



## Instructions:

**These are basic instructions for using .35mm needle size and SMALLER with your SharpenAir™.**

**\*\*\*Please note that .5mm needle instructions are located at the bottom of these instructions.**

Although the SharpenAir™ is quick and easy to use it is helpful to read our instructions *before* your first use to ensure proper sharpening of your airbrush fluid needle.

SharpenAir™ should only be used on bent or damaged needles that need to be restored. This tool provides you with a solution to fixing damaged needles but is not intended for use on brand new needles. You cannot use this tool to sharpen your damaged needles indefinitely, we recommend sharpening your needle no more than 8 times.

From our observations, using the SharpenAir™ tool created deep grooves around the circumference of the needle tip. These micro-abrasions if left unattended, can cause more tip dry, but are easily corrected by the use of the 3000 grit polishing pad included in the kit. **Using a severely bent or damaged needle may cause damage to your airbrush nozzle.**

### **Quick tips before starting:**

Straighten the needle by hand before inserting it into the SharpenAir™. You can drag the needle across cardboard to remove the hook, and then roll it on a hard surface. Turn the needle frequently as you do so, trying to maintain the same angle as the taper.

Dip the needle in water before inserting it into the SharpenAir™ to add a small amount of lubrication to the diamond stone. Repeat this each time before inserting into the SharpenAir™.

SharpenAir™ contains four sharpening stones in its main compartment area where the logo is embossed. There are four runners which run from the base of the sharpener vertically to the end of the sharpener.

Begin by holding the SharpenAir™ in your left hand (vice versa for left handed users), logo side up. Reference the graphics below once reading the steps.

**\*\*\*Steps 1 and 2 repair the tip of the needle, and only make contact with the last 1 mm of the needle.**



**Step 1:** Place the needle in the slot allowing the needle to reach the end of the runner. With minimal pressure begin rotating the needle in a clockwise direction; about 10-15 revolutions. Pull the needle out and check the tip. You may need to repeat this step a few times to achieve the desired straightness and/or until the burr is removed.

**Tip:** Do not press forward like a pencil sharpener this will make the needle wedge in between the base plate and stones. Simply let the needle make contact with the stones and spin from there. Pull it back every 10 or so spins to make sure it hasn't worked its way forward then check progress.



**Step 2:** This runner is at less of an angle than Step 1 and uses a less aggressive stone. Using the same amount of revolutions as step 1 (10-15), this step eases the angle even further in order to reach stock angle. This process will also help in removing some of the step one sand scratches.

**Tip:** The first 2 steps have been designed to work from the very tip, back about 1-2mm. This is the part of the needle that sticks out in front of the fluid nozzle. The majority of bends are minor and can be repaired in the first 2 steps.

**Step 3 and Step 4** are designed utilizing the same angle. These steps are designed to repair the **ENTIRE** cone.



**Step 3:** This step contains a sanding stone consisting of a lower grit to quickly reshape the entire cone if needed. **This step is optional.** Smaller repairs may be completed at Step 2; however, a more damaged needle may utilize all steps in order to be completely sharpened.

**Step 4:** This step contains a higher grit sharpening stone and will further sand out the scratches from Step 3.

**Quick tip:** After sharpening your airbrush needle it may help to polish out the needle in order to avoid the onset of tip dry. An easy way of doing this is to use some metal polish, a cloth, a small piece of paper or 2000 grit sandpaper, and a drill. Add a little polish to the needle tip and place the needle tip inside the paper placed in between your finger and thumb, pinching the cone. Place the needle in a drill chuck and run the drill for 10-20 secs and repeat as many times as needed until the scratches have softened or smoothed. This step can be repeated using a soft cloth to further buff and polish your needle.

**Quick tip:** SharpenAir™ sharpening stones are designed for you to receive maximum amount of use. They are each double-sided and can be rotated and

flipped giving you the best results. Replacement stones can be purchased from our SharpenAir™ resellers.



### **.5mm Needle instructions**

Since the .5mm needle has a different taper on the tip, it requires **Step 1 ONLY**.

**Step 1** is the perfect match for this taper. However, since the first step is a **600** grit stone the user may want to switch out one of the **1200** grit stones in order to have a finishing stone for all repairs. Simply remove the three screws from the unit to open the SharpenAir™ body. This will allow you to rearrange the stones in the order necessary. Reassemble the unit and you are ready for repairs.

If you have any further questions on how to operate your SharpenAir™ please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to help!

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