

Core ChauffeEau Junkers Mid-1980s to Late 1990s

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The Pulse of a Classic Gas Water Heater: Quick Technical Guide

This heavy brass assembly is the pure mechanical heart of a vintage **Junkers** instant gas water heater. No circuit boards, no sensors, no batteries—just raw hydro-mechanical engineering designed to last for decades.

How the Core Works

1. **The Water Block (Bottom):** When you open a hot water tap, cold water rushes into this brass chamber, pushing an internal rubber **diaphragm (membrane)** upward. This membrane drives a solid metal rod straight up into the gas section.
2. **The Gas Block (Middle):** The rising rod mechanically forces the gas valve open. For safety, a copper **thermocouple** reads the heat from the pilot light; if the flame goes out, a magnetic valve instantly snaps shut to block the gas.
3. **The Burner (Top):** Gas shoots through precise brass jets (**gicleurs**) into the metal slotted plates, igniting a clean blue flame blanket to instantly heat the water pipes above.

Quick Troubleshooting

- **Water runs, but no fire?** The rubber membrane inside the water block is likely stretched, stiff, or torn. Pop the brass chamber open and replace the rubber.
- **Stiff control knob?** The factory silicone grease on the selector shaft has dried up or calcified. Clean the spindle and apply fresh heat-

resistant silicone grease.

- **Yellow, dirty flames?** Dust or gas impurities are clogging the jets. Clean them out with a fine nozzle needle or compressed air to stop soot from choking the heat exchanger.



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