Determining Air Conditioning Age & Capacity

As a rule-of-thumb, capacity information is encoded by air conditioning manufactures in the model number and date of manufacture info in the serial number.

There are 12,000 Btus per ton of cooling, and air conditioners are sized by every ½ ton. Manufacturers often encode the approximate rating in Btus somewhere in the model number. Therefore it is often simple to scan the model number for a two-digit number that is divisible by 6 and to divide it by 12 to determine the capacity rating in tons. This number can be elusive, as it is not always exactly divisible by 6. Some manufacturer’s systems make this easier than others. To complicate matters, some manufacturers have changed their systems of encoding data over time.

Amana

Age: Use B-L-A-C-K H-O-R-S-E code  
B = 71 or 81  
L = 72 or 82  
A = 73 or 83  
C = 74 or 84  
K = 75 or 85  
H = 76 or 86  
O = 77 or 87  
R = 78 or 88  
S = 69, 79 or 89  
E = 70, 80 or 90

Bryant

Capacity: Look for those elusive two digits in the model number usually (but not always) divisible by 6 and divide by 12 to convert to tons.

Example: 56BAB0042000A0  
42 = size on thousands of BTU  
42,000 Btu = 3½ ton

From 1964 through 1979 Bryant encoded age information in the serial number with the first two digits indicating week of manufacture and the letter following those first two numbers indicating the year beginning R = 1964:  
R = 1964  
S = 1965  
T = 1966  
U = 1967  
V = 1968  
W = 1969  
X = 1970  
Y = 1971  
A = 1972  
B = 1973  
C = 1974  
D = 1975  
E = 1976  
F = 1977  
G = 1978  
H = 1979

In subsequent years Bryant simplified its system where, the first two digits of serial number = Week of manufacture. Third & fourth digits = Year of manufacture.

**Carrier**

Carrier has used several different codes at different plants. Information below refers to commonly used codes.

Capacity: Commonly found in the last three to five digits of model number, sometimes in 100s of Btus – sometimes in tons

Example:

- 001 = 1.5 ton, 002 = 2 ton, 003 = 2.5 ton, 004 = 3 ton, 004-5 = 3.5 ton, 005 = 4 ton, 006 = 5 ton
- Or
- 18xx = 1.5 ton, 24xx = 2 ton, 30xx = 2.5 ton, 36xx = 3 ton, 42xx = 3.5 ton, 48xx = 4 ton, 60xx = 5 ton
- Or
- 14xx = 1 ton, 18xx = 1.5 ton, 024 = 2 ton, 030 = 2.5 ton, 036 = 3 ton, 042 = 3.5 ton, 048 = 4 ton, 060 = 5 ton

Age: Through the 1960s Carrier used the first digit of the serial number to indicate the year of manufacture. Example: 3xxxxx = 1963, 4xxxxx = 1964, 5xxxxx = 1965, etc.

Beginning in 1970 Carrier began to use a letter followed by a single digit year.


Note: No letter I

More recently Carrier has simplified things using the first four digits of the serial number to signify the age, where the first two digits indicate the week and the third and fourth digits indicate the year of manufacture (similar to Bryant).

Example: 3298xxxxx = 32\(^{nd}\) week of 1998

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**Chrysler Air Temp**

Capacity: Rating in tons found in the fourth and fifth digits of the model number

- 0 = 1 – 1.5 ton
- 2 = 2 ton
- 3 = 2.5 ton
- 4 = 3 ton
- 5 = 4 ton
- 6 = 5 ton

Example: xx06xxxx = 5 ton
Climatrol

Capacity: Look for those elusive two digits in the model number (usually, but not always) divisible by 6 and divide by 12 to convert to tons. It is often in the last three to five digits, but is sometimes closer to the middle.

Coastline

Capacity: Look for those elusive two digits in the model number (usually, but not always) divisible by 6 and divide by 12 to convert to tons. It is often in the last three to five digits, but is sometimes closer to the middle.

Coleman

Coleman has used several different codes at different plants. Information below refers to some commonly used codes.

Capacity: Commonly found in the third and fourth digits of the model number – sometimes in 100s of Btus and sometimes as tons.

Example: \[ xx30 = 2.5 \text{ ton}, \ xx48 = 4 \text{ ton} \]

or

\[ xx02 = 2 \text{ ton}, \ xx05 = 5 \text{ ton} \]

Day-Night – Later manufactured as “BDP” (Bryant, Day-Night, Payne)

Capacity: Look for those elusive two digits in the model number (usually, but not always) divisible by 6 and divide by 12 to convert to tons. It is often in the last three to five digits, but is sometimes closer to the middle.

Age: First two letters of the serial number indicate age, where the first letter is the month and the second letter the year of manufacture beginning with 1970

\[ \text{A=1970} \]
\[ \text{B=1971} \]
\[ \text{C=1972} \]
\[ \text{Etc.} \]
Fedders

Capacity: Last two digits of the model number indicate 1000s of Btus

Example: CF30 = 2.5 ton

Age (through 1977): Last two letters of serial number indicate month & year beginning with September 1966
A=Sept A= 1966
B=Oct B=1967
C=Nov C=1968
Etc. Etc.

Example: xxxxAA = September 1966, xxxxBC = October 1968

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General Electric

Capacity: Last three digits of model number indicate approximate rating in 1000s of Btus

Example: 21TC030A = 2.5 ton

Age: Last three digits of serial number indicate date of manufacture, where the first digit indicates the year and the second and third indicate the week

Example: xxxxxx241 = 41st week of 1982

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Lennox

Capacity: Lennox has its own code found between hyphens in the model number

211=1.5 ton
261=2 ton
311=2.5 ton
411=3 ton
461=3.5 ton
511=4 ton
651=4.5 ton

Example: CHP16H-261-1P = 2 ton

Age: Prior to 1974 the first three digits of the serial number indicate the date of manufacture where the first two digits indicate the year and the third is the month.

Example: 732xxxx = February 1973
Beginning in 1974 the third and fourth digits indicate the year followed by a letter indicating the month.

Note: I not used

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**Rheem or Ruud**

Capacity: Look for those elusive two digits in the model number (usually, but not always) divisible by 6 and divide by 12 to convert to tons.

Example: RPGC-037JA = 3 ton

Age: Four digits of serial number indicate date of manufacture where first two indicate the week and the third and fourth are the year. In the 1960s and early ’70s this was the last four digits. More recently date of manufacture information is found closer to the middle of the serial number.

Example: xxxx1872 = 18th week of 1972

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**Tappan**

Capacity: Look for those elusive two digits in the model number (usually, but not always) divisible by 6 and divide by 12 to convert to tons.

Example: CM36-11B,T = 3 ton

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**Trane**

Capacity: Trane has used a number of different methods for encoding capacity information in the model number. It is commonly found in the first three digits – sometimes and Btus, sometimes as tons.

Example: SPCC-B504-A = 5.0 ton,  
Or  
TWS748A = 48,000 Btu = 4 ton

Age: Through the seventies date of manufacture information is found as a number and a letter in the serial number where the number is the single digit year and the letter indicates the month.

Example: 1C-xxxx = March 1971
In the early ‘80s Trane began to stamp the date of manufacture in the lower right hand corner of the data plate.

**Whirlpool**

**Capacity:** Look for those elusive two digits (often the first two digits) in the model number (sometimes, but not always) divisible by 6. Divide by 12 to convert to tons.

**Age:** Date of manufacture information is encoded in the serial number where a letter indicates the decade and the third and fourth digits indicate the week.

**Example:** H43571485 = 35th week of 1984