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Equipment Requirements and Suggestions

There is an abundance of airbrush equipment on the market offered by an abundance of distributors. With so many options, it can be easy to get confused. We'll try to bring a little focus to the equipment confusion and offer a few suggestions for the temporary tattoo business.

The airbrush has been around for a long time. Some of the first devices were introduced in the late 1800's. Even the new multi-color airbrushes are not really new. There are a number of patents that were filed for this concept around 1920. Basically, the humble airbrush has been around for a very long time. Over the years, we've learned to make some things better and some other things a bit more cost effective. Remember that a higher price doesn't necessarily mean higher quality and a lower price doesn't necessarily mean lower quality. There are a number of imported airbrushes that offer the same quality as the more expensive units. There are also many imported airbrushes that should have never been made.

The most important feature in an airbrush that is used in the temporary tattoo business is speed. How fast can you spray a quality tattoo, collect the money, and move on to the next customer. The airbrush tattoo business is just that... a business and a business needs to make money to stay in business. Granted, it can be a lot of fun, but a lot of fun and two dollars will barely get you a cup of coffee.

Regardless of what anybody tells you, the truth is that you need a bottom feed, dual action airbrush with a minimum of a 0.5mm to 0.8mm nozzle/needle. The bottom feed gun gives you the ability to load up a gun with a single color and forget about it. The ideal situation is to load your most popular color, usually black, in a gun and leave it loaded for the day. A dual action airbrush gives you ultimate flexibility. You can apply full air and full ink and lay down a single color in record time or you can exercise artistic control and apply subtle colors for blends and fades. Using a 0.5mm to 0.8mm nozzle/needle assembly give you the ability to take full advantage of the dual action lever, while giving you the ability to spray just about any ink on the market. Olive Branch Skin Care airbrush tattoo ink requires the 0.8mm nozzle.

Compressors are another point of confusion for many people. The ideal compressor will be able to deliver up to 30 - 40psi continuously to the airbrush while spraying. Just about any compressor can generate 30 - 40 psi, but maintaining that pressure while spraying is where many lower cost units fail to hold up. Keep in mind that you need air pressure and air flow. Most small, low cost airbrush compressors are just not able to produce enough air alone. However, if you add an air tank in series with the airbrush, the compressor can fill the tank and the tank can deliver the air to the gun and the compressor can replenish the tank while you are doing prep work.

A final point is whenever possible, have a spare. Keep a spare airbrush, nozzle, needle, compressor, hose, and anything else that could potentially shut you down in the middle of an event. It takes a lot of effort to setup for an event, don't let an equipment failure ruin your day.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you and good luck.

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