

LEE S. McDONALD, INC. est. 1976

THE SOURCE FOR THE PAPER ARTS

CARE OF THE MOULD AND DECKLE

Preparation of the mould for use:

The mould should be cleaned before use to insure that it is free from sawdust and other debris. The best way to do this is to use a hose with a spray nozzle, making sure to spray all sides of the mould and deckle. This should also be done at the end of production, or if the pulp backs up in the screen. Cleaning again before use usually gets rid of knots of pulp which can mess up your paper - tweezers may be helpful. A wet mould surface makes the water drain properly. If a hose is not available, dipping the mould in a vat of water will help clean out unwanted pulp. It is easier to remove wet pulp than dry. If slivers of wood develop, cleanly cut them and remove from the mould.

Refinishing:

The wood used in our moulds does not need any finish, but it is generally a good idea to coat them annually with a penetrating sealer. They can be coated more often if they are under heavy use. Stay away from surface finishes such as varnishes, shellac, or polyurethanes, since they are generally not made for a wet environment, tending to flake and send bits of finish into the paper. A penetrating waterproofing seal such as Thompson's Water Seal or linseed oil is fine. Check with your local paint or hardware store.

Red Stain:

Our Apprentice, Dowel Ribbed, and Custom moulds are made of mahogany which can impart a red stain to vat water. Slivers of new mahogany sometimes color the surrounding paper with a reddish tint. Time and use will eliminate this, but soaking the mould and changing the water will help to season it more rapidly. A mild bleach may be carefully used to some avail, but bleach can react with brass and copper producing a green patina. Rinse well, and clean metal surfaces with brass cleaner when necessary.

Raised Grain:

White Oak is used in our Simple mould for its strength to resist bending from the pull of the screen, and for its resistance to water. The grain tends to rise once it gets wet, so if you find the raised grain undesirable, it can be removed with light sanding after the mould has dried. Several sandings may be necessary until the raising of the grain stops.

Storage:

Store moulds and deckles horizontally or vertically on racks or shelves. Do not leave them drying on an uneven surface, or with objects placed on top of them, since this will cause warping. Do not lean the deckle against a pole, since it will not be supported evenly. In old production mills, they tied the moulds together to minimize warping. Simply use common sense.

Tight fitting deckles:

To assure a tightly fitting deckle (when the large deckle edge is between two ribs), press the metal screen from the back side of the mould until it comes up flush with the deckle. A closed cell foam strip (such as weather stripping) can be added for an extremely tight deckle.

If you have any questions about this mould and deckle please contact us.

make paper, make art™

PO BOX 290264 CHARLESTOWN, MA 02129 TEL: 617 242-2505 FAX: 617-242-8825 MCPAPER@AOL.COM