

Young Painter 100% Set Up with SATA Guns and Accessories

by Autobody News Staff

Head Painter **Kaci Sallee** received a fast education from great teachers about how to paint a car along her fast track to success. With her SATA guns in her arsenal and knowledge she garnered from multiple painters at Premier Collision CARSTAR's three locations in Washington State, Sallee was ready to shine. As of December 2021, she is a full-time head painter at the company's Olympia location and loving every minute of it.

Sallee, 24, was hired as a detailer in 2018 and held the same position for two years. In the summer of 2020, she applied for a painter prepper's position and got the job. She began working with **Joe Cairns**, a veteran painter, who showed her how to apply paint and avoid many of the rookie mistakes some fledgling painters can make.

"By March of 2021, they let me jump in without a lot of training, but I adapted quickly," Sallee said. "I was able to go to all of our three shops (Tacoma, Yelm and Olympia) to learn the most I could. Each painter has their own style and sprays differently, and I took what I could from each one."

"I started using SATA guns because my teachers were using them and I wanted to do it the same way. They really liked their SATA guns, so it was a fairly easy decision. Everyone recommended them and I have stuck with them because they do an amazing job. I love the way they feel in my hand and the finished product always looks spectacular."

Now Sallee uses her SATAjet X 5500 HVLP for bases and clears and her SATAminijet 4400 for UV primers and the occasional spot-in. "The coverage is great and I can usually cover everything with two coats, depending on the colors," she said. "The more I use them the better I get. I can see some progress every time, which is so encouraging."



Premier Collision CARSTAR has locations in Tacoma, Yelm and Olympia, WA.

Sallee agreed the three things you want from a spray gun are control, accuracy and comfort. "My hands get a little tired at the end of the day, but the next morning they feel fine and I'm ready to roll out again. I plan on painting for a few years now," she said with a laugh, "so the way the guns feel in my hands is very important to me."

Maintenance is never an issue with her SATA spray guns or accessories. "After a few colors, I disassemble and reassemble them and it's become a routine," she said. "If I go to a silver from a white, for example, I may have to wash them more often. But in most cases, the maintenance has been easy and doesn't feel like a chore."

Sallee learned SATA RPS Cups are also a winner, she said. "The painters here showed me that they store much easier than the other non-SATA cups. If we have to do some touch-up or spot work, we can always store a little color in the cup and go back to it with the RPS Cups."

To make the picture more complete, Sallee wears her Dan-Am Pro Series SATA ladies paint suit whenever she's in the booth. Offered in sizes 5 to 26, the suit is machine washable, made from 100% polyester calendered materials and antistatic built-in

carbon fiber threads. She loves the way it breathes and the heavy-duty zippers on the sides. "Because it can get hot around here in the summer," she said. "The suit makes me feel comfortable and it fits perfectly."

When she first started using the paint suits the shop provided, Sallee ran into sizing issues. "The arms and legs were way too long and the whole suit was way too baggy. Now with my SATA ladies' suit, there's less material and I can move around more easily in the booth."

Sallee also likes the fact her SATA rep is accessible and accommodating. "I was interested in an RP gun and he came and did a demo for me," she said. "Wow, this is a great gun, I thought. This can really lay the product down and it's so smooth. I think that will be the next gun to add to my small collection."

With her SATA guns by her side, Sallee is pleased about her job. Using SATA guns is part of the journey, she said, and every day is a different adventure. "My plan is to be a career painter and do this job as long as I possibly can. At first, I didn't think I would like this as much as I do. But I love everything about painting and I am getting some very positive reviews. It's really fun and I have no complaints!"

Premier Collision CARSTAR

Olympia, WA
360-754-3893
www.carstar.com

Company At A Glance...

Type: Collision Repair
Facility Employees: 11
In Business Since: 2007
Number of Locations: Three
Combined Production Space: 27,500 square feet



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Dan-Am Company

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