

Introduction

Precision Machining, Finishing, and Tolerances

The machining methods used by different manufacturers to finish the detail of compression fittings vary in several ways that affect performance, as shown below. The fitting in **Figure 5** is the best choice for high performance fittings, as the tube fits squarely into the bottom of the detail. This is the detail used in Valco and Cheminert high pressure fittings.

Some fitting manufacturers omit a critical finishing operation which makes the bottom of the detail square, leaving the shape of the typical tapered drill bit instead. This results in the fitting shown in **Figure 6**, which introduces extra volume and mixing potential. VICI uses proprietary tooling specifically designed to produce the same high precision detail in every Valco and Cheminert fitting.

Although sometimes the tube end may seal in the bottom of the detail, the intent is for the seal to be made at the ferrule. This leaves the possibility of seepage up around the tube and into the minute cavities between the end of the ferrule and the bottom of the ferrule seat. The probability of this seepage increases when there is an excessive variance between the tubing OD and the diameter of the counterbored pilot in which it sits, and between the ferrule OD and the ferrule ID at the point where it "bites" or crimps the tubing. The possibility is virtually eliminated in VICI's fittings, which are manufactured with the precise dimensions that chromatographic applications demand. Use of VICI precut tubing, which is manufactured to quality standards in excess of most commercial tubing, further assures the best fitting connection.

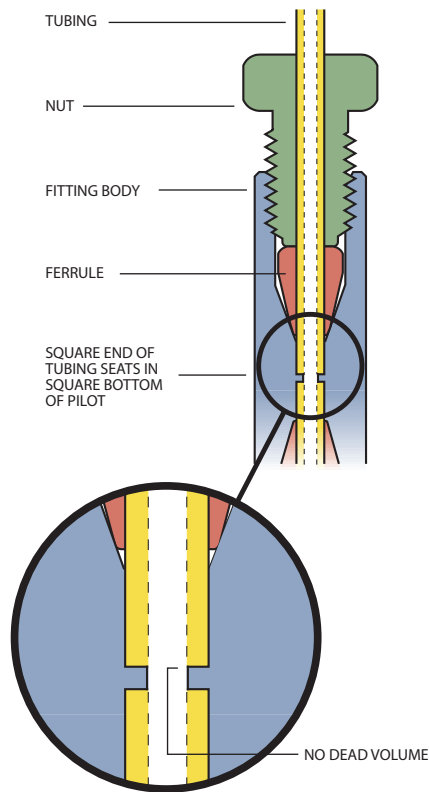


Figure 5
Valco/Cheminert high pressure
compression fitting

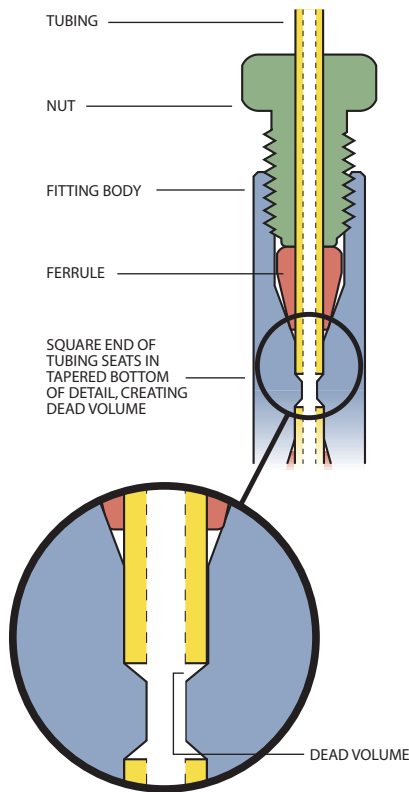


Figure 6
Poor quality
compression fitting