

# BALANCING RADIATORS

**FLOW**

Regulating valve



**RETURN**

Lockshield valve



$A - B = 12^{\circ}\text{C}$

The balancing act.

1. Start by bleeding all the radiators.
2. Switch on the central heating system.
3. Open all the regulating valves on the radiators and open the lockshields 1/4 of a turn from the fully closed position. The lockshield valve adjustment is normally hidden under the screw cap at one end of the radiator and has an adjustment requiring an allen key. (Remove all thermostatic heads if fitted).
4. Use a thermometer to measure the radiator temperature close to the flow and return.
5. Start at the first radiator closest to the boiler and close the lockshield valve to almost closed. As the temperature of the system comes up, gradually open up the valve until the temperature difference between the FLOW and RETURN is about  $12^{\circ}\text{C}$
6. Move to the next radiator away from the boiler. Close down the lockshield valve and adjust it until the temperature difference increases to about  $12^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
7. Work along the rest of the radiators until they all have been balanced.

## INCORRECT FLOW AND RETURN

If you have unfortunately discovered that the radiator "Flow and Return" pipework has been installed in the opposite direction, it is recommended to drain the radiator and change the valves over. This is highly recommended where a thermostatic head is fitted. If the flow is in the incorrect direction with a thermostatic head fitted, the valve will vibrate and produce a hammering noise as the thermostatic valve reaches temperature.



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