

# PROCESSING TIPS & HINTS

**PROBLEM:**  
Part or all of the image is lost during rinsing.

**Cause:** Sheet is under-exposed, resist not hardened enough.  
**Solution:** Exposure time needs to be increased.

**Cause:** Too much pressure exerted when wiping and rinsing off resist.  
**Solution:** Use only light pressure. Let the cotton pad and water do the work.

**Cause:** Poor contact between film and ID-MARK sheet during the exposure.  
**Solution:** Contact must be extremely close between ID-MARK material and film during exposure.

**Cause:** Not enough contrast between clear and opaque areas on film.  
**Solution:** Artwork images must be opaque, but the actual film needs to be clear.

**Cause:** Wrong type of exposure device.  
**Solution:** Light source must be ultra-violet (black-light). Incandescent light sources (such as office copiers) will not work.

**Cause:** Photosensitive side on the ID-MARK material is facing away from the light during exposure.  
**Solution:** The photosensitive side (colored side) needs to face the light during exposure.

**Cause:** Emulsion side on the film is not in contact with the photosensitive side on the ID-MARK material.  
**Solution:** Use film with emulsion toner on the film in contact with the photosensitive (colored) side on the ID-MARK material.

**Cause:** Leaving water on the sheet too long.  
**Solution:** ID-MARK will process without a great deal of water. Soaking the sheet with too much water will cause all the resist to soften and wash away.

**PROBLEM:**  
Double or fuzzy images appear during processing.

**Cause:** Film (artowrk) shifted during exposure.  
**Solution:** This can happen if the film and the ID-MARK material are not held in extremely close contact during exposure.

**Cause:** Film was printed with emulsion side up. Resulting light diffusion caused shadows or double images.  
**Solution:** Film needs to be printed so that it is right-reading with that emulsion or toner side in contact with photosensitive side of sheet.



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\*If color consistency is important, we recommend purchasing material from the same lot.

ID-MARK is a registered trademark of Horizons Inc. Horizons ISG does not warrant performance of its materials in any environment.

**PROBLEM:**  
Pinholes or voids appear on correctly exposed ID-MARK material.

**Cause:** Dirt or lint on cover glass of exposure device.  
**Solution:** Clean glass.

**Cause:** Dirt or lint on film.  
**Solution:** Clean off film with lint free cloth.

**PROBLEM:**  
No image appears at all.

**Cause:** Sheet is overexposed.  
**Solution:** Reduce exposure time. Ensure opaque (black) areas on film are dark enough to hold black light.

**Cause:** Art (film) images are not opaque enough to block the light during exposure.  
**Solution:** Film must be transparent but the artwork images must be opaque.

**Cause:** Material exposed before use.  
**Solution:** Store unexposed material in sealed black pouch when not in use.

**PROBLEM:**  
Scratches on correctly exposed ID-MARK material.

**Cause:** Too abrasive a pad used in rinsing and wiping off resist.  
**Solution:** A soft, lint-free cotton pad such as a AppliPad (Part# 7020) should be used in rinsing and wiping off the emulsion. Do not use paper towels or facial tissues.

**Cause:** Fingernails or rings make contact with resist when wet.  
**Solution:** Make certain that only the cotton pad comes in contact with the ID-MARK material while it is wet.

FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT PLEASE CALL  
1-800-635 6154



# PROCESSING GUIDE



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# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS ID-MARK:

ID-MARK is an imaging system for making identification and recognition products, either on aluminum or polyester sheets, in a variety of colors and sizes. It is a simple system that anyone can use.

## HOW DOES ID-MARK WORK:

ID-MARK sheets are processed with UV light and water. Areas of the plate exposed to UV light harden and will remain on the plate after procession. Unexposed areas will wash away with water.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO GET STARTED

### WITH ID-MARK:

- Artwork or Film (negative or positive)
- UV Exposure Unit
- ID-MARK sheets
- Water
- Cotton Pads
- Heat Gun or Hair Dryer

# ID-MARK PROCESSING

## HOW DO I EXPOSE THE ID-MARK SHEET:

- Place film on top of the colored side of the ID-MARK sheet
- Expose plate to UV light. Length of exposure will depend upon exposure unit and material. (see chart.)

EXPOSURE DEVICE			
Material	Exposure Unit #8796	Exposure Unit #8797	Exposure Unit #7950
Aluminum Sheets	4 min.	5 min.	100 Light Units
White and Yellow Polyester Sheets	4 min.	5 min.	100 Light Units
Clear Polyester Sheets	3 min.	4 min.	70 Light Units
Reflective Sheets	3 min.	4 min.	70 Light Units
Photoluminescent Sheets	3 min.	4 min.	70 Light Units

- For other units, we suggest exposing test strips before processing full sheets
- We recommend a 25 watt Black Light bulb with a UV nanometer range of 350 - 400.

## HOW DO I DEVELOPE THE ID-MARK SHEET:

- Hold the exposed sheet under a stream of cold water. Unexposed resist will wash away.
- Use a wet cotton pad to aid in removing excess resist by rubbing gently.

### HINTS

- Use light pressure when removing resist.
- Make certain cotton pad is wet when wiping sheet.
- Continue to wipe until all excess resist is gone.

### ALTERNATIVE METHOD:

- Place exposed sheet in plastic tray and spary with cold water from spray bottle until the sheet is completely wet.
- Use a wet cotton pad and rub gently to remove resist.

# ARTWORK PREPARATION

## WHAT DO I USE FOR FILM?

- Output from printers including:
  - Vellum
  - Overhead transparencies for laser or inkjet printers
- Commercial photographic film
- ID-MARK reversing film

## WHERE DO I GET IDEAS FOR ARTWORK:

- Clip Art Books.
- Pictures
- Drawings
- Computers - Clipart

## HOW DO I MAKE THE FILM?

- Commercial Photographic Equipment or Film Service Bureaus
- Print your artwork, from a computer, onto an overhead transparency or vellum using a laser or inkjet printer. Print an “emulsion-side down” (or mirrored) image. Printing emulsion-side down provides for the best quality reproduction of your artwork. Always print with the darkest print setting.

### FOR EXAMPLE:

in CorelDraw, select “Emulsion-Side-Down” (V.7.), or “Mirror” (V.8) in print settings.

# ID-MARK PROCESSING

## HOW DO I DRY MY ID-MARK SHEET:

- Gently wipe off excess water with a soft cotton pad.
- Dry with a heat gun or hair dryer to ensure even drying.
- Do not let sheet air dry

## FINISHING AND FABRICATING:

### Are there additional finishing steps I can use on my ID-MARK sheet?

- Finished ID-MARK sheets can be cut/trimmed with scissors, paper cutters, trimmers or shears.
- If you see fingermarks, water spots, etc. on your dried sheet you may use a cleaning solvent such as the ID-MARK Cleaner. After cleaning, remember to dry the sheet.
- If you need to apply extra protection to your ID-MARK sheet, you can apply ID-MARK protective overlam material.
- If you want a different background color on your aluminum sheet, you can apply one of our background coloring dyes. (Complete instructions in package.)

### HINTS

- Use light pressure when removing resist.
- Make certain cotton pad is wet when wiping sheet.
- Continue to wipe until all excess resist is gone.

## PROTECTIVE OVERLAMs:

When conditions such as abrasion, outdoor use and exposure to harsh environments occur, ID-MARK overlams are recommended to add additional protection. All overlam films can be applied by hand and no special equipment is required. Choose from the following overlam films:

### UV GLOSS OVERLAM

Recommended if finished sheet will hang in direct sunlight. The finish of UV Gloss Overlam is shiny.

### MATTE OVERLAM

For applications that require a flat, non-reflective surface appearance. Protects from moisture and abrasion.

### VELVET POLYCARBONATE OVERLAM

Produces a “frosty” look. Provides excellent abbrasion resistance as well as moisture resistance.



1. Design film

2. Print film

3. Expose to UV Light through film

4. Spray with water

5. Wipe it dry