

CARING FOR YOUR BANNER

Follow these simple care instructions and your banner should last for years of enjoyment.

PRESSING THE BANNER

Lay it out on a cotton pressing pad the width of the banner. Make sure the cotton pad is clean and free of lint. Press the banner using a steam iron on MEDIUM setting only. DO NOT PRESS GOLD LAMÉ FABRIC WITH ANY SETTING HIGHER THAN MEDIUM! If the heat setting is too high, the gold fabric will instantly crinkle up, or melt. No amount of ironing will smooth out the mess. Test your iron on a length of gold lamé first, and practice moving the iron quickly across the fabric. Explore the heat setting of your particular iron, and the speed of your stroke to accomplish an unwrinkled, smooth surface on the fabric. If the banner has any metallic fabric in it, press as for gold lamé. If the banner has sculpted fabric, i.e. folds, swirls and cascades of fabric, DO NOT PRESS THIS PART OF THE BANNER AT ALL, EVER. Simply fluff the sculpted fabric gently using your finger tips.

CLEANING THE BANNER

If the banner contains no gold lamé, and if all the fabrics are color-fast, the banner may be dry cleaned. Please use a very reliable dry cleaners. DO NOT CLEAN THE BANNER IN A WASHING MACHINE. If the banner does have gold lamé on it, the dry cleaner may SPOT-CLEAN the other fabrics, but not the gold lamé. Gold lamé does weird things when in contact with dry cleaning chemicals, so don't risk it. Also the metallic fibers of gold lamé easily pull apart in the motions of the dry-cleaning machine.

A safer way of cleaning a banner is by using a cool air-gun which in effect blasts soilage out of the fibers. This will not work for stains. To dilute any liquid stains immediately after the spill, wipe with a moist sponge or cloth until the stain disappears. If any of the

stained fabrics are silk, rayon or acetate, take to a dry cleaner as soon as possible. These fabrics water-mark if the liquid stain or the water are allowed to dry.

Other ways to “clean” the banner: it can be hung out on a clothesline, keeping it off the ground, to let the breeze air it out. Or you can brush it gently with a clothes brush.

STORING THE BANNER

Banners store best by hanging them so they will not need pressing and so that the fabric and stitches will not be stressed. If there is no storage place to hang the banner, lay the banner flat on a table, bed, or other flat surface.

Another option is to fold the banner, with as few folds as possible, then lay it on a shelf or in a drawer with a plastic cover over it (a large trash bag works well). Always fold the banner so that the front is inside, not outside. Fold the banner from the hem up, using as large folds as possible to minimize the number of creases. When you unfold the banner it may need pressing.

Storing a banner by rolling it onto a tube is fast and seems like an efficient use of space. Just know that over time the stitches and fibers of the fabric are stressed most severely when rolled and unrolled numerous times. Roll the banner loosely, with the front facing inside, and roll from the hem upwards. Rolling the banner will crush any sculpted fabrics. To store the tube, lay it flat – do not stand it up because the banner will slide down toward the floor, crushing that edge of the banner by its own weight at the floor. THE END