

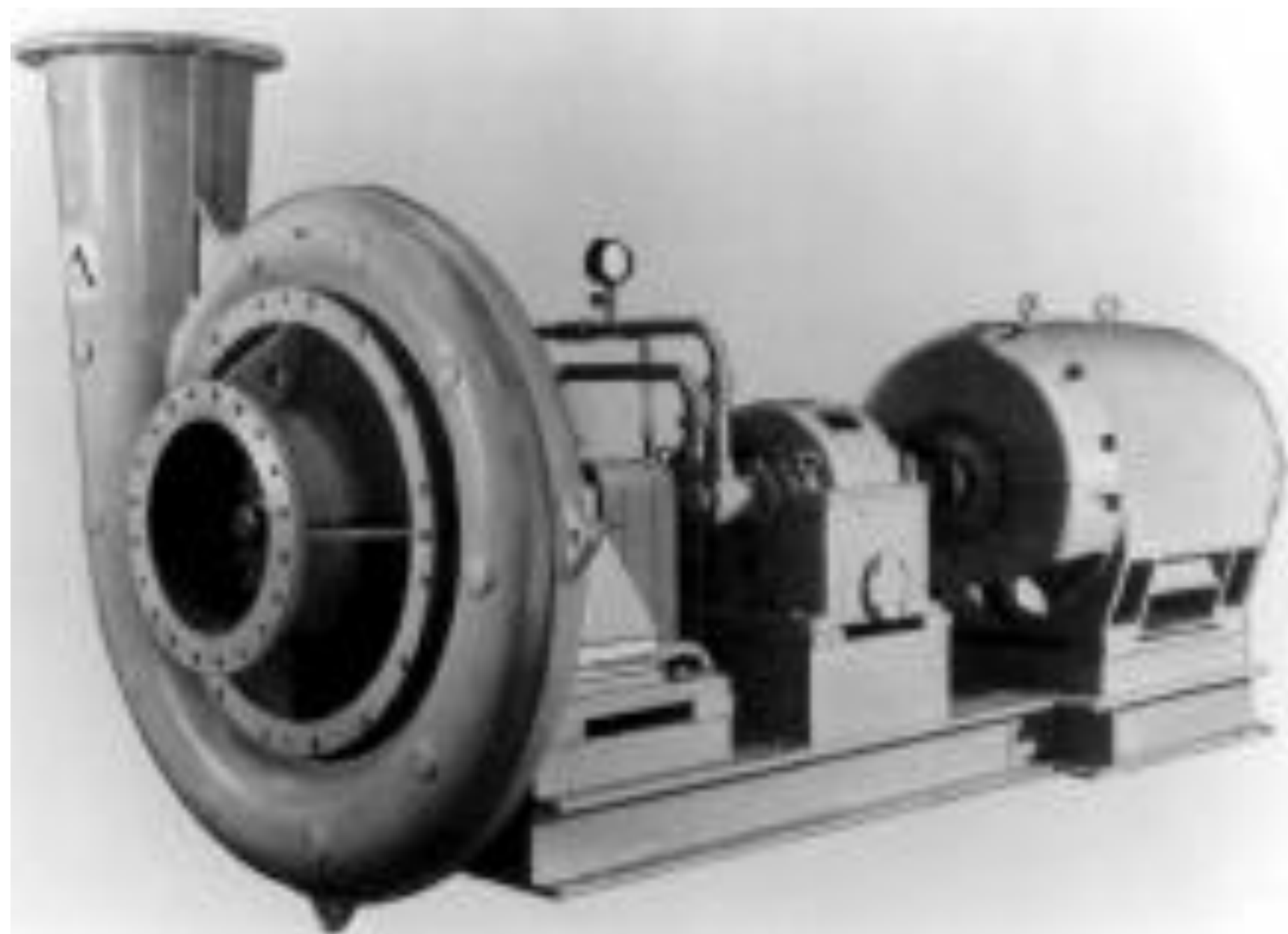
Gas compressor

A **gas compressor** is a mechanical device that increases the pressure of a gas by reducing its volume. An air compressor is a specific type of gas compressor. An **air compressor** is a device that converts power (usually from an electric motor, a diesel engine or a gasoline engine) into potential energy by forcing air into a smaller volume and thus increasing its pressure. The energy in the compressed air can be stored while the air remains pressurized. The energy can be used for a variety of applications, usually by utilizing the kinetic energy of the air as it is depressurized.

the pressure on a fluid and both can transport the fluid through a [pipe](#). As gases are compressible, the compressor also reduces the volume of a gas. Liquids are relatively incompressible; while some can be compressed, the main action of a pump is to pressurize and transport liquids.

Centrifugal compressors

Centrifugal compressors use a rotating disk or [impeller](#) in a shaped housing to force the gas to the rim of the impeller, increasing the velocity of the gas. They are primarily used for continuous, stationary service in industries such as [oil refineries](#) They are primarily used for continuous, stationary service in industries such as oil refineries, [chemical](#) They are primarily used for continuous, stationary service in industries such as oil refineries, chemical and [petrochemical](#) They are primarily used for continuous.



thousands of horsepower. With multiple staging, they can achieve high output pressures greater than 10,000 psi (69 MPa).

Many large [snowmaking](#) Many large snowmaking operations (like [ski resorts](#)) use this type of compressor.

They are also used in internal combustion engines as [superchargers](#) They are also used in internal combustion engines

as superchargers and [turbochargers](#) They are also used in internal combustion engines

as superchargers and turbochargers. Centrifugal compressors are used in small [gas turbine](#) They are also used in internal combustion engines

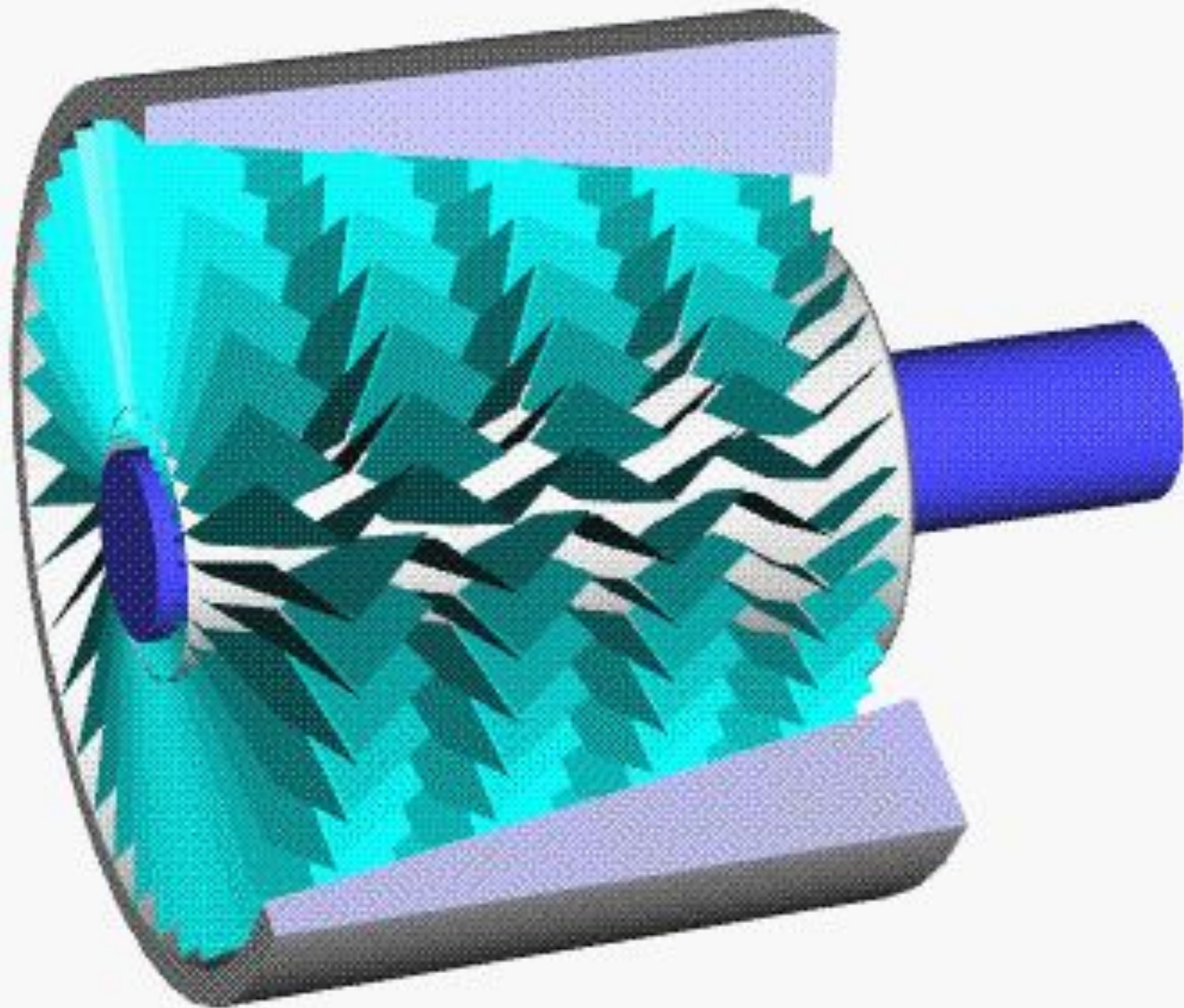
as superchargers and turbochargers. Centrifugal compressors are used in small gas turbine [engines](#) or as the final compression stage of medium sized gas

Diagonal or mixed-flow compressors

Diagonal or mixed-flow compressors are similar to centrifugal compressors, but have a radial and axial velocity component at the exit from the rotor. The diffuser is often used to turn diagonal flow to an axial rather than radial direction.

Axial-flow compressor

Axial-flow compressors are dynamic rotating compressors that use arrays of fan-like [airfoils](#) to progressively compress the working fluid. They are used where there is a requirement for a high flow rate or a compact design.



Axial compressors can have high efficiencies; around 90% [polytropic](#) efficiencies; around 90% polytropic at their design conditions. However, they are relatively expensive, requiring a large number of components, tight tolerances and high quality materials. Axial-flow compressors can be found in medium to large [gas turbine](#) engines, in natural gas pumping stations, and within certain chemical plants.

Reciprocating compressors

Reciprocating compressors use [pistons](#) driven by a crankshaft. They can be either stationary or portable, can be single or multi-staged, and can be driven by electric motors or internal combustion engines.

Small reciprocating compressors from 5 to 30 [horsepower](#) (hp) are commonly seen in automotive applications and are typically for intermittent duty. Larger reciprocating compressors well over 1,000 hp (750 kW) are commonly found in large industrial and petroleum applications. Discharge pressures can range from low pressure to very high pressure (>18000 psi or 180 MPa). In certain applications, such as air compression, multi-stage double-acting compressors are said to be the most efficient compressors available, and are typically larger, and more costly than comparable rotary units

Rotary screw compressors

Rotary screw compressors use two meshed rotating positive-displacement [helical screws](#) to force the gas into a smaller space. These are usually used for continuous operation in commercial and industrial applications and may be either stationary or portable. Their application can be from 3 horsepower (2.2 kW) to over 1,200 horsepower (890 kW) and from low pressure to moderately high pressure (>1,200 psi or 8.3 MPa).

Rotary screw compressors are commercially produced in Oil Flooded, Water Flooded and Dry type.

housing. Thus, a series of decreasing volumes is created by the rotating blades. Rotary Vane compressors are, with piston compressors one of the oldest of compressor technologies.

With suitable port connections, the devices may be either a compressor or a vacuum pump. They can be either stationary or portable, can be single or multi-staged, and can be driven by electric motors or internal combustion engines. Dry vane machines are used at relatively low pressures (e.g., 2 bar or 200 kPa or 29 psi) for bulk material movement while oil-injected machines have the necessary volumetric efficiency to achieve pressures up to about 13 bar (1,300 kPa; 190 psi) in a single stage. A rotary vane compressor is well suited to electric motor drive and is significantly quieter in operation than the equivalent piston compressor.

Rotary vane compressors can have mechanical efficiencies of about 90%.

A scroll compressor, also known as scroll pump and scroll vacuum pump, uses two interleaved spiral-like vanes to pump or compress fluids such as liquids and gases. They operate more smoothly, quietly, and reliably than other types of compressors in the lower volume range.

Due to minimum clearance volume between the fixed scroll and the orbiting scroll, these compressors have a very high volumetric efficiency.

This type of compressor was used as the supercharger on Volkswagen G60 and G40 engines in the early 1990s.

Rotary vane compressors can have mechanical efficiencies of about 90%.

