

AirSick 101

AIRBRUSH TRAINING

Getting to Know Your Airbrush

There are several different makes and models available today. While we can't show you all the differences between each airbrush on the market, instead we are going to point out a few main components every "dual action" airbrush has in common. Become familiar with these parts because you may need to adjust or replace any one of these parts if problems develop.



1 Head Assembly

In the head assembly you will find the tip of the needle as well as a protective cap. In certain cases this protective cap can be removed to get the needle tip closer to the surface or to provide more visibility at close range. Be careful when taking off the end cap when painting, its very easy to bend the tip of your needle and bring your airbrushing to a screeching halt.



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2 Color Cup and Cap

The color cup assembly can be located on top, to the side, or below your specific airbrush. Either way it comes, this is where you will put your paint into the airbrush. Keep your paint free of debris or from splashing onto your artwork by keeping your cap securely closed. This style of cup is known as a gravity feed as gravity pulls the paint down into the chamber. Side feed airbrushes use the same idea but the cup is off to one side. Siphon feed airbrushes usually use a bottle that screws into the bottom of the airbrush and paint rises up into the chamber to be sprayed.



3 Trigger

In a dual action airbrush the trigger serves 2 purposes, hence the name dual action. By compressing the trigger down you release airflow through the airbrush. While the trigger is pressed down, you can pull back and forth to release paint, the further you pull back, the more paint comes out. It is important to always keep your trigger compressed while painting.

4 Air Valve

The air from your hose enters here. It is compressed against a valve that opens when you push down on the trigger. You do not want to be hearing air escaping any of these connections.



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5 End Cap/Handle

Each end cap is built for comfort. It is designed to house the back end of the needle assembly. Some artists prefer to paint without the handle in place. I suggest you try it both ways and do what's comfortable for you. Finding a comfortable position to hold your airbrush will help ease the tension in your hands that can arise from painting for a long session, and allow you to paint with more precision.

6 Needle

Airbrush needles come in a few sizes, so make sure the needle you have in your brush is the correct one. Refer to manufacturers specs to determine the right size of needle for your specific brush. Always be very careful to protect the tip of your needle while painting. You will have to fix or replace a bent needle.



7 Needle Adjusting Screw

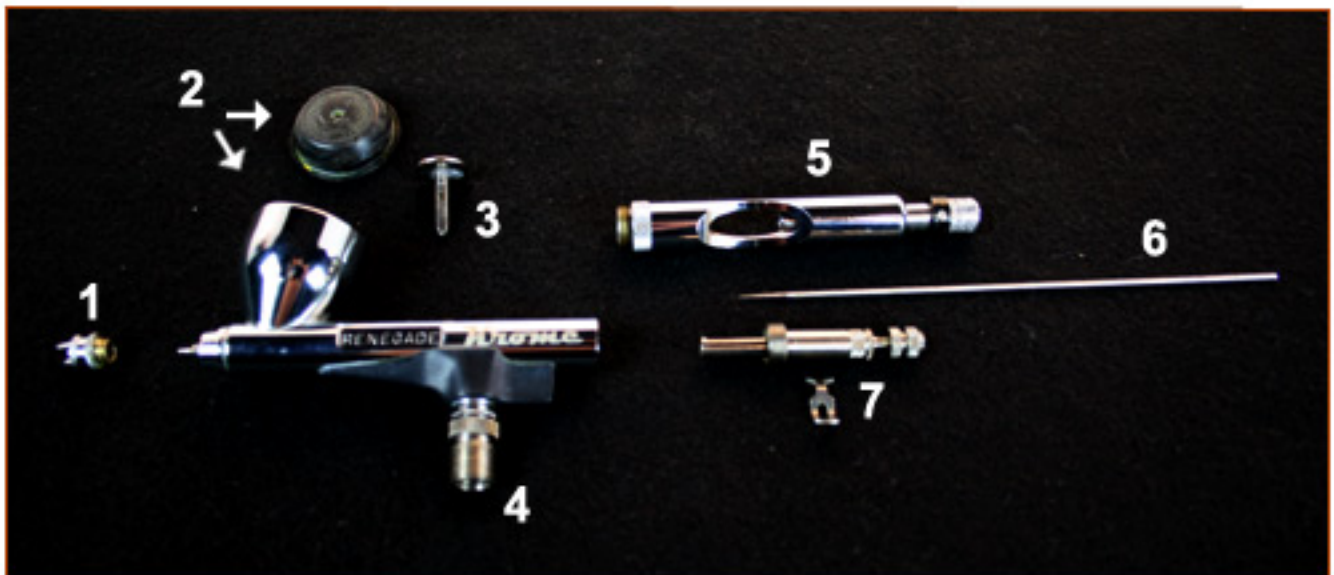
Loosen or tighten this nut to secure your needle into position. You want your needle just snug up against your head assembly creating a seal. Once you have positioned your needle, tighten the adjusting screw. Pull back on the trigger to ensure you have a good grip on the needle.

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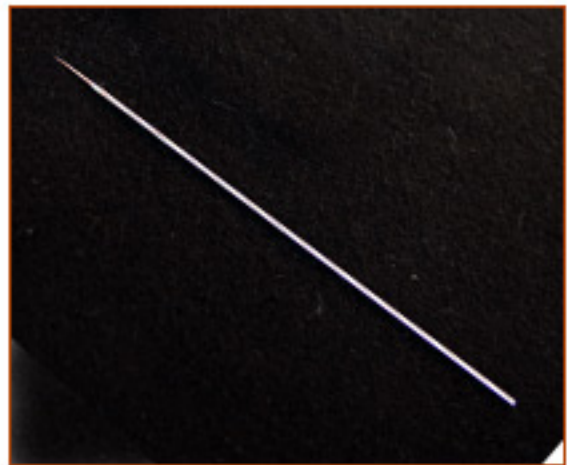


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