

Keith Pruitt

Badger 200 Series Airbrushes

Sometimes basic just works better

An airbrush is one of the most versatile tools that any hobbyist can own. Whether it is used in model railroading, war gaming, scale modeling or crafts, a good quality airbrush can add a greater dimension to the hobbyists skill levels, and improve the overall quality of almost any project. Badger Airbrush has an extensive line of high quality, affordable airbrushes that can be used by both amateur and professional artists to produce outstanding results.

The Badger 200 series has two airbrushes that will work quite well for craft projects. The Badger 200NH is a general purpose, single action airbrush with a medium size tip, while the Badger 200 Detail has a fine tip which allows increased control and the precise paint placement necessary for fine detail work. A single action airbrush uses the same trigger action for air and paint, with the amount of paint controlled by loosening or tightening the needle control knob on the back of the handle. Both of these airbrushes are siphon-fed, and can use either a bottle assembly for a large amount of paint or a cup for a smaller amount.

Crafts cover a wide variety of subjects, including everything from small projects like lapel pins all the way up to wood-crafts. To for this evaluation a birdhouse was selected as an enjoyable craft project.

Birdhouses are common projects that crafters finish for future sale, personal home decoration, or even for use by our feathered friends.

A simple wooden birdhouse requires little, if any, preparatory work, perhaps nothing more than some sanding, but for a more rustic look the rough edges can add character to the finished product. Since wood is a porous material, a good primer coat will help to prevent a "splotchy" look to the color paint coats. This particular birdhouse has a double slanted roof, reminiscent of a barn, which actually inspired the color choices. Badger Airbrush offers its ModelFlex line of acrylic paints, with an extensive color palette, that are perfect for this type of project. The ModelFlex paint set #1701 has just the right



colors needed to paint the barn. In addition, ModelFlex paint cleans up easily with ModelFlex Cleaner or soap and water, has excellent adhesion and is available individually or in sets.

Using the Badger 200NH with the bottle assembly, an overall coat of Reefer White covers the coat of rattle-can primer. In addition to representing the white trim on the barn, the white undercoat allows the color coats to be more vibrant. After thoroughly cleaning the airbrush and bottle, and masking the white trim areas on the birdhouse, a coat of Light Tuscan Oxide Red worked well for the side panels.

After the base color was dry, the Badger 200 Detail was used to spray Dark Tuscan Oxide Red around the taped areas to simulate shadows around the trim. The



The Badger 200 Series of airbrushes is a perfect choice for the hobbyist or crafter.

large areas are masked, and Reefer Gray is mixed with Engine Black to produce a darker gray for the shingle color. The Badger 200NH, again with the bottle assembly, is used to paint the roof area. Once the gray paint has dried, a straightedge was used for the horizontal shingle lines, which were sprayed with Engine Black using the Badger 200 Detail. The vertical shingle lines are done freehand with the same airbrush. While the airbrush is loaded with Engine Black, this is the best time to paint the door and windows. Neatness is not really con-

sidered a necessity for this project, as the finished piece will be used as a folkart style home decoration.

Even though these are basic single action airbrushes, the Badger 200 Series works great and continue to demonstrate the quality of the brand. Just one of the many types and styles of airbrushes produced by Badger, the 200NH and the 200 Detail are excellent choices for either beginners or experienced painters.

Practice is always beneficial to improving skills and technique, and the Badger 200 Airbrushes are easy to use, simple to clean and maintain, affordably priced, and are an outstanding addition to the tools used by hobbyists, crafters, and scale modelers alike. **HM**