



Checking your tire pressure while you are on the road is easily accomplished by the Craftsman rechargeable tire inflator.

This month we will look at a handy cordless inflator and a pair of air-powered tools. A rechargeable cordless inflator and a pair of die grinders have plenty of uses around a hot rodder's garage. And in the case with the cordless inflator it is something that can be easily dropped into the trunk before any drive.

The Craftsman C3 19.2V (Lithium-ion battery) cordless inflator is ideal for quick tire fills—and ideal for basketballs, volleyballs, footballs, or other inflatable goodies you have lying around the garage or house. (It comes with a number of air fill adaptors.) The handheld inflator utilizes a backlit digital readout that allows you to constantly monitor the air pressure, and it automatically shuts off when the desired air pressure is reached.



The Craftsman C3 19.2V (Lithium-ion battery) cordless inflator can inflate two passenger car tires from flat to 35 pounds on a single charge.

Taking a look at cordless inflators, air tools, accessories, and storage

When we used the inflator and compared it to several tire gauges that we have had for years the inflator was approximately 2 pounds high in its measurement. Although the inflator can pump a tire from flat to 35 pounds it is best suited for adjusting tire pressures. It can reach a max pressure of 200 pounds and is supposed to inflate two tires from flat to 35 pounds on one charge.

The digital readout goes up to 200 pounds and the inflator can be set to turn off automatically when the desired air pressure is reached.



Charging brings up another subject. The inflator is part of the 19.2V battery system Craftsman (Sears) has developed for a number of cordless tools. However, the inflator doesn't come with a battery or charger so you will have to add this to your system should you not already have it. You can purchase either the batteries (two versions) or the charger separately or as a system.

The cordless inflator sells for \$44.99, be alert as Craftsman often has seasonal sales where you can pick the item up at a reduced price.

Next up is a pair of Eastwood die grinders (set \$74.99), Carbide burrs (price range \$49.99-\$84.99), Harbor Freight hose/air tool connectors (\$5), and an Air Tool Rack (\$26.99) from California Car Cover.

The Eastwood die grinders have



The Craftsman inflator comes with a hose and several accessories, allowing it to be used for pumping up car tires as well as bicycle tires and various sports balls.



There are two Craftsman 19.2V battery sizes available. The batteries do not come with the inflator so you will need to already have or purchase the Lithium-

Ion battery charger (separately) or as part of a battery pack (charger and battery as one unit).



numerous usages in hot rodding, from grinding off excess metal on an engine block or cleaning up a set of heads. Or, how about enlarging already existing holes, cleaning up the edges of an existing cut along a metal edge, removing welding spatter, the list goes on.

The accompanying double-cut (very efficient for stock removal, creates a small chip, leaves a good finish, and provides excellent operator control) carbide burrs come in both 6-inch- (extended shank) and 3-inch-long shafts with the longer ones ideally suited for hard-to-reach places. The die grinders also come in straight and 90-degree heads, which further adds to their flexibility and usefulness. These grinders achieve 20,000 rpm (free speed), consume 3 cfm, and require 90-120 psi from your garage compressor; both numbers are well within the rates of home compressors. Burrs (sometimes called rotary files)

are small cutters used in die grinders. (They are also used in dentistry but we don't recommend you play dentist with these carbide burrs.) The carbide burrs have the life span 10 times greater than high-speed steel burrs and 50 times greater than small emery wheels.

The Eastwood burrs are "double cut," which is ideal on heat-treated steel and tough alloy steels, and for tool and die applications. (Other burr cuts include "standard cut" and "non-ferrous metals cut.")

Any air tool requires quick coupler fittings. In our case we opted for the Harbor Freight five-piece brass set that sells for about \$5. The kit includes a quick coupler for your compressor hose, a female plug (for adapting purposes), and three male



The pneumatic 1/4-inch straight and 90-degree die grinders come separately or as a set.

Harbor Freight is a good source for these kinds of accessories, such as this Quick Coupler Brass Set of air tool couplers.



Pictured on the left is the 1/4-inch quick coupler that attaches to your air compressor hose. The fitting on the right is a combination of a 1/4-inch female plug and a 1/4-inch male plug.



Here a Harbor Freight 1/4-inch male brass fitting is attached to the end of the air tool; typical installation.



The Eastwood straight die grinder is outfitted with a Harbor Freight 1/4-inch brass air hose connector while a 3-inch Eastwood Carbide burr is ready for use.



The Eastwood 90-degree die grinder is outfitted with an extended 6-inch long-reach Carbide burr.

The Eastwood eight-piece Carbide rotary burr set in 3-inch length sells for \$54.99.



The Eastwood four-piece, 6-inch (long-reach) Carbide burr set sells for \$54.99.



California Car Cover offers the Air Tool Rack at \$26.99. It is well finished and ideal for mounting and organizing air tools. The Air Tool Rack measures 2-1/2 inches high by 20 inches wide and 2 inches deep and will hold 10 pieces.

plugs, which you would typically attach to the end of the air tool.

If there is one thing that Senior Tech Editor Ron Ceridono and I agree on (and there are precious few things that we do agree on) it is about keeping your tools clean and organized. Nothing is more frustrating than to know you have a tool but can't lay your hands on it. The California Car Cover Air Tool Rack is ideal for keeping your air tools organized and readily available. It bolts (or screws) to a mounting surface and is capable of holding 10 air tools.

Here are several multi-purpose tools that every rodder should have around his garage. Of course, having the tool and being able to find it quickly is even a better idea. **SR**

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CRAFTSMAN
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CALIFORNIA CAR COVER
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Handy Tips from Eastwood

- A diluted solution of Simple Green makes an effective spray-on wheel cleaner
- In a pinch, many metric wrench/socket sizes are close enough that they cross to SAE (and vice-versa):
8 mm = 5/16 inch
10 mm = 3/8 inch
11 mm = 7/16 inch
13 mm = 1/2 inch
14 mm = 9/16 inch
16 mm = 5/8 inch
19 mm = 3/4 inch
22 mm = 7/8 inch
- Wipe a paper towel along your wiper blades when you wash your car. The towel is slightly abrasive and will remove the oxidized rubber buildup and keep the blades fresh and effective longer.