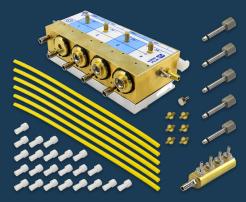




A-dec® 300 & 500 Series

Control Blocks ... Version 1 & 2 Explained



Handpiece Control Block (HCG/RPI #ADK276)

By Randy Hunt RPI GM and Director of Engineering

The A-dec Handpiece Control Blocks for the 300 and 500 series delivery units have undergone some changes. There are two basic versions of this control block, and we are going to outline the differences that will help you find the part you need for the version you are servicing.

These two versions are very much the same, with one critical distinction. Version 1 has the Water Flow Adjustment Stem Seat machined directly into the main brass block. The Version 2 Block has a major design improvement. A Stem Cartridge was added, and the Water Flow Adjustment Stem Seat was machined into the cartridge.

So, why the change? The Version 1 block is unrepairable and would be scrapped if the Water Flow Adjustment Stem Seat gets damaged by use or abuse. This Damage is primarily due to the Dental Staff using the Water Control Adjustment knob to shut off the water flow instead of using the water shut-off switch on the delivery unit or foot control. This mode of failure should be emphasized to the Dental staff. When the Version 2 block fails for that same reason. simply replace the stem cartridge, and voila, you have a new stem seat. This will restore the block to its original operating condition, saving your customer a costly Main Control Block replacement service call.

With the introduction of the Water Flow Adjustment Stem Seat Cartridge in Version 2, other parts have been affected. Namely, the Water Cartridge Assembly (wet and dry versions). This Version 2 Water Cartridge Assembly has a smaller thread, which screws into the Main Brass Block, and because of that smaller thread, the retaining ring has also been resized.

The actual Water Control Adjust Stems are interchangeable between Version 1 and 2, whether they thread directly into the brass block or into the stainless steel cartridge. The Air Coolant and Drive Stems are also interchangeable within the brass blocks.

Another variable concerning the stems is that there are two styles for coupling to the knobs which allows the adjustment of the water flow. In the older units, the stems have a female hex which accepts a male hex key type knob or adjustment tool (HCG/RPI #ADT242). The newer units have the "Double Flat" style attachment to the knob, which uses a vinyl knob that snaps onto the stem (HCG/RPI #ADK281). Whichever unit you have, we have the correct stem and knob for your needs.

We carry the full line of replacement parts for the A-dec 300 & 500 Handpiece Control Blocks for Version 1 and 2, as well as the entire Version 2 Block Assembly. Our Handpiece Control Blocks come with complete Installation Instructions and a conversion manifold for units that require it. Once you have upgraded to the version 2 block, you can repair the Water Flow Adjustment seat without replacing the entire Control Block.

