

Installation Instructions for JP Weaver Compo Ornament

Equipment: Two burner hotplate and a large pan. An alternate to the frame that we make to hold the muslin is to hold the cloth in place with clothespins.

Composition ornament is semi-perishable. With time the oils evaporate out of the ornament and they harden. Ornament can be preserved indefinitely by wrapping them in plastic and freezing in a freezer.

NOTE: Ornament made by JP Weaver Company DOES NOT require any prior installation preparation.

The ideal way to install "COMPO" ornament is to steam them. This makes them pliable, self-bonding, and the mould is able to have soft curves. The ornament can be pre-colored, steamed and installed. The ornament can be glued with white glue and set with small nails, but this will limit its flexibility. Compo will self-bond to any hard smooth surface such as drywall, plaster, metal, wood and mirror.

For installation, we use a two burner hot plate and stainless steel pan the size of a turkey roaster.

1. Fill a pan, 12" or larger, a little less than half full with water.
2. Cover the top of the pan with a cotton cloth. Secure the cloth with wooden clothespins. Trim away t excess fabric to prevent fire.
3. Heat the water in the pan to a low steady steam.
4. While the water is heating, determine where the compo is to be placed. Make sure the surface is free of dust, grease, etc., and is clean and sealed.
5. When you have a gentle steam, wet the steam cloth thoroughly with water and place one piece of compo at a time flat side down on top of the steaming cloth.
6. Leave it on a steam for about 30 seconds to two minutes. Test the underneath side with your finger. If the piece is lightly wet and very sticky and pliable, lift it off and place it where desired. If it's not ready, allow it to remain a little longer.
7. Lift the steamed piece off the cloth. (It can be slightly hot). Support the piece, design side down, "sticky" side up on your hand. Lay it carefully where you want it. Judge the spacing, and simple press it firmly, but gently into place. Be sure to check all edges to make sure they are all down and bonded.
8. IF YOU OVERSTEAM a piece and it becomes too soft to handle, remove it from the steam as best as you can and lay design side down with sticky side up to dry and harden. When design is firm again. re-steam, and use as desired.
9. Compo is very flexible and easy to cut with a knife. The ideal knife is a xacto-knife or a very short (about 1" long) strong bladed knife. Many of the pieces of compo can be cut apart and laid out in different arrangements.
10. All tolls and residue of compo can be washed with water.
11. Compo sets very quickly. If necessary, within 10 minutes of application, an ornament can be removed with a putty knife, clean the surface, re-steam, and use the piece again.
12. When the compo has cooled and is dry, you can paint the project with your favorite finish. Gold leaf and wood finish are excellent. Before painting, seal the ornament with a light spray of non-water base primer. **DO NOT USE LACQUER OR ANY CATALYZED LACQUER.**
13. Once finished, compo endures for many decades.
14. CAUTION: When steamed, compo becomes quite pliable and can be stretched. Take care when applying the ornaments not to stretch them beyond their original size which could cause slight variations in the layout of the design.