

Reducing Unions

Reducing unions join two tubes of different outside diameters. Standard material is 300 series stainless.

- Internal reducing unions have female threads and a fitting detail for zero volume fittings. The nuts have male (external) threads.
- External reducing unions have male threads, requiring a nut with internal threads.
- External/internal and internal/external reducing unions have male threads on one end and female threads on the other. We recommend the use of external/internal fittings when connecting to an existing external nut.

Internal fittings are almost always the best with tubing of 1/8" OD or smaller. They make a stronger connection and offer the lower volume necessary for high performance instrumentation. Also, because 1/16" external fittings have very thin, easily distorted walls,

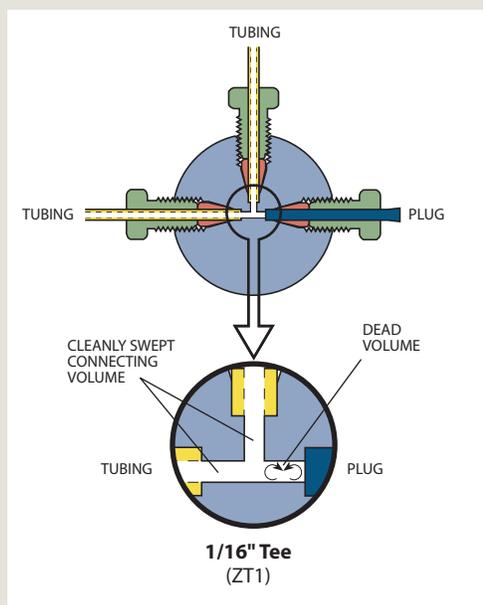
they are not as durable as 1/16" internal fittings. In sizes larger than 1/8", external fittings are generally easier to make up because of less thread friction.

Bulkhead versions can be mounted through an instrument panel or on a bracket. The fitting body is undercut so that it bites into the panel when the mounting nut is tightened, eliminating the need for a lock washer. An O-ring can be installed between the body and the panel to allow operation in purged environments. Typically the mounting nut goes inside the instrument, so that the long threaded portion will be out of sight. In the external/internal bulkhead unions, the mounting nut is on the side with the Valco internal fitting.



DEAD VOLUME

"Dead volume" is created in obvious situations such as the one shown.



UNSWEPT VOLUME

Even in connections which are by most definitions "zero dead volume", unswept volume may be created where large ID transitions occur. The amount of mixing depends on the amount of mismatch in the IDs.

