

Water Slide Decal Application

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Corridor Woodturners

Materials and Tools

- Waterslide Decal Paper (Available for either Laser or Inkjet printers)
- Water (I use RO water)
- **Sharp** scissors or Exacto knife
- Clear Acrylic Spray (Required for inkjet, optional for laser)
- Q-Tip Swabs (Optional but handy)
- Micro Set (Optional setting solution)
- Micro Sol (Optional solvent solution for stretching and forming decals)

Steps

1. Design and print your logo, inscription, photo, name, etc. on Decal Paper
2. Prepare your surface (Clean, Smooth, Waterproof - I use CA glue)
3. Trim your printed image
 - a. Stay as close as possible to printed image (1/32" if possible)
 - b. Use curving cuts – no sharp corners (they will show)
 - c. Don't get carried away cutting closely around letters – it will make the edge so wavy that it will be very difficult to lay out onto your workpiece
4. Soak the decal in water – 20-30 seconds
5. Optional Step – coat the target area with Micro Set (using Q-Tip). This is normally not necessary but if you soaked the decal too long, it may help adhere to the surface
6. Remove decal from water and just **start** to slide the decal off the paper
7. Position the exposed edge of the decal where you want it
8. Holding the exposed edge in place, slide the backing paper from the remainder of the decal
9. Gently reposition the decal as needed
10. Use Q-Tip swab to gently work out any wrinkles or bubbles
 - a. If applying to a compound curving surface, you may need to use a different Q-Tip dipped in the Micro Sol.
 - b. DON'T overwork (repositioning) the decal – it stretches and may tear
11. **LET IT DRY** (several hours or overnight, if possible)
12. Apply a thin coat of finish (CA highly recommended) over the decal (lathe OFF) and let dry/cure
13. Apply enough additional coats of finish that you cannot feel any ridge around the decal
14. If using CA, you may use micro-mesh to polish the surface
15. **Charge your customer extra for the service** – I charge a minimum of \$10 additional