

Instructions for Airbrush Tattoo Application

- A. Set your CO2 tank or compressor to spray at around 20-25 P.S.I. If using a compressor, be sure that a moisture trap is in place and that the air tank has been thoroughly drained of excess water. If you are using CO2 tank, ensure that it is properly secured with bungies to the back side of the Tribal Ink Three Tier Bamboo Work Station.
- B. Thoroughly shake the Tribal Ink body paints before each use. Fill the one ounce spray bottles to the halfway mark. You may also dilute Tribal Ink paints by filling bottle approximately to the ¼ mark, and add 90% isopropyl alcohol until you reach the half way mark. This is a one to one dilution.
- C. Prep the area of the skin that is to be tattooed with a cotton round that has been dampened with isopropyl alcohol (70% is fine for this task). Scrub the area thoroughly to remove oils. Give the isopropyl alcohol a moment to evaporate.
- D. Make sure that you position yourself and your customer in such a manner that you are within reach for your other airbrushes. Make proper use of foot stools when tattooing ankles, so that you are always within reach of your paint bar and other tools.
- E. Apply the stencil to the area that is to be tattooed. The proper technique is to hold the stencil in place with one hand, spreading your index and middle finger apart to form a “V” shape. Focus on holding the area of the stencil that is within this “V” shape flat to the skin. This technique will prove itself to be very effective when it is not possible to hold the stencil from behind while keeping all areas of the stencil laying flat against the skin. By mastering this method you will not need to resort to the use of “adhesive backed” stencils or messy spray tack.
- F. Take hold of your airbrush with your free hand and position it so that it is about three inches in front of the stencil. Keeping your airbrush in an upright position, push down on the trigger with your index finger. If you have a dual action airbrush you will push down and pull back on the trigger simultaneously. Doing so will allow you to moderate the flow of paint as you pull back on the trigger.
- G. As the paint starts to flow, begin to move the airbrush along with the cuts in the stencil. If the cuts are horizontal, you will want to move your airbrush from left to right. If the cuts are vertical, you will want to move your airbrush up and down.
- H. Coat the exposed areas of the skin (within the cuts of the stencil) with just one coat of paint. Over coating will not cause the tattoo to last longer, and it will hinder the drying process. If you have over coated the area you can dry the paint out by spraying the area with air only. You can accomplish this by pushing down on the trigger only (in this case do not pull back on the trigger).
- I. If you wish to create a multi colored tattoo, you will simply reach over and place your airbrush onto the Tribal Ink bamboo paint bar and reach for the next airbrush (color) you wish to use. Add whatever colors are desired to the section you are working on before moving on to the next area.
- J. Once you have completed the area within the open “V”, gently “walk” your fingers over to the next area of the stencil you wish to paint. You will want to overlap each area slightly. Repeat steps 4 through 9 until your tattoo is complete.
- K. After you have completed the tattoo, remove the stencil and view the tattoo to ensure that it is up to standard. It may be necessary to realign the stencil to make corrections or use a Q-tip dampened with isopropyl alcohol to touch up the tattoo. Once you are satisfied with your work of art, immediately replace your stencil into the proper file of your Tribal Ink Easy File Organizer.
- L. Remove any overspray around the tattoo using a cotton round that has been dampened with isopropyl alcohol. Be careful not to overly dampen the cotton round as you do not want the alcohol to run down onto your freshly painted tattoo.
- M. Finally, dust the tattoo with a light amount of setting powder (such as corn starch based baby powder. Remove any excess powder from the areas of the skin surrounding your tattoo.