



Airbrush Tattoo Instructions – Adhesive Stencils

1. Select a stencil



Cover the top of the stencil with applicator tape as shown

2. Clean the Skin



Clean the area of skin where you want to apply the design with Isopropyl rubbing alcohol (70%) which is available at most drugstores.

3. Applying the stencil



Remove the Backing tape from the stencil, keep it on a flat surface as we will need it later

Carefully place the tattoo, excessive body hair could be a problem

Remove the applicator Tape. Store it away for the next tattoo as each piece can be used many times

4. Loading the Ink

Always start from the background color and move to the foreground. Select a color and shake the bottle of Airbrush ink well. If the ink is thick dilute it with water. Pour desired amount of paint into your top feed airbrush or bottom-feed bottle.



5. Equipment Setup

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.

6. Holding the stencil

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 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 in the future. Ask us about non adhesive stencils.

7. Holding and using the airbrush

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.

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.

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).

Spray color lightly through the stencil (approximately 3-4 inches away from skin). Apply as many light coats as necessary at achieve the desired color intensity. (*tip: avoid spraying too close to the skin or too heavily, this will cause the paint to bleed or will cause overspray which will ruin the design).

Apply solid colors or blend colors to create your custom design. If you want to achieve an outline, lightly spray black around the edge of the stencil.

8. Cleaning Up the Tattoo

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.

9. Remove stencil



Remove the stencil and stick it back onto the backing tape so that it can be reused.

10. Set the Tattoo



Set the ink by applying a light coat of ordinary talc (baby) powder.

Clean Up

Run water or alcohol through brush to clean between colors and after completion. Pat stencil clean with a paper towel and alcohol, be careful not to wipe as this may damage the smaller, weaker areas of the stencil.