

# Add-on valve cuts assembly costs

Schunk has launched a series of miniature pneumatic valves that can be screwed directly into actuators, cutting the cost of hosing between the valve and the actuator. The hose-free assembly reduces wiring for power supplies and signalling, and is said to save compressed air because the supply line does not need to be filled and emptied on each cycle.

The ABV add-on valve consists of an electrical distribution box and two 3/2 micro valves that are screwed directly into the actuator. The valves and optional sensors are fitted with pre-cut 30cm wires with three-pin M8 plugs that connect into the distributor box. The cables for actuating the valves and for sending signals do not need to be routed the entire distance from the actuator to the controller. Instead, they are connected to the distributor box near the actuator. From here, one multi-core cable runs to the controller, in addition to the pneumatic hose, reducing significantly the total amount of wiring. The valves match the actuator in terms of air flow and connection size. They give the user flexibility in the control of the actuator and for position monitoring.

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