

# The Patriot

THE NEW BADGER 105 PATRIOT



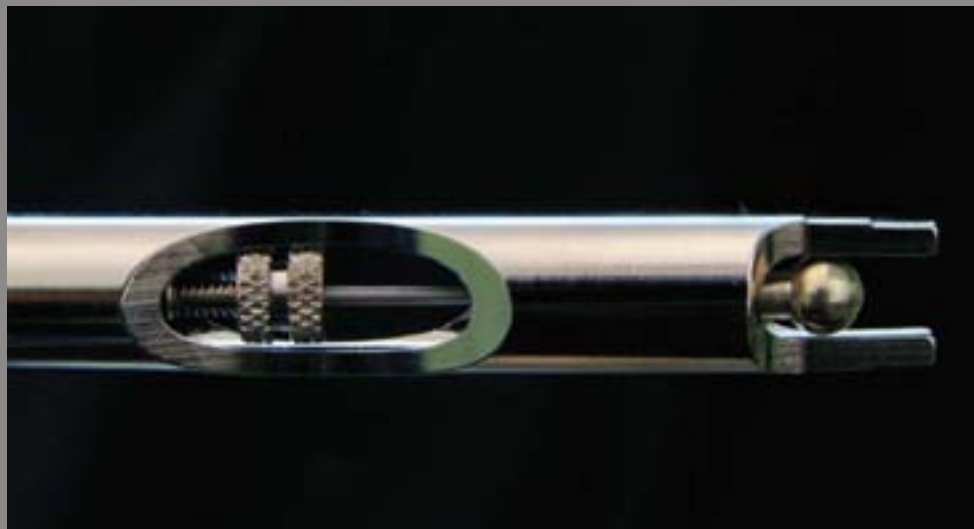
Most “old-timers” will remember the times when an airbrush was considered a high-tech working tool and a computer was something so huge that only NASA or the Government could afford to use. Murals on motorbikes and cars were “hip”, and “Custom Painter” was a well-paid job. It was a must to have the best equipment out there and good tools were an investment. And with “good tools” we don’t mean great design, but

about a reliable high-quality product, easy to use, easy to maintain. An airbrush needed to be balanced and spare parts needed to be readily available. Back then one of the most popular airbrushes amongst artists, illustrators and custom painters was a Badger (most likely the 100 or 150).

Still today the Badger Airbrush Company is a reputable manufacture whose products are used by illustrators, artists, custom painters and modellers all over the world. The Franklin Park, Illinois (USA) based company is also one of the few manufacturers that despite the shrinking market works on improvements and new models.

The latest offering is the Badger 105 “Patriot”.

Most airbrushers are familiar with the Badger Anthem 155 which over the years became one of the best selling Badger airbrushes. Available with a siphon-feed many illustrators and modellers wished it would be offered in a gravity-fed version – and this is exactly what you will find when you open the familiar black plastic box that Badger airbrushes have come in for many years now: An “Anthem” without the siphon feed opening on the bottom but a large-



er cup on the top! The rest is the same high quality you'd expect from Badger... well ... the engraving is different, of course. ;-)

Let's see what the Patriot 105 has to offer:

- a patented "Easy Access" needle removal system
- a self centering nozzle
- a (according to the brochure) "comfort balance system"
- all parts interchangeable with the Badger models 155, 200 and 360!

Sounds good – but this is just what the brochure says. So let's find out how the "Patriot" performs in real life! As usual we start with a dismantling... we just love to take things apart! ;-)

And in this case it is fairly easy, you almost need no tools at all. All parts are well machined and it is put back together just as easy. Really important for cleaning the airbrush! You usually don't have to disassemble the air valve but of course we couldn't resist. Green light here, too. A very solid construction indeed.

Once put back together the fun can start – or at least we thought so. Most airbrushes come with a "Quick Connect" adapter that makes it very simple to switch between different airbrush models. Not the Badger... but fortunately we found an adapter in our stock of airbrush accessories. Ok, let's get ready to ruuumble...

The Patriot is a well-balanced airbrush; the double-action trigger movement is smooth and precise. It is very easy to find and hold an in-between setting to spray an even line.

If you look at the airbrush you will notice the needle with the little ball at the end. It does not just look

interesting, it also makes it easy to grab and pull. And due to the opening in the grip you don't really have to disassemble the airbrush or remove the needle to clean it. Either clean the needle tip directly at the front, or withdraw it that far that the needle tip sits in the opening of the grip. This way you avoid accidentally touching the body and bending the needle tip.

The needle has one drawback, though – the little ball makes it impossible to remove the needle through the front of the airbrush – something a lot of airbrushers do with a self-centered nozzle airbrush as this way you never run into danger of ruining the needle tip. This is impossible with the Patriot and its ball-ended needle.

For our spray-test we used several different Airbrush-colors: Schmincke Aerocolor, Badger Imagine-Air and Lukas Illu-Color, thinned about 2:1 with water. The solvent-proof nozzle is marked "f" for fine (Badger does not give a mm-size but it is around 0.4mm) and it showed a very consistent spray-pattern with little over-



spray. From a pencil lead thin line to a wider spray that makes gradients and smaller backgrounds a simple task – the Badger Patriot 105 does not show any weakness. With its 10ml paint cup it is a good working horse for the illustrator, modeller and custom-painter and a good choice if you need an all-purpose airbrush.

Cleaning the airbrush was as simple as we thought. The paint cup is wide enough to wipe it out and then fill it with cleaner and, using a little brush, swab it and dumb it out. Finally use some more cleaner and spray it ... and done!

Bottom line...

The Badger 105 Patriot is no revolutionary airbrush, and it wasn't meant to be. It is the gravity-feed version of the popular and established Anthem and as such a nice addition to the product line. Our test model showed no weakness and with a MSRP of US\$119 its future looks pretty bright. Well done, a good allrounder that will surely find its fans.

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