

SUBSTITUTE CLAIM 23

23. (NEW claim; proposed substitute for claim 1) A low-pressure atomizing spray gun comprising:

an air spray gun body;

a paint nozzle attached to said spray gun body, said paint nozzle having a delivery port and a tip portion with a discharge end;

an air cap attached to said spray gun body to cover said paint nozzle, said air cap having an inner surface defining a central opening within which is positioned said tip portion of said paint nozzle such that an annular slit having an inlet end is defined between said inner surface of said air cap and said tip portion of said paint nozzle; and

air grooves on said tip portion of said paint nozzle, said air grooves converging toward a center of said delivery port and extending from upstream ~~at or upstream~~ of said inlet end of said annular slit toward said discharge end of said tip portion of said nozzle, and said air grooves each having a cross-sectional area that progressively increases toward said delivery port of said paint nozzle, with a bottom of each of said air grooves extending from an outer periphery of said paint nozzle to an inner periphery of said paint nozzle,

wherein an intersection of said bottom of said air grooves with said inner periphery of said paint nozzle approximately coincides with a front end of said central opening in said air cap,

such that said paint nozzle and air cap cooperate with each other to mix, in the atmosphere, compressed air and paint just delivered from said paint nozzle to atomize the paint.

ANEST IWATA CORPORATION
Exhibit 2003
Case IPR2013-00111