

IMAGE TRANSFER SOLUTION - Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply the solution to my piece?

The best tool seems to be your finger! Put a drop on, and spread it out evenly using your finger tip. Work fast so it doesn't start drying before you apply your image.

You want to apply your image quickly, and without moving it around too much. Line it up and press it on – and then don't fiddle with it! Wipe off overflowing ITS with a kitchen towel.

I'm having trouble removing the paper backing from my image. What should I do?

Work slowly, in a bowl of water, using your fingernails to scratch away paper fibres. Ensure the paper is soaked through completely. ITS Paper is designed to make this an easier process. The paper dissolves in water and requires a minimal amount of effort to remove. Using anything apart from the special ITS paper is not recommended.

What if I make a mistake?

Once heat-set, the image is bonded with the metal (or other surface). If you make a mistake or just don't like the image you applied to your finished piece you can of course sand the image off using 320 or 360 wet/dry abrasive paper on surfaces like metal clay and polymer clay.

Remember that you will probably remove a thin layer of the surface of your piece using this technique. Water helps to lubricate and rinse the sanding paper as you work. After removing the image, sand the piece with 400 and 600 grit to refine the surface before applying a new image. Or, if you decide you don't want a image on the surface after all, bring it up to a higher shine using finer and finer abrasive, suitable to the material you're working with.

What if the edges of my image are showing?

If you don't want the cut edge of your image to be so obvious there are two ways to remedy. You can cut the paper image to the exact size to match the edges of the metal to which it will be applied. Or, you can use 600 grit sanding paper to sand a little more aggressively around the very edge of the image to "feather" and soften the edges for a lovely aged vintage look. Take care not to accidentally sand over your image, use a small piece of sand paper or fold a corner of the paper for more control.

I'm in a hurry, do I have to let it dry overnight?

You must let ITS dry completely before heat setting, but you can speed this up by using a hair dryer. Sherri has successfully dried pieces by heating the back of the piece with an ordinary hand held blow dryer for a few minutes and then proceeding to heat set in the oven. This works for small pieces (the size of a bottle cap or small charms, larger pieces take longer or overnight to dry thoroughly).

I'm still in a hurry, can I speed it up?

You can speed up the whole process by heat setting your dried images with an embossing gun instead of an oven – this will only take a couple of minutes.

Can I colour metal using ITS?

ITS can be used to tint the surface of the metal with colour by adding pigment powders (such as Pearl Ex). Mix a small amount of pigment powder with ITS and paint it on the surface of the metal. After drying, heat set the pieces at 160°C for 40 minutes for a durable finish.

For ITS products, go to www.silverclay.co.uk/shtr.htm