



New from Hitachi, the model EC99S twin-stack compressor weighs less than 53 pounds, has a 15-amp induction motor with thermal overload protection and produces 3.1 cfm at 90 psi.

COMPRESSORS & ACCESSORIES

HARNESSING THE POWER OF THIN AIR

As builders anticipate a stronger housing market, contractors are replacing exhausted units with new, more powerful, quieter and more versatile compressors and accessories. These eight companies are ready with the best new models yet.

HITACHI

As the residential housing construction industry picks up traction, more workers are returning to the job site. This increased demand for air to power pneumatic nailers and staplers is pushing manufacturers to develop compressors with higher capacity tanks, higher cfm outputs and high-durability pumps and motors.

"This year, Hitachi will launch four different air compressors and accessories specifically for professionals using Hitachi nailers," says Lucio Morales, product manager. "New technology allows us to increase the cfm output on our pumps. By pairing these higher output pumps with more compact tanks,



we are delivering lighter, more portable compressors with enough air to power a framing nailer.

"Our new EC99S 4-gallon twin-stack air compressor puts out 3.1 cfm at 90 psi. Its 15-amp induction motor produces two horsepower, and, with its industrial oil-lubricated pump, provides more-than-ample air for most professional applications. Keep your eyes open early this summer as we release our new pro-targeted compressors and accessories."



MORALES

Today, many building crews have dedicated on-site technicians for pneumatic tool maintenance and repair. Hitachi is addressing this growing trend by making tools more service friendly — easier and faster to maintain or repair on the job site, should the need arise. Hitachi has reintroduced four popular framing nailers with redesigned head guards that allow easier and faster disassembly and reassembly. These 3 1/2-inch models include the NR90AE(S1) plastic, NR90AD(S1) paper taped, NR90AF(S1) wire weld and NV90AG(S) coil framing nailers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

ROLAIR
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Legacy Manufacturing's Flexzilla Pro air hose kit features Flexzilla Pro air hose with a ColorConnex Type D red industrial 1/4-inch body coupler and plug set, the industry's most popular quick disconnect.

LEGACY MANUFACTURING COMPANY

If there is an easier way of performing common tasks, contractors will expect their equipment to provide it. Recognizing this, Legacy answers the demand for speed and convenience when connecting and switching out air tools.

Legacy's Flexzilla Pro air hose kit features Flexzilla Pro air hose with a ColorConnex red industrial (Type D) 1/4-inch body coupler and plug set (one each), the industry's most popular quick disconnect.



WEEMS

"Pairing Flexzilla's revolutionary design with color-coded ColorConnex means two great products in one," says Matt Weems, vice president, Legacy Manufacturing Company. "Since the coupler and plug are already installed with thread sealer, you're ready to go as soon as you reach the job site."

Flexzilla Pro hose is made of premium hybrid polymer material that has zero memory and won't kink under pressure, providing all-weather flexibility in extreme temperatures, from -40 to 140 degrees. The hose ends are reusable and the hose itself can be repaired quickly in the field by using a splicer or cutting out the damaged section and reattaching the hose end. Hose ends can also be replaced if worn or damaged. The ends are bend-reinforced, providing maximum flexibility without compromising durability.

Legacy also works to make it as easy as possible for distributors to sell product too, notably with enticing, informative packaging. In both 2013 and 2014, Legacy earned a Retailers' Choice Award for its Flexzilla Pro air hose at the National Hardware Show.

Flexzilla Pro air hose was one of 30 products chosen from among 5,000 to receive the award by a panel of home improvement retailers. The panelists looked for unique products and packaging, and products with strong sales potential.

JENNY PRODUCTS

With roots dating to the 1870s, Jenny Products needs no introduction to compressor users. Built in the United States with quality and safety in mind, Jenny's range of 16 single-stage, belt-driven models feature cast-iron compressor pumps and powder-coated, ASME-certified air tanks.

"The largest models in the Jenny single-stage line offer 60- or 80-gallon horizontal tanks and provide five horsepower while displacing 27.8 or 28.7 cfm at 125 psi," states Daniel Leiss, president of Jenny Products. "Magnetic starters come standard on these larger units. A wide range of horsepower and cfm displacement levels are available, including 3, 2, 1.5, 1 and 3/4 hp models. The smallest model in the line uses a 17-gallon tank, provides 1/2 horsepower and displaces 3.4 cfm at 125 psi."

Each unit is splash-lubricated with Jenny "Ultimate Blue" compressor pump oil to protect the pistons, bearings, crankshaft, rings and cylinders. Thermal-overload protection prevents motor damage and a pressure-release safety valve automatically opens when needed to eliminate pressure build-up.

Standard quality features on all single-stage models include manual tank drains, a large canister intake filter with replaceable filter elements, a tank gauge and an industrial/commercial-grade UL-listed electric motor with one- or three-phase power. Special unloading valves assist in starting the motor, and a large fly-wheel provides for easier start-up and extra cooling. A directional air shroud helps further reduce pump temperatures.



LEISS

"An automatic start/stop control with a pressure unloader set at 105-125 psi is also standard throughout the series," Leiss adds. "When pressure drops, the control

CONTINUED ON PAGE 60

Jenny's 16 single-stage, belt-driven air compressors all feature cast-iron pumps and powder-coated, ASME certified tanks in sizes ranging from 17 to 80 gallons.



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Reelcraft's HD70000 hose reels and L 70000 cord reels offer up to 100 feet of 3/8-inch air hose or three-conductor 12-gauge power cord in a reel about 25 percent more compact than other models.

closes a switch and starts the air compressor to maintain a constant pressure. When the appropriate level is again reached, the compressor stops and an unloader valve expels any air between the check valve and compressor."

Options include constant-run and dual-control capability, oil sight glasses, low-oil-level switches and control circuit transformers. An air-line filter can be added to remove contaminants in the air and a lubricator will ensure proper lubrication. Further options include after-coolers, dryers and custom-pressure configurations.

REELCRAFT

Reelcraft, one of the world's premier hose, cord and cable reel manufacturers, now brings its ingenuity to bear on one of the industry's most pressing problems: space.



"How often are we asked to do more with less or fit more into the same space? Rather than limit customers to a one-size-fits-all approach, Reelcraft works hard to provide a solution to every problem and proudly offers many standard and custom products," begins Rex Larkin, Reelcraft's vice president of sales and marketing. "Customers often ask for either a longer length of hose to fit in the same space or the same capacity in a smaller package. Fortunately, we are able to do both.

"In June 2016, Reelcraft will be introducing our new Series HD70000 hose reels and L 70000 cord reels. The new platform will offer up to 100 feet of 3/8-inch hose or three-conductor 12-gauge cord, all in a space that is about 25 percent less than other models with the same capacity."

The new compact design has many key features. Its rugged bearing support has two sealed ball bearings, which offer a very smooth and durable reel. The high-quality die-cast latching mechanism features a torsion spring which far outlasts the traditional tension-style spring. A containerized spring, produced in-house,

matches the right torque and turns for each reel that can be safely serviced.

Another feature is a cartridge-style guide arm assembly that can be rotated in the field to one of seven desired positions for ease of use. Finally, the all-steel construction and baked-on powder-coat finish combine to produce a rugged, corrosion-resistant product. These new cord reels will be U/L listed to ensure safe operation under load.

ROLAIR

Rolair has been expanding its line of accessories to help residential contractors create customized pneumatic systems that meet the needs of the most complex job site. The Air Keg, an auxiliary storage tank, is a key accessory that helps minimize pressure drop over multiple lengths of air hose.

"Contractors can get more out of their compressors by utilizing the right combination of auxiliary storage tanks, hose and fittings," says Mike Kelley, vice president. "With these accessories, one properly-sized compressor can power several tools at different locations around the job site. The result is a more efficient crew, less equipment to have on site and a reduction in noise pollution."

To complement Rolair's extensive compressor offering, a comprehensive lineup of air hose was recently introduced. Varieties include polyurethane, PVC and the Noodle (a hybrid blend of polyurethane, PVC and rubber). The most versatile option, the hybrid Noodle hose, is designed to withstand the most brutal weather conditions and will lay flat in sub-zero temperatures. All varieties of hose include 1/4-inch industrial couplers and plugs.



Rolair's Air Keg auxiliary storage tank allows contractors to extend a compressor's tool-powering capacity to different areas of a job site. The Noodle hybrid hose is designed for brutal weather conditions.

"To hold it all together, Rolair offers an expanding line of pneumatic fittings, including couplers, plugs, hose repair kits and manifolds," Kelley adds. "These fittings are available in a variety of body styles, sizes and quantities."



CALIFORNIA AIR TOOLS

With the economy improving, California Air Tools sees contractors asking for more powerful air compressors that deliver more air volume and longer run times.



"California Air Tools is addressing this demand by introducing new models like the CAT-4620AC, with more cfm (5.3 cfm at 90 psi), a higher duty cycle and longer run times," observes Larry Cerneka, director of sales and marketing for California Air Tools. "Our new SP series motors are designed to run cooler and longer for better overall performance."

Cerneka also notes an ongoing strong demand for quiet air compressors.

"Contractors are looking for air compressors with less noise impact on the job site," he adds. "Reducing noise allows a contractor to work longer and later without disturbing customers."

A large growth area for air compressors is in shop and garage users. These end-users require powerful and quiet air compressors when working inside. This year, California Air Tools has introduced a powerful 2.0-hp air compressor, the model CAT-10020C, which produces just 70 decibels, ideal for anyone working inside that needs a lot of power.

"At California Air Tools, we are continually creating new products that are 'Changing the Way the World Works.'"

MAKITA

Makita has a full lineup of job-site-proven air compressors, including electric, gas, and high-pressure models that are strongly preferred for their faster recovery time, lower noise, longer life and consistent job site performance.

"All Makita compressors have commercial-duty induction motors engineered for all-day use," notes Andrew Camp, product manager, residential construction, Makita U.S.A. "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. In addition, Makita high-quality, oil-lubricated, cast-iron cylinder pumps are engineered to last longer than the light duty, belt-driven all-aluminum pump components used by competitors."

Below: California Air Tools' model 4620AC ultra-quiet oil-free 2.0-hp air compressor runs at 1,680 rpm, delivers 5.3 cfm at 90 psi from its 4.6-gallon tanks and generates just 70 decibels of noise.



Above: Petite power: The compact 1-gallon Makita AC0001 oil-free air compressor weighs just 23 pounds and has a durable, low-noise 1/6-hp induction motor that produces .45 cfm at 90 psi.



For precision nailing applications, contractors require a compressor that combines power, fast recovery, durability and portability. Makita has the category covered with three job-site-proven compressors that are ideal for finish and trim applications: MAC2400 (2.5 hp), MAC700 (2.0 hp) and AC001 (1/6 hp).

The 2.0- and 2.5-hp air compressors each feature four-pole induction motors that run more efficiently for lower noise, a particularly important feature for indoor use. In addition, Makita compressors have direct-drive pumps designed for heavy-duty use, with less maintenance and longer tool life. Each model has a large cast-iron cylinder pump with Makita's exclusive Big Bore piston and heavy-duty crankshaft. This delivers more efficient air compression, higher cfm's and faster recovery time.

Makita applied its leading compressor technology to its 1/6-hp compact air compressor. The powerful and reliable induction motor, combined with the compressor's lower noise and compact size (weighing only 23.1 pounds) make it ideal for finish and trim applications.

MI-T-M

New to the market and the first in the industry to produce 115 cfm at 100 psi, the model AR1-PK37-M rotary screw portable air compressor from Mi-T-M can power a 90-pound breaker.

"This is truly the machine of choice for construction and contractor businesses," says Matt Hofer, equipment division manager for Mi-T-M. "Built for optimum performance and endurance, the single-stage gasoline

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62



Mi-T-M's mighty new AR1-PK37-M rotary screw compressor produces 115 cfm at 100 psi, plenty of air to power a 90-pound breaker hammer. It has a 10.5-gallon aluminized steel fuel tank and a full set of durability features.



HOEFER

rotary screw features a Poly Chain belt drive system, a ball-valve-controlled 3/4-inch outlet and high-oil-temperature shutdown."

The AR1-PK37-M's 999-cc Kohler OHV engine and pump combination can produce 115 cfm at 100 psi. The unit features a powder-coated steel frame with roll cage, lifting hook, winch point, tie-down anchors and 15-inch pneumatic tires for effortless transport. A version with model AX-0076 skid feet is also available.

The heavy-duty compressor pump has an integrated air/oil separator, an integrated thermostatic bypass valve, an integrated oil filter, a Poly Chain belt drive system, an easy-to-read oil level indicator and high-oil-temperature shutdown.

The Kohler engine boasts electric start, low-oil level shutdown and comes with a battery and cables included.

The AR1-PK37-M has a 10.5-gallon aluminized steel fuel tank and oil cooler with guard. Its pilot valve varies engine rpm based on air demand. It weighs 698 pounds and measures 30.5 inches wide (to fit through doorways), 43.5 inches tall and 50.75 inches long.

"Perfect for a variety of construction applications, this mighty machine can move through construction sites with ease and can handle even the most demanding conditions," Hoefler states. **CS**

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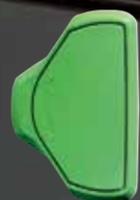
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