

Information and Methods Required For Decal Restoration

At **BDESIGNS** our goal is to do all stripes and decals for your bike, so the more decals you could provide, the better. You will not only be helping yourself, but other owners of the same bike as well. When creating decals for people where they are providing decal information, actual decals, or fairing components, we will give them a discount on the first order on each of the decal(s) they purchase from us (decals don't have to be purchased all at the same time). In **some** cases, we can even offer a free set of decals. Each bike and level of discounting can be different, but there is definitely at least a discount for your assistance.

If you are interested, there **may** be a number of e-mails with varying questions, depending on how we get the information for the decals. At this point you need to ask yourself some questions;

- How many and what types of decals would you be willing to work with us on? For example. Stripes only, stripes and visible frame decals including ignition switch, or all the above plus all hidden decals as well?
- Do you have any flat, unused OEM decals that you can loan to us?
- Are you able to provide some decals that are already removed from the bike (mainly frame decals), or would you be willing to remove any (if possible to do)?
- Are you able and willing to send us fairing components to properly re-create and identify colours for the fairing decals? We will take good care of your parts and return them when complete.
- Are there any decals with Japanese writing on them?
- Have you had much experience in tracing decals (we offer a kit with instructions that can be used on **some** fairly simple decals – this kit can NOT be used in all cases).
- And last for now, would you be able to provide some overall and close-up (they don't have to be perfect) photos of the decals you would be willing to work with us on so we can have an initial review? We could better evaluate the direction and what information we would need.

Some people wonder what kind of quality they will get when starting a project like this, so if you have any reservations at all about quality of product or anything else, we understand. We suggest to anyone with concerns that we start with one decal so you can see what quality level you get and build up to the rest. Or you can ask for small sample decal to review (our choice) and then send back to us.

Sizes and Shapes

There are different ways to get the information from you to us, so we can reproduce your decals. In cases where the decals are basically laying flat and have some basic colours (black, white, chrome) we can work from photographs or scans. If the parts are small enough and flat or almost flat, those types of parts can be put directly on a scanner. If you are supplying photographs, we would need straight on (so it is not distorted at an angle) close-up shots of the decals. They must be clear and legible. Macro mode works well for very small decals or details. Measurements are also required for overall size and sometimes, border sizes, text heights, etc. The more information, the better.

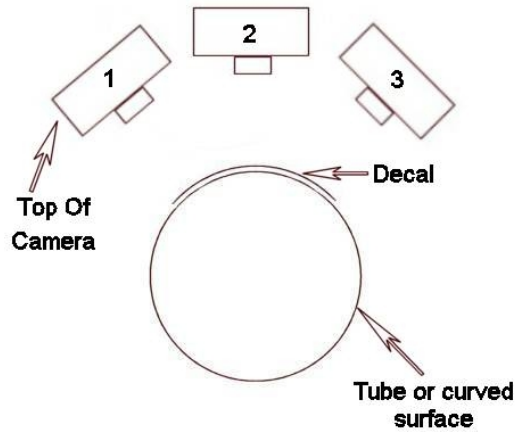
In cases where the decals are on curved surface, such as a fork tube, we may be able to use the same procedure as above, but with additional pictures from different angles. See the Figure 1 example below for the following procedure. Turning the camera in line with the fork tube, so the text looks normal in the viewfinder, we would need one face on at the top, centre and bottom of the decal. Take lots of clear pictures from many positions.

If you have flat, unused OEM decals, we can work one of two ways. The easiest way is to scan the decals in full colour and e-mail them to us. DO NOT resize the images or allow your e-mail program to make them smaller. We need them untouched and full size. We would also need some clear close-up shots to identify colour and material type. Please note that only some decal colours can be identified by pictures. Large decals can be taken to local print shops to scan the items on a large bed scanner. The BEST way is to send us your flat, unused OEM decals, since it is easiest for us to duplicate and match colours.

If it is not possible to do the above procedures, we would require your originals (in fairly good condition) to accurately reproduce the decals. They can possibly be removed from the fairing, but leaving them attached is the safest way. In some cases we can work from your tracings – but only under strict guidance from BDesigns. We offer a kit with instructions that can be used on **some** fairly simple decals – this kit can NOT be used in all cases. Some decals have information/graphics that can be found in manuals, so if your decal is damaged and partially legible, and you have a manual with similar graphics/information, we can work from both the manual and old decal. We do have sources at local motorcycle "boneyards" where we **may** be able to get some decal information from as well. Just ask us and we will see what can be

done for you. Contact us for questions on exactly how we would proceed with getting the information to re-create the decals.

Figure 1



Colour Matching

Matching colours across the globe is challenging, but not impossible.

In most all cases where there are colours, we would require your originals (in fairly good condition) to accurately reproduce the decals. They can possibly be removed from the fairing or other components, but leaving them attached is the safest way

However, there can be issues such as costly shipping charges, having a naked motorcycle, etc.

There are other options;

1. If you can't send us the entire part, you could carefully remove a small portion of the decal from an area that is hidden from normal viewing. After all, if you intend on painting and re-decals, the bare spot shouldn't pose a problem for a short duration.
2. You could go to a local automotive signage shop that has catalogues of vinyls from companies like 3M, Gerber, Avery, etc. You could explain what you are doing or just say you are trying to match a vinyl to your logo. If you find a good match, we would need to know what manufacturer (i.e., Avery, 3M, Gerber, etc.) a colour name and number. They may not have vinyl's that are thermally "printable", but looking at the printable vinyls would be the best. If they have non-printable vinyls only, we could cross-match here to a printable vinyl here at BDesigns.
3. As a last resort, you could go to an automotive paint shop and try to match colours from chips to match your decals. If you record the auto manufacturer, colour and paint code, we could cross reference here.