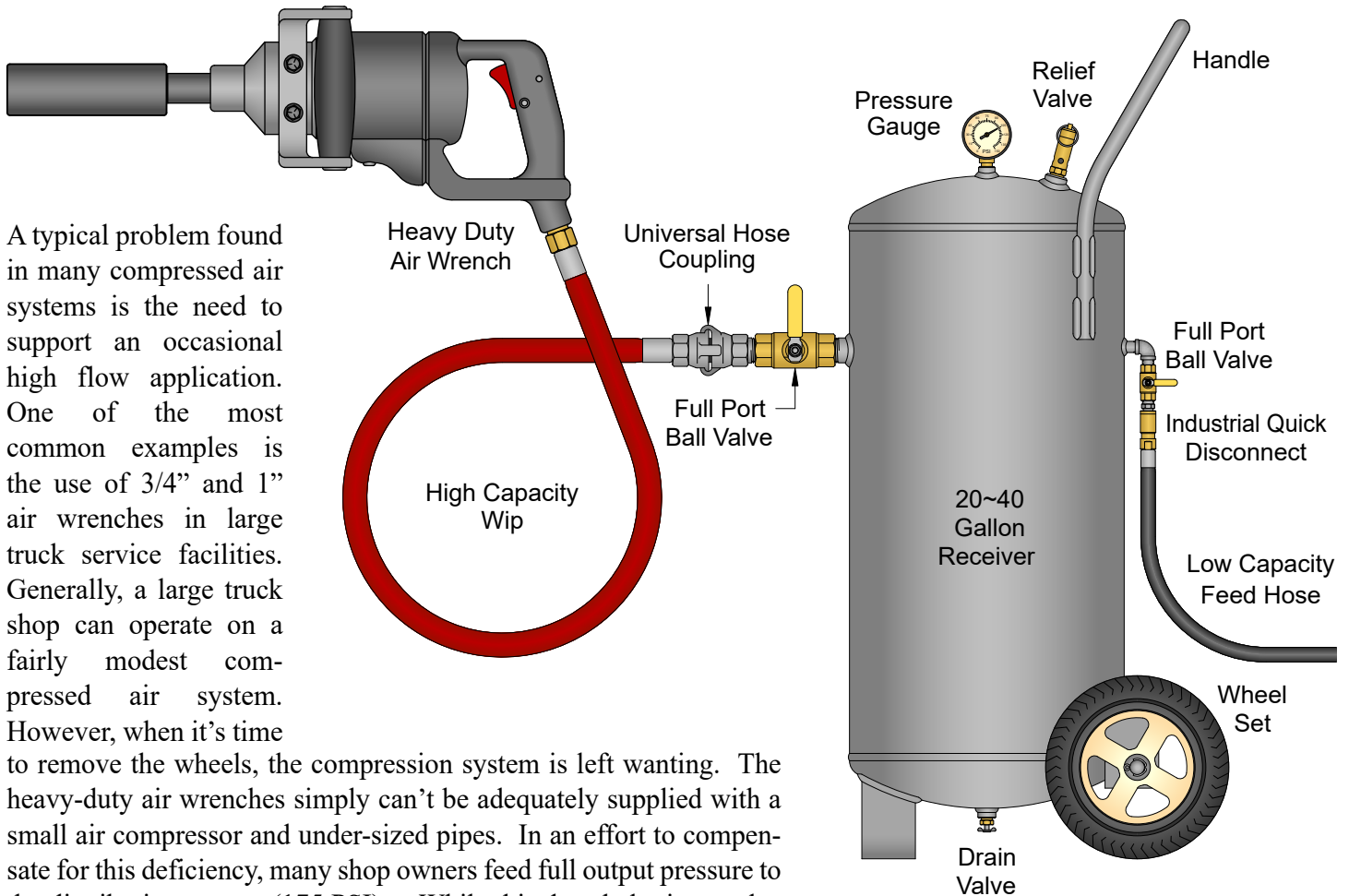


Technical Bulletin 106

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Portable Surge Tank for Intermittent Applications

by Brian S. Elliott



A typical problem found in many compressed air systems is the need to support an occasional high flow application. One of the most common examples is the use of 3/4" and 1" air wrenches in large truck service facilities. Generally, a large truck shop can operate on a fairly modest compressed air system. However, when it's time to remove the wheels, the compression system is left wanting. The heavy-duty air wrenches simply can't be adequately supplied with a small air compressor and under-sized pipes. In an effort to compensate for this deficiency, many shop owners feed full output pressure to the distribution system (175 PSI). While this does help, it can also have a damaging effect on the internal components of the wrenches.

A fairly simple solution to this situation is to feed the wrench with a small, portable surge tank, as shown in the illustration above. The tank can feed the surge air required when the oversized wrench turns on. In between studs, the low capacity feed hose is able to recharge the tank in just a few seconds. Once recharged, the system is ready for the next fastener. When not in use, the portable surge tank can be easily stored in a convenient, out-of-the-way location. An arrangement like this will allow the wrench to deliver power to its full potential, even though it's being supplied by an inadequate compression system.

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