

# Graco spray gun

## Anthony Bailey sets out to improve his spray technique with a high-performing gun

It's been too long since I tackled any spray work so I relished the idea of seeing if my somewhat lamentable spraying skills might improve with a good-quality spray gun. Graco is big in the world of spray guns and associated equipment so I knew this model wouldn't be a duffer. Even so, adjusting to the settings on a new gun is a considerable learning curve.

The quality and finish of this tool is self evident and the layout of the controls are easy to understand and use. It has a cup above rather than the more common pot mounted below. This is for two reasons: one, it is better for loading small quantities of dye or lacquer and easier to flush clean; two, it won't scrape surfaces you may be working above but can be very close to.

### How it works

Graco makes several different versions with pot under and HVLP (high volume



### Safety



I used volatile lacquer and solvents. To do this you must ensure proper safe working such as a double organic filter mask, adequate ventilation and covered electrics to avoid sparks. The safer route is aqueous lacquers which are now widely available.

## F&C TEST: Graco spray gun



The top blue knob controls the fluid output and the lower one the actual spray pattern



The adjustable spray nozzle



The top removes for cleaning the nozzle



The cup is mounted above the gun

pressure feed. This version, the 289237, still works on a normal compressor rather than a turbine with maximum 100psi inlet pressure and 29psi max at the nozzle.

The knob near the air inlet fitting controls the air pressure, the top blue knob controls the fluid output and the lower one the actual spray pattern. At the front end the nozzle is 1mm which is fine for dye application or small area working, but for normal lacquer application or spraying white lacquers for example, you would need much larger-gauge nozzles as well.

### On test

If you are new to spraying your best plan for checking that the gun is functioning is to run pure thinners through it. In that way I was able to test out the full range of the gun's capability and find a good

compromise between putting lacquer on at a reasonable rate without overloading and causing runs while maintaining a good overlap between passes.

The Graco passed the thinners test, so I loaded some thinned-down Behlen nitrocellulose and managed to get a neat result, albeit using a small nozzle which necessitated close work.

I found it a very good gun to work with but just wish I had had larger nozzles available for some heavy-duty work like spraying an entire piece of furniture. **F&C**

### F&C Verdict

Good quality doesn't come cheap. It isn't worth buying a cheap gun or a small compressor. Graco meets the quality standard I would expect for high-quality finishing work.

#### Pros

Good quality  
Does the job

#### Cons

None

#### The numbers

Model 289237  
Type gravity-fed spray gun  
Max inlet pressure 100psi  
Max nozzle pressure 29psi  
Nozzle sizes 1.0mm (supplied), 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.8  
Cup size 20oz  
Wetted parts aluminium, stainless steel, engineered plastic

Price £81.50

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