

## Generators, Light Towers, Compressors, and Heaters

Used Compressors Gresham - Power is transferred into potential energy and stored as pressurized air inside of an air compressor. These machines rely on gasoline, diesel or electric motors to force air into a special storage tank, subsequently increasing the pressure. Eventually, the tank reaches its limit and the air compressor turns off, holding the air in the tank until it can be used. There are many applications that require compressed air. Once the kinetic energy in the air tank is used up, the tank undergoes depressurization. Once the lower limit is reached, the air compressor turns on again to start the pressurization process again.

**Positive Displacement Air Compressors** There are multiple methods for air compression. There are two categories: roto-dynamic or positive-displacement. In the positive-displacement method, air compressors force the air into a space with decreased volume and this compresses the air. Once the ultimate pressure is found, a port or valve opens to discharge the air from the compression chamber into the outlet system. Popular types of positive-displacement compressors include Piston-Type, Rotary Screw Compressors and Vane Compressors.

**Dynamic Displacement Air Compressors** Centrifugal air compressors, along with axial compressors fall under the dynamic displacement air compressor category. A rotating component discharges its' kinetic energy and it eventually converts into pressure energy. Pressurization is attained from a spinning impeller that creates centrifugal force to accelerate and decelerate contained air. Heat is generated by air compressors and these machines need a heat disposal method, generally with some form of air or water cooling component. Atmospheric changes are also taken into consideration during compressor cooling. Inlet temperature, the area of application, the power available from the compressor and the ambient temperature are all factors the equipment must take into consideration.

**Air Compressor Applications** Air compressors are used in many different industries. For example, supplying clean air at moderate pressure to a diver that is supplied for surface submersion, supplying clean air of high-pressurization to fill gas cylinders and supplying pneumatic HVAC controls with moderately pressurized clean air to power pneumatic tools including jackhammers and filling up high-pressure air tanks to fill vehicle tires. Moderate pressurized air is used in large capacities for a variety of industrial jobs.

**Types of Air Compressors** Most air compressors are the reciprocating piston style, the rotary vane model or the rotary screw kind. These air compressors are chosen for smaller and more portable jobs.

**Air Compressor Pumps** Oil-less and oil-injected are the two main kinds of air-compressor pumps. The oil-free system relies on more technical components; however, it lasts for less time in comparison to oil-lubed pumps and is more expensive. Overall, the oil-less system is considered to deliver higher quality.

**Power Sources** There are a variety of power sources that can be used alongside air compressors. Electric, gas and diesel-powered models are the most popular; although, other models have been engineered to use hydraulic ports, power-take-off or vehicle engines that are often utilized in mobile applications. Diesel and gas-powered models are often chosen for remote locations that offer limited access to electricity. These models are quite loud and require proper ventilation for their exhaust. Electric-powered air compressors are common in workshops, garages, production facilities and warehouses where electricity is abundant.

**Rotary-Screw Compressor** One of the most sought after compressors is the rotary-screw compressor. This gas compressor requires a rotary type positive-displacement mechanism. These compressors are often used in industrial applications in place of piston compressors. They are popular for jobs that depend on high-pressure air. High-power air tools and impact wrenches are popular. Gas compression of a rotary-screw model features a sweeping, continuous motion, allowing minimal pulsation which is common in piston model compressors and may cause a less desirable flow surge. Rotors are used by the rotary-screw compressors to make gas compression possible. Timing gears come into play with dry-running rotary-screw compressor models. These components are important to ensure the female and male rotors operate perfectly aligned. There are oil-flooded rotary-screw compressors that rely on lubricating oils to fill the gaps between the rotors. This design creates a hydraulic seal and transfers mechanical energy in

between the rotors simultaneously. Starting at the suction area, gas moves through the threads as the screws rotate. This makes the gas pass through the compressor and leaves through the ends of the screws. Effectiveness and success are obtained when certain clearances are achieved with the sealing chamber of the helical rotors, the rotors and the compression cavities. Fast speed and rotation are behind minimizing the ratio of a leaky flow rate or an effective flow rate. Rotary-screw compressors are used in industrial locations that need constant air, food processing plants and automated manufacturing facilities. Besides fixed units, there are mobile versions in tow-behind trailers that are powered with small diesel engines. Commonly called "construction compressors," these portable compression units are useful for road construction, pneumatic pumps, riveting tools, industrial paint systems and sandblasting jobs.

Scroll Compressor A scroll compressor is used to compress refrigerant. The scroll compressors are popular in air-conditioning equipment, supercharging vehicles and vacuum pumps. A variety of air conditioning systems, residential heat pumps and a variety of automotive air conditioner utilize a scroll compressor in place of wobble-plate, reciprocating and traditional rotary compressors. This apparatus features dual interleaving scrolls that are responsible for pumping, compressing and pressurizing fluids including gases and liquids. Usually, one of the scrolls is fixed, while the second scroll is capable of orbiting with zero rotation. This motion traps and pumps the fluid between the scrolls. The compression movement happens when the scrolls synchronously rotate with their rotation centers misaligned to create an orbiting motion. The Archimedean spiral is found in flexible tubing variations. It functions similarly to a tube of toothpaste and resembles a peristaltic pump. There is a lubricant on the casings to stop exterior pump abrasion. The lubricant also dispels heat. The peristaltic pump is a great solution since there are no moving items contacting the fluid. Having no seals, glands or valves keeps this equipment easy to operate and quite inexpensive in maintenance. In comparison to other pump units, the hose or tube feature is very inexpensive.