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NOTE: Many air tools are available in kits and these can be good value — but check the quality.

Angle sanders are excellent for polishing and lightly grinding small areas. The preparation of metal that's going to be welded is one of the most common applications.

Small drills are small, making them ideal for tight spots. They're like regular drills — if they jam they just stop; nothing burns out.

NOTE: Air chisels can be used with a wide range of bits. They're like regular chisels (or punches) — just hit faster. They're great for breaking spot welds and hammering together interference-fit parts.

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### RIGHT FITTINGS

VIRTUALLY all air tools are used with quick-connect fittings. The bore through this coupling is usually the narrowest point in an airline so to maximise airflow, you want the biggest one you can get. There are three basic types in use: Australian (left), European (centre) and Japanese (right).

The Australian type is recognisable by the round steel release tab on the side. Most have only one tab but there is a heavy duty version that has two tabs — the bore size is the same in both types. These fittings are inexpensive, work quite well but are somewhat restrictive.

If you plumb your garage with overhead lines feeding a series of downpipes, place the air-fitting connector some distance from the bottom of any downpipe and install a tap at the very bottom which can be opened to release trapped water.

### KEEP IN SHAPE

PNEUMATIC tools need lubrication to stay in top shape. Not much, mind you, just a couple of drops before each use with oils specially formulated for air tools, though sewing machine oil may suffice. Slightly over-lubricating a tool will cause the excess to blow out but filling a tool with oil can cause it to 'hydraulic' and be permanently damaged. There are automatic oilers available but then you'll have to run a separate dry-line for spray-painting, gluing and the like.

Compressors also require oil but the correct type must be used. It should be especially formulated to resist carbon build-up on valves due to heat and it should be detergent-free to avoid damage to oil seals. Compressor oil can get into the supply lines, which isn't an issue for general use but an oil filter should be installed on any line used for spray-painting.

Many pressure regulators have moisture traps and these do stop a fair amount of oil and water entering the hose — if they're purged regularly. However, for perfect paint they're not the whole answer. This is a difficult problem to resolve without spending a lot of money but it's unlikely you'll be attempting a show-winning paint job in your home garage.

There are many tools we haven't mentioned but the ones we've covered are probably the most popular. There are also angle grinders (which use a lot of air), various other types of sander, de-scaling tools, gasket scrapers, nibblers and shears for cutting sheet metal, belt sanders and liners, and many more.

MANY thanks to Air Technology ([www.airtechnology.com.au](http://www.airtechnology.com.au), 1300 555 284), Snap-on ([www.snapontools.com.au](http://www.snapontools.com.au), 1800 810 581), Repco ([www.repco.com.au](http://www.repco.com.au), 133 227) and SP Tools Australia ([www.austechindustries.com.au](http://www.austechindustries.com.au), 07 3723 1500) for their invaluable help with this feature.



YANE JANKOV  
1969 CAPRI GT  
Engine: Clevo 380ci  
Blower: Newby 6/71  
Box: Raceglide  
Power: 720hp on pump gas

PHOTO: PETER BATEMAN

**Street**  
**MACHINE**

