



Hvlp turbine spray gun automotive

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The Falcon(TM) Spray FS4 HVLP paint spray system is a performance designed 4 ...

Back when I was learning automotive refinishing in vocational school, turbine spray systems had just entered the market. I already had an air compressor in my garage, and after spraying a few cars with a Binks-7 copy and 20-gallon Sears compressor, I wanted something better. Soon after, I bought an HVLP Accuspray system, which included a turbine unit, paint gun, and hose.

Over the years, I've painted a dozen cars and a few commercial trucks with my HVLP turbine system. The first car I painted with it was my old 1970 Chevelle, which I sprayed in my home garage.

Instead of depending on an air compressor like a conventional paint gun, an HVLP (high volume low pressure) system uses a portable turbine that produces warm, clean air to atomize the finish being sprayed. The turbine unit is made up of a series of fans, called stages, that move large volumes of air at low pressure. They are also called airless paint systems.

With a conventional spray gun, you need a good-size air compressor, paint gun, an air hose, and a moisture separator as minimum requirements for painting a car.

The major disadvantage of the above setup is that a paint gun has a much higher duty-cycle than most air tools, so more air is needed. This requires a smaller compressor to run longer, which builds up more heat and causes moisture (condensation) to get in the air lines.

Nothing ruins a great spray pattern as much as moisture in the air line. An HVLP turbine unit supplies dry air at low pressure, instead of high pressure from your overworked compressor. The result is clean dry air to your spray gun.

All turbine-powered spray guns are true high-volume low-pressure (HVLP) systems. A couple of side benefits is that over-spray is kept to a minimum with HVLP spray guns, which saves paint. And you don't have to worry about oil or water getting into the air lines.

I still have my Accuspray system that I bought back in the nineties, and it's seen plenty of use. Trouble is, Accuspray was bought out by another company some years back, and replacement parts are near impossible to find. Another issue is it's pretty loud--it sounds like an old vacuum cleaner when running!

The entry-level Fuji airless sprayer is the DIY Semi-Pro. It features a lightweight, portable turbine that has



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more power than other DIY systems in it's price range. This is their entry-level set that includes turbine, HVLP gun, and a 25-foot hose with quick-connect couplings.

The 25-foot hose length should give enough range for small to medium cars. For larger cars and trucks, you may need to move the unit once or twice during the painting process.

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