

Procedure for Restoring Marker

If you wish to refinish a marker yourself or with the help of a contractor, you will need to know what paint colors to use. Besides scanning in a paint store, there is a small, portable scanner you can take to an object, such as a large marker, to record colors and send them to a matching phone app. The app has a paint color database for all the major paint manufacturers in this country and will tell you the closest color each manufacturer has for the color you want to reproduce. For some paint brands there will be exact or very close matches and for others, no match that is usable. This has been done with a brand-new marker and some results are shown in the table below.

	Blue Star		Background	
	Color	Comments	Color	Comments
Behr	Aqua Fresco	Excellent match. Verified with paint stick.	Espresso Beans	Poor match. Wouldn't use.
Benjamin Moore	In The Tropics	Good match.	River Rock	Good match. Needs a bit more green.
Dunn-Edwards	Riviera	Poor match.	Renwick Brown	Good match.
Glidden	Milano	Poor match.	Spanish Moss	Good match. Needs a bit more green.
Sherwin-Williams	Biscay	Good match.	Andiron	Excellent match. Verified with paint stick.
Valspar	Sea Exposure	Excellent match.	Olive Suede	Good match. Needs to be a bit darker.

Recommendations

Sherwin-Williams Andiron and Behr Aqua Fresco when placed on a paint stick and compared to a large Blue Star marker show no difference to the eye. The Californian State Blue Star Chairmen have paint samples of the recommended colors on small paint stirrers. These can be provided to future refurbishers. Remember – paint colors can be discontinued.

The above recommendation involves going to two stores. But Home Depot carries Behr and Glidden, so Aqua Fresco and Spanish Moss can be recommended. And, Lowes carries Sherwin-Williams and Valspar, so Biscay and Olive Suede is a second choice.

Things to Consider

- During the dedication ceremony, the marker is presented to the owner of the property. At that point, the property owner becomes the owner of the marker. A club or district wanting to refurbish a marker should obtain the owner's consent to do so.
- Many highway markers are on CALTRANS right-of-way. You should get an easement permit from CALTRANS before working on these markers. Your state Blue Star Chairmen are more than willing to help you with this.
- Large markers could be removed from the post and refurbished in a sheltered location. The markers are secured with set screws that have usually been made permanent to deter theft. They will need to be drilled out and the marker re threaded for the next size screw.
- Sometimes a post has been reused when a marker was moved. It will be shorter if it was imbedded in cement which was then cut off. Consider buying a new post from Sewah Studios.
- Small markers are normally glued to a wall, bolder or concrete pad. Removal could damage them. They should be refurbished in place.
- Some areas of California are perpetually windy. You might consider a shade canopy w/sides in which to do the work if the marker has sufficient room around it.
- The marker should be cleaned with a soft wire brush to remove any flaking paint. The marker was sand cast without smooth surfaces. Be careful not to remove the normal imperfections or round over the edges of the letters.
- Do not use a chemical paint remover on location. You will have no easy way to do an environmentally friendly clean-up.
- Latex based paints that are brushed on always work. Some locations in California will allow oil-based paints and/or paint sprayers. You would need to ask.
- After the paint has cured, consider using an outdoor paint sealer that provide UV protection and water resistance.
- Some older markers will show the remains of a reddish disk covering much of the center. That design has been discontinued and you do not need to reproduce it.

And with that, we wish you success in refurbishing your marker and thank you for helping to "Keep Our Blue Stars Shining".

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