

HM Review

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Badger Renegade Velocity Airbrush

I'm always in search of the perfect airbrush and this one is really close.

Using an airbrush for the first time is kind of like going on a blind date. Even though the other person may look and sound great, there are always questions. Will the personalities fit together? Is there a chemistry that can develop over time? Will there be idiosyncrasies or quirks that will be endearing—or just annoying? Regardless of first impressions, none of these questions can be answered until the two actually begin to interact. This is what goes through my mind whenever I get my hands on a new modeling tool, such as the Badger Renegade Velocity airbrush.

Badger's Renegade Series include three airbrushes: the Rage is siphon fed, the Spirit is side fed and the Velocity is gravity fed. The Spirit and Velocity use a 6 degree needle and .21 precision paint tip combination. The Rage use a 6.5 degree needle but has a .33 paint tip. This combination of tips and needles allows extremely tight use in fields as varied as custom automobile graphics, hobbies and crafts and scale modeling. The Velocity comes packaged in a sturdy, foam-lined hard case with aluminum edging and a solid latch. Inside the package is the Velocity airbrush, an extra spray regulator or air cap (without the protective horns) and a hose adapter that allows the Badger Patriot Velocity to use air hoses from different manufacturers.

The TensionSense trigger is designed for smooth and easy use, providing an incredible amount of control. The StopSet trigger setting uses an adjustable knob on the back



The differences between the Patriot Arrow, top, and the Renegade Velocity are evident.

of the handle that can be adjusted to limit the needle travel at a set point. This allows a user to set the airbrush for a specific spray amount for accurately repeatable line widths. The SmartCenter nozzle assembly is unique as the nozzle assembly that holds the paint tip is permanently attached to the body of the airbrush, assuring a perfectly centered needle to tip alignment every time. The PointPerfect carbide polished needle, coupled with the extremely fine tip, produces a very tight spray pattern that is perfect for painting small, tight areas and can produce lines as fine as a human hair.

Due to the precise tolerances, no tools are required for assembly or disassembly, and this helps make the cleaning process quick and simple. The body and handle of the Velocity are thin and seem to be a bit longer than standard. Holding the Velocity is quite comfortable, and the overall balance seems nearly perfect. The trigger has a smooth, solid feel. The spring tension is adjustable for individual comfort. All of the seals in the Renegade series airbrushes are solvent resistant.

Spraying paint is the best test of how well any airbrush performs. By testing on plastic sheet, the Velocity proves that it is quite effective, with excellent atomization, consistent flow and a great spray pattern. The fine tip offers a one-inch circular pattern at maximum distance from the surface. Moving in closer and lowering the air pressure allows the Velocity to truly shine with some of the finest lines I've ever seen.



Features

- Comes packaged in a protective aluminum case.
- Sprays a line of paint as fine as a human hair.
- Includes two regulator air caps and an air hose adapter.
- Lifetime labor warranty if the airbrush requires service.
- Outstanding detail airbrush for beginner to expert hobbyists.

As with many airbrushes, varying the thickness of the paint and air pressure allows a modeler to create different thickness of lines that are appropriate for multiple situations and applications. For overall paint applications, the Velocity would be able to handle almost anything. However, painting larger areas may become an issue regarding time and effort, as the coverage area is relatively small.

A 1/72 Hobby Boss F-86F-40 Sabre was chosen as the subject for testing the Velocity. Since this is a small model,



Holding the Velocity at a 45 degree angle produces a good-looking feathered edge to camouflage lines.

pre-shading, color demarcation lines and post-shading requires precise control. Pre-shading the panel lines involves spraying a dark color in and along the lines. With a small subject like the Sabre, the panel lines can be very close, yet the Velocity was able to provide nice coverage and pinpoint accuracy.

For the color coats, the paint was thinned to a high ratio, so multiple light coats could be applied to allow the darker painted panel lines to show through the finish coats. With the topside camouflage, the color demarcations were done by holding the airbrush at approximately 45 degrees to the surface. This provides a sharp but still feathered edge to the color lines. The airbrush was then pulled back farther from the surface to spray the area inside the lines.

Post-shading involves using a lighter shade of the base colors and spraying that into the center of individual panels



Highlights, such as faded paint caused by exposure to sun and elements, are easy with the Velocity.

for highlights, which depicts paint fading caused by weather on full-scale aircraft. Since the Velocity is quite miserly with paint, only a few drops are needed for most small jobs such as post-shading. Apparently, Badger has considered this,



Spraying a line of paint as fine as a human hair allows for details such as highlighted panels.

having recently released the Velocity Jet and Patriot Arrow models, both airbrushes with smaller color cups.

Badger, never a company to rest on its laurels, is always improving its Renegade line. Most recently the inner seal has been replaced with a beveled edge Teflon seal, which decreases the resistance in the movement of the needle. Badger has also increased the curvature and height of the rocker lever. This connects the trigger to the needle and the increased leverage decreases the friction between the rocker lever and the trigger. Both of these modifications increase the smoothness of the trigger action, leading to even better control and beneficial ergonomics in day-to-day use of the airbrush.



A 1/72 Hobby Boss F-86 Sabre was chosen as a test subject and the result speaks for itself.

The Renegade Velocity is an outstanding detail airbrush, creating incredibly tight, fine lines with very little effort. The Badger website says, "Renegade airbrushes aren't for everybody—they are for the proven elite artist." While that may be true, it does not mean that a hobbyist with average skills cannot benefit from having a tool like the Velocity. Indeed, most people will find their skills improve tremendously in direct proportion to the quality of their tools. With practice and experience, any hobbyist, scale modeler or diorama modeler will be more capable of producing miniature masterpieces with a quality airbrush like this. I really can't see anyone, from beginner to expert, being disappointed in the Renegade Velocity. The airbrush performs as well as much more expensive devices, and for the money the unit is a real bargain. **HM**