

Quick Thermocouple Identification

- 1 - If the colors of the insulation on the leadwires are easily identified than you can go to step 5.
- 2 - If the colors of the leads are not easy to identify make sure that there is a junction of the two wires (welded, soldered or twisted).
- 3 - Attach a Milliamp indicator to the free ends of the leadwire and then heat the junction of the wires (Flame, Hot Air or hot water). The value of the milliamp meter will increase as it is heated. If the indicators leads are connected to the leadwires properly the meter should read positive. If the meter reads negatively than switch the indicators leads on the leadwires so it reads positive.
- 4 - Mark the leadwires as to the polarity of the indicators leads, also mark the negative lead as Red.
- 5 - Take a magnet and check if either of the wires are magnetic and mark them if they are magnetic.
- 6 - On the chart below you should be able to identify the type of Thermocouple from the information gathered from above.

Thermocouple Type	Lead Color	Polarity	Lead Material	Magnetic Lead
E	Purple	Positive	Chromel	No
	Red	Negative	Constantan	No
J	White	Positive	Iron	Yes
	Red	Negative	Constantan	No
K	Yellow	Positive	Chromel	No
	Red	Negative	Alumel	Yes
T	Blue	Positive	Copper *	No
	Red	Negative	Constantan	No

The above color codes and thermocouple materials are from ANSI Specification MC96.1 1982

* The Copper color of this lead is very distinct.