

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WAX CAPSULE LAUNCHER

OVERVIEW and IMPORTANT INFORMATION: READ THIS NOW

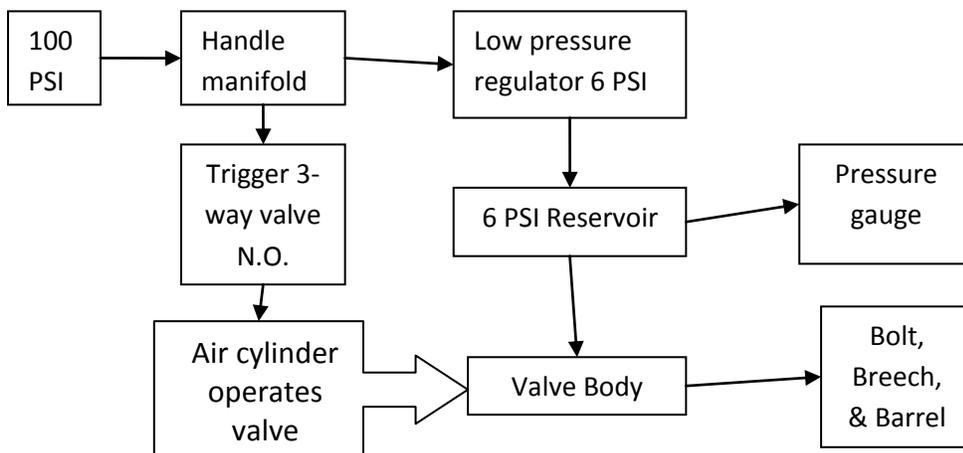
This may seem like a lot of instruction, but once you have read this and have practiced making the capsules and shooting, the on-set action goes quickly.

This “launcher” is specialized equipment designed to be used by qualified, expert special effects persons to place simulated blood bullet hits on stunt people and actors’ skin and wardrobe by the impact of a low speed fragile wax blood capsule. Use of this equipment is an art, a science, and a skill. Always practice making capsules and shooting the day before. Take test shots the day before and on the day. Adjust the red dot scope if necessary. The capsule may be traveling slowly, but the impact is not pleasant; about as hard as a finger snap. You must spend some time before the shot with the person you are going to do the effect on to make them comfortable with what you are going to do. You may want to let them shoot you in the palm of your hand and perhaps you may want to shoot their palm to demonstrate the feeling of the shot.

There are production benefits to this launcher compared to other methods. VFX can do a CG hit, but a wax blood hit is right now, the actor can feel it for timing, and Makeup can redress in exact location for continuity. The squib/appliance method is just a big pain in the ass for everyone.

Information for Customs and Law Enforcement

Please read the section before this section. This equipment might look like a gun, but that is for handling and aiming purposes only. This equipment has no threat to public safety whatsoever. We (Matt Sweeney Special Effects, Inc.) only sell this equipment to qualified, expert Motion Picture and Television Special Effects people. The equipment takes a heavy compressed air bottle to operate and shoots a soft wax capsule slower than a child can throw a ball. The expense and rarity of this equipment ensures that the owner will keep it safe from casual use or theft. If you have any questions, please call, FAX, or e-mail us, in English please. (818)902-9354 FAX(818)902-1513 orderdesk@sweeney-special-effects.com



Safety

This launcher is intended to be shot at 6-7½ PSI (41Kpa, .41 bar) at 6 feet (1.83m) for maximum accuracy. At this distance the trajectory is an arc. The group at 6 feet is about 2 inches (51mm) with occasional fliers outside.

You must set up your shot to avoid any possibility of hitting anybody in the eye. It is always better to miss the shot than to risk hitting anybody in the eye.

If you have any doubt whatsoever, don't take the shot.

Making Wax Capsules

You should make the capsules within a couple of hours prior to the shot. This is because the capsules are fragile and heat sensitive, and will leak or disintegrate within a relatively short time.

- 1) Heat the wax in the stainless cup on a hot plate. Adjust the heat so the wax will fully melt, but not so hot as to boil or smoke. Be careful, this will be hot enough to burn you.
- 2) Set the bottom plunger on the mold to the desired capsule length, lightly tighten the thumbscrew to hold the plunger in place and wipe some vegetable oil inside and around the top of the mold cavity. To adjust for a ½" (12mm) long capsule, set the mold upright on a flat surface and extend the plunger until it is on the flat surface.
- 3) Stir the melted wax with the ladle, and holding the mould by thumb and forefinger, ladle enough wax to fill the mold cavity completely. Return the ladle to the cup and pour out the wax from the mold. You should now have a thin layer of wax in the mold cavity and on the top of the mold around the cavity.
- 4) Using a razor blade, slice off the wax on the top of the mold, leaving the cavity with a thin wax lining.
- 5) Take the plastic syringe, and fill the wax lined mold cavity with Reel blood to 1/16" (1,6mm) below the cut off edge. If the blood touches the edge or there are air bubbles in the blood, you will probably have a leaker, so start again. If the blood is too far down, the cap will be too thick, so add a little more.
- 6) Using an almost empty ladle, drip a little wax on the end of the capsule to seal it.
- 7) Using the razor blade, trim off the sides of the wax seal that overlaps the mold cavity. Inspect closely for any signs of blood, as this means that the capsule is a leaker.
- 8) Loosen the thumbscrew and push the capsule out with the plunger. Inspect for blood leaking and make sure that the wax seal does not overhang beyond the sides of the capsule.

<u>List of Equipment</u>		<u>Equipment you need in addition</u>
Pelican Case	Q-tips	100 PSI (690 kPa) air supply
Wax Capsule Gun	Poly syringe	Heating plate to melt the wax
Supply air hose	Bottle of Reel Blood	Silicon spray
Scope	Bottle of Reel Lung Blood (Light color)	
Spare Scope battery	Bottle of cooking oil	
Cleaning Rod	Mold	
Sprag	Razor blades	
Loop	Wax	
Patches	Melting pot	
3/32" balldriver	Ladle	
1/8" balldriver	Spare parts and screws	
9/64" balldriver		
¼" wrench		