

Keith Pruitt

Neo for Iwata Airbrushes

High quality at entry level prices.

Most model kits include painting instructions, with specific colors for the various parts used during the assembly stages, as well as overall color choices for the final finish. I remember when I first learned, almost thirty years ago, about airbrushes being used when I bought a scale modeling magazine.

Filled with photographs of superbly-crafted models, I was totally engrossed in the realistic finishes and soon discovered that most, if not all, of the models had been painted with airbrushes. As a young husband and father, with a somewhat new business, the downside for me was the cost. I had to make monthly rent payments, car payments, as well as buy groceries and diapers, all of which were priorities over a hobby-related expense.



The Quick Disconnect Set allows airbrushes to be changed without having to turn off the compressor. Still, I gazed at all the airbrush ads in that magazine, and hoped that one day, I could actually own one of the magical instruments.

Iwata-Medea has a relatively new line of airbrushes, which had they been available several years ago, would have significantly altered my personal story. The Neo for Iwata series of airbrushes are produced with the same exceptional quality for which Iwata has long been known, but are affordably priced to make them an excellent choice for entry level users, yet still having the quality and capability to be used by master modelers in creating masterpieces in scale.

The Neo for Iwata CN is a gravity fed, double action traditional airbrush. The airbrush set includes two interchangeable color cups, one holding 1/3 ounce and the other only 1/16 ounce. The airbrush can be



used even without a cup, by placing just a few drops of paint in the reservoir where the cups are attached. The .35mm nozzle/needle size will allow excellent coverage when working with small to medium sized parts, or scale areas such as subassemblies on small scale models.

For large areas, on larger scales, the airbrush of choice would be the Neo BCN. The BCN is a siphon-fed version, and comes with a .50mm nozzle and needle which is capable of better coverage over larger areas.

The Neo TRN1 is a pistol grip, gravity-fed airbrush, also with the .35 nozzle/needle combination. The TRN1 can use lower working air pressures which keeps overspray to a minimum while allowing for more precise control of paint application. Also like the Neo CN, the TRN1 includes two interchangeable color cups, but the trigger operation differs from a traditional airbrush. While a more traditional airbrush involves pressing a



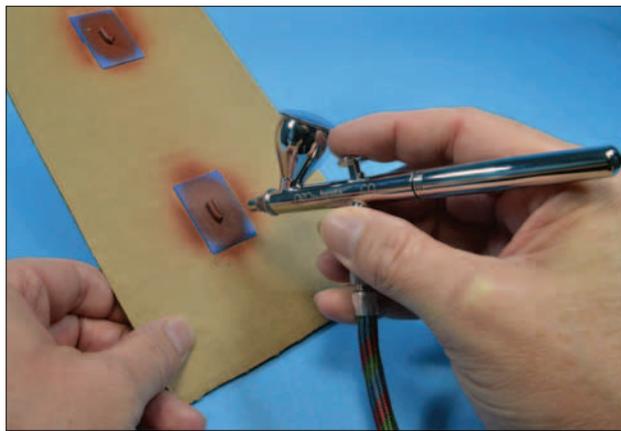
The Neo TRN1 is a pistol grip, gravity-fed airbrush that can use low pressure to control overspray. top mounted trigger downward then pulling back for paint spray, the TRN1 incorporates a pistol grip trigger that is pulled back for air pressure then pulled farther for paint release.

This can be a more intuitive operating mechanism, allowing constant and consistent air pressure while controlling the flow of paint through the airbrush. The trigger pull has a very solid feel at the point of paint application, which will prevent accidental paint spray. Like the CN, it is designed for primarily small to medium surface area paint coverage for smaller scales, or perhaps overall base coats on larger models.

The Neo TRN2 is very similar to the TRN1, but with a side-feed paint flow system. Side-feed has the advantage of removing the paint reservoir from the line of sight. It features the larger .50mm nozzle/needles combination, and two large color cups in 1/4 ounce and 1/2 ounce sizes, as well as an attachment for a paint bottle. The TRN2 is clearly designed for painting large areas, in the process of priming or applying base color coats on larger scale models. Having the same pistol grip trigger design as the TRN1, it has all of the attributes, as well as the line of sight advantage.

All of the airbrushes in the Neo series are easily cleaned, using the standard customary practices of flushing between color changes and partial-to-complete disassembly for thorough parts cleaning when painting sessions are completed.

A really neat accessory for use with these airbrushes is the Iwata Quickfit Quick Disconnect Set. Since many experienced scale modelers will own more than one airbrush, with the additional ones dedicated for a variety of painting purposes, they will change them during painting sessions depending on the order or area that they are



The Neo CN uses a .35mm nozzle and needle combination making it ideal for use on small parts.

painting. For example, a modeler may use a TRN2 to apply the base coat of flat white to the landing gear of an airplane, then switch to the CN to apply the paint in the interior of the landing gear bays.

The Quick Disconnect Set allows Iwata airbrushes to be changed out quickly and easily. The set includes the female hose adaptor as well as the male adaptor for the airbrush.

Once the adaptors are screwed into place in the airhose and on the airbrush, they are ready to use. The male adaptors are also sold separately, so multiple airbrushes can be equipped with them and are ready to be changed in seconds. When disconnected, the hose attachment automatically cuts off the airflow completely, so the compressor does not have to be turned off and the pressure released before changing to the next airbrush.

With the Iwata Quick Disconnect Set and Quick Disconnect Adaptors, several airbrushes can be used in one session. The Neo for Iwata series of airbrushes, along with the Quickfit Quick Disconnect Set and Quick Disconnect Adaptors, will make it easier for modelers to build an arsenal of high quality, affordable airbrushes for creating models like those found in magazines. **HM**

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