

2011 APPLICATION FOR FEGA MASTER ENGRAVER MEMBERSHIP IN THE  
FIREARMS ENGRAVERS GUILD OF AMERICA (FEGA)

Please note that in 2009 the title changed from Certified Professional to FEGA Master Engraver. The process has been streamlined and updated to the following guidelines.

All applications, photos, paperwork and fees must be made to FEGA office no later than November 1. The guns and practice plate must be at the annual convention the following year and the engraver has to be present at the convention.

1. Applicant will initially submit to the Blue Director or another nominated FEGA BOD member:

A) A letter of intent to apply for FEGA Master Engraver status. Included in this letter are the statements

Please note: at the 2011 general meeting it was passed to drop the FFL licence requirement to apply for your FEGA Master Engraver certification. However you must be compliant with all federal, state and local firearms laws etc. It is the applicant's legal and moral duty to be familiar with these laws and state the following.

"I have been a member of FEGA for at least 1 year 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"

B) A non-refundable application fee of \$25.

C) Three good quality photographs of engraved guns showing some clear detail (email or other electronic versions are fine for this)

Please note that the FEGA BOD reserve the right to turn down an application if it is deemed that the applicants work is not of the desired standard. This will be a full BOD decision and the responsibility will not rest alone with the Director Blue.

2. The applicants must have a minimum of 2 guns (you can have more if you want) at the annual convention the following year and the engraver has to be present at the convention.

3. The Guns: The criteria below must be on one, or both, or any of the engraved guns. The guns, or the major metal parts thereof, 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:

4. Practice plate: If any of the below criteria is not on any of the guns.....then it has to be done on a practice plate. The plate 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.

## 5. Criteria.

Note: all measurements are approximate guidelines and do not have to be strictly adhered to. They are an indication only of high quality, technical workmanship and good taste proportions with gun engraving.

- a. Borders: A double line border approximately 1/16" from the edge of the metal. The width of the line approximately 1/32" This demonstrates technical skill in even parallel lines with consistent spacing and depth of cut.
- b. Lettering: Approximately 10 letters (in one or two words) or more in an appropriate script approximately 1/8" high showing at least one capitol letter and the rest in lower case. The same has to be repeated for block lettering sans serif style and all caps may be used in this style as it is appropriate for guns. The same again in a Roman serif style. So that is 3 styles of lettering. The lettering has to be consistent, properly spaced and evenly cut. In other words what a discerning customer would expect of a Master Engraver.
- c. Gold Inlays: You are required to have 2 straight line flush inlays with a minimum length of 1.5". One approximately .025" the other .035" both have to also branch off at an approximate 90 degree angle with no flaws visible with the naked eye.

The same again but only one thickness of gold and curved in a scroll stem backbone of approximately 1/2"

A gold inlayed animal approximately 5/8" square, either flush or raised. The animal must be detailed, life like and of a very high quality.

- d. Bulino/relief animal: An animal with an approximate area of 1" square shall be fully engraved in high detail in either the relief or bulino styles. The animal must be detailed, life like and of a very high quality.
- e. Scroll work. There must be 2 different styles of suitable gun type scrollwork completed in a size and style that would befit a high quality gun. An absolute maximum of 1" high scroll.
- f. Design: All aspects of the design and how the scroll, scene work etc will be judged so make sure that the design is suitable for the gun.
- g. Background: At least one gun has to show a relived background and texturing.

6. Judging: The applicants work will be judged at the annual convention straight after the Annual meeting (or whenever Director Blue/FEGA BOD deems suitable) by all the FEGA Master Engravers at the convention. So your work has to meet their standards. In theory you will be anonymous, however sometimes the work is immediately recognisable or people will know who you are. The scoring system has been designed so that any "conflicts" will not affect the judging scores. The judging is full and final for that year and there can be no appeals.

It is recommended that you keep quiet about your application so that if you do not get the FEGA Master title then it can save any personal embarrassment. If that is the case, then you are to accept the decision with good

grace and humility and FEGA would be pleased for you to reapply at some later stage. It is not acceptable to belittle FEGA if you do not attain the title first time around.

If you are successful you will be presented with a certificate at the Auction/awards night. Or if you are not present on the evening the certificate will be posted to you.

Attachments:

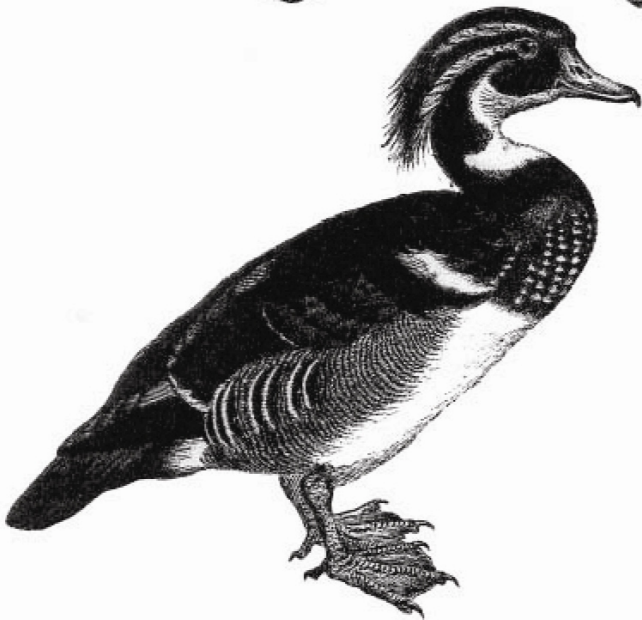
A. A scoring guidelines sheet has been attached to give you an idea of how your work will be judged.

B. There is also a sample picture of the practice plate and pictures to give you an idea of what is required.

As Director Blue I wish you every success at the convention and it is my sincere wish that you attain your FEGA Master Engraver title. If you do not succeed first time around then I would encourage and welcome you to reapply at a later stage. There is plenty of room at the top and it would be great to see you there.

Best regards

FEGA Director Blue



Engraved Animal Area	Gold Inlaid Animal
	
<i>Professional</i> <b>FIREARMS ENGRAVER</b>	

Practice Plate Diagram - Approximation

## **Scoring guidelines for FEGA Master Engravers**

Score each gun from 1 – 10. All scores will be totalled and the score averaged. Magnifying lenses may be used but no higher than x3 power.

### **Scoring guidelines**

1-2: is complete novice/beginner.

3-4: is beginner to average.

5-6: 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 interesting, fitting to the piece proportionately, attractive, creative, and unique. The overall design should utilise the space provided tastefully.
- Borders need to be even and consistent unless it is obviously uneven for a reason. All parallel lines. Double borders should be of a consistent width.
- Main cuts should all be consistent with crisp edges and cuts intended to vary in width and depth and do so with no obvious transition.
- Straight lines are perfectly straight with uniform width and depth.
- Scrollwork with no unintended cuts (overlapped lines or cuts stopped short) and 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 compliment the engraving adding texture and depth to the overall effect. They can be simple or complex depending on the engravers intentions
- Scenes/animals appear lifelike, precisely done or are stylised 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 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.

A score of 6 or less will fail and a score of 7 or more is a pass to FEGA master engraver.

**SCORE SHEET FOR FEQA MASTER ENGRAVERS**

Enter a score between 1-10 for each applicant. Evaluate each applicant according to the attached guidelines.

	APPLICANT #1	APPLICANT #2	APPLICANT #3	APPLICANT #4
DESIGN				
BORDERS				
SCROLL				
GOLD LINES				
GOLD INLAY				
SCENE/WILDLIFE				
LETTERING				
OVERALL IMPRESSION				
TOTAL SCORE				
GRAND TOTAL				

A SCORE OF 6 OR LESS WILL FAIL AND A SCORE OF 7 OR MORE IS A PASS TO FEQA MASTER ENGRAVER.