

Low-Tech Budget-Friendly Jetpack Thruster Special Effect



The flame/thruster effect is made visible with very bright gelled lights. Test options under your stage lights for that scene to see what will show.

The lights are making the compressed air visible. Only use aerosol dusting/electronic cleaning products.

Use a sturdy tube to direct the liquid to the bottom of the jetpack. Keep in mind you will want to make it easy to replace the can.



When held upside down the liquid in the can comes out instead of its vapor. This is what we want. Please note it does get cold and can create ice if heavily sprayed in one spot. The amount needed to create the effect will not harm anyone, but the back of the operator's legs may be able to feel the cool.



While the can is inside the jetpack, we need a way to push the nozzle.

Make a simple hydraulic system with two syringes and some water. I used clear tubing making it easier to get the water level set. Once the water level is set, secure/glue the tubing onto the syringe to avoid water blowouts.

When the operator pushes down on the syringe's plunger the water in the system causes the other syringe's plunger to back out, pushing onto the nozzle of the aerosol can.

The plunger and nozzle should be touching or just barely apart when mounted, so that the effect happens right away and when the operator releases their plunger, the aerosol nozzle and hydraulic system force the operator's plunger back up.



View inside the jetpack with the bottom removed.

