

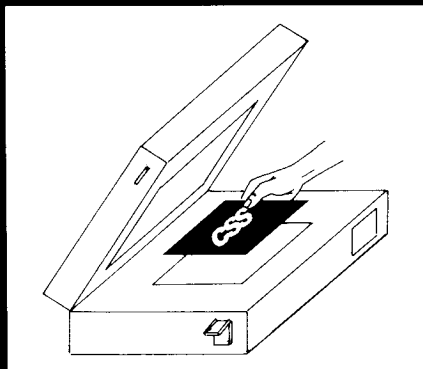


Quick-Mark™ Processing Instructions

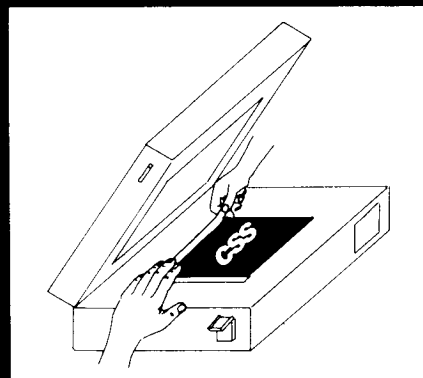
1. ARTWORK PRODUCTION NEGATIVE ARTWORK FOR A POSITIVE LABEL

POSITIVE ARTWORK FOR A POSITIVE LABEL

2. PREPARING MATERIAL FOR UV EXPOSURE



3. MASKING



Quick-Mark™ should be considered as a negative working system. So, if a positive label is required, a right reading emulsion side down **negative** artwork should be prepared.

Although Quick-Mark should always be considered as a negative working system it is possible to produce a positive label from a positive artwork, or a negative from a negative. So, if a positive label is required and only a positive artwork available a right reading emulsion side up artwork is preferred. This is how a Laser printer generated artwork on a material such as LaserStar artwork film would appear, i.e. a positive image with the Laser Toner on top of the film.

A piece of Imaging Film of the required colour should be selected and if necessary cut to size. As the Imaging Film is sensitive to UV and there is UV in all visible white light care should be taken not to leave the material out of the black plastic re-sealable bag for too long.

This is then placed in a UV unit with the dull side down and the glossy side facing upwards (tubes in lid UV- opposite if tubes in base UV is being used). The artwork is then placed on top of the Imaging Film. To prevent "under-cutting" and provide the best resolution possible the emulsion or toner of the artwork should always be in contact with the Imaging Film.

Negative Artwork for a Positive Self Laminating Label.

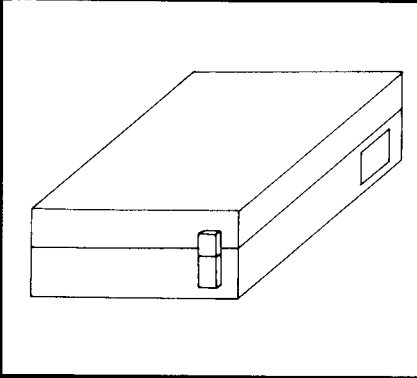
If a Negative Artwork is being used with the emulsion side down this is then placed on top of the Imaging Film - right reading.

Positive Artwork for a Positive Self Laminating Label.

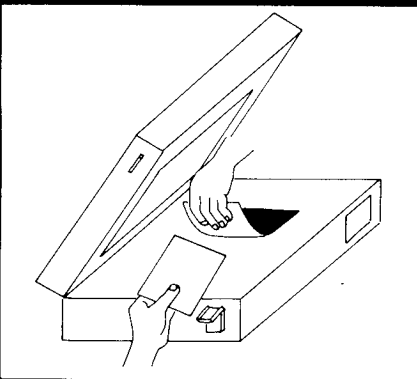
If a positive artwork is being used with the emulsion or toner on the top surface then this is placed emulsion side down i.e., wrong reading (mirror image).

If an artwork negative is being used and it does not mask two connecting sides of the Imaging Film then extra masking with strips of opaque film or thick opaque paper should be laid on top of the negative artwork/Imaging Film. Ideally the resulting masked edges should be at least 25mm wide. If an artwork positive is being used then masking strips will always have to be added.

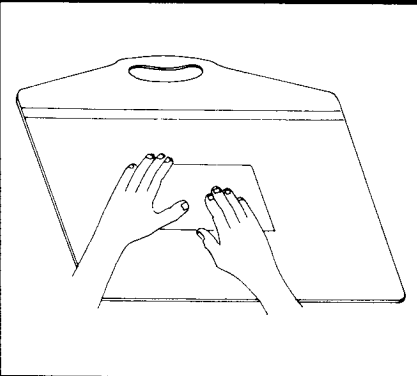
4. UV EXPOSURE



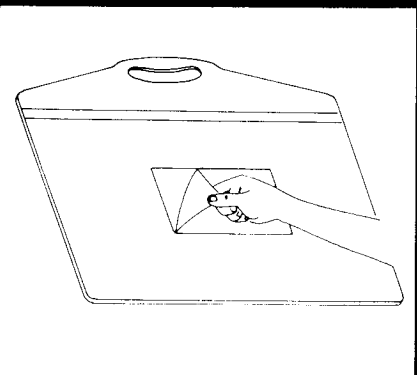
5. REMOVING EXPOSED IMAGING FILM



6. LAY IMAGING FILM ON THE PEELING BOARD



7. PEELING OF THE IMAGING FILM



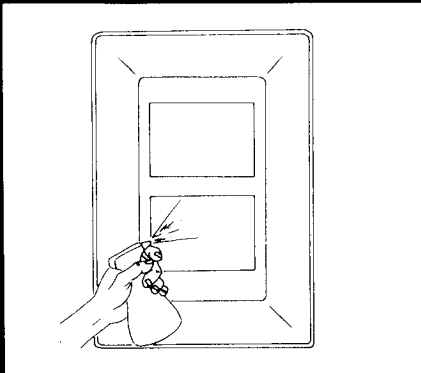
The Imaging Film is then exposed to UV. The exact exposure time should always be determined for the particular UV unit that is being used via trial and error with a small test strip. As a guide using a typical bench top, flat bed, UV, with a good quality opaque artwork, **an ideal exposure time would be 20-30 seconds for any colour emulsion.** With Laser printer generated artworks where the black areas (toner) may not be completely optically dense the exposure time can be reduced down to **10 seconds** to compensate. This is with fresh Imaging Film. If older Imaging Film is being used, perhaps film which has passed beyond its shelf life, then the exposure time may have to be increased to compensate for the materials age.

Remove the exposed Imaging Film by picking it up by the corner in-between the two masked edges. This will enable you to remember which corner this was.

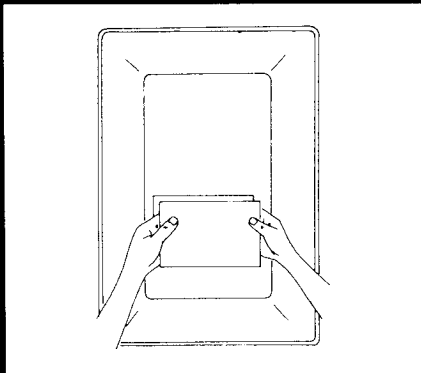
Lay the material with the glossy side up (the side exposed to the UV) onto the Peeling Board. Remember which was the corner between the two masked edges. Smooth out the film onto the adhesive covered Peeling Board.

The top layer of the Imaging Film is then peeled off. To do this the corner of the top layer in-between the two masked edges/sides is picked up with a finger nail. The raised top corner is then grasped between the thumb and forefinger and in the opposite direction of this corner the whole top layer peeled away. This should be in one complete action **without stopping or hesitation** and with the hand not being raised in the air but kept low and parallel to the Peeling Board during this peeling process. The top peeled away layer will then be a reversed image of the original artwork with the coloured emulsion side underneath. The piece of Imaging Film left on the Peeling Board will have an image which is an exact duplicate of the original artwork with the coloured emulsion on top.

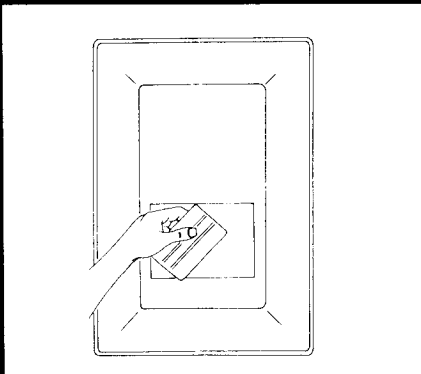
8. PREPARE IMAGING FILM FOR LAMINATION TO BASE SHEET.



9. LAMINATE BOTH SIDES TOGETHER



10. REMOVAL OF EXCESS LIQUID



11. EXTRA LAMINATION

12. TRIM TO SIZE

The piece of the Imaging Film to be used is then placed on the far side of the tray. This could be the top piece which was peeled away or the bottom piece left behind on the Peeling Board. Place the Imaging Film with the coloured emulsion facing upwards, (*see note 11 - extra lamination*). Select or cut an appropriate piece of Base Sheet and peel away the top clear liner protecting the face adhesive, (*the Aluminium has the same adhesive and liner on both sides. Generally the aluminium is packed with the best side facing upwards*). Place the Base sheet next to the Imaging Film at the near side of the tray.

Both the Base Sheet and the Imaging Film should then be sprayed with Quick-Mark Application Fluid or water containing a tiny amount of concentrated washing up liquid or similar detergent. One or two drops per litre of water should be sufficient. **AVOID THE USE OF ENZYME DETERGENTS AS THEY CAUSE LOSS OF ADHESION.**

The Imaging Film is then turned over, right reading, and placed on top of the Base Sheet. The presence of the sprayed liquid enables accurate positioning to be achieved.

Excess liquid should then be squeegeed from the middle out with the PA1 applicator covered with a HB104 Applicator pad.

After the label has been produced small blotches of a milky liquid may appear between any of the layers of the label. This is quite normal and usually disappears within 24 hours. Removing as much of the liquid as possible at lamination stage helps reduce this peculiarity.

With the emulsion beneath the surface of the Polyester carrier of the Imaging Film no extra lamination of the final label is necessary unless the gloss appearance needs to be changed to matt. In this case the matt over-laminating film should be applied as described above. If any part of the Imaging Film is to be used with the emulsion on the top surface of the finished label then the matt or gloss over-laminating film should be applied before lamination to the Base Sheet.

The final label is then ready to be trimmed to size and applied to the final position. The nature of acrylic adhesive means both the face and rear adhesive may take some hours to finally cure.