

Mounting Keypad and Creating Overlay

The keypad I supply is intended to be mounted 'flush' with the case and a suitable overlay glued over the top.

When used like this a front panel can be created that has a nice clicky feel and provides an oil resistant and professional looking result.



First the case should be drilled to take the keypad and the keypad mounted on spacers to set the buttons edges flush with the case (the buttons are slightly rounded and it's this slight protrusion that will determine how the keypad 'feels').

To help with this the file FrontPanelCutOutDecimal.dxf is an Autocad file which has the cut-outs and buttons marked (there are various online utilities for reading these files).

To facilitate the creation of the front panel graphics I provide two files:

FrontPanel.psd for use with Photoshop.

FrontPanel.pdn for use with Paint.net (free download via <https://www.getpaint.net/>)

These files break down the front panel into parts which are on individual layers, this gives you the scope to easily change text, colour, graphics etc and move parts around to match your final layout.

The first step when using these files will be to set the size to match your case.

The images are at 300dpi so multiplying the final size in inches by 300 will give you a size in pixels.

Once you have these change the 'canvas' size (not the image size since that will scale the image) in the graphics software you're using.

If you change the size you'll need to modify the background and slide a few parts around to match your case cut-outs.

Once you've got a printout that matches your case and the positions of buttons/display then you can turn this into the front panel.

The next step is to print it onto a good quality paper (lightweight photo paper is ideal).

Now cut out the section for the LCD window and laminate the print before cutting it down to the final size.

You should now have a high quality plastic coated front panel with a clear window for the LCD.

Fit the screws for anything that is attached to the front of the case using locknuts & loctite/glue to prevent any screws from moving (you won't be able to get at these again without damaging the overlay).

After checking it again it can be glued to the case, I find double sided tape ideal for this.

Any questions please email me at steve@worldofward.com.