

THE ART OF USING  
THE  
*AIRBRUSH*



# ITEMS NEEDED TO START

- 1. AN AIRBRUSH AND HOSE
- 2. SUPPLY OF AIR PRESSURE 15 to 45psi
- 3. LIQUID COLOR WATER BASE PAINTS
- 4. A MEDIUM TO PAINT ON
- 5. PROPER VENTILATION and A MASK
- 6. FRISKET OR TEMPLATE TO TRAP THE PAINT  
IN A SELECTED AREA
- 7. A DESIGN OR FREE HAND IDEA
- 8. ITS SAFER FOR YOUR HEALTH NOT TO USE  
OIL BASE PAINTS

# AIRBRUSHES ARE USED IN ALL KINDS OF WORK

- Art work
- Cake decorating
- Makeup
- Manicures
- Photo retouching
- Areas that are small and need a smooth finish
- Model painting and miniatures

# AIRBRUSHES ARE NOT ALL THE SAME

## Single action airbrush

- a. The paint can either be in a jar threaded into the airbrush from below or in a cup pressure fitted to the side of the airbrush.
- b. The air from your compressor or your air propellant will pull the paint up into the chamber inside the airbrush where it meets with the needle and comes out the nozzle end onto your project.
- c. With the single action you are limited in the accuracy of control. Spray closer to your project to cover smaller areas or pull back from your project to cover a larger area. At the same time you push down less for smaller areas and push down more for larger areas.

# AIRBRUSHES ARE NOT ALL THE SAME

## Dual action airbrush

- Delivers the paint by a push down of the trigger and a pull back of the trigger
  - a. The paint can be in a cup on top of the airbrush or in a cup to the side of the airbrush.
  - b. The air from your compressor meets with the gravity fed paint inside the chamber where it mixes with the air. As you pull back on the trigger the paint and air comes out along the needle to the nozzle onto your project. The further back you pull the trigger the more paint comes out and covers a larger area. The less you pull back on the trigger the less paint comes out and covers a smaller area.

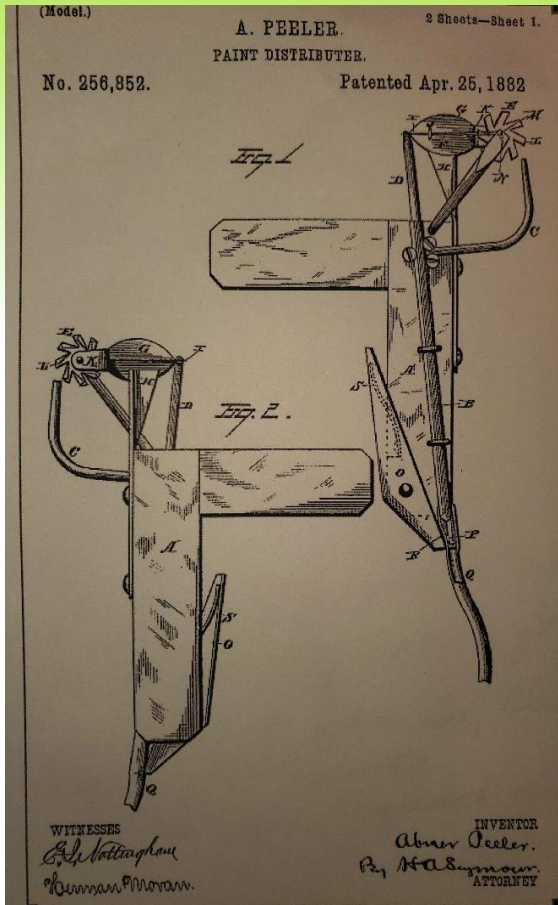
# COMMON AIRBRUSHES FOUND TODAY



# BREAK DOWN OF DUAL ACTION AIRBRUSH



# THE FIRST AIRBRUSH PATENT IN 1882



- Abner Peeler invented this item and called it an airbrush which is why it may have been promoted for artist.
- Abner was the first to invent an oscillating needle in his design.
- It was necessary to use two hands to use this unusual design.
- Abner was a jeweler that liked inventing things. Aside from the typewriters, sewing machines he also invented an AIR GUN. Because it was a silent weapon it didn't do well.



# Controlling the spray from your AIRBRUSH

- Frisket was always my number one way of airbrushing
- My design would already be drawn and reproduced on photographic paper
- I would then cover the whole cut away drawing with frisket and cut each section of the drawings that represented a new part
- This frisket would protect the rest of the drawing while I airbrushed each section.

# HOW TO CLEAN YOUR AIRBRUSH BETWEEN COLORS

- The best way to clean the color cup is to pour the remaining paint from your cup out into another container. Now you can wipe the inside walls of the cup chamber with a paper towel to pick up any remaining paint.
- Then rinse out the cup with clean water. Add more clean water to the cup and push the trigger down and pull back to allow the water to run through the nozzle until it comes out clean.
- This method works well with water-based paints.

# THE LAZY WAY TO CLEAN YOUR AIRBRUSH

- Pour out the excess paint into a container
- Put the next color into the airbrush cup
- Run the airbrush letting the old color expire and the new color come out of the nozzle
- This does not always give the best effect as the two colors may contaminate each other and your new color may not be what you wanted.

# CLEANING GRAVITY FEED AIRBRUSH

- Take the lid off the cup with the color and pour it into another container
- Pour a small amount of *cleaner* into the cup and with a paper towel wipe out the inside of the cup chamber
- Spray *cleaner* through the airbrush until it sprays clear. You can spray the airbrush into a spray out pot, into paper towels or a rag, or onto scrap paper.

# HOW TO CLEAN SIPHON FEED AIRBRUSH

- Remove the Paint Bottle from the airbrush
- Have a separate bottle of *cleaner* ready to attach it to the airbrush.
- Spray the cleaner through the airbrush until it sprays clear.

# HOW TO DEEP CLEAN YOUR AIRBRUSH

## AT THE END OF THE DAY

- You should do a deep clean of your airbrush when you are finished This helps to keep your airbrush in optimal functioning condition
- Disconnect the Air Source from the airbrush
- Remove the Back Handle and loosen the chucking nut
- Loosen the needle from the chucking nut and put the needle out

- Apply airbrush cleaner to a rag or paper towel and carefully clean the needle with airbrush cleaner, wiping away from you and in one direction toward the sharp point.
- Unscrew the needle cap.
- Remove the nozzle cap.
- Soak the nozzle, needle cap, nozzle head cap (if applicable), and nozzle cap in airbrush cleaner for a maximum of 10 minutes.
- Scrub the Airbrush Parts

- Dip a small scrub brush in the airbrush *cleaner* and scrub the nozzle, needle cap, nozzle head cap, and nozzle cap
- For a gravity-feed airbrush, push a pipe cleaner or cleaning brush into the paint passage near the front of the airbrush
- For siphon-feed airbrushes, push the brush or pipe cleaner into the bottle joint near the front of the airbrush
- Twist the cleaning brush or pipe cleaner to scrub the paint passage until you have removed all of the paint. Wipe down the outside of the airbrush with a rag dipped in a small amount of airbrush cleaner



# Compressor Psi for your Airbrush

- For most airbrushing projects, 15 – 45 psi is a good place to start.
- Keep your psi under 20 for airbrushing on paper
- Increase psi to 100 for airbrushing on T-shirts.
- The type and quality of airbrush, nozzle size, paint viscosity, and desired effect will dictate the ideal psi.
- It's important to experiment until you find what works best for you

- You will want a lower psi when airbrushing small areas or confined spaces so the paint won't travel beyond what you are painting
- A lower psi is recommended for thin paints that will run or splatter on you project when the air pressure is too high
- For something that will absorb color quickly like tee shirt material you will want a higher pressure. When using slightly thicker paint than normal, you'll need a higher psi

# HOW TO ADJUST THE AIR PRESSURE

- You will need an air compressor with a pressure regulator
- Keep the factory settings of your compressor, and set the pressure regulator to the psi you want.
- Run the airbrush for a few seconds with the air on, note any drop in pressure, and adjust as needed.
- A pressure regulator helps you to set your desired psi; a precision regulator is especially helpful for jobs requiring high levels of accuracy.
- Having a gauge allows you to set your exact desired level of pressure

# TYPE OF AIRBRUSH YOU ARE USING

- A siphon-feed airbrush requires more psi to suck the paint into the chamber from the paint cup below the airbrush
- A gravity feed airbrush relies on gravity to do the work of moving the paint into the chamber
- An airbrush that has a paint cup located on the side of the airbrush has a middle of the road effect when selecting pressure.

Siphon Feed  
25 - 80 psi

Gravity Feed  
12 - 45 psi

Side Feed  
12- 45 psi

# BEST NOT TO USE OIL BASE PAINTS

- BEST TO HAVE AN AIR FILTER - DUST COLLECTOR
- MUST HAVE A IN LINE WATER SEPERATOR
- ALWAYS USE A DUST MASK
- BEST TO USE A PAINT BOOTH TO KEEP PAINT CONTAINED
- USE A HAIR DRYER TO DRY A PROJECT QUICKLY
- PREPLAN AND OUTLINE YOUR DESIGN
- HAVE AMPLE WATER ON HAND
- USE A MILK JUG TO SPRAY DIRTY WATER FROM THE AIRBRUSH WHEN CLEANING INTO THE JUG