



Application For FEGA Master Engraver Membership In The Firearms Engravers Guild Of America (FEGA)

USA APPLICANTS (INCLUDES ALL APPLICANTS RESIDING IN NORTH AMERICA AND IN THE 50 STATES OF USA)

To be eligible to apply for the FEGA Master Certification Program, Applicant must have been a member in good standing of FEGA for three years, including the year of application for Master Certification. That means any two years plus the year of the FEGA convention show at which your work is presented for judging pursuant to your Master Certification Application.

Applicant must have purchased a display table at the annual convention for a minimum of two (2) years, including the year of application. That means that you must purchase a display table for the year of the FEGA Convention show at which your work is judged pursuant to your Master Certification Application, and you also must have purchased and displayed at a table in at least one additional convention prior to the convention at which your work is to be judged.

To purchase a display table, go to fega.com, then “Convention”, then “Exhibitor Information”, then click on the button “EXHIBITOR APPLICATION”. If you wish, you may wait until you have been formally accepted as an applicant before purchasing the table for the Convention at which you will be judged, but there is a price increase after November 1st.

There is no application form. Applicants who are residents of the USA and its territories must send to FEGA Director Blue, no later than one month prior to the annual convention (earlier would be better), via mail or email, a letter of intent to apply for FEGA Master Engraver status, including in the letter the statement:

“I am a member of FEGA and certify that I am in full compliance with federal, state, and local firearms laws and regulations in regard to the firearms being submitted for evaluation and (if applicable) running a business in my location.”

Applicants must supply with their letter of intent their full name, address, telephone numbers, email address and your website, if any. With the letter of intent, you must provide, by mail or email, at least three high quality photographs of your engraved guns, showing clear detail of all of the engraving criteria set forth below. If any of the criteria do not appear on the guns, you may engrave those criteria on a practice plate or other item and submit photos of that plate or item. You may submit more photographs if you wish. You may also provide links to any

websites and publications that depict your work. We would like to know as much as possible about you and your work.

A panel of FEGA Master Engravers will then determine whether you are accepted as an Applicant, or whether they believe you need to continue to improve and apply in the future. FEGA Board of Directors reserves the right to turn down any application if it deems that the applicants work is not of the desired standard. FEGA Director Blue will communicate to you the decision of the Masters panel, and of the Board, if involved.

After you have been formally accepted as an applicant, you will then need to provide FEGA Director Blue with proofs that you have purchased a FEGA display table at the upcoming Convention and have paid to FEGA a one-time-only, non-refundable application fee of Three-hundred Dollars (\$300). You may direct said payment to the FEGA Executive Assistant at the address listed at feqa.com. If you are not successful at the Convention judging, you may continue to apply in the future as often as you wish without paying any additional fees.

When you have delivered to FEGA Director Blue proof of your table purchase and payment of the application fee, you will be provided with instructions and procedures for your next step toward FEGA Master Engraver Certification.

USA Applicants must bring the FEGA Annual Convention a minimum of two guns and one practice plate. All FEGA Master Engravers present at the show will judge your work. The applicant will be notified of the result immediately after judging and scoring have been completed. Successful applicants will be presented with a FEGA Master Engraver certificate at the banquet/auction on the Saturday night. Your custom, hand-painted certificate will then be mailed to you when the artist has completed it.

Applicants who are not successful at this time will be offered a personal review and coaching from a FEGA Master Engraver. Some of our Master Engravers have gone through this process more than once and are proud and pleased that they persisted. We encourage you to try again.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS:

International Applicants are members who reside outside North America and outside the 50 states that comprise the USA. International FEGA members are a completely separate category from USA members, and the rules for International Applicants do not apply to USA Applicants.

To be eligible to apply for the FEGA Master Certification Program, an International Applicant must have been a member in good standing of FEGA for three years, including the year of application for Master Certification. That means any two years plus the year in which you apply.

International applicants must send to FEGA Director Blue, via mail, a letter of intent to apply for FEGA Master Engraver status, and include the one-time, non-refundable application fee of Three-Hundred-dollars (\$300 USD).

If you are not successful on your first application, you may continue to apply each year as many times as you wish without paying any additional fees. You must also include in the letter the following statement:

“I am a member of FEGA and certify that I am in full compliance with federal, state, and local firearms laws and regulations in regard to the firearms being submitted for evaluation and (if applicable) for running a business in my location.”

To avoid the complications of shipping firearms from nations outside the USA to the FEGA Convention and Show, International members who are current members of FEGA in good standing with all Dues paid are not required to bring their firearms to the FEGA Convention, but must deliver to FEGA Director Blue six high-quality photographs of at least two firearms. In addition to those photos, you may link to websites and publications that depict your work. These photographs must clearly depict all of the engraving criteria set forth below. Any criteria that does not appear on the guns must be engraved on a practice plate or other item, with dimensions shown, and the photographs of the plate or item must be submitted. We would like to know as much as possible about you and your work. The photos must clearly depict all of the requirements of the criteria set forth below. FEGA may request additional photos if deemed necessary to judge the work.

The photos will be judged by an anonymous three-member FEGA Master Engraver panel within three months of receipt of the application. Applicants will be informed of the results privately by mail or email by the President of FEGA. If the applicant passes, FEGA Master Engraver Certificate will be sent through the mail. FEGA Board of Directors reserves the right to turn down any application if it deems that the applicants work is not of the desired standard.

ENGRAVING CRITERIA FOR BOTH USA APPLICANTS AND INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS:

1. The criteria for your engravings apply to all applicants, both USA and International Applicants, except that International Applicants are not required to attend the Convention or to bring their engravings to the Convention. USA member applicants must present a minimum of two guns (you can bring more if you wish) and a practice plate at the annual convention, and the USA Applicant must be present. If all the criteria appear on the guns, then the practice plate is not required.

a. The submitted minimum of two guns or the major metal parts thereof and any practice plate or other item must have been engraved solely by the applicant. These must be finished firearms projects. All aspects of the engraver's responsibilities must be completed. The applicant is encouraged to submit examples of work that illustrate their skill with more than one style or technique. The applicant must demonstrate competency with all of the following criteria.

b. If any item of the following criteria is not on the guns, then it must be displayed on another item or on a practice plate. The plate or other item must be supplied by the applicant and finished to a professional quality. What the judges are looking for is a plate with no flaws, as a finished engraving job should appear.

2. REQUIRED MINIMUM ENGRAVING CRITERIA:

Note: all measurements listed here are approximate guidelines and need not be strictly adhered to except where an “absolute maximum” or “absolute minimum” is specified. The specifications are only an indication of high quality, technical workmanship and good taste proportions that the judges will be looking for.

a. **BORDERS:** A double-line border, approximately $1/16'' = .0625'' = 1.5$ mm from the edge of the metal. The width of the border should be approximately $1/32'' = .03125'' = .8$ mm. This will demonstrate your technical skill in even, parallel lines, with consistent spacing and depth of cut.

b. **LETTERING:** You must demonstrate proficiency in the following three styles of lettering:

1. **SCRIPT LETTERING:** Approximately ten (10) letters, in one or two words or more, in an appropriate script. Letters should be approximately $1/8'' = .125'' = 3$ mm high, showing at least one capital letter and the rest in lower case.

2. **SANS-SERIF BLOCK LETTERING.** The same must be repeated for block lettering, sans serif style. All-caps may be used in this style, as that style is appropriate for firearms.

3. **ROMAN SERIF BLOCK LETTERING.** The same again, but in a Roman serif style. Again, all-caps is acceptable.

4. All lettering must be consistent, properly spaced and evenly cut, such as a discerning customer would expect of a Master Engraver.

c. **GOLD INLAYS:**

1. **PARALLEL FLUSH INLAID GOLD LINES.** You are required to have two straight-line, parallel, flush gold inlays with a minimum length of $1.5'' = 38$ mm. One approximately $.025'' (.635$ mm) width and the other $.035'' (.89$ mm) width. Both lines must also branch off at an approximate 90-degree angle, with no flaws visible to the naked eye. These need not be parallel lines.

2. **GOLD INLAID SCROLL BACKBONE.** A flush gold inlaid single scroll backbone of approximately $1/2'' (12$ mm) height or width.

3. **GOLD INLAID ANIMAL.** A gold inlaid animal approximately $5/8'' (15$ mm) square, either flush or raised. The animal must be detailed, lifelike and of very high quality. This animal is in addition to, and not a substitute for, the “scene” that is required below in paragraph “h”.

- d. **ENGRAVED ANIMAL IN BULINO OR RELIEF:** An animal with an approximate area of 1” (25mm) square shall be fully engraved in high detail in either the relief or bulino styles. The animal must be detailed, lifelike and of a very high quality. This animal is in addition to, and not a substitute for, the “scene” that is required below in paragraph “h”.
- e. **SCROLLS:** There must be 2 different styles of suitable gun type scroll work completed in a size and style that would befit a high-quality gun. An absolute maximum of 1” (25mm) high scroll.
- f. **DESIGN:** All aspects of the design and how the scrolls and the scene work together will be judged. Make sure that the design is suitable for the type of gun you engrave.
- g. **BACKGROUND:** At least one gun must show a relieved background and texturing.
- h. **SCENE:** An engraved scene is required to be engraved on one of the pieces you submit for judging. The scene can be on a plate or other item if not on a gun. The scene may incorporate an animal, bird, human, or other item or items of interest or any combination thereof, but an animal or other figure alone does not constitute a scene. The figure or figures should be placed in appropriate surroundings or background to create a complete scene. The scene should show proper handling of light, shade, contour and proportion.

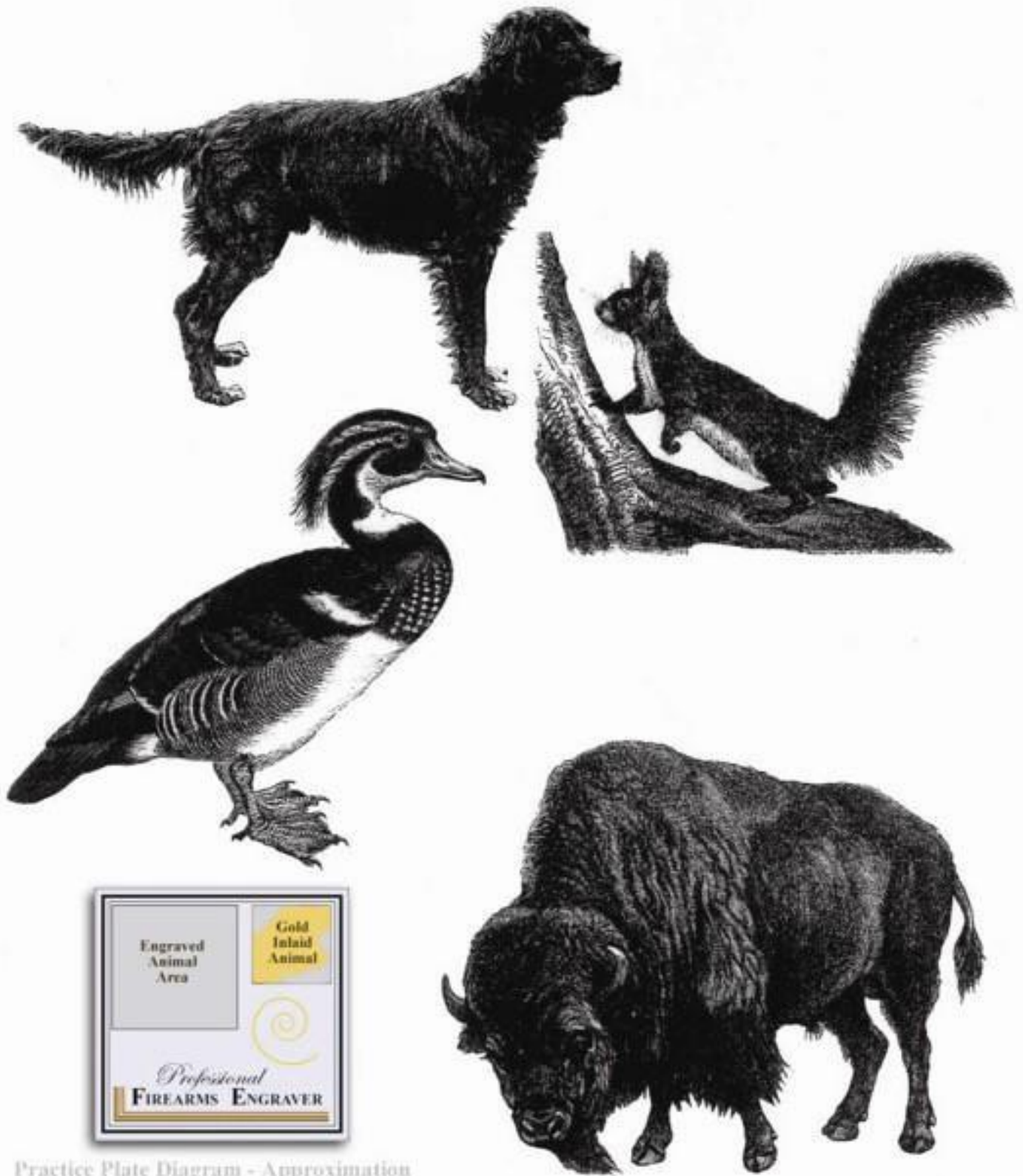
ATTACHMENTS:

1. A scoring guidelines sheet has been attached to give you an idea of how your work will be judged.
2. A sample picture of a practice plate layout is provided. The plate should not identify the engraver, as we wish your work to be judged anonymously. Some pictures of animals are included here as a guide to give you an idea of what is required. You may use other animals if you wish

Thank you for your interest in the FEGA Master Engraver Program. As FEGA Director Blue, I wish you every success. I trust that you will attain your FEGA Master Engraver Certification. If you do not succeed on your first attempt, I encourage and welcome you to apply again.

Best regards,

FEGA Director Blue



Practice Plate Diagram - Approximation

Scoring guidelines for FEGA Master Engravers

Score each category from 1 – 10. Please add your scores and enter the total at the bottom. That will help me if any of your numbers are difficult to recognize. Magnifying lenses may be used, but, please, no higher than x3 power.

Scoring guidelines

1-2: is complete novice/beginner.

3-4: is beginner

to average. 6: is

average.

7: is well above average.

8: is high level of skill.

9: is very high level of skill.

10: is as perfect as it can humanly get.

The things you are looking for are:

- Layout and design is interesting, fitting to the piece proportionately, attractive, creative, and unique. The overall design should utilize the provided space in a tasteful manner.
- Borders need to be even and consistent, unless it is obviously uneven for a reason. All parallel lines and double borders should be of a consistent width.
- Main cuts should all be consistent, with crisp edges and any cuts that are intended to vary in width and depth should do so with no obvious transition.
- Straight lines are perfectly straight, with uniform width and depth.
- Scroll-work should contain no unintended cuts (overlapped lines or cuts that stopped short), and should be well proportioned. The scrolls should flow throughout the design.
- Relieved backgrounds should be of uniform depth and even, with no high/low spots. Backgrounds should not eat into the walls of the main cuts.
- Shading cuts should be well-proportioned and complement the engraving, adding texture and depth to the overall effect. They can be simple or complex, depending on the engraver's style and intentions.
- Scenes/animals appear lifelike and precisely done, or may be stylized, with artistic merit. They can be in either bulino (dots, lines or a combination of both) or sculptured.
- Gold inlays/overlays are well executed with no ragged edges and no obvious faults. All inlays should be secure and not run the risk of falling out.
- All lettering should be legible, crisp, clear and spaced correctly.
- Overall impression: The work as a whole should be inclusive of all the parts engraved so that when viewed the whole gun looks right.
- Judge the engraving and design work in a fair manner, even if you may not care for the style chosen by the engraver or the customer.

An average of the scores of all categories that equals less than eight will fail. An average score of 8 or more is a pass to FEGA master engraver.

SCORE SHEET FOR FEGA MASTER ENGRAVERS

Use a separate score sheet for each Applicant. A number has been assigned to each Applicant's display. Place that number at the top center of the score sheet you use to judge that individual Applicant.

Enter a score between 1-10 for each of the eight categories.

Add the eight scores and write that total on the "total" line. This will help me in those instances where your printing may be difficult to decipher, as sometimes happens.

	APPLICANT # 1	Do not use this column	Do not use this column	Do not use this column
DESIGN				
BORDERS				
SCROLL				
GOLD LINES				
GOLD INLAY				
SCENE/WILDLIFE				
LETTERING				
OVERALL IMPRESSION				
TOTAL SCORE				
AVERAGED SCORES				

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