

AIR COMPRESSORS & ACCESSORIES

FAST, LIGHT, QUIET AND BULLET-PROOF — MATCHES MADE IN AIR HEAVEN

The site-stalwart air compressor, based though it is on mature technology, continues to make advances, as do the hoses and couplings that help it deliver air to tools. The latest trends, seen in the offerings from these eight leading companies, showcase lighter weight, lower noise and combination convenience for contractors.

MAKITA

Makita electric, gas, and high-pressure air compressors are preferred by contractors for their faster recovery time, lower noise, longer life and consistent job site performance. Makita offers commercial-duty air compressors for a range of applications, from finish and trim work to framing with dense engineered lumber.

"Makita compressors have commercial-duty induction motors engineered for all-day use," notes Andrew Camp, product manager, residential construction for Makita USA. "This is a big point of difference as many lower-grade compressors are equipped with universal motors similar to those found in household appliances, like vacuum cleaners. Makita high-quality oil-lubricated cast iron cylinder pumps are engineered to last longer than light duty, belt-driven, all-aluminum pump components used in competitor models."



CAMP

Makita recently added five new nailers to its pneumatic trim fastening system and has the category covered with three job site-proven compressors that are ideal for finish and trim applications: MAC2400 (2.5 horsepower), MAC700 (2.0 horsepower) and AC001 (1/6 horsepower).

The 2.0- and 2.5-horsepower air compressors each feature four-pole induction motors that run more efficiently for lower noise, a particularly important feature for indoor use. Each model has a large cast-iron cylinder pump (not aluminum) with Makita's exclusive Big Bore piston and heavy-duty crankshaft. This delivers more efficient air compression, higher cfm's and faster recovery time for increased productivity.

Makita's commercial-duty compressor line-up includes the 5.5-hp Big Bore gas air compressor (MAC5501G) with 10-gallon twin tanks to provide air supply to multiple nailers.



"For framers, an air compressor is a workhorse tool on the job site, and Makita offers two solutions: the MAC5200 3.0-horsepower Big Bore compressor and the MAC5501G 5.5-horsepower Big Bore gas air compressor. The MAC5501G gas compressor has a powerful Honda GX160 4-stroke engine for superior reliability, with a V-twin style pump that runs cooler and provides up to 12.5 cfm at 100 psi for faster recovery. Both compressors have a cast-iron pump with Big Bore cylinder and piston engineered for increased durability and faster recovery time."

ATP/ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

Pneumatic tools have been used for decades in residential and commercial construction, but for how much longer?

"For many years, I have stated that battery powered tools are a serious menace to compressed air tool sales," says Philip M. Morris, marketing manager for Advanced Technology Products. "The rebuttals, which began with 'Oh, yeah, but they're only powerful enough for driving brads for trim work,' slowly progressed to 'Cordless framing guns can't drive 3 1/2-inch nails.'"



MORRIS

"Let's be honest with ourselves: battery technology is progressing and the industry must push forward to make pneumatics easier, safer and more productive than battery-powered technology."

Advanced Technology Products has addressed these concerns by continually introducing safety-oriented products. In 2014, ATP introduced the Safety-Slide Full-Flow Safety Coupling. This pneumatic quick-disconnect fitting has eliminated the traditional valve seen in standard couplings, providing

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ATP's Safety-Slide Full-Flow Safety Coupling improves airflow by eliminating the traditional valve. The Safety-Touch Push Button Safety Coupling (in blue) disconnects with a single hand and one finger.



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Jenny

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enhanced tool performance through its superior airflow. The Safety-Slide also vents pressure before disconnection, eliminating the sudden rush of air experienced with standard coupling designs.

In 2016, ATP introduced the Safety-Touch Push Button Safety Coupling. With a single hand and one finger, the Safety-Touch can be disconnected. Just like the Safety-Slide, the Safety-Touch allows users to vent pressure in downstream air hoses before removing a connected tool or air hose.

"Both the Safety-Slide and Safety-Touch Couplings address common experiences of pneumatic tools," Morris states. "Using this approach along with advancing development and performance of nailers, staplers and framing guns, pneumatic tools can avoid becoming the typewriters of the construction industry."

CALIFORNIA AIR TOOLS

"At California Air Tools, we are following several trends in the air compressor industry," begins Larry



Cerneka, director of sales & marketing, California Air Tools. "They include a need for lighter weight, portable, ultra-quiet air compressors with more air delivery.

"The need for trim air compressors is growing because of the growth in the remodeling industry," Cerneka adds. "Quiet, lightweight air compressors that can fill and recover quickly are very important to these customers. In addition to remodeling contractors, these products are in high demand by handymen and DIYers. The result is that the market for ultra-quiet air compressors is still growing dramatically."

Growing hand in hand with this trend is the growth of compressors



California Air Tools' Light & Quiet 1P1060S air compressor runs at just 56 decibels and delivers 1.20 cfm at 90 psi with a fast 15-second recovery time. Plus, it weighs just 29 pounds.

that are lighter in weight than their predecessors while also delivering more cfm of air.

California Air Tools' recently introduced "Light & Quiet" model 1P1060S air compressor is designed for light air tools, finishing nail and staple guns. It delivers 1.20 cfm at 90 psi with a very fast 15-second recovery time. Producing only 56 decibels of operating noise and weighing only 29 pounds, this compressor is easy to transport and ideal for working inside. Its oil-free design also means less maintenance.

LEGACY MANUFACTURING

Pneumatic tools and compressors continue to evolve, but they can't do their job without an air hose that keeps up with the times. Like the tools they help power, air hoses have evolved over the years. Heavy rubber hose material transitioned to lightweight, chemical-resistant PVC and then flexible polyurethane. Each material provided more contractor-friendly features, but there was still room for improvement.



Enter the hybrid polymer hose manufactured by Legacy Manufacturing under the Flexzilla brand. This premium hose combines the

features of its predecessors with zero memory and no kinking under pressure. Flexzilla hose includes reusable fittings for easy on-the-job repairs. These fittings also provide greater flexibility on the hose ends, the area that is subjected to the most stress and strain. This system also allows the hose to be purchased in bulk and custom lengths.

"The Flexzilla Pro Custom Hose Center (model HFZBRP1) comes complete with 1/4-, 3/8- and 1/2-inch air hoses, 5/8-inch water hose and reusable anodized aircraft aluminum fittings to fully customize your air and water hose needs," says Matt Weems, vice president and director of marketing for Legacy Manufacturing Company. "The hose features flexible hybrid polymer material with extreme all-weather flexibility that won't kink under pressure. It is also abrasion-resistant, durable

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The Flexzilla Pro Custom Hose Center enables contractors to create custom solutions for their compressed air and water needs on the spot right in your store.



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All Jenny electric piston air compressors, including the 30-gallon model G5A-30P G-Series compressor shown here, are now UL Listed to meet the highest equipment safety standards.

and lays flat with no memory so the hose won't work against you during operation."

JENNY PRODUCTS

Jenny Products, Inc. is proud to announce it has achieved a product safety milestone with the "UL Listed" designation from Underwriter Laboratories (UL) on the company's full line of electric motor piston air compressors. This standard, in conjunction with other recent certifications, signifies that Jenny electric air compressors have reached an unprecedented level of safety in the industry.



LEISS

"To be UL Listed means Jenny electric air compressors have been tested and determined to meet UL's strict requirements, based primarily on their published and nationally recognized standards for safety," says Daniel Leiss, Jenny Products' president.

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) has also certified Jenny air compressors to UL 1450 and C22.2 No. 68-09, which cover motor-operated air compressors, vacuum pumps and painting equipment, for the United States and Canada. The requirements met for certification were issued by CSA, which found that Jenny air compressors met the high safety standards of the UL 1450 code.

Jenny previously announced certification; however, achieving "UL Listed" is the next highest safety tier for air compressors. Going forward,

all Jenny electric piston air compressors, from the small AM-Series hand-carry models up to the largest T-Series stationary units, will carry both UL and CSA marks.

"It takes significant investment and effort to be UL Listed, and receiving approval from both UL and CSA is a proud milestone that speaks to the inherent safety of Jenny air compressors," Leiss explains. "This pushes Jenny to a safety standard not found with most compressor manufacturers that, when combined with known reliability and ease of use, offers just one more reason consumers can feel confident when purchasing a Jenny compressor."

MI-T-M

Trends in the industry have influenced the demand for affordable, high-quality air compressors. Mi-T-M manufactures a wide variety of air compressors for both professional contractors and DIYers, with the Work Pro Series as the latest addition to this category.

The Work Pro Series features a Mi-T-M engine that is cost-effective yet built to withstand the demands of small and large contractor jobs. A lightweight aluminum compressor pump makes the units about 40 percent lighter than comparable

Mi-T-M's new eight-gallon Work Pro Series air compressor features an aluminum pump that weighs 40 percent less than comparable models. It also features start-stop control.



models. Work Pro compressors also offer easy-to-use capabilities, feature a regulator and two gauges for tank and outlet pressure, start/stop control and a powder-coated tank design with a protective pump/engine housing.

"The eight-gallon models in this series are the most popular thanks to their wheelbarrow-style design and ability to power everything from small nail guns up to impact wrenches," says Matt Hoefler, equipment division manager for Mi-T-M Corporation. "Another advantage of having one of these units with a quality Mi-T-M engine is that any of the Mi-T-M service centers across the country can repair, perform maintenance and order replacement parts from their location."



HOEFER

"A recent change in the industry is the increased use of combination units," Hoefler continues. "Even though these all-in-one machines come at a higher price point, they are becoming a standard piece of contractor equipment. They are versatile, offer a smaller footprint and can be conveniently mounted on a trailer or in the back of a service truck. Mi-T-M carries a variety of models of air compressor/generators and air compressor/generator/welder combination units, perfect for contracting jobs requiring air, power and welding capabilities."

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Hitachi's 10-gallon model UA3810AB Reserve Air Tank allows an air compressor to reach virtually anywhere on a job site and run up to five tools simultaneously.

bility. An industrial ball (shut-off) valve on input allows the tank to be filled and disconnected from the compressor without draining itself, for added convenience. **CS**

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compressor and nailer, the PSI will remain constant even if five or more nailers are operating at the same time on a job site."

Hitachi's UA3810AB comes ready to use with five quick connect couplers (4 unregulated and 1 regulated) for easy one handed connections of hoses and/or splitters. The tank's roll cage design protects the regulators and gauges from job site abuse. A steel tubular handle offers easy job-site transport, while its angled steel legs provide additional support and stability. Industrial pressure gauges are encased in steel for higher dura-

HITACHI POWER TOOLS

Contractors often find themselves "gasping for air" on job sites when they try to work farther from their air compressors than their hoses will reach. The solution is a reserve air tank. Recognizing this, Hitachi has released its first ASME-certified Reserve Air Tank, model UA3810AB, including a complete set of fittings and accessories needed for use straight out of the box.

"This 10-gallon reserve air tank weighs 40 pounds fully outfitted, and eliminates the concern for air pressure being insufficient to power multiple nailers over an extended distance from the compressor," says Hitachi's Chris Harris. "With Hitachi's Reserve Air Tank added between the



HARRIS

The oil-free AB5 "Air Buddy" has proven to be another popular model. Tucked safely inside the protective roll-cage, the AB5's motor-pump operates at 68 decibels and draws a maximum of 4.6 amps while running. The manifold with built-in regulator, gauges and quick-disconnect makes operation easy and convenient.

For contractors that need more air but still want to cut down on noise output, ROLAIR offers the VT20TB and VT20ST. Both models feature a quiet, low speed splash-lubricated motor pump capable of delivering 4.2 cfm at 90 psi, allowing users to operate up to two framing guns, two roofing guns or five trim/finish guns. The VT20TB features a built-in toolbox on a dolly-cart design and the VT20ST is built on a low-profile stack-tank design.

ROLAIR's expanded line of quiet, handcarry air compressors includes the 60-dB model JC10PLUS oil-free trim compressor which delivers 2.4 cfm at 90 psi.

contractor who is concerned about excessive noise on the job site, especially when working indoors," explains Dan Fox, national sales manager for ROLAIR. "They'll also appreciate that it delivers 2.4 cfm at 90 psi, draws 7.5 amps while running and features a robust roll cage with a convenient cord wrap."

Other features on the JC10PLUS include a quarter-turn drain valve, protected intake filter housing, low-profile tank assembly, upward-facing gauges, heavy-duty vibration dampeners and comfortable handle grip.



ROLAIR

ROLAIR is expanding its line of quiet, hand-carry air compressors to meet the needs of remodelers and finishing contractors. This summer marks the official re-release of the JC10PLUS, which builds upon the formula that made the original JC10 model so popular.



FOX

"At 60 decibels, ROLAIR's newest super-quiet, oil-free trim and finish air compressor will appeal to any

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