

# **DECAL APPLICATION INFORMATION**

Varnish style decals were originally used on most British motorcycles and many manufacturers are once again using this style today. They are recognizable by seeing its image reversed when looking at it. "GOLD SIZE", which is used as adhesive for gold leaf, can be found in most art supply stores. This type of decal is said to be superior to other types such as Pressure Sensitive that is commonly used on Norton gas tanks or the Mylar self-adhesive type. Following you will find detailed instructions on applying varnish and a few different types of decals. Also note that new old stock decals are most times dried out but do make for good collectibles.

## **VARNISH TYPE**

These decals have 2 sheets of paper back to back of each other, one as a guide in the placement of the decal, the other simply for supporting the decal. Before applying, these 2 sheets have to be separated. You can do this by rubbing a corner of the decal. Before separating completely, a thin and even coat of adhesive varnish must be applied to the face of the decal staying as close to the outlines of the design as possible, but being careful not to overlap. When the adhesive varnish has set and becomes quite tacky, position decal into place. With a soft cloth rolled into a ball firmly and evenly press down from the middle to the edges of the decal, making sure all the air bubbles are pressed out. When this is achieved, being careful not to move the decal, take a damp sponge and press evenly on the decal again, insuring all areas of decal are in direct contact of the surface being applied to. When you are sure that the above steps have been completed thoroughly, take a wet sponge and apply water onto decal, soaking the support paper freely to loosen it from the decal. Gently lift up the paper by the corner and peel or slide it off. When paper is removed press the decal down making sure all parts are in good contact of surface. After insuring the last step is completed use clean water and sponge to remove all remaining composition left on the surface of decal. This is very important step must be done properly to insure that the decal does not crack. Using a wet sponge, in which a little mineral spirits has been added, wipe around decal to remove small traces of adhesive varnish from the surface. When done wipe off with a damp lint free cloth from middle to the ends. When decal has dried for 24 hours (make sure it is completely dry) you can varnish it, adding to its shine. DO NOT varnish until after 24 hours and the decal is COMPLETELY dry.

## **WATER TRANSFER TYPE**

Soak transfer in water for 30 seconds. Do not over soak. When decal releases, slip it off and put into position, pressing well. Wipe gently from middle to ends, pressing out excess water and air bubbles. Let decal dry for 24 hours. Apply a clear coat if necessary. A bonus with this type of decal is, when still wet, you can gently reposition it if it is not positioned quite right.

## **PRESSURE SENSITIVE TYPE**

Remove the thin backing paper from decal. Placing adhesive side on surface, press down. Add extra pressure to the ends of the decal, ensuring complete adhesion. To ensure maximum adherence, press the entire decal down again. If desired, decals may be clear coated for added protection.

## **PRESSURE SENSITIVE VINYL TYPE**

Remove backing paper from decal. Place onto desired surface and press down evenly. This particular decal is the die cut vinyl type used on Norton gas tanks and Norton side panels.