

MICROLUX PAINT TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

MicroLux Hobby Acrylics were developed especially for airbrush application, but they can be applied with a paint brush as well. The formula contains a modern water-based acrylic resin with properties that were impossible to obtain in now-obsolete water- and solvent-based hobby paints. The durability, hardness and covering power of MicroLux hobby acrylics are far superior to any other known acrylics designed for airbrush application.

Formula: The pigments used for airbrush colors are ground to the finest possible consistency to avoid obstruction of airbrush valves and nozzles. The revolutionary milling process of the pigments used in these formulas gives the model painter technical assurance and the finest texture when applying colors to a model, and produces superior quality finishes when applying colors with a brush without obscuring minuscule details.

Color Range: The colors have been very carefully blended to provide the model painter with the choices most frequently needed. Colors can be mixed with one another, and/or diluted with water or alcohol.

Surfaces: MicroLux Hobby Acrylics adhere exceptionally well to all surfaces. The adhesion to resin models, plastics, steel and white metal is extraordinary. A primer is generally not needed; if the object to be painted is very dark, a simple base coat of white or gray will help obtain a uniform final color.

Application: Shake paint well before use. MicroLux Hobby Acrylics can be dispensed straight into the airbrush color cup, and colors can be mixed right in the cup if so desired. If your compressor has a regulator, start with a pressure of 25 psi, and adjust up or down as required for a smooth spray. MicroLux Hobby Acrylics dry almost instantly when applied with an airbrush, but non-porous surfaces, such as metal or plastics, may take more time...perhaps an hour, or up to overnight, depending on the temperature and humidity of the room. When thoroughly dry, the coating can be overpainted with washes, filters and glazes, or drybrushed and/or over-painted with any kind of color. For paint brush application, unscrew the bottle top from the 2 oz bottle; for the 17 ml (1/2 oz) bottle, use a pair of pliers or a rag to pry out the eye-dropper tip (it can be replaced later); however, we recommend you use a small bottle cap or cup to hold a few drops of paint dispensed from the dropper-top bottle. This will prevent surface particles from contaminating the paint remaining inside the bottle.

Clear Coats: The clear gloss, satin and flat coatings were created especially for airbrush techniques. These new clear coats dry completely in 5 – 10 minutes without leaving a tacky film. They can be applied straight from the bottle or diluted with water. In many cases, one coat is sufficient. For more protection or gloss, use several thin applications for best results. Clear coats mix perfectly with MicroLux colors to produce different textures and tones that can be more vivid and luminous; the resulting surface is very smooth and satin-like, and dry to a very tough and resistant film. Once protected with a clear coat, MicroLux Hobby Acrylics can be overpainted with solvent-based enamels or oil colors. They withstand cleaning with turpentine and even a light wash with alcohol. The resistance to abrasion is superior to any other water-based acrylic.

Clean Up: Be sure to clean the airbrush within 5 minutes (sooner is better) after using colors or clear coats to avoid paint drying inside the airbrush. Our suggestion is to have a bucket of water nearby and, when you're done spraying, simply dunk the entire airbrush...your hand and all...into the water and spray under water to clean out the airbrush. Agitate the airbrush under the water for thorough cleaning and rinsing. Blow out excess water before refilling the color cup with a new color. Change the water between paint sessions for the best cleaning each and every time.