

Thermostat Check Device

By John Sims

Whenever was necessary to verify a Thermostat's functioning, I would remove it, place it in a pot of water and while holding a thermometer, heat the water and wait until the thermostat popped thereby verifying the temperature at which it opened.

It occurred to me that there may be a better way.

While holding a meat thermometer in the top tank of the radiator it occurred to me that if I could fabricate something to hold it other than my hand, I would be ahead of the game.

A quick trip to Home Depot gave me the solution. Take a two inch PVC coupler, their part number E940J, notch it for the overflow tube, place it on the radiator fill opening and insert the thermometer. (I used my wife's Pyrex Meat Thermometer – will have to buy her a new one.)

As the pointer on the meat thermometer reaches 160, 170, etc. degrees, I lift it out and see if coolant is circulating. I then replace it and remove it at 10 degree increments. This tells me roughly at what temperature the thermostat is opening.



Necessary parts.



Finished Tool