How to use a nebulizer hooked up to an air compressor

A nebulizer consists of:
1. A medicine cup
2. A T piece
3. A mouthpiece (or facemask as pictured on back)
4. Plastic tubing (that connects to the compressor)
5. Plastic flexible tube

An air compressor machine consists of:
1. An on-off switch
2. Connector (nipple) for plastic tubing
3. A cord to electrical outlet
4. An inlet filter

Your unit may not look like this one. See your owner’s manual for a full description of your machine’s features.

- A small motor enclosed within the machine, when plugged into a power source (a regular 2 or 3 prong outlet) draws air from the environment.
- Once turned on, the forced air exits through the nipple connected by the tubing to the nebulizer.
- The medicine turns into a mist which can then be inhaled from a mask or a mouthpiece.

Take your time and don’t rush. Each step is important in order to get the most out of your medication.
Getting the most from your medicine:

- Remember to store the machine away from children, animals, heat and off the floor. Do not immerse the machine in water.
- The inlet filter should be checked every 4 weeks. If it is discolored, the filter needs to be replaced.
- Keep the nebulizer in a zip lock bag when not in use.
- Typically most nebulizers need to be replaced monthly if used daily.
- Reusable nebulizers like the Pari will last up to 6 months before needing to be replaced.
- Each nebulizer comes with instructions to follow for proper cleaning of the nebulizer on a daily and weekly basis.
- If using an inhaled steroid with a mouthpiece, rinse mouth after use.
- If using an inhaled steroid with a face mask, rinse face and mouth after use.

1. The liquid medicine (often a pre-mixed vial) is poured into the medicine cup.
2. If using a mouthpiece, the T-shaped piece is placed on top of the cup and the mouthpiece is added to one end of the T-shaped piece (you may or may not use a plastic 8” flexible tube attached to the other end of the T-piece).
3. When using the mouthpiece, make a tight seal with your lips taking good slow breaths in through your mouth.
4. If you are using a mask for a younger child – you want a tight seal around the child’s nose and mouth with normal breaths in and out until the mist stops.
5. When the nebulizer starts to sputter, shake or tap the cup, continue breathing in and out slowly until the mist stops.
6. When the treatment is done, rinse the cup out with tap water and place it onto a dry paper towel to air dry.

Adapted from the Association of Asthma Educators, 2008.