

LMSCA

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET No 7



Varnish Fix Transfers

Introduction

Older varnish fix transfers consist of an outer layer of a paper cover with printed outline and fixing markings, then underneath this is a thin tissue paper layer, then the transfer itself. Newer transfers do not have the inner tissue paper layer.

Method of Application

1. On the paper layer, extend the fixing line at the top of the transfer so that it extends to the edges of the transfer.
2. Peel back one corner of the paper layer for a short distance.
3. Strike a chalk line across the work piece at the place where this coincides with the extended line in 1. Remove carefully any excess chalk lying beneath the transfer after application. If any chalk gets trapped underneath the transfer after it is applied then it will show through the finished job.
4. Mix a solution of varnish and white spirit such that the resulting consistency is fairly thin but not watery. The actual composition will depend upon the initial consistency of the varnish and the ambient temperature.
5. Using a small pencil brush, apply the solution carefully to the back of the transfer but only as far as its outer edges.
6. Allow this to become practically dry, testing by lightly touching the varnish, until by its 'stickiness' it just lifts the transfer.
7. Apply the transfer carefully, as this is a once only operation. Ensure that the chalk line is just above the top line marked in 2 so that no chalk is trapped underneath the transfer. Press down the transfer gently with your fingers, whilst as much as possible ensuring that there are no large air bubbles trapped underneath. Something like a hard rubber squeegee can be useful.
8. Using the peeled back corner, peel off the dry backing paper immediately.
9. Working from the centre towards the edges, rub down the transfer lightly until it is flat using your fingers dipped in some water if necessary so that they do not stick to any surplus varnish. At this stage do not use a cloth as the surface may be sticky and the cloth may leave deposits on the transfer, which will be difficult if not impossible to remove.
10. Remove the tissue paper covering the transfer by wetting it and lightly rubbing off.
11. Wet your fingers again and rub the transfer flat at the same time removing any blisters or bubbles by piercing them carefully with a sharp knife and pressing down the transfer.
12. Allow any surplus water to dry naturally.
13. Wipe off any marks with a clean lint free cloth.
14. Varnish over.

Produced for the LMS Carriage Association, February 2007

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