

Duct Tester Comparison Guide

Retrotec Model 340 vs TEC Duct Blaster®



Both Retrotec's Model 340x DuTester and The Energy Conservatory's Duct Blaster® are built to measure the airtightness of forced air heating, ventilating and air-conditioning ductwork.

However, there are key differences in performance, functionality & versatility. The chart below is used to compare options between both systems.

| | Retrotec Model 340x DucTester | TEC Duct Blaster® |
|---|---|---|
| Gauge Included | DM32 WiFi | DG-1000 |
| Flow Rates | 3 Standard Flow Rings ranging from 10 CFM to 771 CFM* *Flow rates limited to 771 CFM due to resistance of flex, register & blower. Centrifugal blower not affected by backpressure. | 3 Standard Flow Rings ranging from 10 CFM to 650 CFM** **Flow rates are limited to 650CFM due to resistance of flex, register and blower. Axial fan is affected by backpressure |
| Optional Ranges | Flow ranges are included for flows from 10 to 771 CFM. Optional ranges go down to 0.02 CFM. | Flow ranges are included for flows from 10 to 650 CFM* through flex duct and register. Optional Ring 4 measures down to 2.4 CFM. * More flow can be achieved where flex duct is not used and fan is taped onto air handler cabinet |
| Depressurization | Depressurization requires no tubing changes. Quick Connect Collar makes this connection fast. | Depressurization requires the attachment of the Flow Conditioner with U molding and an additional tube from Channel B to the flange. U molding makes reassembly more time consuming. |
| Flow Sensor | Flow Sensor is a venturi nozzle with two annular pressure damping chambers for flow and reference pressure. It is built into the fan housing. | Flow Sensor is a metal tube that is screwed onto the motor. It has holes on the downstream side used to measure flow. |
| Test Equipment and Calibration complies with | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internationally recognized ILAC ISO-17025* accredited calibration lab.• ASTM E 1554 – 03• ASHRAE 152• RESNET• All State Codes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASTM E 1554 - 03• ASHRAE 152• RESNET• All State Codes |
| Fan Specs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dimensions and weight: 13" x 11" x 13.25", 9 lbs with 2 flow rings. System 26 lbs.• Motor Continuous duty impeller designed for over 100,000 hours of operation.• Test direction: Works in both directions without changes to set up.• Maximum pressure in flex: 500 Pa• Accuracy claimed: ± 3%• ISO 17025 Accredited• Warranty: 2 years, 5 years on shell. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dimensions and weight: 10 " diameter, 7 " length, 8.5 lbs with 3 flow rings. System 27 lbs.• Motor Can be operated for up to 2 hours at one time.• Test direction: Test in both directions. Only when depressurizing, the clear reference hose and flow conditioner must be used.• Maximum pressure in flex: 100 Pa• Accuracy claimed: ± 3% Warranty: 2 years |

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| | Retrotec Model 340 DucTester | TEC Duct Blaster® |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Fan Speed Controller | Built in Fan Speed Controller | Manual Fan Speed Controller on power cord |
| Connections | Color coded tubing with matching color connections | Color tubing with brass connections |
| Flex Duct | Twelve feet of 10" diameter flex duct | Twelve feet of 10" diameter flex duct |
| Online Training | Included | Included |
| Case | Custom Carrying Case with metal clasps & stiff lid for use as a stand. Case fits gauge & accessories, and can be customized to fit other tool such as a smoke emitter, thermal camera, & additional tools. | Sports Bag style Carrying Case with plastic clasps. Zippered case with foam cut outs for gauge and accessories. No additional room for other items. |
| Grill Mask | Roll of 12" Grill Mask™ | Roll of 8" DuctMask™ |
| Instructions | QuickGuides with manual available for download | QuickGuides with user guide |
| Pros | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calibrated in an ISO 17025 Accredited Lab. • Optional flow ranges go down to 0.02 CFM allowing it to be used for a variety of new applications, such as testing windows. • Universal gauge will operate all systems from Retrotec and TEC • DM32 gauge turns on instantly • Stable base built into fan shell • Flow straightener not required when depressurizing • Gauge can stick to fan shell with magnetic backing • Quick Connect Collar makes changing directions easy • Clear Flange superior with hooks to connect to grill • Gauge Calibration only every 5 years thanks to drift resistant digital sensors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slightly smaller and lighter • When mounted to air handler cabinet, it can create over 1000 CFM of flow, though that much flow is rarely needed in the field for residential ducts. |
| Cons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slightly larger and heavier | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow ranges can be installed backwards and on the wrong side of the fan. • When performing depressurization tests, the flow conditioner and reference tube must be installed. • Letter codes for Devices, Ranges and results can be misinterpreted. • Even though the DG-1000 is marketed as a digital gauge, it still uses the older style analog sensors that drift out of calibration after a couple of years. • DG-1000 takes 1 minute and 22 seconds to boot up and be ready for testing. |