



## Directions for mounting TOP MOUNT DryAP decals

1) Remove needed decals from the protective bags. Always store the unused decals in sealed bags and/or in a air tight covered container (i.e. Rubbermaid or Tupperware) to prevent deterioration of the adhesive and plasticizer loss. It is highly recommended to store the decals in a cool, dark, slightly humid area. Heat, UV light, and dryness can all have a detrimental effect on the flexibility of the s product over the long term.

2) This type of decal is produced with five layers of stock or printed substances, 1) support paper, 2) self releasing clear plastic film, 3) image areas, 4) adhesive layer, 5) silicone release liner. The stock consists of the first two layers, the support paper is coated with a adhesive layer which holds the self releasing clear plastic film in position during the printing process. The decal itself is constructed with various layers of clears and the colored image itself. The final printing is a film of pressure sensitive adhesive used to bond the decal to your frame. The final layer is the silicon impregnated release liner used to protect the adhesive, and allows us to send you stacks of individual thin decals not one big fat stack of paper plastic and ink stuck together. **THE SURFACE YOU ARE MOUNTING TO MUST BE VERY CLEAN TO GET A GOOD BOND. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THERE IS NO WAX, POLISH OR FINISHING RESIDUE ON THE SURFACE YOU ARE MOUNTING THESE DECALS TO. AFTER THE DECALS ARE MOUNTED YOU CAN APPLY WAX OR POLISH RIGHT OVER THE DECAL.**

3) To prepare the decal for mounting, first remove the silicone release liner to expose the back of the decal (adhesive side). Fold a corner of the stock down to separate the clear plastic and decal off the entire sheet of backing stock. Care must be taken while separating stock to not prematurely break the bond of the decal to the plastic film. A slow and steady peel works much better than a ripping motion. If you have broken that bond anywhere on the decal it will now be visible by looking through the plastic film at the face of the decal. The separation areas will look frosted and will always be on corners or edges. This by no means scraps the decal, but you must be aware of these areas because once they touch the surface you are mounting on, you will not be able to lift the decal and reposition it. When mounting the decal care should be taken to get the correct position on the first attempt. You can't stick it down and peel it back off with much success. Once positioned rub the decal down with your fingers, taking care not to trap air bubbles. At this point, using a clean dry rag, buff the decal down by rubbing the rag back and forth. This serves two purposes. First it bonds the adhesive to the frame with a combination of heat and pressure. Secondly, the rubbing loosens up the releasing agent that is bonded to the back side (squeegee side) of the clear film. Thirdly, rubbing the decal down before squeegeeing the decal down will eliminate the possibility of stretching the decal while squeegeeing. This in turn, will eliminate stress cracks, which could appear up to 2 weeks after mounting. **THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS STEP CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED.**

4) Burnish the decal down with some sort of burnisher: A bondo squeegee or some other form of hard plastic applicator works best. Be sure to burnish down the entire decal working from the center to the edges. Be sure to hold the plastic film down while burnishing, to avoid ripping or wrinkling the decal. Now, reburnish the decal, starting from one side on the film but not on the decal. Work into the decal. This will separate the edge of the decal from the film. Continue the separation across the rest of the decal. After this, burnishing the plastic film normally has separated from the decal, if not just peel it off. If by some chance the decal hasn't separated at this point spend more time burnishing.

**ONCE THE DECAL IS MOUNTED** If there are any bubbles in the decal... tiny ones will pull themselves down in about a half hour, larger ones can be popped with a pin and burnished down. As with all pressure sensitive decals, it takes several days for the bond to really set in. Try to avoid major abrasion to the decal for about one week.

**TO REMOVE THE DECAL.** If the decal is bonded to raw metal just rub the decal for quite awhile with a strong solvent like M.E.K. or a Lacquer thinner, or you can sand it off. If mounted on a painted frame that would be damaged by strong solvents, heat the decal up a little to soften the adhesive and scrape the decal off with the edge of a stiff piece of plastic (like a credit card) it will be slow going.