



International Association of Penturners

# How to apply a water slide decal to a pen

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In Section 1, I try to establish what materials are needed.

In Section 2, I cover the decision of what type of blank the maker is going to apply the decal onto.

In Section 3, I explain the application process.

Wood or acrylic, I'll explain how to prepare each type of blank.

## Section 1: Things you will need

1. Ink Jet printer
2. Clear and White Decal paper as well as decal sealer. (these items are available online, at craft stores, such as Hobby Lobby) If your image has white in it, use the white paper, (unless your blank is white) otherwise, use the clear paper.
3. Decal maker software. I use Sure Thing decal maker I found online. ([SureThing Decal Maker](http://SureThingDecalMaker.surething-decal-maker.updatestar.com) surething-decal-maker.updatestar.com) This software allows you to upload and print your images.
4. Read the instructions on printing and sealing the decals. You will want to print several of each image, in the event you may tear one or more.
5. Cut off a row of images. Let the ink dry. 20 minutes should be good.  
Spray the decals with a light coat of sealer. 30 minutes should be good.
6. Half a cup of room temperature water.
7. Cotton swab



## Section 2: Prepare your blank

1. Determine your blank material. If you are using an acrylic or other non-wood material, simply sand and polish as usual.
2. If using wood, you will need to sand, and seal with two coats of THIN CA glue. Let dry, and lightly sand with 1000 grit paper.
3. Wipe the blank clean. It's now ready for your decal.

## Section 3: Applying your decal

- 1: Gather your cup of water, and swap (Q-tip) Cut out your decal, as close to the ink as you can, without removing any of the image.

2. Submerge your decal into the water for about 5-6 seconds. Remove, and apply to the blank. Slide the paper out from under the decal film.



3. With your swab GENTLY/LIGHTLY wipe the surface to remove any air bubbles trapped under the film. Pressing too hard will push out the adhesive. Let the decal set. 20 minutes should be good, but 2 hours would be better.



4. Now you are ready for a good CA finish! I use 6 coats of MEDIUM CA. Sand and polish!

I hope this tutorial helps.  
Chuck Hutchings (Dalecamino)

