THE POWER OF AIR

Air has the power to push sailboats across the water, generate wind power, and hold up the weight of a 40-ton truck!

Pneumatic devices are designed to harness the power of air. They work by compressing air (or putting air under pressure) to perform a function.

You might recognize some: airbrushes, jackhammers, and pipe organs!

Inflatables are pneumatic devices made of flexible, lightweight materials.

As their name suggest, inflatables function when they are filled with or emptied of air.

When you build with air, you can make a wide variety of unusual forms.

CREATE AND INFLATE

You can create your own inflatable using recycled materials! Shiny snack bags work well: high heat fuses them easily.

Here's one way to get started:

Cut shapes.

Seal edges.

Inflate

Experiment with different patterns. The creation might inflate in unexpected ways!

For example, fusing the center of your inflatable will make it pucker around that shape. A diamond fold will make it bend as air is added or removed.

You can make more complex designs by using heat to add creases and folds. These alter the way your inflatable behaves.

CONNECTING FORM TO FUNCTION

You can combine a variety of seams, pleats, and fused areas to create different behaviors.

INFLATABLES

Inflatables Resources
media.mit.edu/projects/therms-up

About This Zine
This zine was written and created by the MIT Public Library Innovation Exchange (PLIX) and Kyung Yun Choi.

Learn more at **plix.mit.edu**

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