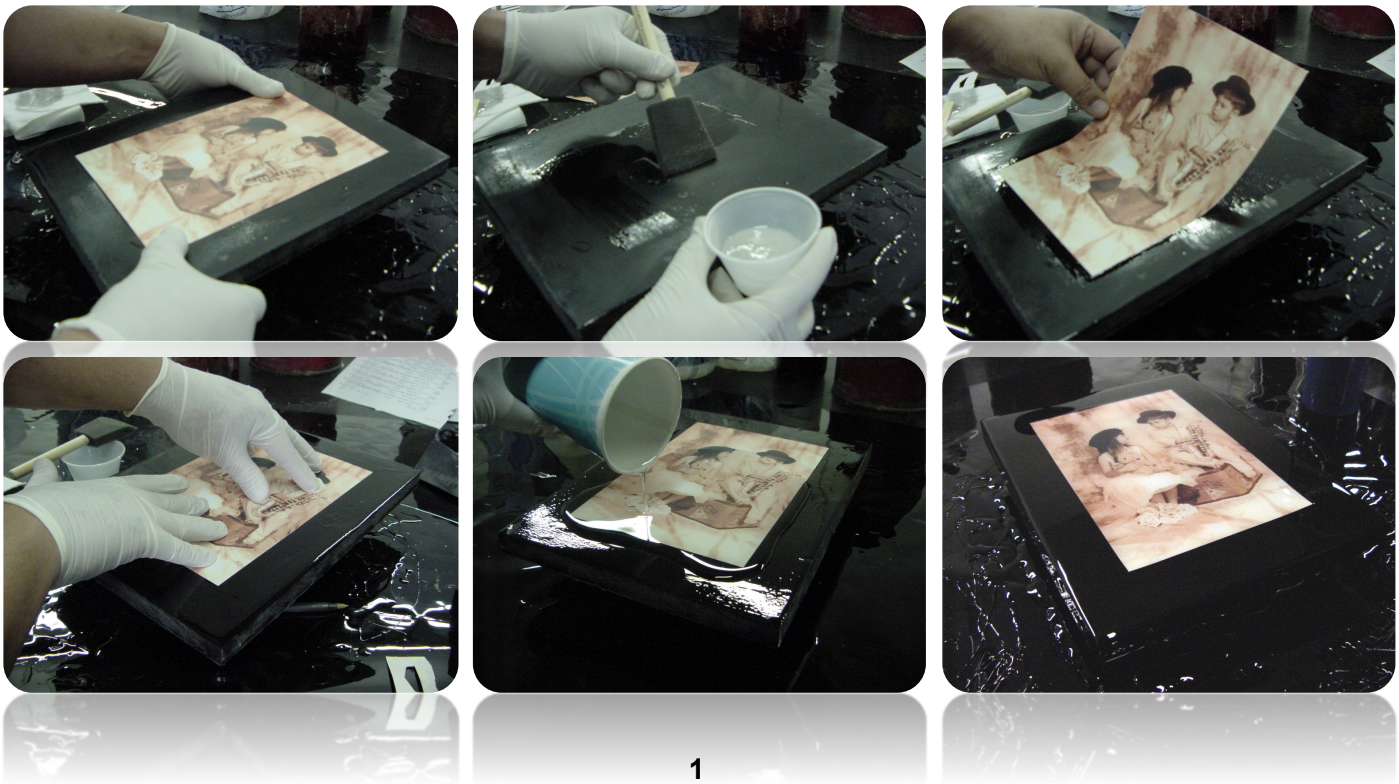
General Guidelines for Picture Embedding

- Flat item such as photographs, cards, chips and other small smooth objects are the best to use. Embedding a picture of the items is much easier and will use less epoxy resin than embedding item itself.
- Use quality photographic paper or papers that will not soak up resin and become translucent. Avoid using uncoated inkjet printed images since the colors will run and bleed out into the resin.
- Printing the image using a color laser printer on heavy glossy paper provides the best results.
- Do not use or pretest ink jet printed photographs to ensure that the ink will not bleed and run.
- Stickers and decals also makes excellent embeds. Mount the picture using good quality adhesive such as clear paper glue or mix a small batch of the MAX 1618 A/B and use it as an adhesive.
- Laminate the picture unto the tabletop surface and squeeze out to remove all entrapped air bubbles between the picture and the base substrate. Allow the adhesive to fully cure before applying the clear coating. If using a water-based carpenter's glue allow at least 24 hours to ensure complete evaporation of the water.
- Porous or rough surface items must first be sealed to prevent air bubbles from forming during the embedding process.
  - Mix a small amount of the MAX 1618 A/B and use it to seal the items. Allow to fully cure before embedding. Arrange and secure the items using the MAX 1618 A/B as an adhesive for mounting.
  - Laminate the picture unto the pre-sealed substrate and ensure that there is no entrapped air bubbles in between the picture and the substrate.



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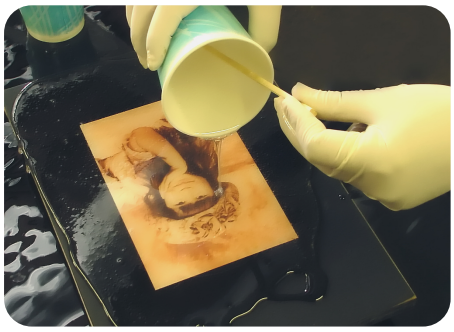
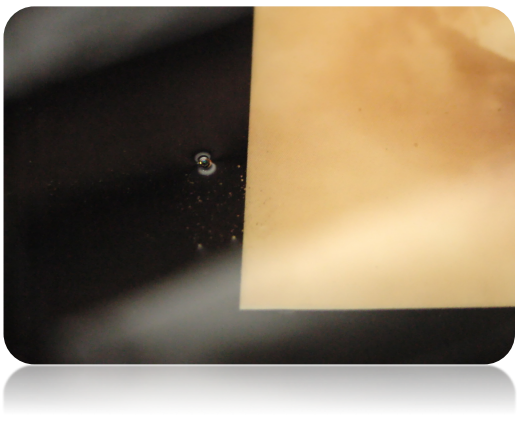
- When the adhesive has set, place the plaque or tabletop on a flat surface and level with a leveling tool. Use a small block about an inch tall and place it underneath the tabletop so it is elevated from the work surface. This will prevent the plaque from bonding to the work surface and makes cleaning the edge off much easier.
- Determine the amount of resin needed as shown in the Calculation Guide. The MAX 1618 A/B will hold a 1/8-inch thick meniscus when poured on to a flat and level surface.
- Use 3/16 inch as the coating thickness, which allows enough resin for flow out. Gently mix the resin in a clean container for about 2 minutes and then transfer it into another clean container and mix for another minute. This mixing procedure will ensure that the resin and curing agent is mixed thoroughly and avoid tacky pots.
- Starting from the center, pour the mixed resin onto the plaque and allow the resin to spread evenly. Any mixed air bubbles will slowly rise to the surface and pop.
- Use a hair dryer or a hot air gun and gently pass it over the coated surface to remove any stubborn air bubbles. By allowing the resin to spread by itself, it will naturally form a coating thickness of about 1/8 inch.
- If the item to embedded is thicker than 1/8 of an inch, several applications may be required. Small air bubbles will usually appear from the edges of the photograph embedded item. Watch for these bubbles and use the tip of a toothpick or a hot air gun to pop any bubbles.
- The applied MAX 1618 A/B will remain workable for about 60 minutes so guard the surface from any settling dust and debris.
- For thicker coats allow the first layer to cure for approximately 6 hours and then repeat the coating process. Do not move the plaque or tabletop as it has equalized to water level plane. No sanding is required between subsequent coats when it is applied within 24 hours. As long as the previous application has cured to a hard finish and the surface temperature is below 80°F, subsequent coats can be applied and will cure into a unitized layer.
- The MAX 1618 A/B will dry to the touch in 6 hours and will require another 24 hours before it is safe to handle. Drips that formed and cured on the edges can be removed using a razor knife and then sanded flush.
- For countertops and tabletops, it can take up to 7 days to achieve full cure but can be safe to support heavy objects before.
- Indentations may appear if any object is placed on top of the coating before it fully cures. Avoid placing hot coffee mugs or other hot items directly on top of the coating for at least 4 days.
- For a scratch resistant finish, buff the surface with polishing or automotive rubbing compound and then use a soft cotton rag to apply several coats of furniture polish or carnauba wax and buff to a high gloss. Scuffs and scratches can be removed using the same process.