

Beginners airbrushing tips - Richard Crossley

Use acrylic paints and acrylic thinners for best results. Acrylic paint is much easier to clean from your airbrush than enamel or cellulose and dry paint residue in an airbrush is the main reason for poor results. Tamiya paints are recommended, thinned with Tamiya's X-20A acrylic thinner.

Spray at a low pressure, particularly on smaller models or when using masks. This will result in less over-spray and less chance of flooding the paint. 12psi should work OK.

When spraying with masks, 'mist' the paint on. If the paint looks wet, too much paint has been applied and it could creep under the mask.

Websites such as **dafont.com** are handy for finding different computer fonts. 'AMARILLO USAF' is a good match to the font used on US military types since the 1920s.

When spraying a larger component, like a wing for instance, it is a good idea to spray the edges first as its easy to forget these later on.

Avoid very cheap airbrushes, they can give inconsistent results

Yellow Low-Tack Frog Tape is a cost effective masking tape, and is available in large 36mm wide rolls from DIY outlets. Tamiya produce their own masking tape, which is superior, but more costly.

Visit the **airbrushes.com** website to see a full range of airbrush related products. I use a trigger-grip style airbrush called a Neo/Iwata TRN-2. It's quite costly at £150, but a lovely airbrush. The Sparmax Max-4 is also a good quality product and at around £50 is good value. Medea airbrush cleaner is recommended, comes in various size bottles, and is available from the above website.

Compressors range in price from £50 to £400. Having a tank means that the compressor motor will not be running all the time, but the compressor will be larger. It is possible to find a compressor with tank, and an airbrush on ebay for around £65, although I can't vouch for the quality.



Frog Tape



Tamiya acrylic paints and thinners are easy to use



Medea airbrush cleaner works well with acrylic paints

USAF

(see dafont.com)

