

Questions and Answers

Quick Dry or Long Lasting ink. Which one should I buy?

Well that depends. Most of our customers use Quick Dry ink. As the name says, it dries quick and that is very important when you have a line of customers waiting to give you money for an airbrush tattoo. Spray it on and powder the final layer and you are done. A properly applied and well placed Quick Dry tattoo will last up to a week to ten days.

If you want that extra bit of durability and you have a little extra time, then our Long Lasting ink may be your best option. Long Lasting ink is applied in layers with a dusting of powder between each layer. This allows the ink to instantly set before applying the next layer subsequently allowing the finished design to wear off in layers giving your design up to two weeks durability.

The ink is spraying thin and watery.

This is a simple fix. You are either using an airbrush with a nozzle that is too small or your air pressure setting is too low, you're not shaking the ink well enough, or your nozzle is really dirty. Most of the time, a small nozzle is the culprit. Many import airbrushes say the tip size is 0.5mm but in reality it's more like 0.3mm. If you are using a Paasche, Badger, or Iwata airbrush you can trust the tip size is as advertised, otherwise demand a 0.8mm tip just to be safe.

My ink is goopy and is clogging my gun.

The only thing that can make ink get goopy is water. Our ink is unique in that it is manufactured with pure alcohol that contains no water. Take a look at your operation and make sure you aren't getting water mixed up in your ink. The biggest culprit of water in the ink is using Isopropyl Alcohol that has too much water. Even though it says that it's 90% pure that is still 10% water and can cause issues with your equipment. The best product to use for equipment cleaning is Denatured Alcohol. Denatured alcohol is available in the paint section of your local Lowe's and Home Depot or any other store that has a paint department.

I was told not to set my compressor above 20 psi.

If you have a dual action airbrush, and you should, you can control the amount of air and ink at your fingertip. We recommend setting your pressure around 35 – 40psi for the Long Lasting formula. This setting will solve a lot of problems. It keeps the ink flowing and it help speed up the whole process and when you have a line of people waiting to give you money for a tattoo, time is of the essence. If you are still concerned, crank up the pressure and spray air on your arm. It won't hurt your skin and if it damages your airbrush, you need a better airbrush. If you are still concerned, just use our Quick Dry ink.

My tattoos only last a day or two.

If you follow the instructions in our How To... booklet and apply the tattoo just like the videos on our website, they will last a long time. Remember that placement, lotions, oils, and other outside forces can cause problems too. We have thousands of worldwide customers that spray tattoos every day with no problems at all. If you're having a problem, we'll be happy to help you figure out what is happening in your particular situation.

Do you have to powder between layers with Long Lasting Ink?

Yes. Our Long Lasting Ink is designed to be applied in layers. When you apply a layer of ink and then powder you are creating a series of designs on top of each other that will wear off in layers, thus extending the life of the design. Powdering a layer takes a couple of seconds. If you don't have that much time then this particular ink is not your best choice. Try our Quick-Dry Ink. This formula only requires a final layer powdering. We also have a alcohol based body paint that requires no powder at all, but will only last about a day.

Air is bubbling up in my airbrush supply bottle.

If the airbrush is doing this right out of the box, more than likely it has a mechanical problem. Call customer service where you purchased the airbrush and let them help you. If the airbrush has previously sprayed well, then most likely the end cap is dirty preventing the air from properly flowing out of the gun and blowing the air back through the supply bottle. Carefully disassemble your gun and thoroughly clean and reassemble the parts. Make sure you to properly reseal the needle in the gun. Always clean your equipment with denatured alcohol only. Rubbing alcohol just won't cut the ink.

My dual action airbrush sprays ink without pulling the trigger back.

Your needle is most likely stuck in the open position. Remove the back cover of the airbrush and pull back on the trigger. Make sure the needle is moving in and out as you move the trigger. If the needle isn't moving then it's stuck in the airbrush. Loosen the fitting on the rear of the airbrush and pull the needle out. Clean it thoroughly with denatured alcohol and re-insert it. Use only finger presser to seat the needle into the tip. Now tighten the needle holding fitting and try moving it with the trigger. This should solve the problem.

Do I have to use a dual action airbrush?

Not at all! The advantages to a dual action is that you can use it as an air gun to blow off excess powder by pressing the trigger down and not pulling back. You can also draw very detailed lines by controlling the amount of air and ink coming out of the airbrush. If all you are doing is spraying stencils and not doing a lot of blending and fading, you can get by with a single action but make sure you get a quality single action airbrush. A cheap import is never going to be as good as a quality built Paasche, Badger, or Iwata airbrush.

Do I really need a fancy airbrush?

Well that really depends on the level of frustration you can live with. A quality airbrush with adequate air pressure will solve the majority of problems that you will encounter. An airbrush is a tool and when you use the right tool for the job the outcome is always better. There are a ton of Chinese imitation airbrushes on the market. The most copied airbrush is the Iwata Eclipse. If you are looking at an airbrush that is sleek and silver and it doesn't say Iwata on the side it is most likely a Chinese import. These airbrushes can be ordered with any name you want printed on them. Some of the more common imports are Master and Titan but there are a lot more. Also, never buy an airbrush from Harbor Freight Tools.

Do I have to buy a Paasche, Iwata, or Badger?

No, but unless you are planning a onetime event, you should. You can always resell a quality airbrush on Ebay. We recommend the Paasche VL because it's the best value for the money for doing airbrush tattoos. It's reliable and you can buy parts in practically every city in America. This is why we sell the Paasche VL on our website for less than anyone else.

What about a compressor? Which one should I get?

The basic specifications on a compressor are that it should deliver close to 1.5 CFM @ 60 PSI. Make sure to check the specs on any airbrush compressor that you are looking at and if it doesn't meet these minimums, don't buy it. Practically any compressor you buy at Lowe's or Home Depot will more than meet these specs but most of them are just too noisy. Check the specs! The right airbrush and the right compressor will solve most of your problems.

I heard that denatured alcohol will ruin my airbrush. Is this true?

Absolutely not! Denatured alcohol is 100% pure alcohol and will not damage your airbrush as long as you don't pour it in the air inlet. Only allow liquid in the liquid port and only allow air in the air port. An easy way to thoroughly clean an airbrush is to drop the airbrush in a small glass with the nozzle pointed at the bottom of the glass and the tail end of the airbrush sticking up. Fill the glass with denatured alcohol until the alcohol covers only the air inlet port and let it stand for a few hours. Remove the airbrush and blow air through the gun. This technique has salvaged many airbrushes destined for replacement.