
General & Useful Information regarding Airbrushing

FIVE BASIC RULES FOR SUCCESSFUL AIRBRUSHING

1. Keep airbrush 6" away from ware for most work.
2. Keep airbrush moving continuously, smoothly, evenly, gently and slowly. **DO NOT SHAKE YOUR HAND.** Remember there is a hole in the top of the bottle and color can drip, run or fly out of this hole.
3. Thin your color with proper media for most cases this is tap water. Vigorously stir color and media with a ¾ inch glaze brush. You need not strain your mixture; if color is stirred and mixed properly.
4. Adjust the amount of color that leaves the airbrush to fit the need. Large pieces, open airbrush more; small pieces, close airbrush more.
5. If the ware becomes shiny while airbrushing and stays shiny for 5 or 10 seconds, then you have broken one of the first four rules. Shininess is the accumulation of too much color on a specific area. Shiny areas can run. Stop airbrushing, let the area dry and review, is airbrush too close to ware, not moving your hand, thinning the color too much and/or opening the airbrush too much.

ADDITIONAL HELPFUL INFORMATION REGARDING AIRBRUSHING

1. Turning moisture assembly to the left closes the airbrush or shuts liquid portion off.
2. Turning nozzle to the right opens the airbrush. The more turns of the nozzle to the right the more liquid will leave the airbrush. **NOTE: Never open your airbrush all the way to the right. Too much liquid will leave the brush and the color may splatter against the ware.**
3. Use a **CONTINUOUS** flow method of airbrushing. That is, start the air and moisture (color) away from the piece, bring onto the piece moving both turntable and airbrush at same time. Keep air on continually. By starting the color away from the ware this should eliminate most splattering. There are three major errors that could arise when starting both your liquid and air while pointing airbrush directly at the ware:
 - a. Too much pressure could cause color to splatter.
 - b. Excess liquid in air cap could cause large spots of color to hit your ware.
 - c. The lever action of the air assembly may cause spotting of color due to lack of pressure as you press down on lever.
4. Apply each color used with enough passes that the color on the ware matches the color in the airbrush bottle. This matching of color will insure proper coverage.
5. If a mistake occurs (like a drip or excessive run), remove by gently scraping error off. Then sand down with dry sponge. Do not use a wet sponge. Then re-spray with lightest color and proceed with all colors used before the error.
6. Always place items to be airbrushed on a turntable or banding wheel.
7. Paper towels on turntable could cause damage to ware, please do not use them. They become wet with color and can blow up against the ware and leave unwanted marks.
8. In most cases work from lightest color to darkest color when applying color.
9. Always work from top to bottom of ware, remember gravity will cause the color to drift downward over the ware.
10. Care should be taken when handling airbrushed items. In most cases airbrush only areas that you can see and do not turn piece over to spray. Use a plastic type wrap to move pieces from place to place once it has been airbrushed. If any moisture is on fingers or hands and the ware is touched the moisture will pull the airbrushed color off the piece.
11. Airbrushed items can be sprayed with two light coats of stain sealer to move piece from place to place. The sealer is a semi-color protector. The sealer fires off during bisque firing.



SETTING UP THE AIRBRUSH WORKSPACE

1. Place old bath towel on table top.
2. Place Turntable on the old bath towel.
3. Do not place a paper towel on the turntable...the turntable is easily cleaned with water.
4. Have the following handy:
 - a. Water Bowl
 - b. Old Glaze Brush
 - c. Paper Towel
 - d. Sponge
 - e. 2 Airbrush Bottles
 - f. Paper Cups for saving color
5. Use the Paasche Single Action Airbrush with #3 Tip.
6. Set compressor for a minimum of 45 psi.
7. Air compressor should have a moisture trap.

Special Note

When airbrushing, it is easiest to work on greenware. However if you only have access to bisque you can airbrush the pieces with acrylics or can carefully use the EZ-Strokes. When using EZ-Strokes to be careful with runs and drips. To help prevent runs add a small amount of Sugar to the paint after thinning. About a ¼ of a teaspoon should do the trick. The sugar makes the color slightly sticky and the stickiness will help prevent running in most cases.

A very special note

If a more matte appearance is desired **Clear Satin** glaze may be used. However, **Clear Satin** can be easily over applied. May we recommend this solution: proceed to glaze piece with the Pure Brilliance as called out. After firing spray piece with **Porcelain Acrylic Sealer**. This will dull the piece and gives a look of porcelain when dry. This technique can only be done on decorative pieces like these two airbrushed pieces.