



## Directions for Mounting Varnish-Fix Decals

Varnish-Fix decals are probably the oldest form of decal for the decoration of bicycles. It was developed by some sadomasochistic Italian who was working in conjunction with a English paper company.

The stock which these decals are printed on is called Duplex Decal Stock. This stock consists of a layer of heavy backing or support paper. To which a thin layer of tissue paper has been bonded. The tissue paper is coated with a dextrose (corn sugar) gum. The decal itself is then printed upside down on this layer of dextrose...that's the easy part!!! The hard part is to mount the decal successfully.

Fortunately for the decal mounters of the world Varnish-Fix decals are a dying decal form because the duplex paper is no longer made. We still have in stock some of this paper for those of you who thrive on self-abuse. 1. The first thing to do in mounting a Varnish-Fix decal is to find appropriate mounting varnish. Spar Varnish available from most hardware stores works well. Fast Goldsize, available from Sign Painters Supply Company also works very well.

2. Apply a very thin even layer of varnish over the back of decal trying to avoid excess varnish on the tissue paper around the decal because all excess varnish around the decal will eventually have to be removed.

3. This is a hard one. Allow the varnish to reach tack. This is when the varnish is no longer in a liquid state and no longer smears with a gentle rubbing. This reaching tack varies greatly, depending on temperature and the thickness of the varnish layer. If the varnish is too wet it will not dry once the decal is mounted and the edges of the decal will curl. If it is to dry, the decal won't mount.

4. Once tack is reached gently fold a small corner of the duplex stock back and forth. This will cause the tissue paper to release from the backing paper. Holding that corner of the backing stock down gently pull the entire piece of tissue paper off the back.

5. Looking through the tissue paper, position the decal in the desired location. Care must be taken to position the decal correctly, because once you have the decal stuck down, you cannot remove. Once positioned rub the decal down thoroughly working from center image to outside edges, taking care not to trap air bubbles. Let the decal dry for at least 10 minutes.

6. Wet the tissue paper with water. Wait about 30 seconds and peel the tissue paper off. With water and a soft cloth wash off the remaining dextrose gum from the decal and surrounding frame. If this corn sugar is not thoroughly removed, as it dries it shrinks massively, and will cause the edges of the decal to curl.

7. With a very soft cloth, barely moisten with Nathapa Base Solvent such as Prepsolv, carefully wipe off any excess mounting varnish from around the decal. At this point care must be taken to not dissolve the varnish that is underneath the decal. It is best to wipe from the decal out rather than wiping into the edge of the decal, and as soon as you wipe it with the moistened cloth, quickly blot off the excess solvent.

8. Let dry at least 24 hours before clear coating.