

**GEEK
& CO.
CRAFTS!**

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

AIRBRUSH T-SHIRT MAKEOVER



THAMES & KOSMOS



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SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING.

Not suitable for children under 3 years of age. There is a risk of choking due to small parts that may be swallowed or inhaled. This kit contains sharp needles. Do not injure yourself! Do not ingest fabric paint. Avoid contact with eyes and mouth. Do not inhale spray mist.

Save the packaging and instructions. They contain important information.

Dear Parents,

With this kit, your child will be able to create his or her own original, one-of-a-kind T-shirts. Even though working with the airbrush tool is not difficult, you should offer assistance to your child. Your help with cutting out the spray paint template will be especially welcome.

Handling needles and thread, particularly sewing on the sequins, won't exactly be easy at first. Read through the details of the manual together with your child, and be prepared to stand by your child's side with help and advice. With a little bit of practice, the sewing will soon become easy enough. You will still want to check and make sure that all the appliqué, buttons, and sequins are sewn on tight.

For the work surface, a well-lit, sturdy table with an easy-to-clean surface will be suitable. In addition, you should protect the work surface and

the floor with old newspapers, in case any of the spray misses its target. Your child should wear suitable old clothes while working, such as a smock or old shirt, and should wash his or her hands after spraying and painting.

If possible, the pieces of clothing that have been decorated with fabric pens should be ironed before washing. Then, they can be washed along with similar colors according to the manufacturer's instructions. Textiles that have been decorated with sequins should be washed by hand. Do not iron buttons and appliqué pieces.

Do not let the kit materials get into the hands of small children!

**We hope you and
your child have a
lot of fun spraying,
painting, and sewing!**

KIT CONTENTS



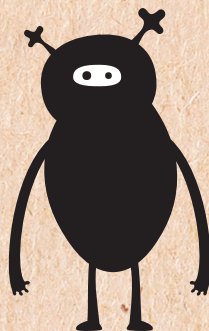
- 1 | Airbrush tool
- 2 | Fabric pens (3)
- 3 | Needle
- 4 | Thread
- 5 | Sequins (4 grams)

- 6 | Green plaid buttons (2)
- 7 | Red-and-white-dotted buttons (2)
- 8 | White buttons with patterns (2)
- 9 | Piece of material (100% cotton printed fabric)

YOU WILL ALSO NEED: T-shirts in bright colors, old newspapers, soft lead pencil, scissors, thin cardboard, ruler, glue stick, plastic bag, other materials, twine

Dear Designers,

There are millions of T-shirts in the world. Red ones, yellow ones, green ones, striped ones, ones with polka dots — the list could go on forever. There is one thing, however, that all T-shirts have in common: Not a single one is as unique as you. But now that's going to change! With this craft kit, you will be able to design your own T-shirt exactly the way you want it to be. Let your creativity run free, and show the world what a brilliant designer you are!



PART 1

NOW LET'S START!

The first draft

How do you want your T-shirt to look? Why not take a little tour of discovery and see what kinds of ideas you can come up with for your very own design?

On your tour, try approaching the question from various angles. For example, ask your friends to name **three objects** that they would use to describe you. This will certainly generate lots of exciting stories that you can use to create a sketch for your own cool T-shirt.



Or, you could try going to your own bedroom, closing your eyes, and **spinning around three times**. The first thing that you see when you open your eyes could be turned into a T-shirt idea. Just be sure it's not a blank wall.

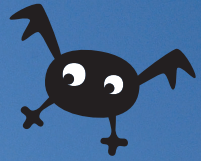
Of course, you could also turn **one of your hobbies**, your favorite animal, or your favorite ice cream flavor into a sketch for your T-shirt. The possibilities are endless. Just keep your eyes open, and you will soon have lots of ideas.



Once you have made your decision, try drawing your design on the white T-shirt printed on the opposite page!

Also, try taking the materials out of the kit box and thinking about how you might want to use them for your design.

Let's start! Draw your brand new design on this T-shirt.



PART 2

GET READY To SPRAY

Newspaper model

You will need:

White or light-colored T-shirt, old newspaper, soft lead pencil

Here's how:

1 Find an old newspaper and spread it open. Lay your T-shirt on top of it. Trace the outline of the T-shirt onto the newspaper with a soft lead pencil, and cut out your newspaper T-shirt with a pair of scissors.

2 You can now get as crazy as you like with this T-shirt model. Arrange the buttons and sequins (included in this kit), or try drawing your first ideas for the patterns you would later like to spray or sew on.

Once you are pleased with the newspaper draft of your T-shirt, you can use it as a model for your actual T-shirt.

1



2



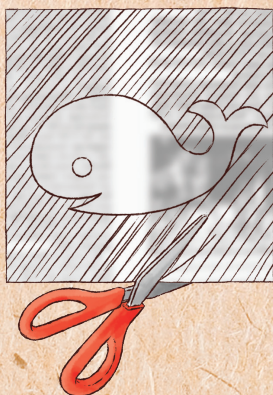
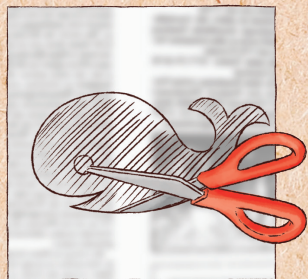
Templates for spraying

You will need:

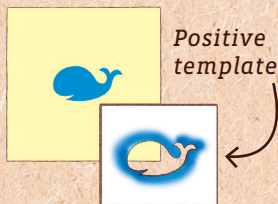
Your newspaper T-shirt, *thin cardboard*, *glue stick*, *scissors*

Here's how:

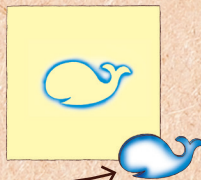
- 1 For spraying with your airbrush tool, you can make either a positive template or a negative template. With a positive template, you will use the spray to completely fill the interior of the design, while a negative template is used to create an outline image around the design's borders.
- 2 Start by cutting out your pre-drawn design, leaving a large border of about 10 cm all around the edge.
- 3 Glue the design to a suitable piece of thin cardboard, such as the backing of a drawing pad.
- 4 For a positive template, you will have to cut out the inside of your design. In other words, the cardboard piece will have a hole or opening in the shape of your design. For a negative template, cut away the cardboard along the drawing's outline.



1



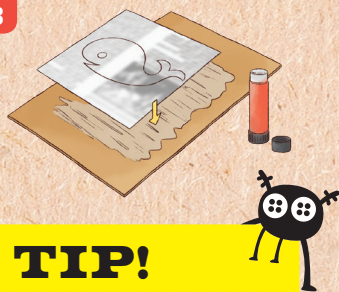
Negative template



2



3



TIP!

If you cut along the outline of the drawing to create a positive template, you can use the cut-away portion as a negative template as long as you cut it away in one neat piece.

Preparing cloth designs

Instead of spraying on a design, you can try cutting one out of cloth and sewing it onto your T-shirt. The name for that is *appliqué* (pronounced “ap-li-KAY”).

You will need:

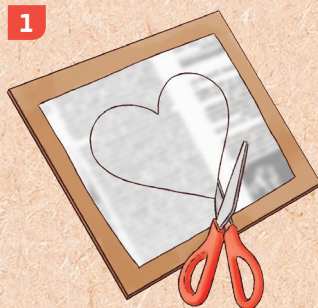
Colored scrap of material, your newspaper shirt, thin cardboard, glue stick, soft lead pencil, other materials, scissors

Here's how:

- 1 To make a template for your appliqué, proceed just as you did with your spray templates. Just be sure not to make the template larger than the piece of material that you want to use.

Start by cutting roughly around the design, and then glue it to a piece of thin cardboard and cut it neatly along the outline.

- 2 Place your completed template on the back side of the material and use a soft lead pencil to trace its outline.
- 3 Carefully cut out your fabric design with a pair of scissors.



TIP!

It's easy to make appliqué pieces out of leftover material scraps or sections of worn-out clothing. Ask your parents what you are allowed to use. There will certainly be something suitable in the house. What is important is that the fabrics not be too stiff or too soft — otherwise they will be hard to sew on.



PART 3

DESIGNING YOUR T-SHIRT

Time to start spraying!

Now it's finally time to pick up your paints and start spraying.

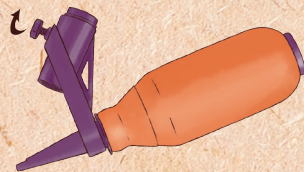
You will need:

Airbrush tool, 3 fabric pens, your templates, *old newspaper*, white or light-colored T-shirt, plastic bag

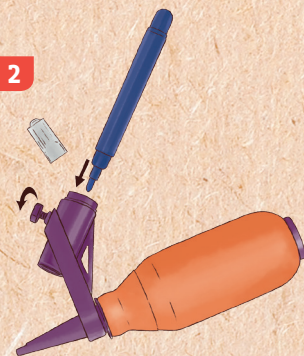
Here's how:

- 1 First, loosen the screw on the airbrush tool.
- 2 Grab one of the three pens, remove its cap, and push the pen through the tube-shaped attachment. Keep pushing until the tip is just in front of the blowing tube. Fix the pen in place by tightening the screw again.
- 3 Before you start spraying your actual T-shirt, first practice a little on a sheet of newspaper. That will help you figure out how much force you have to apply to get the desired effect.

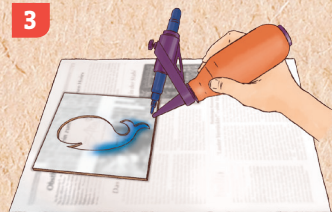
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4 Next, spread out a plastic bag inside your T-shirt, so the paint doesn't penetrate through to the back. Now you can get started. If you're using a positive template, simply lay it onto the T-shirt and carefully fill in the design with the spray. Be careful not to spray beyond the wide border area.

5 If you are using a negative template, place it on the T-shirt and spray from the center of the figure out over the cut edges.

4



TIP!

If you are still a little unsure of yourself, first test the two template types on a piece of newspaper.



Now you can really get going and design your T-shirt however you like. Switch out the fabric pens anytime you want. You can get especially cool effects by spraying a design with several different colors. Of course, you can also try spraying without a template, or simply paint or write directly with the fabric pens.

5



Sewing on fabric designs

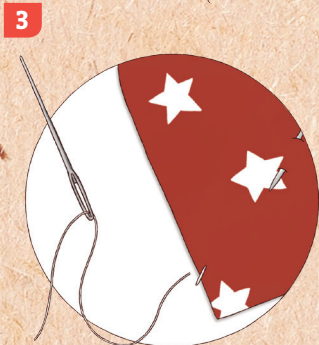
You will need:

Your T-shirt, your prepared fabric designs, needle, pins, ruler, scissors

Here's how:

- 1 Place your fabric design in the desired location. Smooth it out nicely and attach it with pins.
- 2 Cut off a piece of thread about 40 cm in length. Thread it through the needle and tie a knot at the end. Insert the needle through the material from the inside of the T-shirt, just a little way away from the edge of the design.
- 3 Now insert the needle a little to the left into the edge of the design — from the outside to the inside.
Next, insert the needle through the material a little to the left again, from the inside of the shirt — just outside the design.

- 4 Finally, insert the needle back into the location where the thread enters into the material. This will create a kind of V.

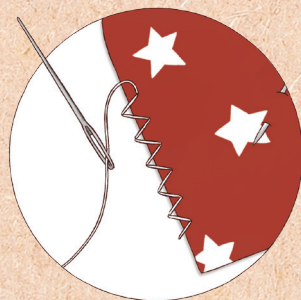
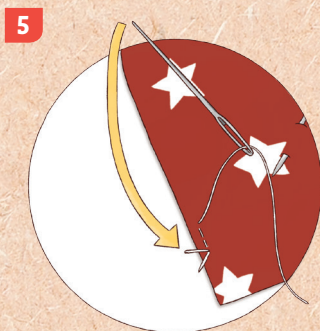


5 Keep going in this same manner: Always inserting the needle a bit to the left from the inside of the shirt to the outside, and inserting it back into the fabric again, from outside to the inside, where the thread goes into the fabric.

6 Once you have gone around the edge of the entire design, insert the needle one more time from the outside to the inside of the shirt and bury the needle by making a tiny stitch through the T-shirt fabric and drawing the thread through the resulting loop. You might want to repeat this a few times just to be safe. Cut off the remaining extra thread.

TIP!

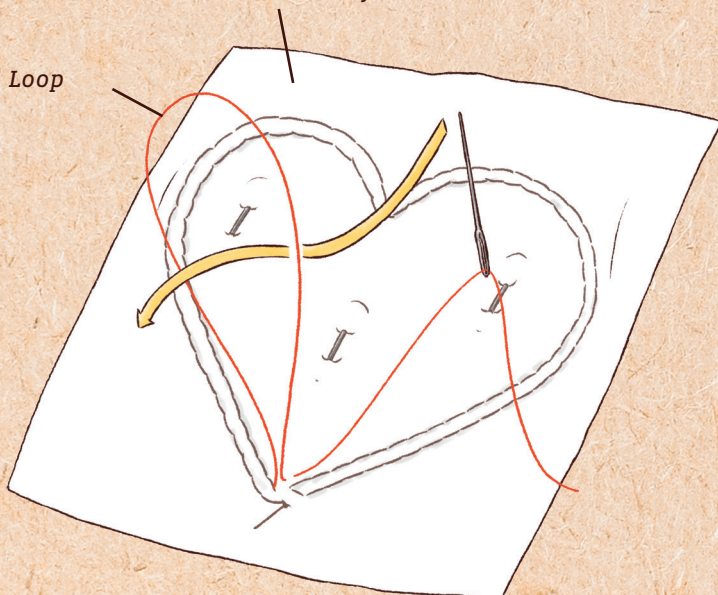
Color the white thread with the yellow, red, or blue pen to help it match the fabric.



6

Rear side of the T-shirt material

Loop



Sequin glitter party

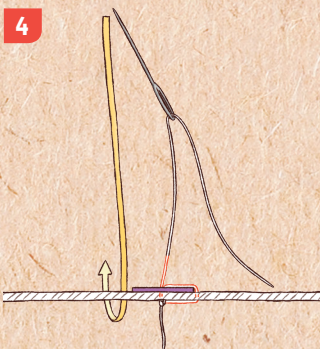
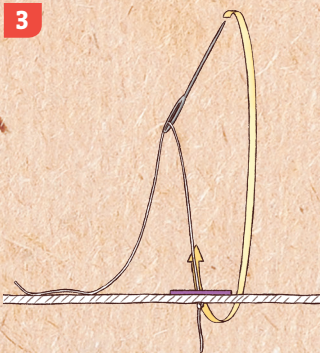
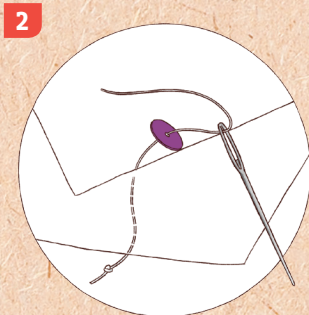
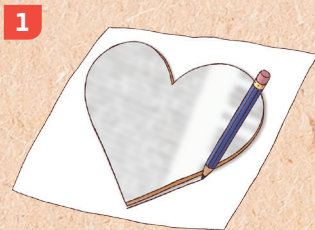
Now it's finally time to let the glittery sequins out of the box. You can use them individually or sew them onto your T-shirt in groups to create cool shapes. It isn't the easiest thing in the world, but you'll catch on soon enough with a little practice!

You will need:

Your T-shirt, sequins, needle, thread, a template, soft lead pencil, ruler, scissors

Here's how:

- 1 To sew a shape using the sequins, simply take one of the spray templates, place it on the T-shirt, and trace its outline onto the T-shirt using a soft lead pencil. Of course, feel free to create a brand new template for the sequins if you like — you already know how to do it!
- 2 Thread a piece of thread 40 cm in length through the eye of the needle and tie a small knot at the end. Poke the needle through the material from the inside of the shirt right on the line you drew. Then, insert the needle through the hole in one of the sequins and push the sequin along the thread until it lies against the fabric.
- 3 Insert the needle once again to the right of the sequin through the material to the inside of the shirt, and then back again from inside through the sequin's hole. Be careful not to poke yourself in the finger — that can happen very easily when sewing these little sequins onto fabric.
- 4 Finally, insert the needle just to the left of the sequin back inside the shirt, and back out again right next to that spot.

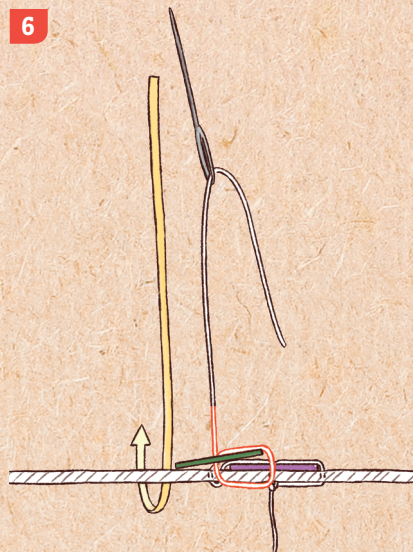
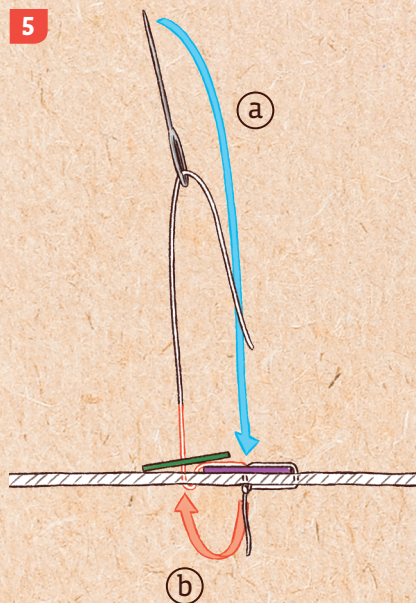


- 5** The next sequin will go a little more easily. Just guide its hole over the tip of the needle and push it along the thread until half of it lies on top of the first sequin.

Then insert the needle through the first sequin's hole towards the inside (a) and back out through the hole of the second sequin (b).

- 6** Finally, poke the needle once again through the cloth just to the left of the second sequin, and then back out again right next to that spot. Continue in the same way with the following sequins.

After the final sequin, insert the needle into the cloth from outside to inside, and bury the thread as described on page 10.



Sewing on buttons

You can use the buttons to design eyes, for example, if you created an animal design with the airbrush. Or, they can be used to decorate the center of a flower, or just to add an extra spot of color.

You will need:

Your T-shirt, buttons, needle, thread, ruler, scissors

Here's how:

- 1 Thread a 40-cm length of thread through the needle and tie a knot in the end of the thread. Place the button in the location where you want it.

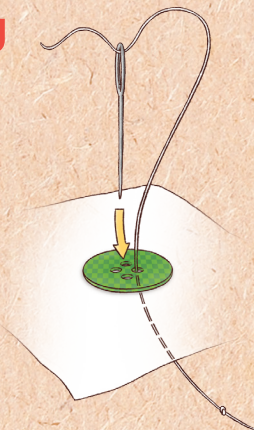
Working from the inside to the outside, poke the needle through the material and out through one of the button holes. Then insert the needle through an adjacent hole back into the shirt.

- 2 The needle comes back out through the third hole and back in again through the fourth. Carefully pull the thread tight and check to be sure the button is sitting straight. If everything looks OK, repeat the sequence of steps from the beginning: From the inside out, back to the inside and so on.

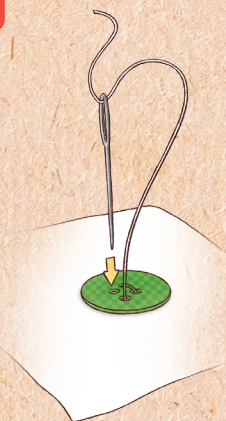
Repeat five times if you want the button to hold tight. Finally, bury the thread on the inside, as described on page 10.

- 3 The white button has no holes; instead, it has an eyelet on its rear side. Starting from the inside, simply insert the needle and thread through the material, through the eyelet, and then back through the material to the inside. Repeat the entire procedure five times until the button is secure, and then bury the thread on the inside.

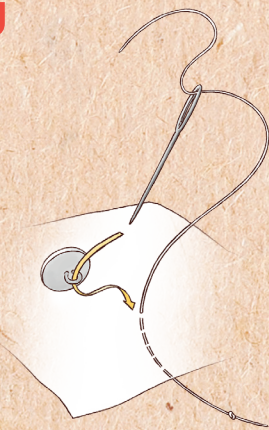
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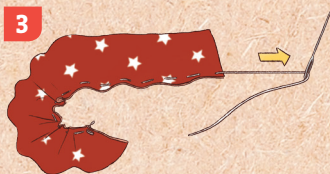
Making a rosette

You will need:

Your T-shirt, colorful fabric scrap, button, needle, thread, fabric pens, ruler, scissors

Here's how:

- 1 To conjure up a cool-looking flower or prize ribbon, all you need is a narrow strip of fabric about 14 cm in length and 5 cm in width, folded down the middle. Be sure that the pretty side is facing out.
- 2 Now, carefully sew stitches along the long open edge. Start by burying the thread at the beginning (see page 10), then sew along the cut edge using long, loose stitches.
- 3 Hooray, finally there. Now the trick is to pull carefully on the thread, and your flower will take shape as if by magic! Next, securely bury the thread again.
- 4 Finally, carefully slide together the two open ends and sew them together.
- 5 You can place a button in the center and use that to sew your flower or medal in place on your T-shirt. Use the fabric pens to paint a stem or ribbon beneath the flower or medal.



Tie-dye*

You've heard of tie-dye, haven't you? In this technique, the T-shirt is tied up tight with twine or string and then dipped in dye — which is exactly why it's called tie-dye. Wherever the string is tied, no color can get through and the fabric stays white. It creates a really cool effect. But you can also do it using your airbrush tool, without having to go through the messy process of dipping the entire shirt into a pot of dye.

You will need:

Airbrush tool, fabric pens, *white or light-colored T-shirt, string or twine, scissors*

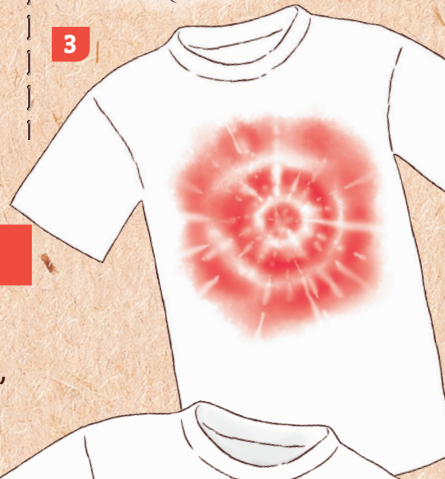
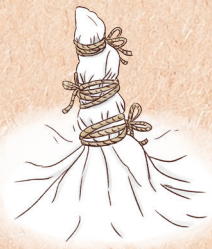
Here's how:

- 1 Get a piece of string, wind it several times tightly around a bunched-up fistful of fabric in the center of your T-shirt, and tie a knot to keep it in place. Then tie the bunched fabric in a couple other places as well.
- 2 Now it's time to use the airbrush tool. Blow a thick layer of dye onto the bunched-up section that you tied.
- 3 When everything is nice and dry, loosen the string and admire your artwork.

1

2

3



Making a rosette

You will need:

Airbrush tool, fabric pens, colorful fabric scraps, 2 buttons, sequins, needle, thread, *white or light-colored T-shirt, thin cardboard, pencil, scissors*

Here's how:

Sew two buttons on the left and right sides of the front of the T-shirt and draw a line between them to tie them together. This line is for "hanging" all of your different pennants.

For example, sew on a triangle of sequins, or put together a template you can use to spray on triangles. You can also try cutting triangles from the scraps of fabric and sew one edge of each triangle onto the line you drew. This way, your pennants will really flutter and fly!

TIP!

To make it look realistic, draw the two ends of the line where the buttons are.

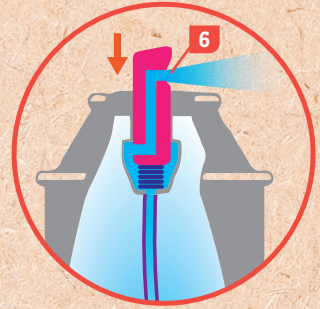
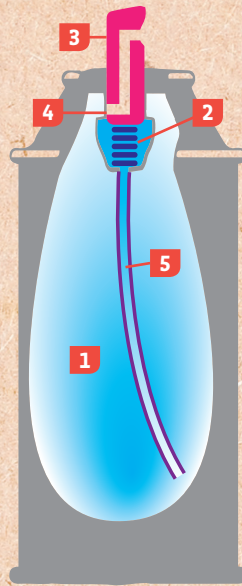


Spray paint science

The airbrush in this kit is a simpler version of commercial aerosol spray paint cans and professional airbrushes. They all use air pressure to blow a high-speed stream of air containing paint particles at the painting surface.

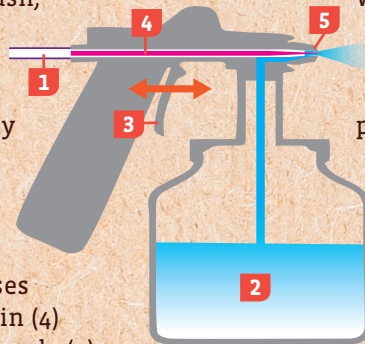
Spray paint cans have a pressurized gas and paint mixture inside the can (1). A tiny metal ball called a pea inside the can helps you mix the paint together.

Normally, a spring (2) pushes up on the valve (3) keeping the channel (4) closed and the pressurized



mixture inside the can. When the painter pushes down on the valve, the spring compresses and the channel opens. The high pressure gas wants to push its way out of the can. As it does so, it carries the paint up the dip tube (5) and out the nozzle (6).

In a professional airbrush, the pressurized air and the paint are kept in separate places. The air is usually provided by a compressor through a tube (1). The paint is kept in a reservoir (2). When the painter presses a trigger (3), it pulls a pin (4) back, opening up the nozzle (5).



When the nozzle opens, the high-pressure air flows through it. Because of a physical principle called the Venturi effect, this high-speed escaping air creates an area of low pressure at the nozzle which actually sucks the paint right up out of the reservoir!





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1st Edition 2014
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Airbrush device patent-protected worldwide. Manufactured by RenArt Limited, RH1 2NL, UK.

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Manual layout: Michaela Kienle, Fine Tuning, Dürmentingen
Manual illustrations and photos: artenot, p. 1 bottom right, 2 center right, bottom left, 3 top center, pack page bottom right, Horiyan, p. 3 (background); Aleksandra Novakovic, p. 6 bottom right (scissors); BW Folsom, p. 12 top right (all previous © shutterstock.com); artenot, front cover center left, center right, p. 3 top right, bottom left, 5 bottom right, 6 bottom right, 8 center right, 10 center, 16 center right (© shutterstock.com, edited by Michaela Kienle); Michael Flaig, Pro-Studios, Stuttgart, front cover center, p. 1 top center; artenot, 15 center right (© shutterstock.com, edited); Bianca Meier, Hamburg (all experiment illustrations)

Packaging design concept: Peter Schmidt Group GmbH, Hamburg
Packaging layout: Michaela Kienle, Fine Tuning, Dürmentingen
Packaging illustrations and photos: Gemenacom (Polaroid frame); Seregam (tape) (both © shutterstock.com); artenot (creature with paintbrush, © shutterstock.com, edited); artenot (all other creatures, © shutterstock.com, edited by Michaela Kienle); Michael Flaig, Pro-Studios, Stuttgart (title image, materials); Matthias Kaiser, Stuttgart (Polaroids)

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Editing: Ted McGuire; Additional Graphics and Layout: Dan Freijas, Ashley Greenleaf

Distributed in North America by Thames & Kosmos, LLC, Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 800-587-2872; Email: support@thamesandkosmos.com

We reserve the right to make technical changes.

Printed in Germany / Imprimé en Allemagne