

ABSTRACT

After a refrigerant circuit (10) is formed by connecting a user side circuit (12) and a heat source side circuit (11) by means of a communication pipe (45), a compressor (21) is driven to circulate refrigerant in the refrigerant circuit (10) in a communication pipe cleaning step. Circulation of the refrigerant in the refrigerant circuit (10) peels off oxide which has been deposited on the inner face of the communication pipe (45) by brazing in the communication pipe forming step. The peeled oxide is forced to flow by the refrigerant to be collected on the upstream side of the compressor (21) in the heat source side circuit (11).