

# **Air Compressors**

and other air sources

# Airbrushing Set-up

- Air Source
- Air line
- <fittings>
- Airbrush

# Air Sources

- Single use, non-refillable
  - Propellant can
- Multiple use, refillable
  - Air cylinder
  - Air tank
  - Spare tire
- Multiple use, self-refilling
  - Air compressor
  - Air compressor w/ tank

# Propellant Can

- Clean (?) air source
- Good in a pinch if no other air sources available
- Available at most hobby shops
- Easy ways to increase pressure when running out
- Expensive
- Runs out quickly
- No output pressure control, or water trap
- Frustrating (for all the above reasons)



# Compressed Gas Cylinder

- Clean (?) air source
- May have regulator, water trap
- Different gasses available
- Available for rent
- Refillable (usually for a fee)
- Silent
  
- Expensive
- Great care must be used in storage, care, use
- Gasses other than air (for example, CO<sub>2</sub>) may affect paints being sprayed



# Air Tank

- Available for purchase in many places, in many different capacities
  - Relatively affordable
  - Usually has standard-size pressure fittings
  - May hold 100-200psi air pressure, good pressure for extended time
  - Refillable at many locations
  - Silent
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- Likely will need output pressure regulator, water trap
  - Should periodically drain tank of moisture



# Spare Tire Adaptor

- Inexpensive
- Usually available at hobby shops
- No pressure regulator or water trap
- Low pressure in spare tire
- Unfiltered air coming from spare tire



# Air Compressor (without tank)

- Available for purchase from many places, many different models, many different features
- Usually has standard pressure fittings
- May come with regulator, water trap
- Usually low maintenance
- Typically powered by AC



- May need AC power
- Pressure output may be too low
- Compressor runs constantly, air may “pulse” when spraying
- Noise levels vary
- You get what you pay for





# Air Compressor (with tank)

- Available for purchase from many places
- Many different models, features
- Usually has standard pressure fittings
- May come with output pressure regulator, water trap
- Usually low maintenance
- Available in single- or double-piston



- May need AC power
- Pressure output may be low
- Compressor only runs when tank repressurizes
- Noise levels vary (some are called “silent”)



# Air Hoses

**Basic**



**Basic coiled**



**Heavy-duty**



# Fittings

**Regulator + water trap  
(on compressor)**



**Micro air regulator  
(on hose)**



**Quick disconnect  
(on airbrush + hose)**



# Reference

There are many good sources for airbrushing information, including:

*The Complete Cheapskate's Guild to  
Getting Started in Airbrushing*

<http://theleadheadblog.blogspot.ca/2011/05/compleat-cheapskates-guide-to-getting.html>