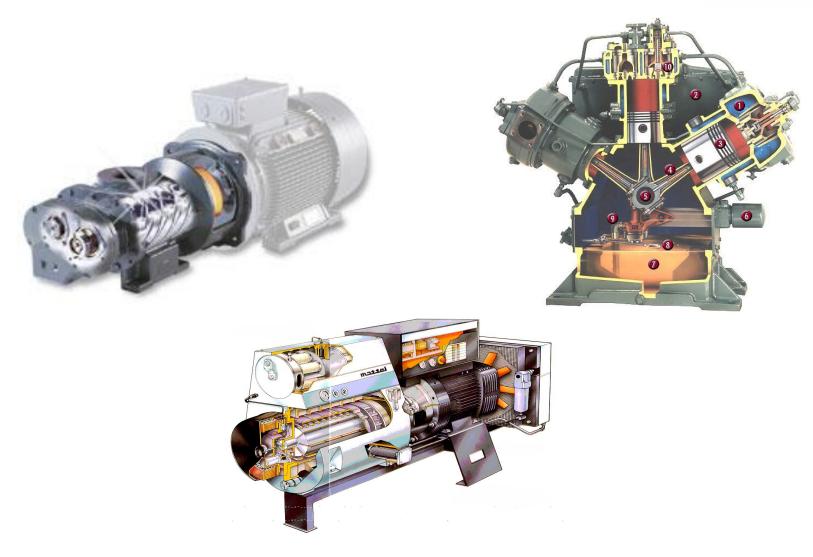
# **AIR COMPRESSOR LUBRICATION**







Dan Myrick

# **ROTARY SCREW AIR COMPRESSOR**

April 5-7, 2011

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# **ROTARY SCREW COMPRESSOR AIR END**



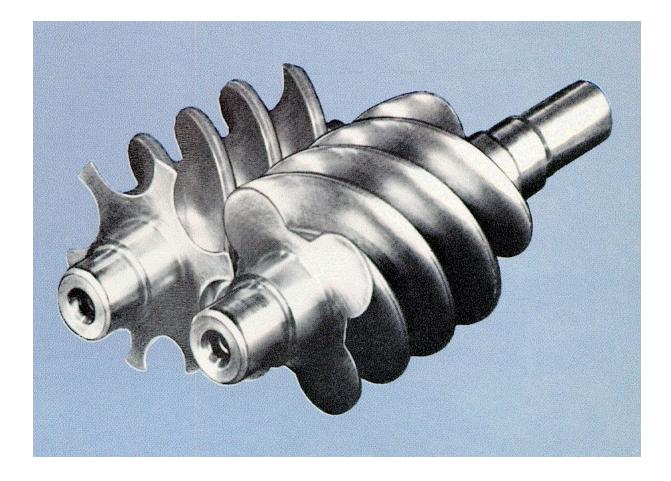




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# **ROTARY SCREW COMPRESSOR ROTORS**

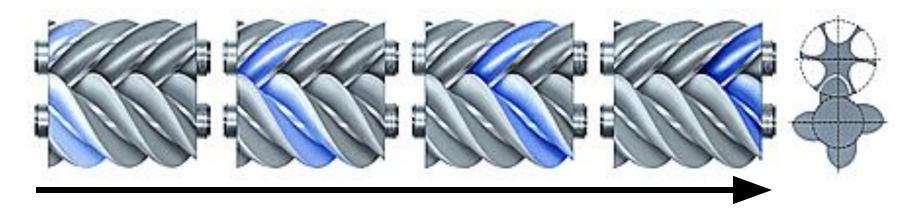




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# **ROTARY SCREW COMPRESSION CYCLE**





The ends of the rotors uncover the inlet and air enters the compression female flute. chamber.

The air is entrapped in the 'compartment' formed by a male lobe and a

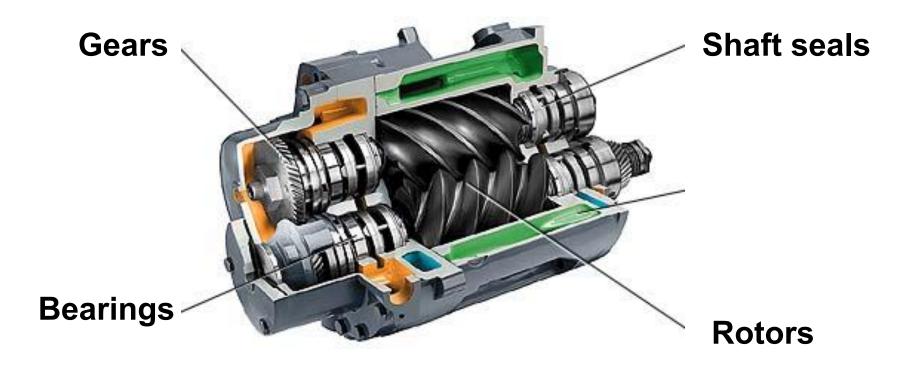
As the rotors turn, the compartment becomes progressively smaller thereby compressing the entrapped air.

Compressed air leaves through the outlet port.

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# What are the main friction points in this compressor ?



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# EFFECTS OF OXIDATION IN A ROTARY SCREW AIR COMPRESSOR







# Petroleum lubricant used longer than recommended drain interval

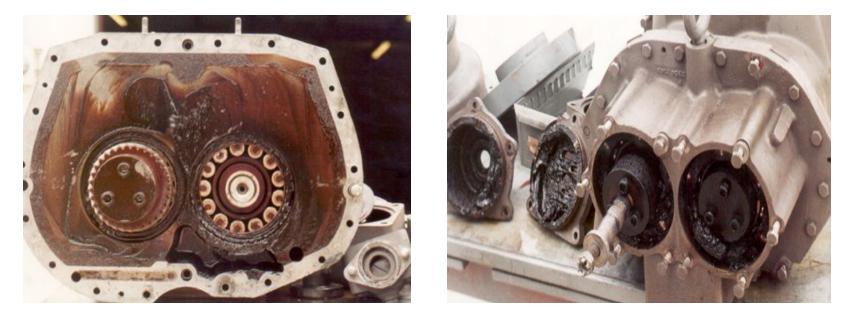


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# **SLUDGE AND OXIDATION BYPRODUCTS**

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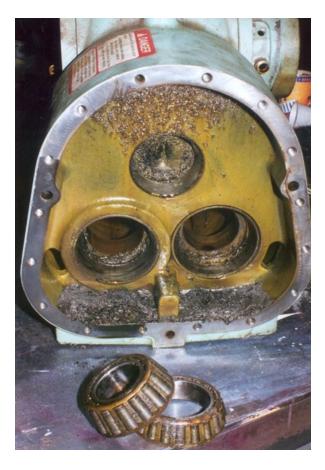




Heavy sludge and deposit formation will cause overheating, efficiency loss, and eventually shut down the compressor

# VARNISH FROM LUBRICANT ADDITIVE BREAKDOWN







# 7000 hours of operation using competitive PAO based lubricant



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# ROTOR SLUDGE FROM FOOD GRADE PETROLEUM





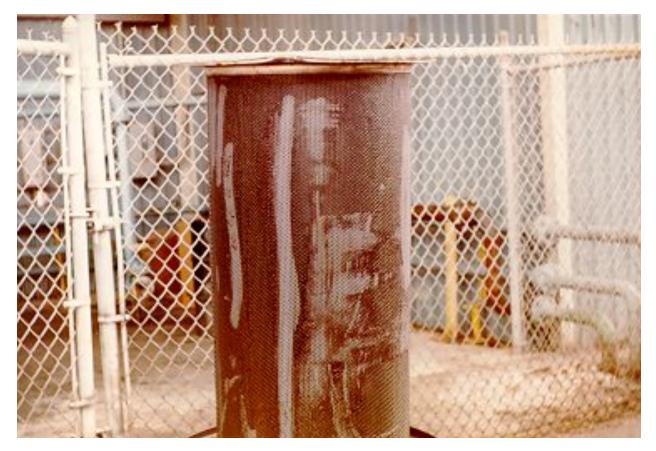


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# SEPARATOR PLUGGING





An improperly formulated synthetic compressor lubricant was the cause of this plugged separator

### **DEPOSIT FREE OPERATION**







#### Sullair compressor after 10,000 hours using Summit SH-32



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### LONG TERM SYNTHETIC PERFORMANCE





Sullair compressor operating on Summit SH-32 including recommended maintenance for 6+ years with oil changes every 8000 hours



- 1. Extended oil service life of 8000+ hours
- 2. Reduced formation of sludge, varnish and carbonaceous deposits
- 3. Electrical savings of 2-5%
- 4. Cooler oil temperature
- 5. Cooler discharge compressed air
- 6. Lower oil consumption
- 7. Less oil contamination downstream

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# ECONOMICS OF PAO VS MINERAL OIL COMPRESSOR LUBES – 8,000 HOURS



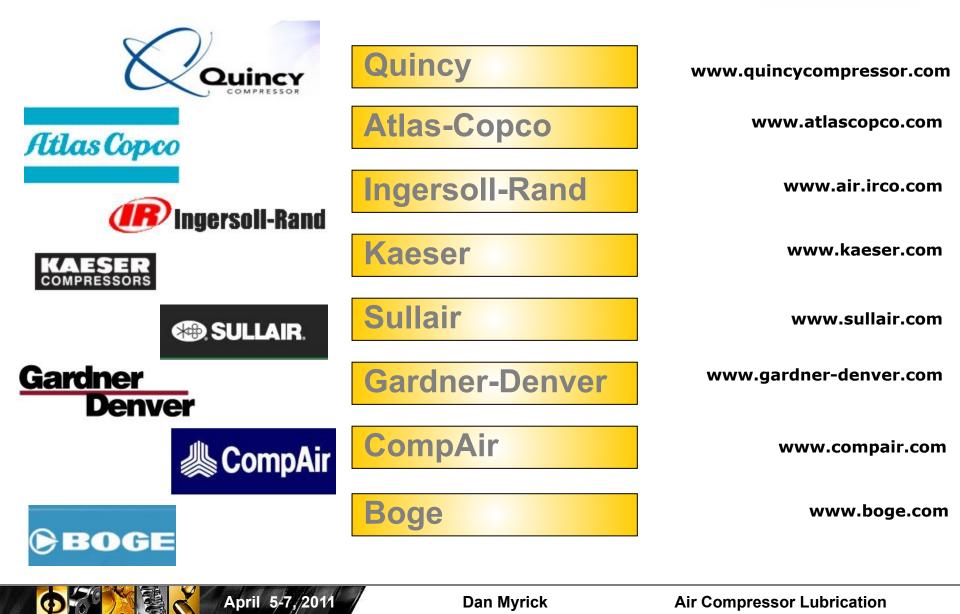
Mineral Oil PAO Lube			
Initial fill, gal	60	60	
Oil make-up, gal	25	15	
Fluid for lube changes, gal			
Mineral oil: 7 change	es 42	20	-
PAO lube: 0 changes	5 -	0	
Total lube use, gal	505	75	
Cost per gal, \$	6	35	
Total cost of lube, \$	30	30	2625
Labor cost for oil change			
@ \$75/change	525	0	
Number of replacement	t filters	7	1
Total filter cost @ \$30/f	ilter	210	30
Total cost, \$	3765	26	55
Savings, \$	- 11	10	
%	29.5%		

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# WORLDWIDE ROTARY SCREW AIR COMPRESSOR OEMs





# RECIPROCATING AIR COMPRESSORS









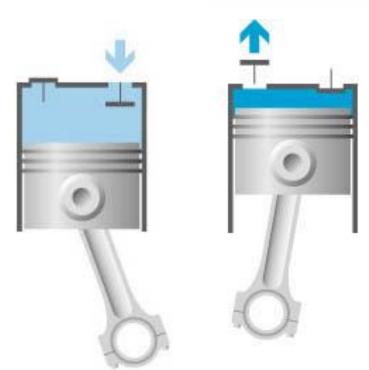
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# RECIPROCATING COMPRESSORS



### **Compression Principle**

A piston compressor is a reciprocating, positive displacement compressor containing a piston which moves inside a cylinder.



As the piston descends, increasing the available space, the decrease in pressure causes the inlet valve to open and gas to be drawn into the compressor chamber.

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Subsequently, after the piston has passed its turning point corresponding to the maximum volume of the compressor chamber, the inlet valve closes as the gas pressure starts to increase. As the volume of the compression chamber decreases, the gas pressure increases. Finally, when the pressure has reached a pre-determined value, the discharge valve opens, and the compressed gas leave the compression chamber.

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- Single Acting
- Double Acting
- Multi-Stage
- Different Lubrication Methods

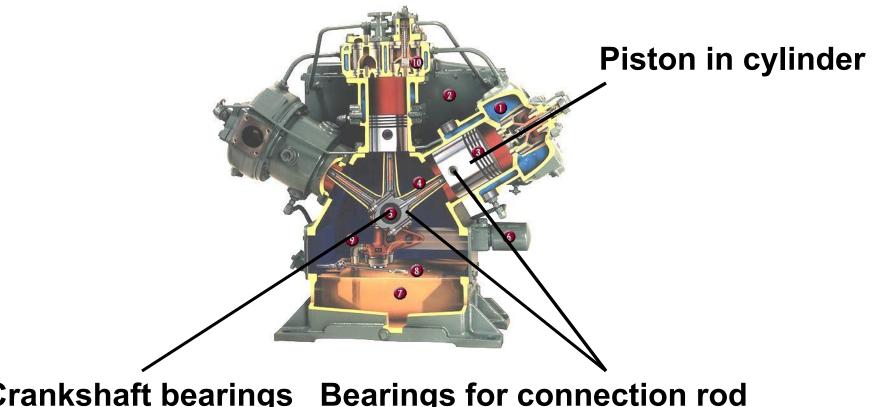
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# SINGLE ACTING RECIPROCATING COMPRESSOR



# **Friction points**

# What are the main friction points in this compressor?



**Crankshaft bearings Bearings for connection rod** 

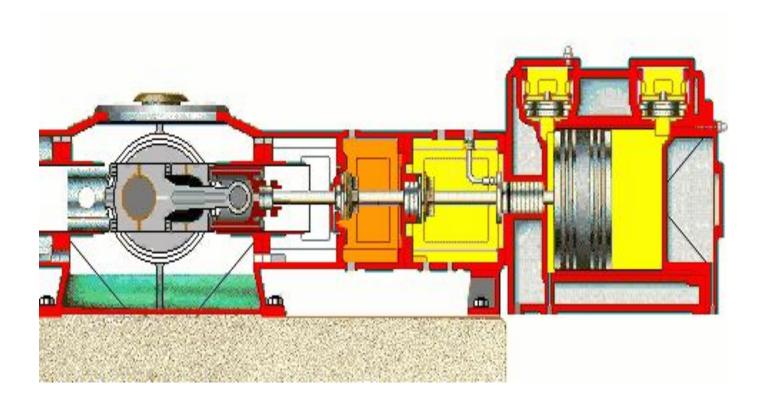
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# DOUBLE ACTING RECIPROCATING COMPRESSOR

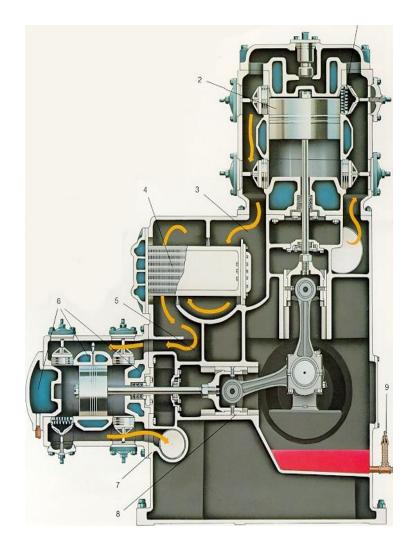




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# MULTI-STAGE DOUBLE ACTING RECIPROCATING COMPRESSOR





# **Types** "Dry piston" means that the piston is lubricated "dry", with PTFE-rings (oil-free) **Advantage: Oil-free compressed** air **Piston with PTFE-rings** Only crankshaft lubricated with oil April 5-7,/2011 **Dan Myrick Air Compressor Lubrication**

# **LUBRICATION METHODS – DRY PISTON**



# **LUBRICATION METHODS – OIL CIRCULATION**



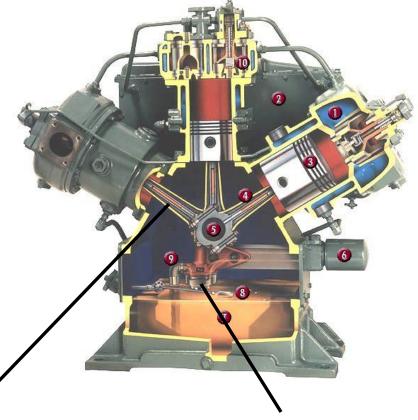
### **Types**

"Oil circulation" means that the entire compressor is being lubricated by one oil pump



Advantage: Compact and robust design

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# **Oil connection to piston**

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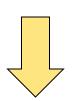
Oil pump

# LUBRICATION METHODS – CYLINDER AND FRAME LUBE SYSTEMS



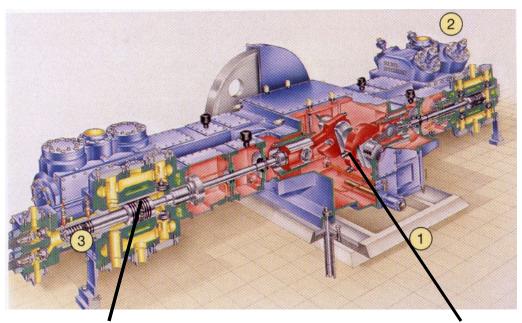
### **Types**

- "Separated cylinder and frame lube systems":
- 1. Cylinder lubricated by separate pump (total loss)
- 2. Frame lubricated by oil circulation (closed loop)



Application: For high pressure applications

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# Cylinder



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# COMPRESSOR VALVES AFTER 1500 HOURS OF OPERATION

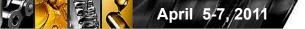






#### DIESTER SYNTHETIC LUBRICANT

#### PETROLEUM LUBRICANT



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# HYDROGEN COMPRESSOR VALVE USING PETROLEUM LUBRICANT





# VALVE PROBLEMS? WE DON'T HAVE ANY VALVE PROBLEMS!





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# BENEFITS OF USING SYNTHETICS IN RECIPROCATING AIR COMPRESSORS

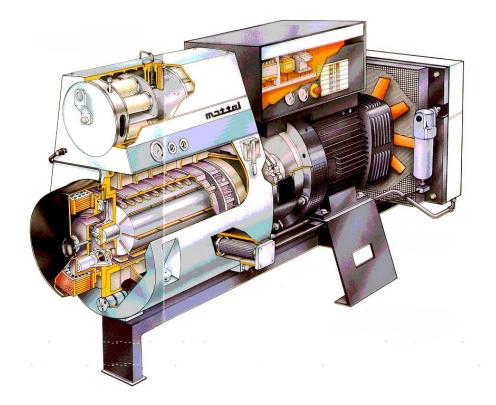


- Reduced carbon deposits on compressor valves resulting in lower maintenance costs and increased productivity
- Reduced oil feed rates, typically 20 to 30% lower, in dpm (drops per minute) to compressor cylinders
- Higher Flash Points and Fire Points, typically 100°F higher, versus mineral oils for greater safety
- Higher Auto-Ignition Temperatures, typically 130°F higher versus mineral oils for greater safety at all pressures
- Reduced wear of piston rings and packing resulting in longer parts life

April 5-7, 2011

# **ROTARY VANE COMPRESSORS**





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# **ROTARY VANES**











- 1. Reduction of wear and formation of gums and sludge on vanes and slots permitting free movement
- 2. Increases in oil drain interval where the lubricating system is a circulatory system
- 3. Reductions in oil feed rates in dpm in total loss (non-circulatory) systems

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# **CENTRIFUGAL COMPRESSORS**









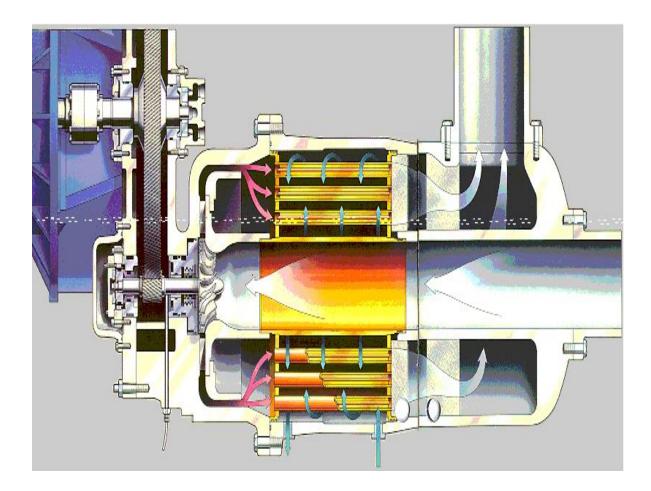
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# CENTRIFUGAL COMPRESSION CYCLE

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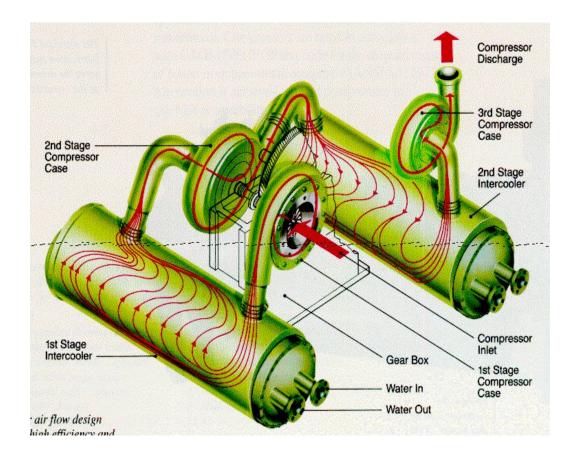


# MULTI-STAGE CENTRIFUGAL COMPRESSORS

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# **CENTRIFUGAL COMPRESSOR PARTS**









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# BENEFITS OF SYNTHETIC LUBRICANTS IN CENTRIFUGAL COMPRESSORS



- Energy efficiency
- Bearing life

The lubricant does not contact the compressed air. Extended life is not the primary advantage.

# **QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION**



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