

decalomania, n. The art of transferring pictures and ornamental designs from specially prepared paper to glass, china, wood, etc., and fixing them permanently.

TIPS FOR APPLYING DECALS PROFESSIONALLY - READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING



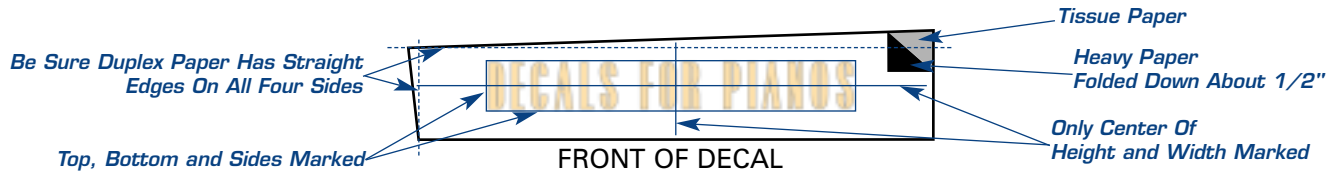
FRONT OF DECAL



BACK OF DECAL

Hands and Surface Preparation

Hands should be clean and free of oil and perspiration. The surface on which the decal is to be applied must be clean and free from grease, oil, polish and dirt. Clean surface thoroughly with Naphtha or Benzine. Mark the proper location for the decal with masking tape. Be sure the Duplex Paper has straight edges and the top, bottom and sides of the decal are marked. Marking the center of the decal (height and width) can be sufficient for proper placement.



1. Separate tissue paper and heavy paper at a corner. Fold down heavy paper at corner about 1/2". Heavy paper will be peeled away at the appropriate time.
2. Using a fine brush, or a felt sliver from an old piano hammer, trace varnish on all letters and art (any decal surface that is to be applied). A very thin even coat is best. The varnish is used as an adhesive and is applied to the side of the decal (back of decal) that goes against the piano. Allow the varnish to set until it becomes very tacky. This usually takes 6 to 20 minutes depending upon conditions, i.e. room temperature, humidity, air circulation, etc.
3. Place the decal in the previously marked proper location and smooth firmly with your finger while holding in place. Use plenty of pressure. Rub down well with a rubber roller or smooth block; smooth from center to outer edges of decal, rather than edges inward. This assures best results. When you are sure the decal is in perfect contact with the surface to which it is being applied, proceed to next step.
4. Take hold of the corner of the Duplex backing paper and carefully peel off the heavy paper, leaving the remaining tissue and decal adhering to the surface. Again, roll the tissue paper down flat and smooth with a rubber roller, using plenty of pressure. Allow to set as long as possible, overnight if convenient, before going on to the next step.
5. When you are sure the varnish is thoroughly set, take a soft rag or sponge wet with warm water and saturate the tissue paper until it crinkles. The warm water dissolves the gelatin between the tissue and the lettering. Peel the tissue paper off the decal carefully without disturbing the letters or art. Now wash the decal gently with a wet sponge, soft cloth or chamois saturated with water to remove the remaining gelatin. Blot dry and allow the decal to set.

If enough varnish shows around the design to require removal, use benzine or naphtha on a soft cloth or chamois, wiping carefully around the design. Be careful not to soak the decal too much as this could raise the decal around the edges.

After the decal has been applied as above and allowed to dry, you may add to the decals brilliancy and durability by applying one or more protective coats of final finish. Carefully spray light mist coats of clear finish over the decal. After the mist coats have dried thoroughly you may apply the finish coat in the usual manner.

Things You May Find Helpful To Remember:

- PIANO DECALS ARE NOT WATER TRANSFERS.
- ANYONE, EVEN THE MOST EXPERIENCED REFINISHER MAY SPOIL A DECAL NOW AND THEN.
- OLD DECALS MAY BE REMOVED WITH FINE STEEL WOOL AND A SMALL QUANTITY OF BENZINE. SCOTCH TAPE MAY BE EFFECTIVE UNLESS THE DECAL IS FINISHED OVER.
- TEST TACKINESS AFTER TWO MINUTES DRYING BY TOUCHING VARNISHED PORTION LIGHTLY TO THE END OF NOSE. IF IT TENDS TO STICK TO NOSE, YOU SHOULD WAIT A WHILE LONGER BEFORE APPLYING TO FALLBOARD.
- WHILE NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, A CAMEL'S HAIR ARTISTS BRUSH TO TRACE TACKY VARNISH ON GOLD WORK OF DECAL WILL GIVE A PROFESSIONAL TOUCH AND BETTER RESULTS. (AS OPPOSED TO SMEARING ENTIRE SURFACE AND THEN HAVING TO REMOVE EXCESS AT RISK OF SPOILING DECAL.)
- REMEMBER, TOO, THAT A SMALL JAR OR CAN OF VARNISH SHOULD BE DELIBERATELY LEFT OPEN FOR USE IN APPLYING DECALS. BY PUNCTURING THE DRIED SCUM EACH TIME, YOU WILL GRADUALLY CREATE THE TACKINESS MUCH SOUGHT AFTER BY EXPERIENCED REFINISHERS.

VARNISH • LACQUER • SHELLAC • SOLVENT • TRANSFER CEMENT • ETC..

Piano decals have been applied in this manner for over one hundred years, long before many of today's modern finishing products were developed. We recommend using varnish as the adhesive, although many other substances have been used successfully over the years. If you are going to use something other than varnish as the adhesive, we suggest testing the substance on a decal before you attempt to apply the decal to a final surface. A few of today's modern lacquers will dissolve some of the inks that were used in decal manufacturing.