

# Installation & Maintenance Instructions

2-WAY PILOT-OPERATED OR DIRECT – ACTING SOLENOID VALVES  
NORMALLY CLOSED OPERATION — 3/4", 1", OR 1 1/2" NPT  
FUEL GAS SERVICE

SERIES

K3A6

K3A7

Form No.V8501

## Service Notice

Except for coil replacement, the Series K3A6 and K3A7 are not repairable. When any performance problems are detected during routine inspection, replace valve immediately.

## DESCRIPTION

Series K3A6 and K3A7 valves are 2-way normally closed solenoid valves designed for fuel gas service. Series K3A6 is a pilot-operated solenoid valve, while Series K3A7 is direct-acting. Valve bodies are made of rugged aluminum with trim and internal parts made of steel and stainless steel. These valves are provided with a general purpose junction box solenoid enclosure.

### Provisions for Pressure and Seat Leakage Testing

Series K3A6 and K3A7 valves are provided with two 1/8" NPT tapped and plugged holes (pressure taps). The upstream tapped and plugged hole is on the side of the valve body; downstream on the bottom of the valve body. One upstream for pressure testing; one downstream for seat leakage testing. Leakage testing frequency shall be at least annually in accordance with NFPA-86 or original equipment manufacturer recommendations. For instructions, refer to section on *Testing for Internal (Seat) Leakage* and Figure 3.

Partial view of valve body showing location of tapped and plugged holes for pressure and seat leakage testing

Pipe plugs are 1/8" NPT  
(use 3/16" Hex Key Wrench)

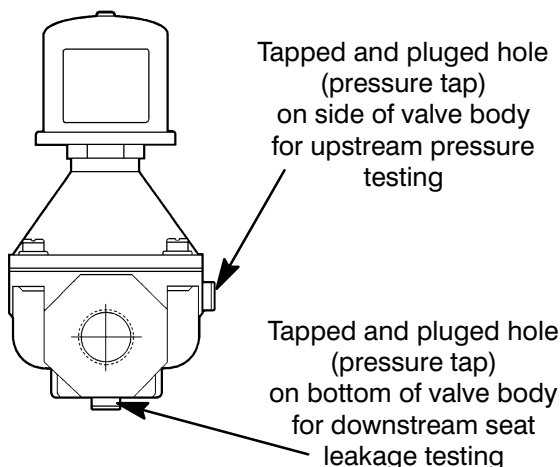


Figure 1. Provisions for pressure and seat leakage testing.

## OPERATION

**Normally Closed:** Valve is closed when solenoid is de-energized; open when energized.

Note: No minimum operating pressure differential required.

## INSTALLATION

Check nameplate for correct catalog number, pressure, voltage, frequency, and service. Never apply incompatible fluids or exceed pressure rating of the valve. Installation and valve maintenance to be performed by qualified personnel.

### Temperature Limitations

Coil Class Temperature Rating	Nominal Fluid Temperature	Ambient Temperature Range
F 311°F (155°C)	77°F (25°C)	-40°F (-40°C) to 175°F (80°C)

### Positioning

Valve must be mounted with solenoid vertical and upright or in a horizontal position only. Valves equipped with rainproof housings (W in the 3rd character position of the valve catalog number) must be mounted in a vertical and upright position only.

### Piping

**CAUTION:** Piping must comply with applicable local and national codes and ordinances, including the National Fuel Gas Code ANSI Z223.1/NFPA No. 54.

Connect piping to valve according to flow arrow on bottom of valve body. Apply pipe compound sparingly to male pipe threads only. If applied to valve threads, the compound may enter the valve and cause operational difficulty. Avoid pipe strain by properly supporting and aligning piping. When tightening the pipe, do not use valve or solenoid as a lever. Locate wrenches applied to valve body or piping as close as possible to connection point. Valve should be checked for external leakage at piping connections after installation, see *Testing for External Leakage* section.

**CAUTION:** To avoid damage to the valve body, DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN PIPE CONNECTIONS. If Teflon\* tape, paste, spray, or similar lubricant is used, use extra care when tightening due to reduced friction.

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**▲ CAUTION:** To protect the solenoid valve, install a strainer or filter, suitable for the service involved, in the inlet side as close to the valve as possible. Clean periodically depending on service conditions. See ASCO Series 8600, 8601 and 8602 for strainers.

### Wiring

Wiring must comply with local codes and the National Electrical Code. To facilitate wiring, the solenoid enclosure may be rotated 360° by loosening the screw on the top of the enclosure. Rotate enclosure to desired position, then torque screw to 10 – 13 in–lbs [1,1 – 1,5 Nm]. The junction box housing has two 7/8" diameter knockouts to accommodate 1/2" conduit. Drive out appropriate knockout with junction box completely assembled (with cover) for support. Remove "J" box cover, by spreading cover and disengaging nibs (lift up and pull down simultaneously). The coil jacket is provided with a grounding screw (green) and a tab for the grounding connection. Within the junction box solenoid enclosure use field wire that is rated 90° C or greater for connections. Replace "J" box cover before operating.

### Testing for External Leakage

**▲ WARNING:** To prevent the possibility of severe personal injury or property damage, extinguish all open flames and avoid any type of sparking or ignition.

1. Block gas flow on downstream side of valve.
2. Apply pressure to valve within nameplate rating and energize solenoid.
3. Apply a soapy solution or a commercially available leak detecting solution to the pipe connections and check for bubbles. If the valve has been tested for seat leakage, apply the solution around the pipe plugs.
4. If leakage exists, depressurize valve and turn off electrical power supply. Tighten connections as required and retest following the above steps.

### Solenoid Temperature

Series K3A6 and K3A7 valves are supplied with coils designed for continuous duty service. When the solenoid is energized for a long period, the solenoid enclosure becomes hot and can be touched with the hand for an instant. This is a safe operating temperature. Any excessive heating will be indicated by the smoke and odor of burning coil insulation.

## MAINTENANCE

**▲ WARNING:** To prevent the possibility of severe personal injury or property damage, turn off electrical power, depressurize valve, extinguish all open flames and avoid any type of sparking or ignition. Vent hazardous or combustible fluid to a safe area before inspection or removing the valve from service.

### Preventive Maintenance

- Prepare and follow a routine inspection schedule based on the media, environment, and frequency of use. This should include periodic internal and external leakage checks.
- Keep the medium flowing through the valve as free from dirt and foreign material as possible.
- While in service, the valve should be operated at least once a month to ensure proper opening and closing.

NOTE: For performance problems, refer to *Troubleshooting Chart* on page 4 of 4.

### Coil Replacement (Refer to Figure 2)

NOTE: It is not necessary to remove the valve from the pipeline for *Coil Replacement*.

**▲ CAUTION:** Exercise care to prevent damage to the plunger tube. Do not grasp plunger tube with wrench or pliers.

1. Remove cover and disconnect supply wires to coil, grounding wire, and rigid conduit from coil jacket.
2. Remove screw and lockwasher, then carefully lift coil jacket assembly off plunger tube.
3. Remove the spring, coil, coil frames and washers from the coil jacket.
4. Reassemble in reverse order of disassembly, using a new replacement coil.
5. Place inner washers, then coil frames onto coil as originally configured. Coil voltage markings on coil must face toward valve body.
6. Place the spring inside the coil jacket.
7. Insert coil lead wires through hole in coil jacket. Pull wires all the way through, and seat coil in jacket.
8. Place bottom washer inside coil jacket.
9. Place coil/jacket assembly on plunger tube.
10. Install lockwasher, and screw onto coil jacket. Torque screw to 10–13 in–lbs [1,1–1,5 Nm].
11. Make electrical connections to solenoid, see *Wiring* section.
12. Replace "J" box cover on coil jacket.

**▲ CAUTION:** Solenoid must be fully reassembled as the coil jacket and internal parts are part of and complete the magnetic circuit.

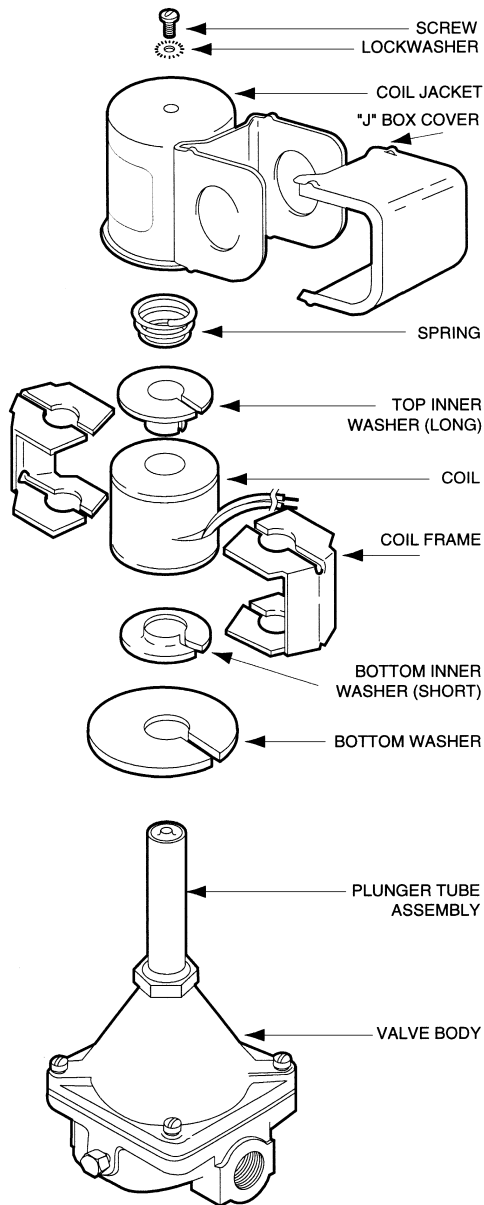


Figure 2. Exploded view, typical K3A valve.

### Testing for Internal (Seat) Leakage (Refer to Figure 3)

**CAUTION:** Be sure valve can be tested without affecting other equipment.

1. Shut off both the upstream and downstream manual gas cocks. The downstream manual gas cock should remain closed throughout the entire test procedure.
2. Program the control system to operate the valve through five cycles. Listen carefully for the solenoid coil to *click* indicating proper operation.
3. Open the upstream manual gas cock. Program the control system to energize and maintain the valve in the open (energized) position. Check all valve and piping connections for external leaks with rich soap and water solution or a commercially available leak detecting solution.

4. Shut off the upstream manual gas cock and de-energize valve. Remove the plug from the leak test tap or downstream pressure tap in the valve body. Connect leak test equipment with the test petcock in the closed position (Figure 3).
5. Open the upstream manual gas cock. Program the control system to energize the valve to the full open position, then immediately de-energize it to seat the valve operationally.
6. Immerse the 1/4" leak test tube vertically into a jar of water to a depth of about 1/2". Slowly open the test petcock. Bubbles may appear in the water as the pressure equalizes.
7. After the rate of bubbles coming through the water stabilizes, count the number of bubbles appearing in a 10 second period. The allowable leakage in 10 seconds for an orifice diameter of 1 inch (25.4 mm) or less is 6 bubbles (3 cc/min). For valves with an orifice diameter over 1 inch (25.4 mm) the allowable leakage rate is 6 bubbles (3 cc/min.) per inch (25.4 mm) of orifice diameter. If leakage exceeds this rate, replace valve.

**NOTE:** The leakage rate above recognizes that some wear and contamination from use can result in a slight amount of leakage. The allowable leakage rate is well within the leakage limits as recognized by applicable approval agencies.

8. Close the upstream manual gas cock and the test petcock. Then remove the test equipment. Apply a small amount of Loctite Corporation's PST® Pipe Sealant 567 (or equivalent) to the pipe plug threads. Reinstall the pipe plug and tighten securely.
9. Turn on the gas supply at the upstream manual gas cock and energize the valve.
10. Open the upstream manual gas cock. Program the control system to energize and maintain the valve in the open (energized) position. Check all valve and piping connections for external leaks with rich soap and water solution or a commercially available leak detecting solution.
11. De-energize the valve. Open the downstream manual gas cock.
12. Restore the system to normal operation.

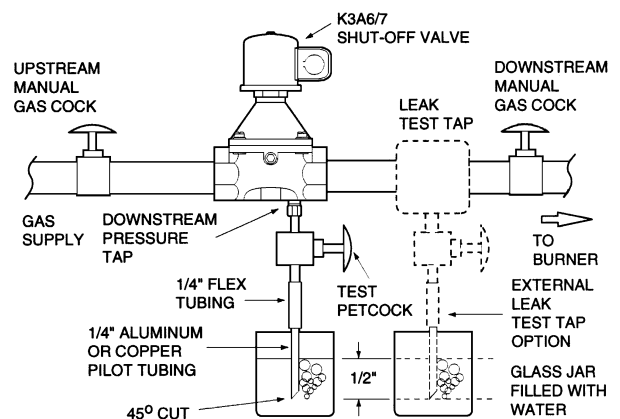


Figure 3. Testing for internal seat leakage.

**ORDERING INFORMATION  
FOR COIL REPLACEMENT**

When ordering coils, specify valve catalog number, voltage and coil number, if possible.

**Troubleshooting Chart**

Trouble	Possible Cause	Remedy
Valve operation is sluggish	<p>Solenoid coil short, or wrong voltage.</p> <p>Damaged plunger assembly.</p> <p>Dirt or other foreign matter restricting operation of valve.</p>	<p>Check coil voltage. Replace solenoid coil.</p> <p>Replace valve.</p> <p>Replace valve and install strainer upstream of valve.</p>
Valve fails to open	<p>Timer, limit controls or other devices not energizing circuit.</p> <p>Damaged plunger assembly preventing plunger operation.</p> <p>Solenoid coil short, burned—out or wrong voltage.</p> <p>Dirt, pipe compound or other foreign matter restricting operation of valve.</p>	<p>Check circuit for limit control operation, blown fuse, short circuit and loose wiring.</p> <p>Replace valve.</p> <p>Replace with solenoid coil of correct voltage</p> <p>Replace valve and install strainer upstream valve.</p>
Valve fails to close	<p>Damaged plunger assembly preventing plunger operation.</p> <p>Dirt, pipe compound or other foreign matter restricting operation of valve.</p> <p>Limit controls improperly installed to grounded side.</p>	<p>Replace valve.</p> <p>Replace valve and install strainer upstream of valve.</p> <p>Wire controls in hot side of circuit.</p>
Valve “chatters”	<p>Valve supply voltage is improper (too low)</p> <p>Dirt or chips between top of plunger assembly and plunger tube.</p>	<p>Apply correct voltage to valve.</p> <p>Replace valve and install strainer upstream of valve.</p>