

Motor capacitor screw picture

What is a motor capacitor?

A motor capacitor is an electrical capacitor that alters the current to one or more windings of a single-phase alternating-current induction motor to create a rotating magnetic field. [citation needed] There are two common types of motor capacitors, start capacitor and run capacitor (including a dual run capacitor).

How does a capacitor motor work?

Capacitor motor with a speed limiting governor device. Start capacitors lag the voltage to the rotor windings creating a phase shift between field windings and rotor windings. Without the start capacitor, the north and south magnetic fields will line up and the motor hums and will only start spinning when physically turned, creating a phase shift.

What are the different types of motor capacitors?

There are two common types of motor capacitors, start capacitor and run capacitor (including a dual run capacitor). Motor capacitors are used with single-phase electric motors: 11 that are in turn used to drive air conditioners, hot tub / jacuzzi spa pumps, powered gates, large fans or forced-air heat furnaces for example.

Are motor capacitors toxic?

Motor capacitors manufactured before 1978 likely contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These are extremely toxic and persistent chemicals with many long-lasting negative human and wildlife health effects. Capacitors were required to be labeled in the U.S. with "No PCBs" or similar language.

How does a start capacitor work?

A start capacitor stays in the circuit long enough to rapidly bring the motor up to a predetermined speed, which is usually about 75% of the full speed, and is then taken out of the circuit, often by a centrifugal switch that releases at that speed.

What is a run capacitor?

Run capacitors are designed for continuous duty while the motor is powered, which is why electrolytic capacitors are avoided, and low-loss polymer capacitors are used. Run capacitors are mostly polypropylene film capacitors (historically: metallised paper capacitors) and are energized the entire time the motor is running.

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where the single-phase AC motor is provided with a centrifugal switch, or other device which cuts the capacitor out of the circuit once the full speed is reached. They may be used on either 50 or 60-Hertz systems but should not be used ...

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