CLAIMS

1. A valve plate for a compressor, the valve plate having a thermally insulating capability for thermally insulating a suction muffler of the compressor from a discharge plenum in a cylinder head of the compressor, wherein the valve plate comprises a first plate element and a second plate element, the first plate element and the second plate element assembled to be joined together, and the first plate element is made from a thermally insulating material.

2. The valve plate as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~comprising a first plate element made from thermally insulating material and a~~the second plate element is made from metal.

3. The valve plate as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first and second plate elements are ~~joint~~joined by one or more of a group consisting of press-fitting, injection molding, induction heating, bonding adhesive, and ultrasonic welding.

4. The valve plate as claimed in claims 2 or ~~3~~, wherein the first plate element is disposed to face the discharge plenum.

5. The valve plate as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a third plate element made from metal, ~~and~~wherein the first plate element is sandwiched between the ~~first~~second and ~~second~~third plate elements.

6. The valve plate as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first, second and third plate elements are ~~joint~~joined by one or more of a group consisting of press-fitting, injection molding, induction heating, bonding adhesive, and ultrasonic welding.

7. The valve plate as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first plate element is configured to be received in a recess formed in the second plate element.

8. The valve plate as claimed in claim 7, wherein the recess is formed around a suction orifice in the second plate element.

9. The valve plate as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second plate element comprises a raised portion around a discharge orifice in the second plate element, and the first plate element comprises an opening for receiving the raised portion.

~~10. The valve plate as claimed in claim 1, comprising a first plate element made from thermally insulating material and a metal coating on one or both sides of the first plate.~~

~~11~~10. A compressor comprising a valve plate as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

~~12~~11. A method of thermal insulation applied in a compressor, comprising using a valve plate having a thermally insulating capability for thermally insulating a suction muffler of the compressor from a discharge plenum in a cylinder head of the compressor, wherein the valve plate comprises a first plate element and a second plate element, the first plate element and the second plate element assembled to be joined together, and the first plate element is made from a thermally insulating material.