Instrument Tubing Selection Guide

Bulletin 4200-TS
October 2000

Parker Hannifin Corporation Instrumentation Connectors Division P.O. Box 400004, Huntsville, AL 35815-1504

Parker's instrument tube fittings have been designed to work in a wide variety of applications that demand the utmost in product performance.

Although Parker's Instrument tube fittings have been engineered and manufactured to consistently provide this level of reliability, no systems integrity is complete without considering the critical link, **tubing.**

This booklet is intended to assist the designer to properly select and order quality tubing.

Proper tube selection and installation, we believe, are key ingredients in building leak-free reliable tubing systems.

General Selection Criteria

The most important consideration in the selection of suitable tubing for any application is the compatibility of the tubing material with the media to be contained. Table 1 lists common materials and their associated general application. Table 1 also lists the maximum and minimum operating temperature for the various tubing materials.

In addition, Parker instrument fittings are designed to work on like materials. Stainless steel fittings should be used only with stainless steel tubing, aluminum fittings with aluminum tubing, etc. The practice of mixing materials is strongly discouraged. The only exception is brass fittings with copper tubing.

Dissimilar materials in contact may be susceptible to galvanic corrosion. Further, different materials have different levels of hardness, and can adversely affect the fittings ability to seal on the tubing.

TABLE 1

TUBING MATERIAL	GENERAL APPLICATION	RECOMMENDED TEMPERATURE RANGE
Stainless Steel	High Pressure, High Temperature, Generally Corrosive Media	-425°F to 1200°F[1] (-255°C to 605°C)
Carbon Steel	High Pressure, High Temperature Oil, Air, Some Specialty Chemicals	-65°F to 800°F[2] (-55°C to 425°C)
Copper	Low Temperature, Low Pressure Water, Oil, Air	-40°F to 400°F (-40°C to 205°C)
Aluminum	Low Temperature, Low Pressure Water, Oil, Air, Some Specialty Chemicals	-40°F to 400°F (-40°C to 205°C)
Monel 400™	Recommended for Sour Gas Applications. Well Suited for Marine and General Chemical Processing Applications	-400°F to 800°F (-240°C to 425°C)
Alloy C276	Excellent Corrosion Resistance to Both Oxidizing And Reducing Media and Excellent Resistance to Localized Corrosion Attack	-320°F to 1000°F (-195°C to 535°C)
Carpenter 20™	Applications Requiring Resistance to Stress Corrosion Cracking in Extreme Conditions	-400°F to 800°F (-240°C to 425°C)
Alloy 600	Recommended for High Temperature Applications With Generally Corrosive Media	-205°F to 1200°F (-130°C to 650°C)
Titanium	Resistant To Many Natural Environments Such as Sea Water, Body Fluids and Salt Solutions	-320°F to 600°F (-195°C to 315°C)

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1. For operating temperatures above 800°F(425°C), consideration should be given to media. 300 Series Stainless Steels are susceptible to carbide precipitation which may lead to intergranular corrosion at elevated temperatures.
2. Consideration should be given to maximum temperature ratings if fittings and/or tubing are coated or plated.

All temperature ratings based on maximum temperatures per ASME/ANSI B31.3 Chemical Plant And Refinery Piping Code, 1999 Edition.

The information listed in Table 1 is general in scope. For specific applications, please contact Parker's Instrumentation Connectors Division, Product Engineering Department (256) 881-2040.

Gas Service

Special care must be taken when selecting tubing for gas service. In order to achieve a gas-tight seal, ferrules in instrument fittings must seal any surface imperfections. This is accomplished by the ferrules penetrating the surface of the tubing. Penetration can only be achieved if the tubing provides radial resistance and if the tubing material is softer than the ferrules.

Thick walled tubing helps to provide resistance. Tables 2-7 indicate the minimum acceptable wall thickness for various materials in gas service. The ratings in white indicate combination of diameter and wall thickness which are suitable for gas service.

Acceptable tubing hardness for general application is listed in Table 9. These values are the maximum allowed by ASTM. For gas service, better results can be obtained by using tubing well below this maximum hardness. For example, a desirable hardness of 80 Rb is suitable for stainless steel. The maximum allowed by ASTM is 90 Rb.

System Pressure

The system operating pressure is another important factor in determining the type, and more importantly, the size of tubing to be used. In general, high pressure installations require strong materials such as steel or stainless steel. Heavy walled softer tubing such as copper may be used if chemical compatibility exists with the media. However, the higher strength of steel or stainless steel permits the use of thinner tubes without reducing the ultimate rating of the system. In any event, tube fitting assemblies should never be pressurized beyond the recommended working pressure.

The following tables (2-7) list by material the maximum suggested working pressure of various tubing sizes and are the working pressure ratings for use with Parker CPI™ and A-LOK® compression fittings. Acceptable tubing diameters and wall thicknesses are those for which a rating is listed. Combinations, which do not have a pressure rating, are not recommended for use with instrument fittings.

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE WORKING PRESSURE TABLES

Table 2 — 316 or 304 STAINLESS STEEL (Seamless)

Tube O.D. Size	WALL THICKNESS															
	.010	.012	.014	.016	.020	.028	.035	.049	.065	.083	.095	.109	.120	.134	.156	.188
1/16	5600	6900	8200	9500	12100	16800										
1/8						8600	10900									
3/16						5500	7000	10300								
1/4						4000	5100	7500	10300							
5/16							4100	5900	8100							
3/8							3300	4800	6600							
1/2							2500	3500	4800	6300						
5/8								3000	4000	5200	6100					
3/4								2400	3300	4300	5000	5800				
7/8								2100	2800	3600	4200	4900				
1									2400	3200	3700	4200	4700			
1 1/4										2500	2900	3300	3700	4100	4900	
1 1/2											2400	2700	3000	3400	4000	4500
2												2000	2200	2500	2900	3200

Table 3 — 316 or 304 STAINLESS STEEL (Welded)

Tube O.D. Size	WALL THICKNESS															
	.010	.012	.014	.016	.020	.028	.035	.049	.065	.083	.095	.109	.120	.134	.156	.188
1/16	4800	5900	7000	8100	10300	14300										
1/8						7300	9300									
3/16						4700	6000	8700								
1/4						3400	4400	6400	8700							
5/16							3400	5000	6900							
3/8							2800	4100	5600							
1/2							2100	3000	4100	5300						
5/8								2500	3400	4500	5200					
3/4								2100	2800	3700	4200	4900				
7/8								1800	2400	3100	3600	4200				
1									2100	2700	3100	3600	4000			
1 1/4										2100	2400	2800	3100	3500	4200	
1 1/2											2000	2300	2600	2900	3400	4200
2												1700	1900	2100	2500	3000

Table 4 CARBON STEEL (Seamless)

Tube O.D. Size	WALL THICKNESS											
	.028	.035	.049	.065	.083	.095	.109	.120	.134	.148	.165	.180
1/8	8100	10300										
3/16	5200	6700	9700									
1/4	3800	4900	7100	9700								
5/16		3800	5500	7700								
3/8		3100	4500	6200								
1/2		2300	3300	4500	6000							
5/8		1800	2600	3500	4600	5400						
3/4			2200	2900	3800	4400	5100					
7/8			1800	2500	3200	3700	4300					
1			1600	2100	2800	3200	3700	4100				
1 1/4				1700	2200	2500	2900	3200	3700	3800		
1 1/2					1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3400	3800	4000
2						1600	1800	2000	2200	2500	2800	3000

Table 6 ALUMINUM (Seamless)

Tube O.D. Size	WALL THICKNESS				
	.035	.049	.065	.083	.095
1/8	8700				
3/16	5600	8100			
1/4	4100	5900			
5/16	3200	4600			
3/8	2600	3800			
1/2	1900	2800	3800		
5/8	1500	2200	2900		
3/4		1800	2400	3200	
7/8		1500	2100	2700	
1		1300	1800	2300	2700

Table 5 COPPER (Seamless)

Tube O.D. Size	WALL THICKNESS									
	.010	.020	.028	.035	.049	.065	.083	.095	.109	.120
1/16	1700	3800	5400	6000						
1/8			2800	3600						
3/16			1800	2300	3500					
1/4				1700	2600	3500				
5/16				1300	2000	2800				
3/8				1100	1600	2300				
1/2				800	1200	1600	2200			
5/8					900	1300	1700	2000		
3/4					800	1000	1400	1600	1900	
7/8					600	900	1100	1300	1600	
1					600	800	1000	1200	1400	1500
1 1/8						700	900	1000	1200	1300

Table 7 MONEL 400 (Seamless)

Tube O.D. Size	WALL THICKNESS									
	.010	.020	.028	.035	.049	.065	.083	.095	.109	.120
1/16	5900	12600	17000							
1/8			8600	11000						
3/16			5500	7100	10300					
1/4			4000	5100	7500	10300				
5/16				4000	5900	8100				
3/8				3300	4800	6600				
1/2				2300	3300	4500	5900			
5/8					2800	3700	4900	5700		
3/4					2300	3100	4000	4600	5400	
1						2300	2900	3400	3900	4400

Note:
- All working pressures have been calculated using the maximum allowable stress levels in accordance with ANSI B31.3, Chemical Plant and Petroleum Refinery Piping Code, 1999 Edition
- All calculations are based on maximum outside diameter and minimum wall thickness.
- All working pressures are ambient (72°F or 22°C) temperature.

System Temperature

Operating temperature is another factor in determining the proper tubing material. Copper and aluminum tubing are suitable for low temperature media. Stainless steel and carbon steel tubing are suitable for higher temperature media. Special alloys such as Alloy 600 are recommended for extremely high temperatures (see Table 1). Table 8 lists derating factors which should be applied to the working pressures listed in Tables 2-7 for elevated temperature conditions. Simply locate the correct factor in Table 8 and multiply this by the appropriate value in Tables 2-7 for elevated temperature working pressure.

Table 8 Temperature Derating Factors

Temperature °F	(°C)	Copper	Aluminum	316 SS	304 SS	Steel	Monel 400
100	(38)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
200	(93)	.80	1.00	1.00	1.00	.96	.88
300	(149)	.78	.81	1.00	1.00	.90	.82
400	(204)	.50	.40	.97	.94	.86	.79
500	(260)			.90	.88	.82	.79
600	(316)			.85	.82	.77	.79
700	(371)			.82	.80	.73	.79
800	(427)			.80	.76	.59	.76
900	(486)			.78	.73		
1000	(538)			.77	.69		
1100	(593)			.62	.49		
1200	(649)			.37	.30		

EXAMPLE: 1/2 inch x .049 wall seamless 316 stainless steel tubing has a working pressure of 3500psi @ room temperature. If the system were to operate @ 800°F, a factor of 80% or (.80) would apply (see Table 8 above) and the “at temperature” system pressure would be 3500psi x .80 = 2800psi.

Tubing Ordering Suggestions

Tubing for use with Parker instrument fittings must be carefully ordered to insure adequate quality for good performance. Each purchase order must specify the material nominal outside diameter, and wall thickness. Ordering to ASTM specifications insures that the tubing will be dimensionally, physically, and chemically within strict limits. Also, more stringent requirements may be added by the user. All tubing should be ordered free of scratches and suitable for bending.

A purchase order for the above criteria would read as follows:

"1/2 x .049 stainless steel, seamless or welded and redrawn per ASTM A-249. Fully annealed, 80 Rb or less. Must be suitable for bending; surface scratches, and imperfections (incomplete weld seams) are not permissible."

Table 9 lists specific ordering information for each material.

Table 9

Material	Type	ASTM Tubing Spec.	Condition	Max. Recommended Hardness
Stainless Steel	304, 316, 316L	ASTM-A-269, A-249, A-213, A632	Fully Annealed	90 Rb
Copper	K or L	ASTM-B75, B68, B88 (K or L)*	Soft Annealed Temper 0	60 Max. Rockwell 15T
Carbon Steel	1010	SAE J524b, J525b ASTM-A-179	Fully Annealed	72 Rb
Aluminum	Alloy 6061	ASTM-B-210	T6 Temper	56 Rb
Monel™	400	ASTM-B-165	Fully Annealed	75 Rb
Alloy C-276	C-276	ASTM-B-622, B-626	Fully Annealed	90 Rb
Alloy 600	600	ASTM-B 167	Fully Annealed	90 Rb
Carpenter 20™	20CB-3	ASTM-B-468	Fully Annealed	90 Rb
Titanium	Commercially Pure Grade 2	ASTM-B-338	Fully Annealed	99 Rb 200 Brinell Typical

* NOTE: B88 Copper tubing to be ordered non-engraved

⚠ WARNING

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Parker Instrumentation

Parker Hannifin Corporation
Instrumentation Connectors Division
P.O. Box 400004-1504
9400 S. Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, AL 35815-1504
Phone (256) 881-2040

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