5 INCH GAUGE SIDE ROD & BIG END OIL CAPS

3/16 HEX BRASS



@ Mick Shiell

POP SAFETY VALVES

I am indebted to Les King for a design of pop safety valve that has proved successful in use. Safety valves are such an important item I have taken the liberty to extract the key operating principles and have sketched these out as I have found that many published designs are not exactly what is required and principles are more important than dimensions.

The upper sketch shows the typical arrangement of a relief valve with a ball on a seat. As the pressure rises the ball lifts and the steam exhausts round the ball into a larger annular space. This arrangement gives a 'soft' opening and closing valve ideal for situations where a violent action is not required but has the disadvantage that when the boiler is at the full working pressure the valve tends to continuously feather.

The lower sketch is of a typical pop action valve. When the valve starts to lift the steam cannot escape immediately and the valve presents a larger working area to the steam so once the valve lifts it tends to open more fully until the steam can escape round the ball past the close fitting section of the valve. Equally once the boiler pressure has dropped the valve snaps shut more cleanly than an ordinary relief valve. Other arrangements are used in full size such as the steam impinging on a second piston above the seat to give the larger area but the principle is the same. Pop valves usually repay experimentation to determine the height of the 'pop' ring and arriving at a compromise between a too violent pop action and not enough.





