

# *Operating Instructions*



---

**ADAMS RETOUCHING MACHINE CO., INC.**  
**846 Broadway    Denver, Colorado 80203**

---

# **ADAMS RETOUCHING MACHINE CO., INC.**

846 Broadway  
Denver, Colorado 80203

## **OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Place machine on steady table allowing enough room for a comfortable elbow rest.
2. Remove rod from under negative carrier as this is a shipping lock to protect it during shipment **ONLY**.
3. Connect plug to 110 volt A.C. **ONLY**.
4. Slip negative between felted plates.
5. Master switch controls electrical system of entire machine.
6. Power switch controls movement of negative carrier **ONLY**.
7. Right hand black knob controls intensity of the fluorescent light, and **MUST BE STARTED** with indicator on the "Bright" position.
8. Lower left hand knob controls movement of negative carrier, and may be adjusted for hardness of lead used and area to be worked.
9. Hand rest may be installed on left side by removing the two screws holding the hand rest and attach hand rest on the left side. Should you desire to raise or lower the hand rest, put a washer under upper or lower screw.
10. This machine is equipped with a 2 ampere fuse in the front panel, which should be checked in the event of failure of machine to operate. Light is standard 15 watt, 18 inch daylight fluorescent tube.

**Note:** If light blinks on new machine, turn Master switch off and on 6 to 10 times repeatedly.

The Adams Retouching Machine is guaranteed for the period of one year, unless damaged, and will be repaired free of charge, if sent to the factory, freight prepaid.

# **HOW TO RETOUCH WITH THE ADAMS RETOUCHING MACHINE**

## **GENERAL**

We recommend that when first learning to use the machine, the power should be set in the range below 30, and having once adapted yourself to the machine, gradually increase the power to gain speed. It is important to remember that the slower you work your pencil across an area, the more lead will be deposited. Also always keep your lead sharp and use harder lead with the machine than with hand work. The machine feathers each stroke with the center being heavier while the ends are lighter and diffused providing a natural skin texture.

Color retouching is about the same as black & white. Basically, the same black leads can be used. Red lead or red dye should be used to neutralize.

## **RETOUCHING**

A person who knows modeling and what he wants the finished negative to look like can, with a few hours practice, do an excellent job of retouching with the machine. The action of the machine produces a smooth precise pattern which allows the operator to retouch with any type stroke. However by using simple straight line strokes, the retoucher can gain speed and still get a correctly diffused pattern which eliminates over retouching effects and provides more natural skin texture. How fast you put the lead on is governed by lead hardness, how heavy your touch is, and how high you operate the power control.

The operator should first proof retouch the negative, or take out all of the blemishes, then picture in his own mind how much blending and modeling he is going to do before continuing. The action is so fast and smooth that if you try to do it all as you come to it, the finished job may be over retouched. For modeling on the cheeks, forehead, and rounded highlights, run circles until the highlight is as strong as desired and then blend off on the sides with long disappearing strokes until blended smooth. Handled in this manner highlights can be raised to any desired height and will print beautifully. For blending, the action of the machine

is perfect when a long back and forth stroke is used overlapping slightly each time. In blending and modeling, you should never stop the pencil while the lead is touching the negative; but you should start the stroke, then touch the negative before the stroke is completed. To do otherwise, the lead is stopped on the negative at the start and finish of the mark and will make lead piles which will show up in the finished prints.

## **ABRADING**

Now, a new revolutionary method of retouching has been developed by using the Adams Abrading Tool with the Adams Retouching Machine. This is done by working with the tool on the base or glossy side of the negative oscillating in the machine. The result created minute prisms that refract the light to the same effect as putting lead on the emulsion side. This is unsurpassable for fine work on miniature negatives, small heads on wedding groups, etc., and for killing pin-holes. For areas, such as under the eyes, which will not take enough lead, this method of abrading on the back gives excellent results. This technique can be mastered easily in five minutes. This type of retouching like etching will print heavier than it appears to the eye. Consequently, we suggest this be slightly underdone. ,

## **ETCHING**

Etching with the machine must be done with the Adams Etch Tool or the Adams Midget Etcher. You will find that these tools do not chatter across the negative, or dig in but shave off the emulsion smoothly. Usually, the power setting should be higher for etching than for retouching. For working on a small area or with a fine line, hold the tools up to a near 90 degree angle, thereby cutting on the point. Now, for cutting a hair-do or any large area, drop back more on to the heel to cut a wide swath fast. The machine feathers the edges of the cut for you. We suggest that you work with a circular motion or penmanship-like stroke to reduce the area and then build up highlights with a soft pencil. This can be mastered with a little practice.