

Instructions for JULIA Airbrush-Compressor System



What You'll Find in Your JULIA Airbrush-Compressor System Box

- JULIA airbrush (105-JU) with quick-connect adaptor (51-038) and barbed fitting (50-026)
- 5-foot clear quick-connect air hose with inline air regulator (JU-5018)
- JULIA on-demand air compressor (JU-180)

If you have questions or feedback about the JULIA airbrush, please contact:

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Hello!



Hi, fellow bakers and decorators! Thank you for purchasing my airbrush-compressor system. I hope you love it as much as I loved designing it for you!

Your new JULIA airbrush-compressor system, which comes with a lifetime labor warranty, has been comprehensively inspected, and the airbrush has been tested in actual use by my manufacturing partner Badger Air-Brush Co. **Even so, please do not use or disassemble the airbrush until you have**

thoroughly read the airbrush instructions, packed with the airbrush. Those instructions contain detailed information about setting up, handling, cleaning, and maintaining your new JULIA airbrush. You will also find a JULIA compressor information sheet separately packed in the compressor box. For in-depth instructional videos about your new JULIA airbrush-compressor system, please visit my YouTube channel at www.tinyurl.com/juliaairbrush.

Again, thank you for purchasing my airbrush-compressor system. I hope it brings you hours upon hours of decorating fun!

Live sweetly, *Julia*

Important!

- Work in a well ventilated area or under an exhaust hood. Use of a spray respirator mask is also recommended, especially when working with metallic food colorings.
- Never use anything but food-safe coloring or cleaner in your airbrush. If you have ever used non-food-safe materials in it, then never use it on food again.
- Due to the adverse effect that soaking can have on airbrush valve seals, soaking your JULIA airbrush is discouraged.

Setup of JULIA System

1. Set up a spray “station”: Again, be sure to work in a well ventilated area or under an exhaust hood. Use of a spray respirator mask is also recommended, especially when working with metallic food colorings. Cover your work surface with paper towel to protect it from airbrush spray and food coloring spills.

2. Attach air hose to compressor: To attach the quick-connect air hose (JU-5018) to your JULIA air compressor (JU-180), simply slip the 1/8 nut at the compressor end of the air hose onto the 1/8 threaded fitting at the compressor’s air outlet; then turn the nut in a clockwise direction until you can turn it no further. Note: Because the JULIA airbrush has a dual-action trigger, which doesn’t release air unless depressed, it is best used with an on-demand compressor (like the JULIA compressor that operates only when the airbrush trigger is depressed) as opposed to a continuous-flow compressor. Dual-action airbrushes work with either type of compressor, but a continuous-flow compressor is more likely to overheat.

3. Attach quick-connect adaptor to airbrush, and airbrush to air hose: The quick-connect adaptor (51-038) allows you to quickly slip your airbrush onto the air hose without any threading onto fittings or forcing over barbed fittings, which can be a large timesaver especially when working with different colorings in more than one airbrush. To attach the quick-connect adaptor, place its female threaded end over the male threaded valve stem directly below the airbrush trigger. Turn it in a clockwise direction until you can turn it no further. Now, you’re ready to attach the airbrush to the air hose. Simply insert the quick-connect adaptor into the air hose’s quick-connect fitting until you hear a click, which indicates that the adaptor is properly seated. To remove the airbrush from the air hose for cleaning or to swap in another airbrush, push down on the collet (textured sleeve) of the hose’s quick-connect fitting, and the airbrush quick-connect adaptor will pop free from the quick-connect fitting.

4. Check airbrush needle and nozzle guard positions: Remove the protective cap (50-022) from the airbrush nozzle. If using your airbrush for the first time, the needle (51-046) will have been retracted to protect it during shipping. The airbrush will not function properly with the needle in this position. To seat the needle forward into its proper operating position, loosen the needle chuck (51-010), grasp the small black ball on the needle’s back end, and slowly nudge the needle forward in the airbrush until it comes to a stop and the nozzle tip (41-002) appears entirely closed off. Once the needle is properly seated, re-tighten the needle chuck. Last, check the reversible nozzle guard (JU8131G). You have the option of leaving it as it came on your JULIA airbrush, with the wide end facing out for maximum protection of the needle (Julia’s preference), or with the wide end facing in, providing a better view of the needle, but leaving it more exposed. To change the orientation of the nozzle guard, simply unscrew it, flip it over, and screw it back into place on the spray regulator (JU41-036).

Basic System Operation

- 1. Turn on compressor:** Simply plug it in, and flip the red toggle switch to the on position. Remember, the compressor may not sound as if it is operating until you have depressed the airbrush trigger, because it is an on-demand compressor. **Exception:** The JULIA compressor can spontaneously turn on and off at periodic intervals, even when the airbrush is not in use. This behavior is perfectly normal, and part of the compressor's built-in pressure relief system.
- 2. Set air flow:** Air flow regulation on the JULIA system is conveniently done right at the airbrush connection to the air hose, rather than on the compressor as with most other systems. This feature gives you the flexibility to locate the compressor as close or as far away from your work area as you like. Air flow regulation is also fully variable, affording you the ultimate spray control. On the side of the air hose's quick-connect fitting, you will find the inline air regulator, the dial used to adjust the air flow. (See diagram in *Instructions for JULIA Airbrush*.) Gradually turn the dial in a counterclockwise direction to open the air stream and to increase air flow to the airbrush. To reach maximum air flow, turn the dial fully counterclockwise until it stops. Julia adjusts air flow depending on the type of coloring, the desired area of coverage, and the distance at which she is holding the airbrush from her product. For close-range detail work, she uses relatively low air flow, no more than one-quarter of one full rotation of the dial. For more distant spraying of large areas and when spraying metallic colorings, she increases air flow. The best way to gauge the proper dial setting for your application is to test the flow on paper or paper towel before working on actual product. **Note:** If the air flow to any airbrush is reduced too much, the coloring may not atomize properly, resulting in a speckled spray pattern. Always increase the air flow to the point where you see a uniform, finely dispersed spray pattern.
- 3. Select coloring and fill coloring cup:** The JULIA airbrush is designed to allow easy passage of both regular airbrush food coloring and thicker white and metallic colorings, without changing the nozzle or altering the colorings in any way. That being said, white and metallic colorings should be no thicker than a milk-like consistency to properly spray through the airbrush – and you must always give them a good shake or stir to homogenize them and to see their true consistency. If your colorings appear thicker than they should, just thin them with a little vodka or other clear potable alcohol. Avoid thinning with water.
- 4. Start spraying!** It's important to know that the JULIA airbrush is a dual-action airbrush, meaning that two actions are required to release coloring through it. First, push down on the trigger to get air flowing through the airbrush. (This air flow is what "vacuums" the coloring from the cup into a fine spray as it emerges from the nozzle.) Second, slowly pull back the trigger to release the coloring. Again, be sure to push down the trigger first, or you can "flood" the nozzle with coloring. The further the trigger is drawn back, the greater the amount of coloring released. Before spraying directly on your product, it's best to do a test spray on paper or paper towel. (For more spraying tips, see *Instructions for JULIA Airbrush*.)