

John Deere "H" Decals

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Decals --- Decals are another element of planning to consider at this stage. Establish a source and choose a type. Then add the application of decals into your Final Paint and Integration Plan. Assuming hardener was used, painted surfaces should be at least one week old before installing decals, at which time final assembly can begin. If hardener was not used, a wait of 30 days to apply decals is recommended. If ambient daytime temperatures are much below 70 degrees, longer cure times are a great idea. Decals are available in both Mylar and die-cut vinyl. As for the choice in decals, the die-cut vinyl type comes highly recommended. This author shopped at Jorde's Decals (JD-licensed) in Rochester, Minnesota, and was superbly impressed with the result.

Vinyl decals are vinyl lettering from sheets of adhesive-backed vinyl, cut by a computer-guided blade. The material around, inside of, and between the actual letters is removed. The result is pre-spaced letters that are sandwiched between a paper backing and spacing tape. Once applied, vinyl decals give the look of silk-screened letters because, in the application process, both the paper backing and spacing tape are removed.

Mylar decals, on the other hand, are letters screened on thin shiny film that demands a super smooth surface for best results. Mylar is lower-cost and fairly durable, but it is generally felt that vinyl decals are a bit tougher, more durable, and certainly more pliable to conform to irregular surfaces.

Applying those precious vinyl decals is the culmination of a great deal of work. Every precaution should be taken to make sure this step goes well. Anything less than this just isn't fair! It sure takes the wind from one's sails to say the least. And to err here is so avoidable. Three sources of guidance are available to you: (1) read carefully the documentation supplied with your decal set, (2) if for any reason, the instructions seem unclear, contact your supplier and talk it out, and (3) visit a local sign shop which sells vinyl signs, and ask for a practical demonstration.

Vinyl decals have pull-away components on each side of the letters. Nothing is pulled away until you have the decal precisely where you want it. Water need not be involved. 1- Position the decal where you want it to be, then place small pieces of masking tape at the top (or along the side for a vertical decal) to form a "hinge" between the decal and the surface receiving the decal. 2- Lift the now-hinged decal and gently remove the adhesive paper backing. 3- Once paper backing is removed, gently bring the hinged decal down into position. 4- Press the decal into place, then remove the spacing tape, and smooth the decal out with a soft, dry cloth and you are done! When working with the longer "JOHN DEERE" decal for the hood, follow the same procedure, but using small pieces of tape to place the decal followed by larger pieces to form the "hinge". Just prior to removing the paper backing, cut the long decal between "JOHN" and "DEERE" and work them as separate decals. Vinyl decals will "breathe" which means two things: (1) you can apply them to your painted surface without having to wait a week or a month, and (2) if you end up with a little air bubble or two, don't sweat it too much. After the sun hits it for a spell, those bubbles will disappear.

Decals are model-year-dependent -- Have your serial number ready when ordering decals for your "H" tractor. Three generations of decals are in existence. For 39 and 40 models, decals are all yellow. For 1941 models, the yellow letters were outlined in black and kept the same size as in 39 and 40. For 1942 and up, the black-bordered letters were squared up some and reduced in size. Accordingly, the decals were shorter. For 39, 40 and 41 models, the rear (differential) cover carried the Leaping Deer decal without a border and carrying the words, "JOHN DEERE, Moline Illinois". For 1942 and up, we have the Leaping Deer decal with border and carrying the words, "JOHN DEERE Quality Farm Equipment". Another new

development, beginning with 1941 production, was the issue of two "Safety First" decals; one for safe driving speeds, the other for power shaft use. Your PC304 Parts Catalog will describe these as "Be Careful" decals, this change coming in early 1947. For the JD "H" Tractor, these decals will read "Safety First." "Safety First" decals are inappropriate for earlier (39 and 40) tractors.

Basic Rule – If you receive decals that are not needed Like "(H)", "Roll-O-Matic", "Power-Trol", or a PTO "Safety First" decal and your tractor has not PTO, do not apply these decals on the tractor anywhere!

Decal placement -- Where to place the decals is generally not that hard to figure out. Use the guide sheet furnished by your decal supplier. For some however, a bit of guidance is added here.



Figure 209 (A&B). Medallion decal on the left, and air cleaner decals on the right.

At the medallion (front nose cone) the 3/4-inch high "JOHN DEERE" decal is placed with its bottom one-inch above the centerline of the single mounting screw. At the air cleaner, the "Service Air Cleaner Daily" decal is placed with its bottom roughly 2 inches above the bowl clamp.

Placement of the "Oil Level" decal should be such that its arrows fall at the embossed oil level mark on the oil bowl of the air cleaner. If your bowl has no embossed mark, set arrows one-inch down from top of the oil bowl. Where OIL LEVEL is embossed in the air cleaner cup, do not apply the "Oil Level" decal.

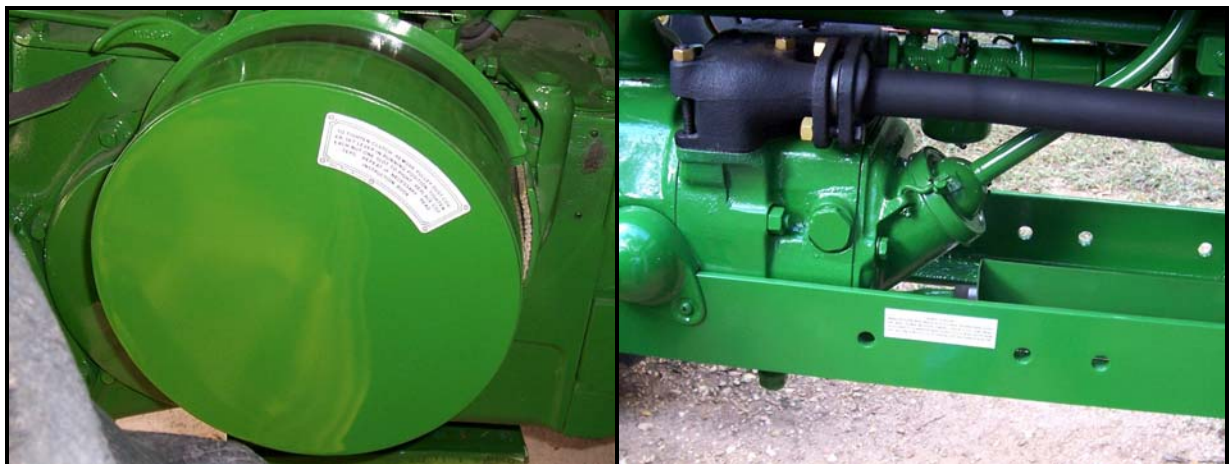


Figure 210 (A&B). Belt pulley (left) and engine breather decal (right)



Figure 211 (A&B). On the left you observe placement of the seat channel (support) decal. On the right is a reference illustration for placing the rear cover decal. Decal is centered (right to left) and also centered between the lines connecting the bottom mounting holes, and the 2nd hole up on each side.

The "MODEL H" decal is placed on the seat support channel, roughly centered in the useable space between the bend and the seat support body casting, P/N H369R. Place this decal reading down. The decal for the rear (differential) cover (JOHN DEERE, Moline, Illinois), or (JOHN DEERE Quality Farm Equipment) is centered side to side. Further, it is vertically centered between two imaginary lines drawn, one between the two lower bolt hole centers, and one drawn between the 2nd bolt hole up on each side. If you were to imagine just the lower imaginary line, the bottom of the decal ends up 3/4 inch above such a line for the early decal and 1/2 inch for the bordered decal. See Figures 211B and 212A.



Figure 212 (A&B). On the left, is the later model rear cover decal, JOHN DEERE Quality Farm Equipment. A most discerning observation will reveal that the decal is placed about 1/2 inch too low. On the right is observed correct placement for the SAFETY FIRST decal on the master shield.

"Safety First" decals, 1941 and up -- Install the Safe Driving Speeds decal on the rear of the seat, just above the center hole. Place the power shaft Safety First decal length-wise on top of the PTO Master Shield: It is to be centered, and read from the left side of the tractor. TIP: No master shield, you don't use this decal! See Figure 212B.

Placement of the "JOHN DEERE" decal for each side of the hood is "completely centered" from all points of view. The decal is vertically centered on the center (depressed) rib of the hood. Forward and aft, the decal is centered on the part of the hood that is visible after final assembly. No reference is made to the screened engine air inlet because it is not in play. See Figures 213 and 214.

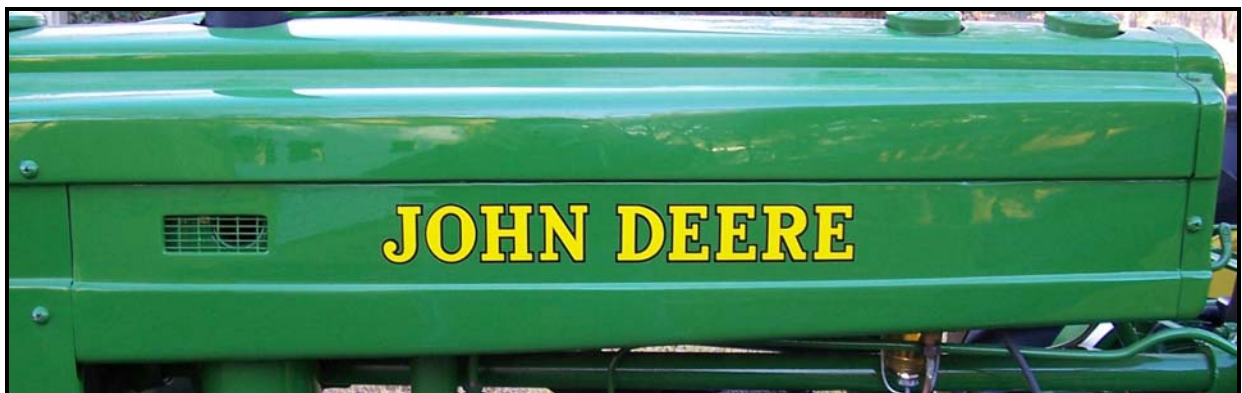


Figure 213. Photo shows the "JOHN DEERE" decal midway (fore and aft) of the exposed section of the hood, and centered (vertically) on the center section.

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Therefore -- if the decal vendor you call doesn't ask you for the year or serial number of your JD "H" tractor, bid them a great day and don't buy there!



Figure 214. This is the pulley-side. As on the flywheel-side, decal is centered fore and aft on the exposed center plane of the hood.

Vinyl Decal Removal -- If you end up needing to remove a vinyl decal, use a hair dryer to heat corners and gently roll or work back the decal. Be extremely patient and gentle. When finished, a really gentle "massage" with ordinary mineral spirits will remove the decal residue without affecting the hardened paint job. This residue can also be buffed off using very fine buffer wheels and a high-speed drive. Obviously, the decal cannot be salvaged! If you get excited and flustered, call the folks who sold you the decals. They know their product! ++++