

## TECHNICAL ASPECTS



Steuben appliquéés are made from a high kaolinite clay body that is first formed in a 40 ton press to give it its prescribed shape. The “tile” is then slow dried at 130° F. for up to 12 hours depending on its thickness and then fired in an electric kiln for up to 36 hours at 2,125° F. where it becomes “bisque.” After *bisquing*, the tile goes to “*engobe*” where up to 5 coats of a pure white slip/glaze are painted over the cold bisque. This prepares the piece with a “*bed*” onto which the subsequent underglazes adhere.

Each piece, once duly prepared, is hand painted by talented artisans who may take up to three hours to complete each appliqué using as many as 8 different underglaze colors. Each color is applied in a prescribed order that will give the piece a vibrant appearance, subtle shading, and intricate detail. Fine brushes (one hair) are used, for example, to carefully detail the hair of animals, the plumage of birds, or the gills of fish.

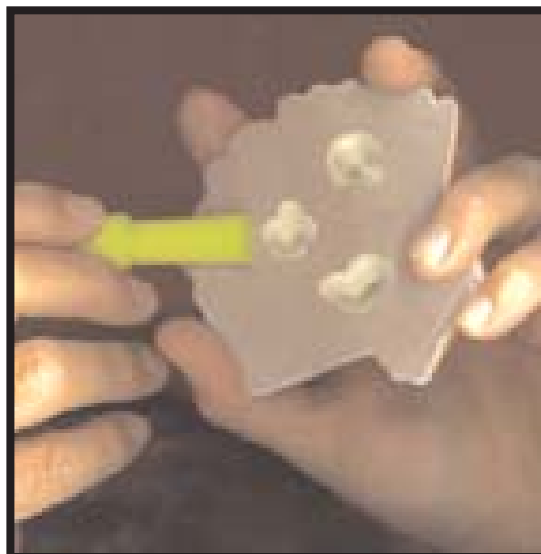
Once the appliqué is painted with underglazes, a final layer of clear-glaze is painted over the entire piece’s surface. This provides a glass-like final coating that protects the appliqué from stains, chemicals, and ultraviolet rays. A second firing is then conducted for a second 24 hours at 2,125° F. in an electric oven. The result is an appliqué tile that is ready for shipping.

## INSTALLING THE APPLIQUE

Installing an appliqué tile is as easy as **1-2-3**:

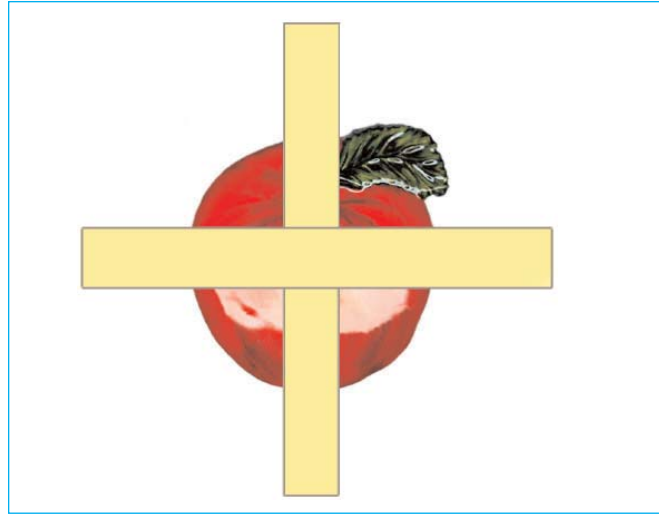
**Step #1:** Remove the appliqué from its package and, with a butter knife, scrape off the packing glue that is applied at the Bolart factory. This glue holds the appliqué in the center of the blister card during shipping to avoid breakage.

**Step #2:** Apply an epoxy glue, a silicon rubber or **Liquid Nails™** to the back side of the applique in three dots evenly spaced similar to the image provided below.



• *Applying glue to the underside of the tile* •

**Step #3:** Place the appliqué on the wall surface and gently apply pressure while rotating the piece slightly to the left and right until you feel a “scraping” between the two flat surfaces. Don’t push any harder once the two surfaces are touching or you might break the appliqué. Once in place, you can tape the piece in place with masking tape as demonstrated below.



*Use masking tape to hold the appliqué in place while the glue is drying (12 hours minimum)*

*Step #3  
Much Better*

**Step #3 (Better):** Place the appliqué on the wall surface and gently apply pressure while rotating the piece slightly to the left and right until you feel a “scraping” between the two flat surfaces. Don’t push any harder once the two surfaces are touching or you might break the appliqué. Once in place, remove the appliqué exposing the glue on both the wall and the back of the appliqué to the air for 7-10 minutes. **This “sets” the glue and makes it hold better. After the 7-10 minute period, replace the appliqué and it will hold without slipping during the 24 hour curing period.**

**Step #4 (Grout):** Once the glue has dried (minimum 12 hours), mix a dixie cup amount of grout and apply to the edges of the appliqué in the normal manner. Once dried, the appliqué will blend completely with the wall surface and appear as if it were embedded.