At the present time, exchange of the seal usually includes the following steps:

- Relieve pressure of the compressor and attachment parts.
- In the case of highly flammable gases such as molecular hydrogen, an inert gas (e.g. nitrogen) must be flushed before opening the compressor. Depending on the volume, this process can take a large amount of time.
- Dismantle all attachment parts in order to be able to dismantle the seal.
- Dismantle the seal, pull on the new seal (depending on the manner of installation and diameter, seals must be calibrated or headed before installation).
- Assembly of all attachment parts.
- In the case of highly flammable gases, before introduction of the working means an inert gas (e.g. nitrogen) must be flushed. Depending on the volume, this process can take a large amount of time.
- Apply pressure and carry out leakage tests.

Accordingly, embodiments of the invention alleviate or eliminate at least individual disadvantages of the prior art. In particular, embodiments of the invention make the replacement of the high-pressure seal simpler, faster and more cost-effective.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for compressing a preferably gaseous working medium including at least the following steps:

- moving a drive piston driven by means of a drive medium within a first cylinder between a first end position and a second end position;
- moving a high-pressure piston which compresses the working medium within a second cylinder between a first end position and a second end position,
- arranging a high-pressure seal for sealing the high-pressure piston;
- arranging a magazine with a receptacle for the high-pressure seal and with at least one replacement high-pressure seal in a first operating position in which the high-pressure piston is sealed by the high-pressure seal;
- transferring the magazine from the first operating position into the second operating position in which the high-pressure piston is sealed by the replacement high-pressure seal.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a compressor for compressing a working medium including:

- a drive piston which can be actuated with a working medium within a first cylinder, wherein the drive piston is movable between a first end position and a second end position;
- a high-pressure piston which compresses the working medium within a second cylinder, wherein the high-pressure piston is movable between a first end position and a second end position; a high-pressure seal for sealing the high-pressure piston;
- a magazine with a receptacle for the high-pressure seal and with at least one replacement high-pressure seal;
- a changeover device with a drive for transferring the magazine between a first operating position for sealing the high-pressure piston by the high-pressure seal and a second operating position for sealing the high-pressure piston by the replacement high-pressure seal.

Advantageously, the exchange of the seal can thus be simplified appreciably. In many cases, no service engineer is required for exchange of the seal. During exchange of the seal, the compressor can remain in operation or ready for operation. According to the invention, at least one replacement high-pressure seal is arranged on the magazine. If the high-pressure seal can no longer ensure sealing of the high-pressure piston as a result of wear or damage, the changeover device is actuated in such a manner that the magazine is brought from the first operating position into the second operating position. In this case, the high-pressure seal is moved from a functional position which seals the high-pressure piston into a waiting position remote from the high-pressure piston. Conversely the replacement high-pressure seal is moved from a waiting position remote from the high-pressure piston into a functional position bearing against the high-pressure piston in which the high-pressure piston is sealed by means of the replacement high-pressure seal in the second cylinder. In the first and second operating position, the high-pressure piston is connected fixedly or detachably to the drive piston so that the high-pressure piston is driven by means of the drive piston.