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Solid paint markers are solidified paint and are available in numerous forms for specified applications. There are currently over 30 standard solid paint markers offered by major manufacturers including: fluorescent, high temperature, bleed through, soft (for writing on glass), UV for automated scanning applications, retracable, water soluble, pickling bath resistant, and lumber crayons.

Advantages of Solid Paint Markers versus Valve Action Markers

- oWork well on wet or damp surfaces. Soft, retractable markers are widely used by auto auction sites, dealers, auto transport companies, and tow truck operators because they write on wet surfaces, cure in minutes, are very permanent, and can be removed with a razor blade when necessary. They also do not "ghost" on windows.

- oMore cost effective. Typical valve action paint markers contain 8 to 10 cc of paint and sell for between \$1.50 and \$3.00. Solid paint markers are solid paint and contain as much as 10 times the volume and retail for between \$1.00 and \$4.00. Measured by the foot of writing, they cover up to 5 times the linear footage.

- oCan be used to write on rough surfaces such as masonry, corrugated paper, wood, rusted or rough metal surfaces. Valve action markers use a felt or fiber tip that tears when writing on rough surfaces.

- oContain no solvents and are not flammable. Most valve action paint markers contain flammable solvent carriers that enhance the bonding capabilities of the paint and allow fast drying.

- oAre available in retractable holders so users can use the entire contents.

Disadvantages of Solid Paint Markers versus Valve Action Paint Markers

- oThe width of the line is typically wider. Most are 3/8" or wider and it's difficult to make a mark narrower than the width of the marker. If you're writing on small metal parts, a valve action marker works better.

- oValve action markers work better on oily surfaces because the solvent carrier enhances the bonding properties of the paint.

- oValve action markers dry in 30 seconds, solid markers require several minutes before they're completely dry.

Most manufacturers offer both style markers because there is a need for both. For consumers and manufacturers alike the number one challenge seems to be finding a reliable source for the markers. Manufacturers offer an assortment of products far broader than most distributors are willing or able to stock.

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