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Iwata Medea Airbrush Cleaning Accessories

If you want an airbrush to work properly, it has to be kept meticulously clean.

A few years ago, a friend asked me to teach him how to use his new airbrush. He was a novice who had just started in the hobby of scale modeling. I spent a couple of hours with him, teaching him about the airbrush, how it worked, and how to use it properly. The very first thing we did, before anything else, was to disassemble the airbrush and thoroughly clean it. I emphasized that good cleaning of his airbrush would help him to produce the best paint finishes possible.

Within a few weeks, he had become frustrated and decided to clean his airbrush by soaking it overnight in lacquer thinner. This ruined the internal seals and rendered the airbrush completely useless. He ordered a new one, and I loaned him one of my spare airbrushes to use while waiting for his to arrive, but only after I made him promise to clean it correctly and not abuse it.

A couple of months later, he returned my airbrush and said he had given up completely on modeling. That night I decided I should look the airbrush over. When I opened the box, I found the trigger was stuck solid and wouldn't move. A quick inspection told me that the airbrush had not been cleaned and the paint inside had set up as hard as a rock. It took well over an hour to get my airbrush disassembled and cleaned well enough that it could be used again.

The new Iwata Airbrush Cleaning Kit includes everything necessary for a thorough and complete cleaning session. The obvious starting point is the illustrated instructions which explain the use of all of the products in the kit. The instructions follow a step-by-step process for cleaning a gravity-fed and a siphon-fed airbrush with captioned photos for each step. The first part explains the process for cleaning between color changes, then follows through with



comprehensive cleaning steps for when a painting session has concluded.

The kit contains a package of Artool Studio Wipes, which are used to wipe out the color cup, wipe the needle clean, and clean the exterior of the airbrush. And these wipes can be used to clean any tools or surface that might have a few stray paint drops.

Also included is a one-ounce bottle of Medea Airbrush Cleaner. The cleaner should be sprayed through the airbrush for initial cleaning, as well as soaking the needle cap, nozzle head cap, and nozzle to remove any residual paint. If paint has dried in the airbrush, any appropriate size of the three Extra Small Cleaning Brushes can be dipped in the airbrush cleaner and used to scrub passages free of debris. If cleaning just after spraying, one of the Pipe Cleaners can be dipped in the cleaner and used to wipe residual paint from the passages.

The Iwata Nozzle Wrench is an excellent addition to the kit. It fits all Iwata airbrush nozzles, except for the Eclipse series and the NEO TRN2 Trigger Airbrush. With a knurled anodized aluminum handle, the nozzle wrench operates more like a screwdriver than a wrench. The linear design limits the torque which greatly reduces the chance of over-tightening and damaging the nozzle or airbrush body.

While the nozzle is out of the airbrush, it would be a good idea to check the overall condition with the Iwata LED Magnifier. The Magnifier has two lenses, one at 30x and one at 60x, with extremely bright illumination. The nozzle can be seen in crisp, clear magnification which allows it to be carefully inspected for damage such as dents, splits, or flaring of the end. If there is the slightest bend in the tip of the needle, it shows up in gigantic proportions through the lens of the Magnifier.



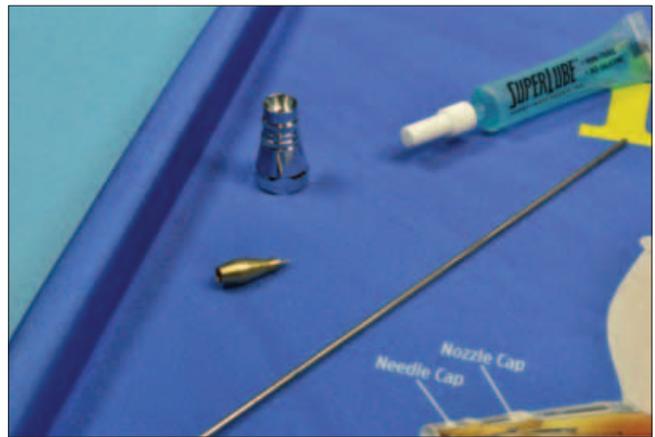
The Airbrush Cleaning Kit has everything needed.



Airbrush Cleaner can spray solvent from any position.

Topping off the kit is a small tube of Iwata Super Lube. Super Lube can be applied to the moving parts of the airbrush to keep them from binding or sticking. Applied regularly to the packing, it will keep the trigger action operating freely and smoothly. Applied to the needle, Super Lube will prevent tip-dry and aid the flow of the paint. With no petroleum or silicone components, Super Lube will not react with water-based acrylic paints or with solvent-based lacquers or enamels.

With all of these items packaged conveniently in a plastic carrying case, the whole is indeed greater than the sum of its parts. Any artist, modeler, or crafter that uses



Super Lube should be applied to all of the airbrush's moving parts to keep them from binding or sticking. so that it will stay securely in place while being used. An added feature is the raised edge around the entire mat, which is only ½ inch so it is not in the way, but it works quite well to keep parts from rolling off the workbench and onto the floor. The Iwata Cleaning Mat is a unique and invaluable tool that has the capability to have an immediate impact on any hobbyist who uses an airbrush.

Spray bottles are fairly common on every hobbyists' workbench of every genre. They are quite useful, especially for cleaning fluids, or simply water. While spray bottles can be used for a number of tasks, they tend to have certain limitations and most can only be used in the upright position. But, this situation is about to change.

The Medea Airbrush Cleaner 360 Nozzle Spray Bottle is unique, and comes filled with 16 ounces of Medea Airbrush Cleaner. The spray bottle can be inverted, turned completely upside-down, or positioned sideways and it still sprays. The nozzle can be adjusted from a fine mist to a full solid stream to fit the need and situation. The stream can be used for a power flush, just turn the gravity-fed airbrush upside down and spray full force to rinse the color cup. This could also be done with siphon-fed airbrush by spraying the fluid into the siphon attachment. Of course, a fine-to-medium mist is appropriate for spraying the cleaner onto work surfaces, art tools, or airbrush exterior surfaces.

When it comes to airbrushes, it is true that cleanliness is next to Godliness and Iwata Medea has given airbrush fans the world over a new set of angels wings with its airbrush cleaning accessories. **HM**



A handy addition to any modelers workstation is the cleaning mat which keeps parts from getting lost.

an airbrush would benefit from owning and using the Iwata Airbrush Cleaning Kit.

Anyone that has ever cleaned an airbrush has invariably dropped a part at one time or another. Some detail airbrushes have nozzles that are tiny and easily slip through the fingers. These always seem to be lost forever when dropped. Even large nozzles, which are smooth and cone-shaped can slip away like a wet bar of soap after they are dipped cleaner. Airbrush replacement parts, especially paint nozzles, can be expensive to replace, and yes, I speak from experience. Iwata may have just solved this problem for all of us.

Made of a soft resilient material, the Iwata Cleaning Mat is covered in a soft fabric, which helps to reduce any bounce when parts are dropped. It has a non-slip backing

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