

Brayer Care

The rollers on McClain's Japanese and Takach Brayers are made from nitrile rubber. Nitrile is a synthetic rubber that is resistant to oil and other chemicals, so it is safe to use with oil or water based ink.

Nitrile is very tough and will not deform easily, so you can leave the brayer sitting on the roller for long periods of time without any problem. We left a Japanese Brayer on a shelf for three months and the roller was still perfectly round when we picked it up.

However, nitrile is sensitive to UV light. If left in sun light or under florescent lights for a long time, the roller will dry out and crack or split. For that reason, it is a good idea to store your brayers in a box, cupboard or drawer where they are not exposed to light.

High heat can also dry nitrile. Do not store near heating vents. If you live in a hot climate and your studio is not air-conditioned, consider storing your brayers in an air conditioned location.

Do not allow ink to dry on the roller, since dried ink will not dissolve and will ruin the roller.

Nitrile can be nicked so do not try to clean off dried ink or bits of wood picked up from the block with a sharp object. Instead, carefully pick the debris off with blunt tweezers or your fingers.

Clean nitrile rollers as you would your own skin. Use gentle cleaners like SavvySoap. If you need or want to use a solvent, use odorless mineral spirits such as Gamsol and remove any residue with a gentle cleaner. Do not use harsh detergents.

Begin by rolling off as much ink as possible onto newsprint or newspaper. When most of the ink is gone, apply cleaner to the roller and rub gently with a rough cloth or nail brush to loosen the remaining ink. Pay special attention to the edges and sides of the roller as well as the face. Rinse off the remaining cleaner with hot water. With Takach brayers, do not get the metal parts wet. This can cause a washer inside the brayer to rust so it squeaks as it is being used. Instead, use a wet rag to rinse the roller.

Dry with a clean, lint-free cloth. If any more ink comes off, apply more cleaner and rub some more. Take your time and make sure the roller is completely clean before you put it away.

Clean rollers stay flexible, work well and last a long time. Dirty rollers get sticky and may be impossible to clean after too much time has passed. If the roller develops a glaze or becomes hard, it is time to have the rubber reground or replaced.

The frame will catch ink over time. With Takach Hand Brayers, the space between the roller and frame is wide enough that you can clean this area with a rag. With Japanese Brayers, you can remove the roller from the frame by taking out the screw at one end and then you can clean the frame thoroughly.



McCLAIN'S
PRINTMAKING SUPPLIES

15685 SW 116th Avenue PMB 202
King City, OR 97224-2695 USA

www.imclains.com

503-641-3555 (phone)

503-641-3591 (fax)

800-832-4264 (orders)