2012-2017 Kia Rio - AC Not Blowing Cold / Recharge

2012-2017 Kia Rio | Moderate | 30-60 minutes | $45 DIY

TOOLS

DIY AC recharge kit with gauge for the correct refrigerant type Safety glasses and chemical-resistant gloves Cabin thermometer Flashlight and leak-inspection light

PARTS

Correct refrigerant DIY kit with gauge (R-134a or R-1234yf as labeled) $45.00
AC leak-detect dye (optional) $12.00

STEPS

1. **Confirm refrigerant type and symptoms - Check the under-hood J639 sticker: this Rio uses** R-134a. Confirm low-charge symptoms (warm vents on MAX A/C, strong airflow) and that the clutch engages (click + spinning pulley center) before trusting gauges. Wear safety glasses and glove...
2. **Find the low-side service port - With the engine off, find the low-side service port on** the larger suction line from the compressor - the small quick-connect coupler fits ONLY it. Never force an adapter onto the high-side fitting or charge through it. Wipe the port clea...
3. **Take a baseline reading - Engine running, MAX A/C with recirculate, blower high: confirm** the compressor runs (clutch click, spinning pulley center), then connect the gauge to the low-side port. Compare the reading to the kit chart for ambient temperature - near z...
4. **Add refrigerant cautiously - With a low-but-not-empty baseline, add refrigerant in short** bursts through the low-side port, can upright. Stop when pressure is in range and center-vent air reaches the high 30s to mid-40s F. Never empty cans blindly - overcharging ra...
5. **Stop and verify cooling - Gauge in range and vent cold: stop, disconnect, recap port.** Check leaks - oily residue at hose fittings, condenser face, and underbody lines. If cooling fades within days, fix the leak first. See a pro if the compressor never engages or...

TORQUE

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