varnothing</math> = bit diameter (mm)</b> Small $\varnothing < 6,5$ Medium $6,5 < \varnothing = < 10$ Large $10 < \varnothing < 16$	<b>6.0</b> <b>7.5</b> <b>16.5</b>
<b>Thread cutters</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Screwdriver, d = screw size</b> Small $d < M6$ Medium $M6 < d < M8$	<b>5.5</b> <b>7.5</b>
<b>Impact wrench, d = bolt size</b> Small $d < M10$ Medium $M10 < d < M20$ Large $d \geq M20$	<b>5.0</b> <b>7.5</b> <b>22.0</b>

# AIR REQUIREMENT

<b>Filing machine</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Polishers/Die grinders, e = power (kW)</b>	
Small e < 0.5	<b>8.0</b>
Large e > 0.5	<b>16.5</b>
<b>Grinders, e = power (kW)</b>	
Small 0.4 < e < 1.0	<b>20.0</b>
Medium 1,0 < e < 2	<b>40.0</b>
Large e > 2	<b>60.0</b>
<b>Chipping hammers</b>	
Light	<b>6.0</b>
Heavy	<b>13.5</b>
<b>Air hoists t = lifting tonnage</b>	
t < 1 tonne	<b>35</b>
t > 1 tonne	<b>45</b>

# AIR REQUIREMENT

<b>Scaler</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Cleaning nozzle</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Nutrunner, d = bolt size</b>	
d ≤ M8	9
d ≥ M10	19



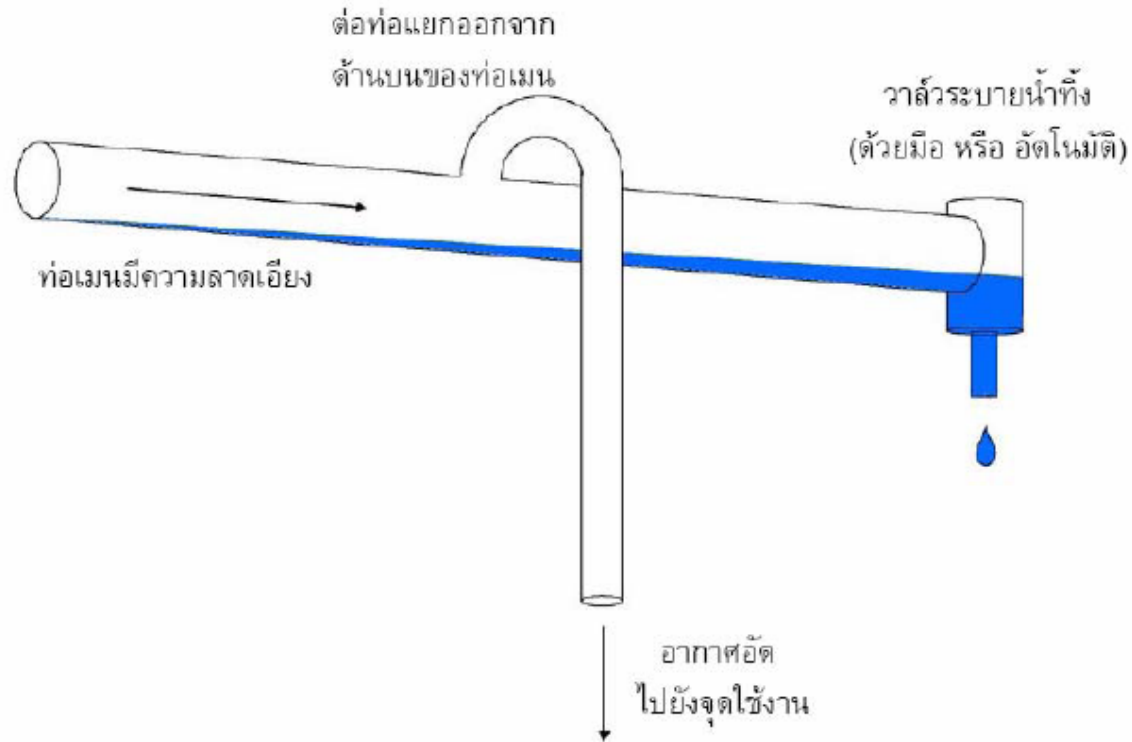
TOOLSTATION



# LABORATORY OUTLET USE FACTOR

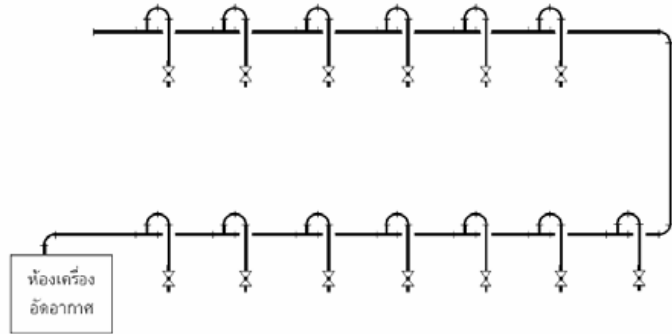
No. of outlets	Percent use factor
1-2	100
3-5	80
6-10	66
11-20	40
21-50	30
Over 50	20

# SLOPE DOWN AND TAP FROM TOP

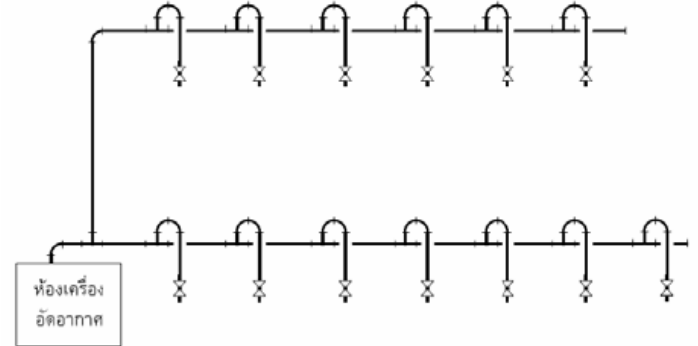


# LAYOUT

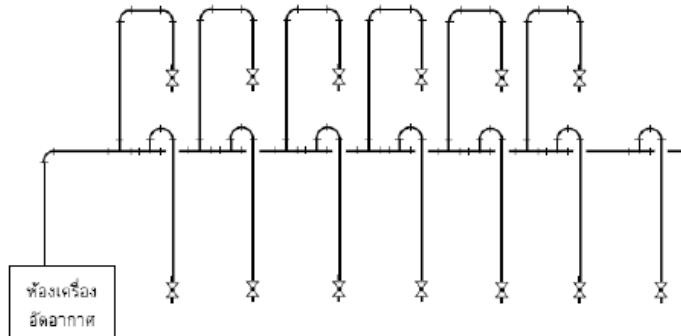
A



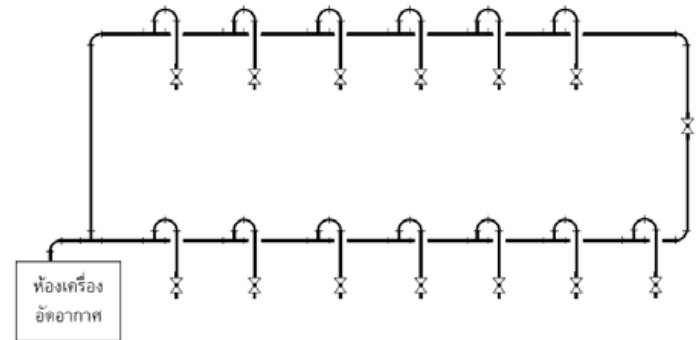
C



B



D



# 4. PIPING SIZING

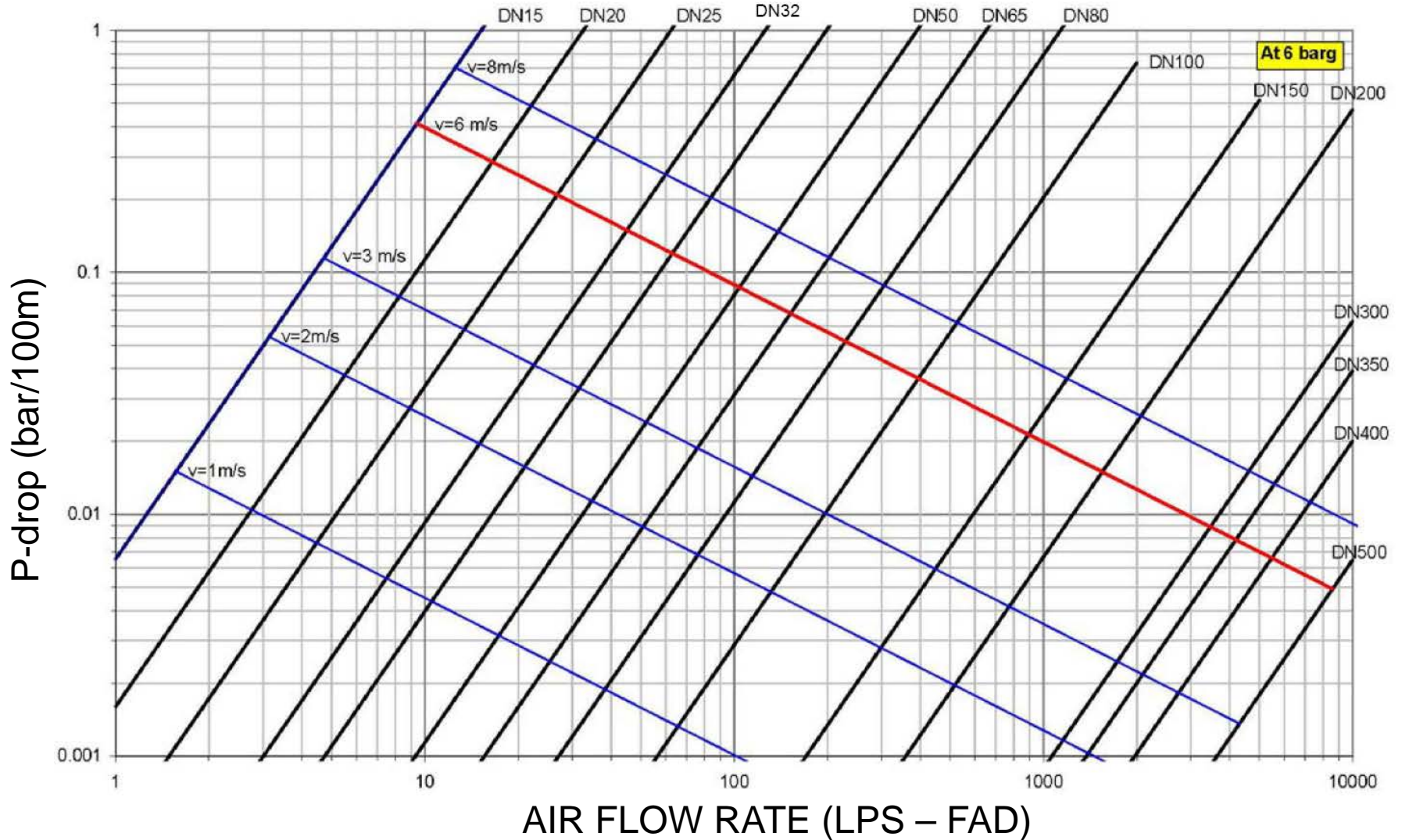
- ESTABLISH THE PIPE LAYOUT
- DETERMINE THE LONGEST RUN
- DETERMINE THE EQUIVALENT LENGTH
- (150% OF THE ACTUAL LENGTH IS PRACTICAL)
- ALLOW PRESSURE TO DROP UP TO 10%
- VELOCITY OF AIR SHOULD BE LESS THAN 6 M/S

# PRESSURE DROP

$$\Delta p = 450 \frac{Q_c^{1.85} \times l}{d^5 \times p}$$

$Q_c$	in litre per second (FAD)
$l$	in metre
$d$	in mm.
$p$	in bar (absolute)

# PRESSURE DROP CHART





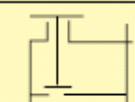
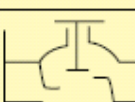
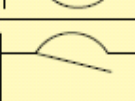

# PRESSURE DROP AND PIPE SIZE

## EXAMPLE

Kw@ 6kW/m/m	Flowrate (LPS)	Pressure (Bar-g)	Pipe size (inch)	DP (bar/100m)	Velocity (m/s)
1.8	5	8	0.5	0.0998	2.834
3.6	10	8	0.75	0.0881	3.230
5.4	15	8	1	0.0558	2.989
9.0	25	8	1.25	0.0392	2.964
14.4	40	8	1.50	0.0402	3.384
28.8	80	8	2.00	0.0416	4.106
54.0	150	8	2.50	0.0514	5.263
81.0	225	8	3.00	0.0391	5.242
144.0	400	8	4.00	0.0291	5.411

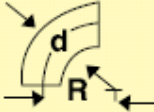
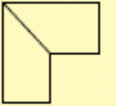
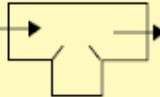
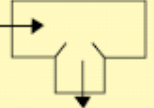
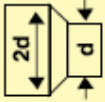
Kw@ 6kW/m/m	Flowrate (LPS)	Pressure (Bar-g)	Pipe size (inch)	DP (bar/100m)	Velocity (m/s)
1.8	5	7	0.5	0.1122	3.188
3.6	10	7	0.75	0.0992	3.633
5.4	15	7	1	0.0628	3.363
9.0	25	7	1.25	0.0441	3.334
14.4	40	7	1.50	0.0453	3.807
28.8	80	7	2.00	0.0468	4.619
54.0	150	7	2.50	0.0578	5.921
81.0	225	7	3.00	0.0440	5.897
144.0	400	7	4.00	0.0328	6.088

# PRESSURE DROP IN FITTINGS

Equivalent length in metres												
Component		Inner pipe diameter in mm (d)										
		25	40	50	80	100	125	200	250	250	300	400
Ball valve (full flow)		0.3 5	0.5 8	0.6 10	1.0 16	1.3 20	1.6 25	1.9 30	2.6 40	3.2 50	3.9 60	5.2 80
Diaphragm valve fully open		1.5	2.5	3.0	4.5	6	8	10	-	-	-	-
Angle valve fully open		4	6	7	12	15	18	22	30	36	-	-
Poppet valve		7.5	12	15	24	30	38	45	60	-	-	-
Flap check valve		2.0	3.2	4.0	6.4	8.0	10	12	16	20	24	32
Elbow R = 2d		0.3	0.5	0.6	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.4	3.0	3.6	4.8



# PRESSURE DROP IN FITTINGS

Equivalent length in metres											
Component	Inner pipe diameter in mm (d)										
	25	40	50	80	100	125	200	250	250	300	400
Elbow R = d 	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.4	3.2	4.0	4.8	6.4
90° angle 	1.5	2.4	3.0	4.5	6.0	7.5	9	12	15	18	24
Tee through-flow 	0.3	0.4	1.0	1.6	2.0	2.5	3	4	5	6	8
Tee side-flow 	1.5	2.4	3.0	4.8	6.0	7.5	9	12	15	18	24
Reducing nipple 	0.5	0.7	1.0	2.0	2.5	3.1	3.6	4.8	6.0	7.2	9.6

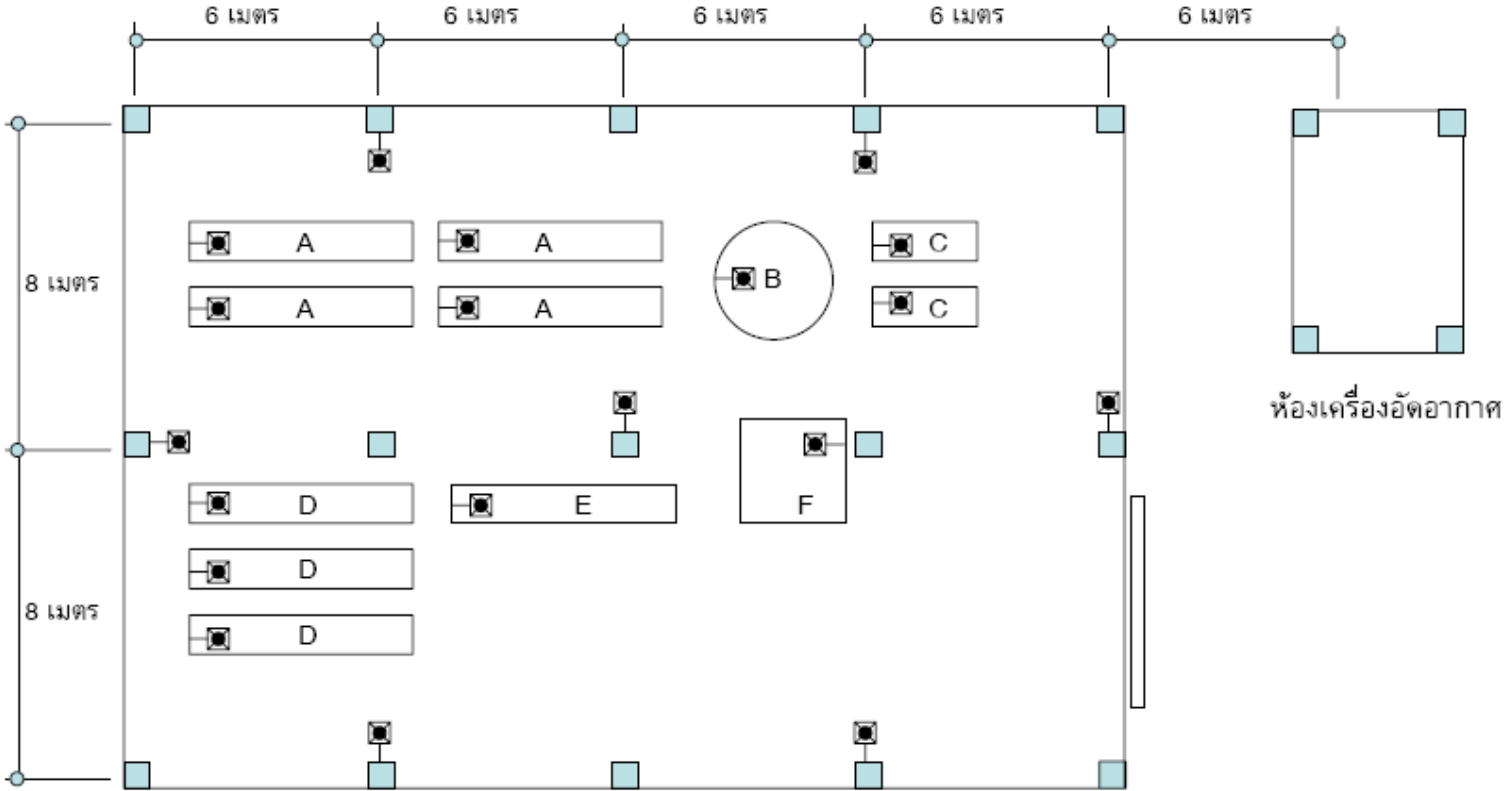
# INLET PIPE SIZE

Maximum cfm free-air capacity l/s		Minimum size	
		NPS	DN
50	25	2½	65
110	55	3	80
210	105	4	100
400	200	5	125
800	400	6	150

# SIZING THE RECEIVER

- 20 l/kW
- 10S of compressor capacity for constant load
- 20S of compressor capacity for fluctuated load

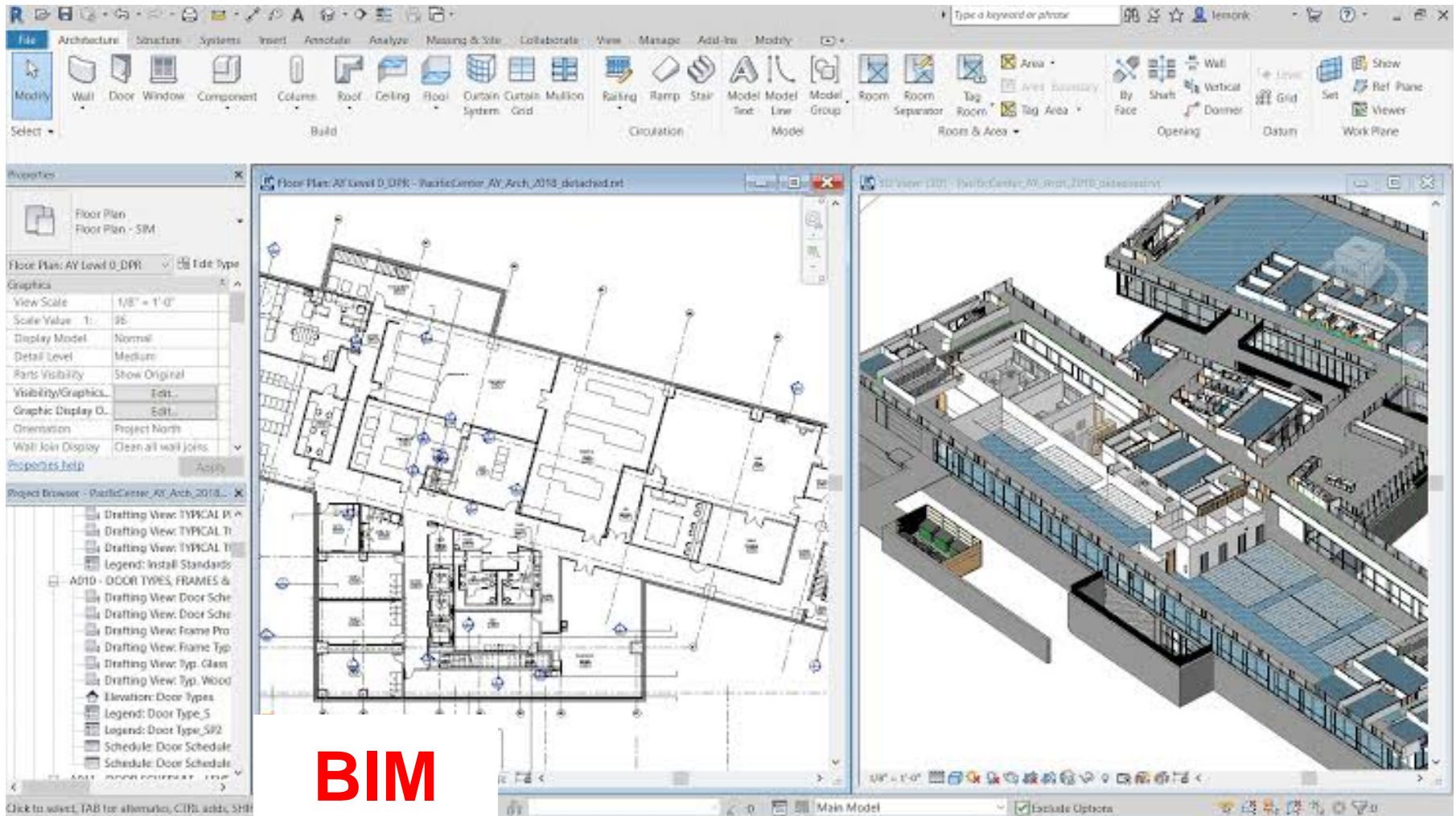
# EXAMPLE



# FINAL NOTES

1. DESIGN PROCESS START FROM THE END USER
  - END USER REQUIREMENT
  - SOURCE
  - PIPING SYSTEM
  
2. SOME SYSTEM ARE NOT INCLUDED SUCH AS
  - FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM (SEE EIT STANDARD)
  - HIGH PRESSURE STEAM
  - OIL PIPELINE
  - MUNICIPALITY WATER DISTRIBUTION NETWORK
  
3. PIPING SYSTEM COST 7-8% OF A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
  - OPERATING COST IS MUCH MORE
  - DO NOT UNDERSIZE THE PIPE

# RECOMMENDED COURSE



**BIM**