

The following instructions explain how to use cleaning cartridges on an Epson Stylus Pro 4900. Cleaning cartridges provide an ideal method of flushing out a printer when changing ink types or preparing the machine for storage during periods of non-use. They are also a handy service aid for unblocking partially clogged print heads. However, they will not unblock a completely clogged print head as there is no way for the cleaning fluid to travel through the ink system to get to the dried ink in the print head. Because of this, cleaning cartridge should only be used when some jets on each print head are working – the working jets will allow the cleaning fluid to travel through the ink system and dissolve the dried inks in the clogged jets.

Cleaning cartridges for the Epson Pro 4900 are filled with Ink2image Dead Head cleaning and are installed in a printer just like regular cartridges. To prime the printer with cleaning fluid, the printer firmware has a handy built-in 'initial fill' routine that will fill the machine's ink system with cleaning fluid or ink. This initial fill routine fills all channels on the printer with fluid and, unfortunately, there is no way to set colors to be filled individually. Because of this, we recommend installing cleaning cartridges in all channels even if you only want to clean one or two colors. You can install cleaning cartridges individually on a machine, but you will need ink cartridges in the other channels for the printer to operate an initial fill, and the routine will draw ink from these other channels. Because cleaning cartridges are less expensive than ink cartridges, it is normally more economical to install cleaning cartridges in every channel rather than waste ink.

The process of cleaning or flushing a printer is as follows:-

1. Install the cleaning cartridges and run an 'initial fill' routine (see instructions below).
2. Ideally, leave the printer to 'soak' overnight to allow the cleaning fluid to dissolve any dried ink deposits.
3. If you have flushed the printer for long term storage purposes, then it is now OK to place the machine in storage. The next time you want to use the machine, turn it on and install ink cartridges as in 5 below.
4. Install ink cartridges and run another initial fill routine. After the routine has finished, perform nozzle check prints and cleanings as necessary until you get a good nozzle check.

Cleaning cartridges can be kept and re-used if cleaning/flushing is required again. A set of 200 ml size cleaning cartridges are good for four cleanings.

RUNNING AN INITIAL FILL ROUTINE

There are two ways of performing an initial fill routine on the Epson Pro 4900 – one quick and the other more time consuming. Both require that the maintenance tank on your machine has at least 25% capacity remaining. The quickest method is to purchase the Epson Service program which then enables you to set an 'initial fill' routine that will automatically fill the printer with ink or cleaning fluid. The service program can be downloaded for a small fee from www.2manuals.com. Simply go to this website and enter your printer make and model in the search box and this will take you to all downloads for the printer. Service manuals are also

available that show you how to disassemble and repair your printer if you are technically minded. If you decide to get the service program, then use this to quickly fill your machine with ink or cleaning fluid.

The more time consuming method of filling your printer with ink or cleaning fluid is to run multiple 'power' cleanings by going the ink menu on the printer control panel by pressing the bottom left button and selecting manual cleaning (not auto cleaning). You run power cleanings on all colors at once and it normally takes about 12 power cleanings to prime up the machine. This should ensure that any new inks or cleaning fluid will travel from the cartridges through to the print head. A way to check is to make a full color print on scrap paper after running the power cleans. If you are filling the printer with cleaning fluid then the printed output should be relatively colorless. If you are filling the printer with ink then the printed output should look normal. If this is not the case then one further power clean should be sufficient.