Caring for Your Acrylic Lectern

As with all fine furnishings, acrylic lecterns require attention and care to keep them looking spectacular. Improper cleaning and rough handling will adversely affect the appearance of your acrylic lectern. Please follow the recommendations below to provide the best care for your lectern.

Improper Care:

- You must be careful when you clean an acrylic lectern***. Do not use cleaning products containing ammonia or alcohol on the acrylic – Windex, 409 and other glass cleaners contain ammonia meant for cleaning glass finishes – Do not use these types of cleaners.*** Ammonia or alcohol-based products can scratch or leave a film and can cause cracking to the acrylic surface. They are not intended for acrylic materials.
- ***Do not use a dry cloth, a paper towel, your hands or textured material when rubbing dirt or dust off the surface.*** Paper towels contain wood fibers that can make hairline scratches on the exterior when used for cleaning or drying. This type of cleaning method will cause scratching and marring of the shiny, smooth acrylic surface.
- Do not rub or wipe the surface of the acrylic in a harsh or abrasive manner with any method of cleaning.

Proper Care:

- Use a **soft, wet** sponge and lightly wipe away loose dirt or dust.
- For more stubborn stains or fingerprints, remove them using a mild dish detergent and warm water on a soft, wet sponge.
- White vinegar also works perfectly as a cleaner. The vinegar will also dry clear, leaving no streaks or residue behind. In a spray bottle, combine equal parts of water and white vinegar. Spray the solution onto the acrylic surface, then wipe clean with a dry cloth or sponge.
- Dry the acrylic with a clean, damp chamois or a soft, lint-free cloth. A cloth diaper or Micro Fiber Cloth works well.
- For a **professional cleaning**, use an anti-static acrylic cleaner or plastic polish ***(Kleenmaster Brillianize®)** that cleans without scratching. These can be purchased at a local hardware or home improvement stores and makes the acrylic surfaces sparkle, resistant to fingerprints and repels dust and lint. As always, use a soft, lint-free cloth when applying and drying. ***Do not use paper towels!***

Scratches:

- Proper use will avoid any activity or product that might cause the acrylic to become scratched.
- Do not drop or drag lecterns or use metal objects (such as keys), sharp objects (such as letter openers), or rub it with harsh, textured cleaning cloths.
- If fine scratches do occur on the lectern itself and you prefer to attempt to treat them, the scratches may be removable by using specialized, mild polishes designed for this purpose.
- ***Scratch Removal:*** Remove hairline scratches with the ***** **Novus® Plastic Polishing System** or for heavier scratches that you can feel with your fingernail may require using a **Novus Buffing Kit**.

*http://www.brillianize.com and http://www.novuspolish.com

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Joint Repairs:

The joints of the acrylic lectern over time may separate from people picking up the lectern by the reading surface. You may be able to repair this damage by using a solvent-type cement. The solvent-type cement will flow into the joint through capillary action repairing the joint. ***Only use solvent-type cement for this repair.*** Acrylic Cement will not fill gaps caused by uneven edges.

Acrylic solvent cement is usually sold in 1/4 pint cans. If you purchase this type you must also purchase a Syringe Hypodermic Applicator. Another choice would be to purchase a kit like the ***Flex-I-File Touch-n-Flow**. It contains an applicator and a small bottle of solvent cement.

Cementing Tips

- If you are repairing the reading surface, turn lectern over so that the reading surface is on the floor making the solvent cement easier to apply.
- If cement is accidentally spilled on the plastic, allow to dry through evaporation. Do not wipe off. Wiping will further mar the surface.
- Do not rush the dry time, leave 24 - 48 hours before turning upright.
- Use appropriate safety precautions whenever working with chemicals.

*http://www.flex-i-file.com/adhesives.php