

And so he destroyed a Badger...

By Rato Marczak



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I have a fascination for airbrushes. I own several models. I even collect copies of the first airbrush patents, dating from the end of 19th century. Everyone knows that talking about airbrushing is talking about an endless subject. But there's a point on which everybody agrees: Badger airbrushes are excellent guns for everything. Easy to use, easy to clean, and, if by one side they don't do miracles, on the other hand they are virtually indestructible (when well used).

This week (April/2008) our friend and master modeler Nei Biazetto wrote me the following e-mail (in which I felt some desperation), that left me shocked:

*I want to buy a new Badger 100. Mine is hopelessly broken. Do you know a good shop?
All the best
Nei*

I couldn't understand it! It wasn't about a hobby novice. It was about our great Nei. I simply couldn't believe in it. So I asked him:

How in heaven have you managed to destroy a Badger? In order to succeed in that, one has to:

- *Hit it with a Humvee, or*
- *Use it in a .50 machine gun ammo belt, replacing a round, or*
- *Place it in a pneumatic hammer, or*
- *Use it as railroad nails, or*
- *Airbrush TNT with it, or*
- *Dip it in acid for a month, or*

... and the list goes on.

But you did it. Without any help from Steve Austin! McGyver tried to destroy his Badger for years. Chuck Norris broke his foot trying to split one. There's a rumor that Steven Seagal is unsuccessfully trying to break his Badger in Hollywood, even with the aid of special effects. Today we know that Bruce Lee has died after an ill-fated Karate move over a Badger.

Eric Clapton started to play guitar so well after realizing that his Badger refused to stop working, even with massive doses of heroin replacing the thinner. Ozzy Osbourne has broken his jaw after biting a Badger thrown by the crowd during a show (he was told it was a chrome plated bat).

The Germans pioneered the use of Badger 100 to hold armor plates in their Tiger tanks during WWII.

The US Navy already tested Badger 100s as a replacement for TIG welds in submarine hulls.

The Badger 100 is the only artifact which survived the atomic tests at Bikini Atoll.

You know what was installed at the end of the X-15 Pitot tube, don't you? A Badger 100!

Buzz Aldrin used a Badger 100 to replace a faulty electric switch in Apollo 11, just before the first land on the Moon.

The Badger 100 is used as a bearing shaft in the Hubble telescope.

Mobil, Texaco, and other oil companies have been using Badger 100s as drilling tools in their offshore oil platforms for years.

The Soviet Union has fallen apart because the communists failed to design anything as durable as a Badger 100.

Even Badger Airbrush Co. is considering selling bras because their airbrushes simply don't break.

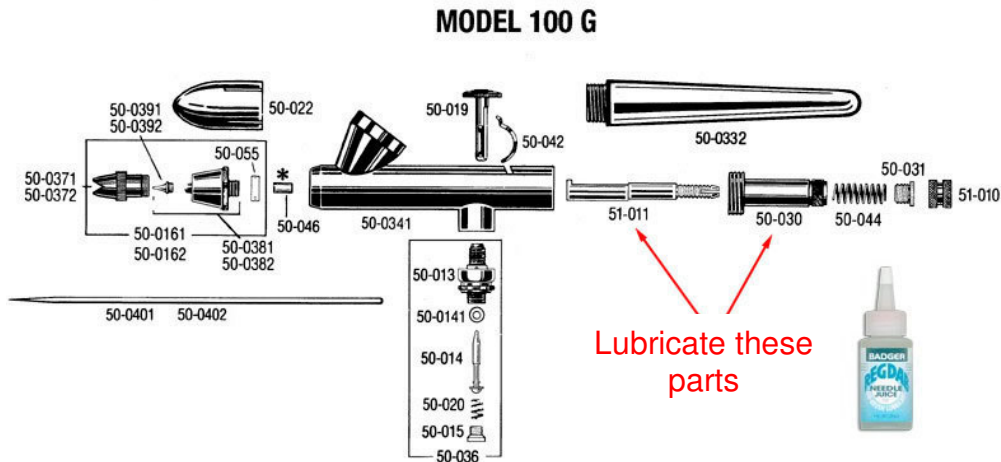
But you did it... Nei "Mr. Mission Impossible" Biazzetto did it! You broke a Badger 100. In fact, you have broken a record that was standing for decades: no human being of the modern era has ever broken a Badger 100. Until now...

While I was anxiously waiting for an explanation, I tried to understand how such catastrophe could possibly happen. If Nei had broken a Badger 100, then it would be better for us all to return to hand brushing. Or collecting stamps. Not to mention that the

fact would reduce Nei from a master modeler to a video-game addict teenager. I offered some help, internet addresses, and dealers. The whole thing looked pretty serious. Maybe he should hire a lawyer... and of course, keep everything in secrecy.

Two days later, my bud Nei was knocking at my door, with the Badger 100 case under his arm. His face wasn't hiding the pain of his loss. He certainly has cried - a lot. I was touched. I thought: "Let's bury him (the Badger, not Nei!) with all honors".

We sat on my bench. While he opened the case, I was expecting to see an ex-airbrush in pieces, ripped apart. Curiously, it looked intact. A preliminary examination revealed nothing broken or bent. The tube shank was stuck, but no big deal. Then I found that all that was happening with his Badger 100 was a slight gripping of the needle tube. This was preventing the needle to return freely. I applied a drop of RegDab needle Juice, and his gun started to work like new.



Moral of the story: R.T.F.M. (Read The Fu**** anual).