

REFILLING CANON PRINTERS i860 and similar.

In the past I've owned several Epson, H.P, and one Lexmark printer. With this Canon i860 I think I've found the first consumer friendly printer, and that's saying a lot!!!!

This printer has an ink cartridge that can be removed entirely for cleaning in about two seconds after the ink tanks have been taken out, and it only take a couple of seconds to remove all five of those. The cartridge case can be easily cleaned by soaking in Windex or a mild ammonia solution. How good can this get!!!!

As far as filling the ink tank with bulk ink, I've found there's a lot of confusion out there. I've found a way to fill these tanks without leaking and with an easy technique, so this is to share that with you.

TO BEGIN

Tools: You'll need the following tools to do this job. Just about everyone has these except maybe the glue gun.



Drill motor and a very small drill a bit larger than the diameter of the fill needle.

Hot glue gun and glue (of course)

Bulk ink refilling kit (from Atlascopy.com--of course)

Ink (Same as above)

Newspapers (in case you make a mess first time)

And that's about it!

THE INK TANKS

These aren't cartridges, they're tanks, which means there is no sophisticated controllers built in, they're only simple tanks to hold ink. The ink comes out the bottom past a felt lined round hole and into the cartridge (which does have all those important controllers) and then to the paper. The tanks have two internal spaces, one is filled with foam

and the other empty. There's a transit space between the two spaces for the ink to move from the empty space (a reservoir) to the foam filled space. The computer uses infra red technology to read the tanks and can report the amount of ink remaining to you using the software "setup utility). Another nice feature is the fact that the tanks are clear plastic, so you can find out how low the ink is just by taking out the tanks and looking at them.

Important: Don't confuse the two black tanks! The large tank "BK3e" is pigmented ink. It's used primarily for text. The smaller black tank "BK6" is dye based and is used for photo. Don't put pigmented ink into the small tank--it won't work! You may wind up buying a new cartridge!!!

HERE WE GO!!!

First, have the syringe laying down in front of you already filled with the ink of choice, your rubber gloves on, paper down on the table, and a sink nearby. You'll need to carefully clean the syringe after each fill in order to prevent cross contamination. Have the drill handy to pick up with the drill inserted. Have the glue gun hot and ready to go.

METHOD

You'll need to drill two holes, one in each of these spaces, on the **top** of each. Drill the first above the foam filled area and slightly down into the foam to be sure there's a clear

passage for venting. This prevents something called “vapor locking” which won’t allow any ink to leave from the bottom.



NEXT,

With your rubber gloves on, put your finger over the exit hole on the bottom below the foam filled space. Hold it tight! Now drill another hole on the top of the empty reservoir near the front. You’ll see a slight dimpled spot almost to the front. Drill there. Now you’re ready to insert the ink. Pick up the syringe and fill the space almost to the top. If there’s any ink at all on the top near the hole, wipe it off with a paper towel, pick up the glue gun and spread a bit of hot glue over and slightly around the hole. This is the “fill hole”---not the vent hole over the foam area. Continue to hold your finger over the exit till the glue sets up and you’re done. How easy was that????

Once you’re set up it shouldn’t take more than fifteen or twenty minutes to fill all the tanks even including cleanup. It’ll go quicker after the first time as the holes are already

drilled. In future fills it'll be necessary to clear the hole each time over the reservoir in order for the needle to enter. Generally that will mean using the drill again as the glue will go down into the hole a bit.

If you don't get a good seal with the glue over the fill hole, ink will immediately begin to run out of the exit hole on the bottom. I tried using electrical tape as others have suggested, and even though it was applied very tightly, it didn't seal. The glue does, and is easy to use. Only problem with it is the need to clear the fill hole each time you want to refill. The tape would have been more convenient, but that's the way it goes!!!

Caveat:

I haven't tried this with any other Canon printer so can't vouch for this method with any other than the i860. Seems that it ought to work on any with this tank system though, but you'll have to try for yourselves.

Good printing :-)

Ted Johnson