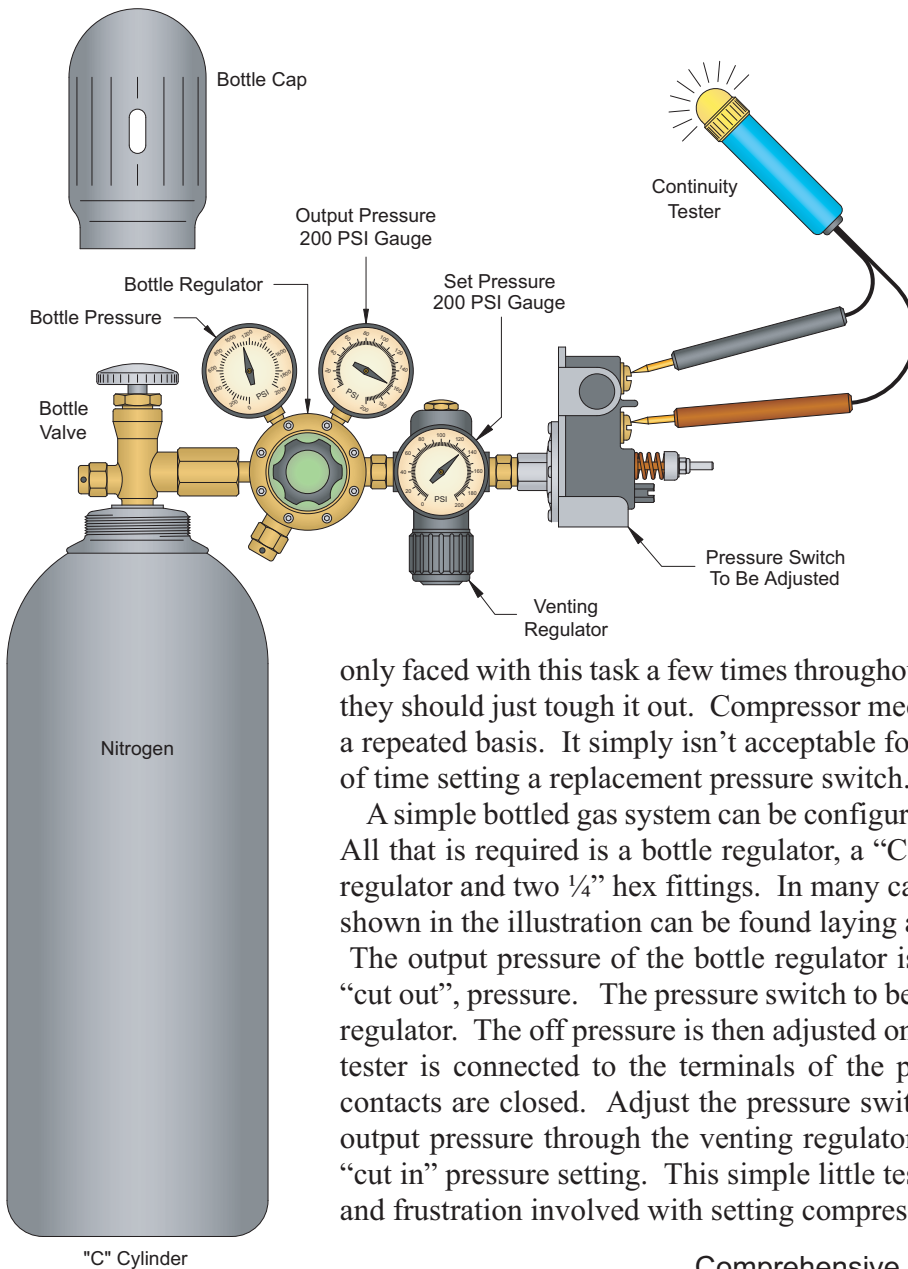


# Technical Bulletin

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## Service System for Setting Pressure Switches



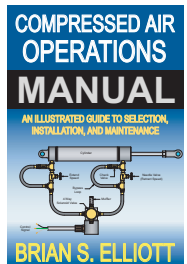
Anyone who has ever set a compressor switch will tell you that it can be a frustrating experience. The adjustments on the switches are not intuitive and, to make matters worse, every time you turn an adjustment screw, you're forced to vent the compressor and then wait for it to pump back up to verify the pressure settings. After going through this cycle a few times the average mechanic starts to get a little impatient and, consequently, he'll take a "good enough" attitude towards the task. This leaves the compressor with less than ideal pressure settings and will ultimately contribute to higher utility costs.

Most maintenance personnel are only faced with this task a few times throughout their entire careers, so it makes sense that they should just tough it out. Compressor mechanics, on the other hand, face this task on a repeated basis. It simply isn't acceptable for the typical service technician to take a lot of time setting a replacement pressure switch.

A simple bottled gas system can be configured that will dramatically speed this process. All that is required is a bottle regulator, a "C" size nitrogen cylinder, a 200 PSI venting regulator and two 1/4" hex fittings. In many cases, the parts to assemble a rig like the one shown in the illustration can be found laying around the shop.

The output pressure of the bottle regulator is set 10 PSI higher than the desired off, or "cut out", pressure. The pressure switch to be set is mounted on the output of the venting regulator. The off pressure is then adjusted on the venting regulator. A simple continuity tester is connected to the terminals of the pressure switch, which lights up when the contacts are closed. Adjust the pressure switch until the tester turns off. Lowering the output pressure through the venting regulator allows the technician to verify the on, or "cut in" pressure setting. This simple little test rig can dramatically reduce both the time and frustration involved with setting compressor pressure switches.

Comprehensive information on compressed air systems is provided in the book "Compressed Air Operations Manual" by Brian S. Elliott, ISBN: 0-07-147526-5 Published by the McGraw-Hill Book Co.



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