

The following instructions explain how to use cleaning cartridges on an Epson Stylus Pro 4000. 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 4000 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. Set the printer to run an 'initial fill' routine (see instructions below).
2. Run the initial fill routine with cleaning cartridges installed. This will fill the ink system with cleaning fluid.
3. Ideally, leave the printer to 'soak' overnight to allow the cleaning fluid to dissolve any dried ink deposits.
4. Set the printer to perform another 'initial fill' routine. 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.
5. Run the initial fill with ink cartridges installed. 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 220 ml size cleaning cartridges are good for four cleanings.

RUNNING AN INITIAL FILL ROUTINE

The printer has a handy initial fill routine built into the firmware that fills the machine's ink system with inks or cleaning fluid. The routine is very simple to set and use. You should always bear in mind that the maintenance tank will need at least 25% capacity remaining in order to run the routine. If the maintenance tank is nearly full then the printer will not allow you to run the initial fill, and an empty tank will need to be installed before the routine can be performed.

Setting the initial fill routine

With the printer switched on, remove all the cartridges from the machine. Turn the printer off by pressing the power button. The printer pump will run for a minute or so before the machine turns itself off.

Running the initial fill routine

The next time you turn the machine on, the display will prompt you to install cartridges. After you have installed all the cartridges and pushed down the cartridge locking levers, the machine will start running the initial fill routine and the display will show a % figure indicating the progress of the routine which takes about ten minutes. You will need to be present during the running of the routine as the display will prompt you to lift the cartridge locking levers up and down several times during the process. When the routine has finished, the display will read 'ready'.