

AIRBRUSHING WITH JO SONJA & ATELIER

Airbrush paint must have the correct viscosity to facilitate it flowing through the airbrush equipment. The viscosity varies as does the equipment.

The pigment within the paint must be finely ground and enough retarder present to prevent the paint from blocking the gun.

There are 2 options when choosing paint for airbrushing, either the artist purchases a quality paint designed for airbrushing, or the artist can choose an artist's general purpose paint such as Atelier or Jo Sonja, which is then adapted with a medium for airbrushing purposes.

ACHIEVING CORRECT CONSISTENCY

Thinning artists' acrylics with water results in the paint becoming diluted and weak. Adding Atelier Liquifying Medium to Atelier or Jo Sonja's Flow Medium to Jo Sonja's paints will reduce the viscosity of the paint, allowing it to move easily through the airbrush with the least possible paint dilution, and allowing it to maintain its colour intensity.

Since the user is adapting "painting" consistency paint to an airbrush function, some skill and experimentation will be required initially. The best procedure is to mix colour with the flow medium and spray until you can judge when the consistency is correct. This formula can then be duplicated for other colours. For Jo Sonja, most airbrush artists use 3 parts flow medium to one part paint. This ratio will need to be altered for Atelier paints – experiment with ratios to determine the consistency that is appropriate for your equipment.

Once you have mastered creating the correct consistency for your particular situation, you will be able to achieve results as good as those specialist airbrush paints at the cost of a bottle of Flow Control Medium, without fumes and messy clean up.

MANAGEMENT

Weather: If weather conditions are dry, add 10% Atelier or Jo Sonja Retarder Medium to your paint mix. This will prevent drying at the tip of your brush.

Clean up: As Atelier and Jo Sonja are both water soluble, wet paint can be removed from hard surfaces with a damp cloth. Wet paint on absorbent surfaces and dry paint can be removed with cold soapy water. **Please note however that some pigments stain certain porous surfaces.**