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Bleeding Brakes

[Click here](#) for the full article on bleeding brakes in the Sportsterpedia.

Vacuum Pump

Using a vacuum pump

You can get an inexpensive vacuum bleeder at most auto parts stores. ¹⁾

Basically, you suck the fluid out of the system's hoses, calipers, and master cylinder using a small hand held vacuum pump (known brand: Mighty Vac). ²⁾

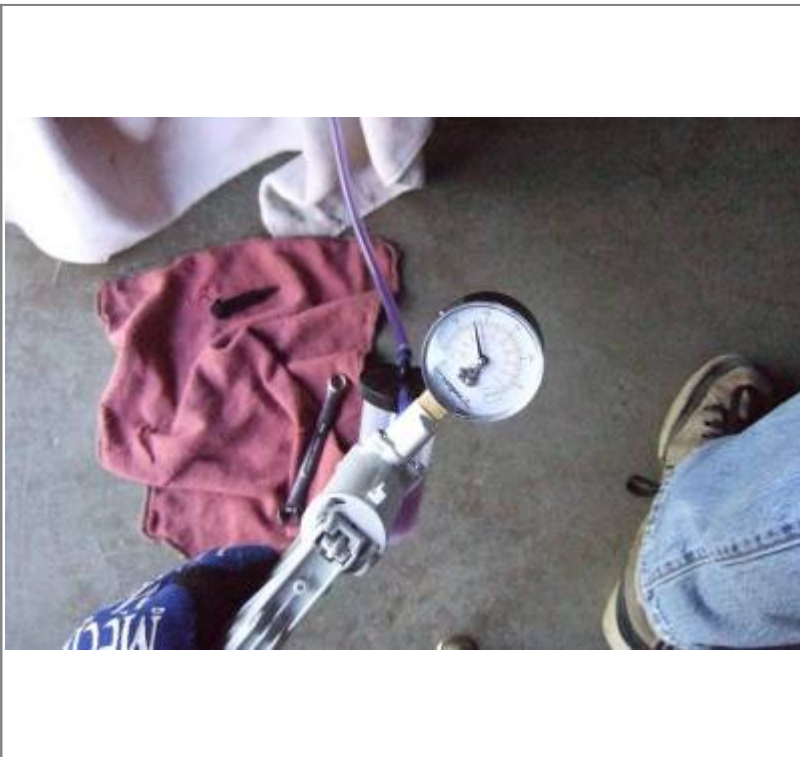
You draw all the air out with the brake fluid.

But it doesn't always work when tiny air bubbles are trapped in crevices etc. inside the internals of the master cylinder.

The Mighty Vac below is relatively inexpensive.

[Here is a video on it also](#)

Mighty Vac for sucking brake fluid from the master cylinder and out the bleeder screw. ³⁾



Here is the Harbor Freight version:

Pittsburg Brake Bleeder Vacuum Pump ⁴⁾



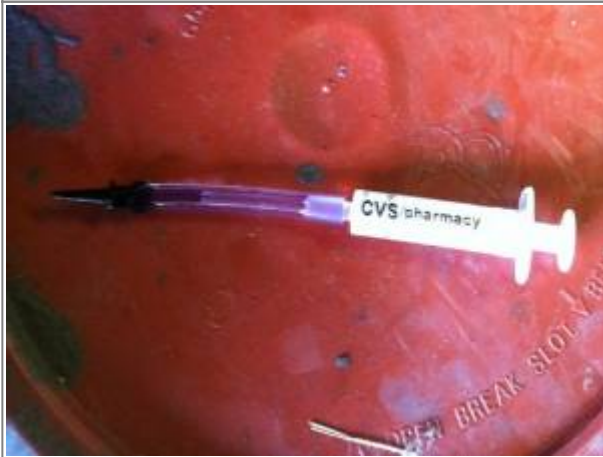
Homemade Vacuum Setup

Homemade bleeding system using a vacuum cleaner and a canister. ⁵⁾



Syringe

Syringe with pointed tip for blowing out the holes in the master cylinder reservoir. ⁶⁾



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1)

stealthhammer of the XLFORUM

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-drivetrain/sportster-motorcycle-tires-wheels-and-brakes-aa/95063-help-q-re-replacing-fluid-after-installing-brake-line?t=791904>

2)

Joebug of the XLFORUM

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-drivetrain/sportster-motorcycle-tires-wheels-and-brakes-aa/195114-brake-upgrade-can-t-bleed/page2?highlight=mighty+vac#post4244079>

3)

photos by cat5752 of the XLFORUM

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-era-specific-and-model-specific/ironhead-sportster-motorcycle-talk-1957-1985/57107-simply-bleeding-the-front-brake/page2?t=295754&page=2>

4)

photo by SarahColt of the XLFORUM

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-general-discussion-and-problems/163701-sarah-needs-help-fixing-her-bike/page77?t=1759703&highlight=shift+shaft+o-ring&page=77>

5)

photo by Bob F of the XLFORUM

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-drivetrain/sportster-motorcycle-tires-wheels-and-brakes-aa/173094-what-tool-works-on-brake-caliper-mounting-screw/page2?t=1857463&page=2>

6)

photo by Loves Curves of the XLFORUM

<https://www.xlforum.net/forum/sportster-motorcycle-forum/sportster-motorcycle-drivetrain/sportster-motorcycle-tires-wheels-and-brakes-aa/135422-05-rear-brake-master-cylinder/page3?t=1464105&page=3>

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