

About the lifting process

The police's finger print department (LCRC in this case) would get folines in a pack from the manufacturer – already cut in a size of approximately 17 cm x 12.5 cm portrait. We say 'approximately' because it seems that these folines were cut from a bigger sheet before being sent in these smaller sizes to the department. Some edges are not very straight in relation to the edge on the opposite side, making some very slightly truncate. But they are cut smooth with no kinks in. We inspected close to 20 of these sheets, and despite slight deviation, they were all in the range of about 17 cm to about max 13 cm portrait.

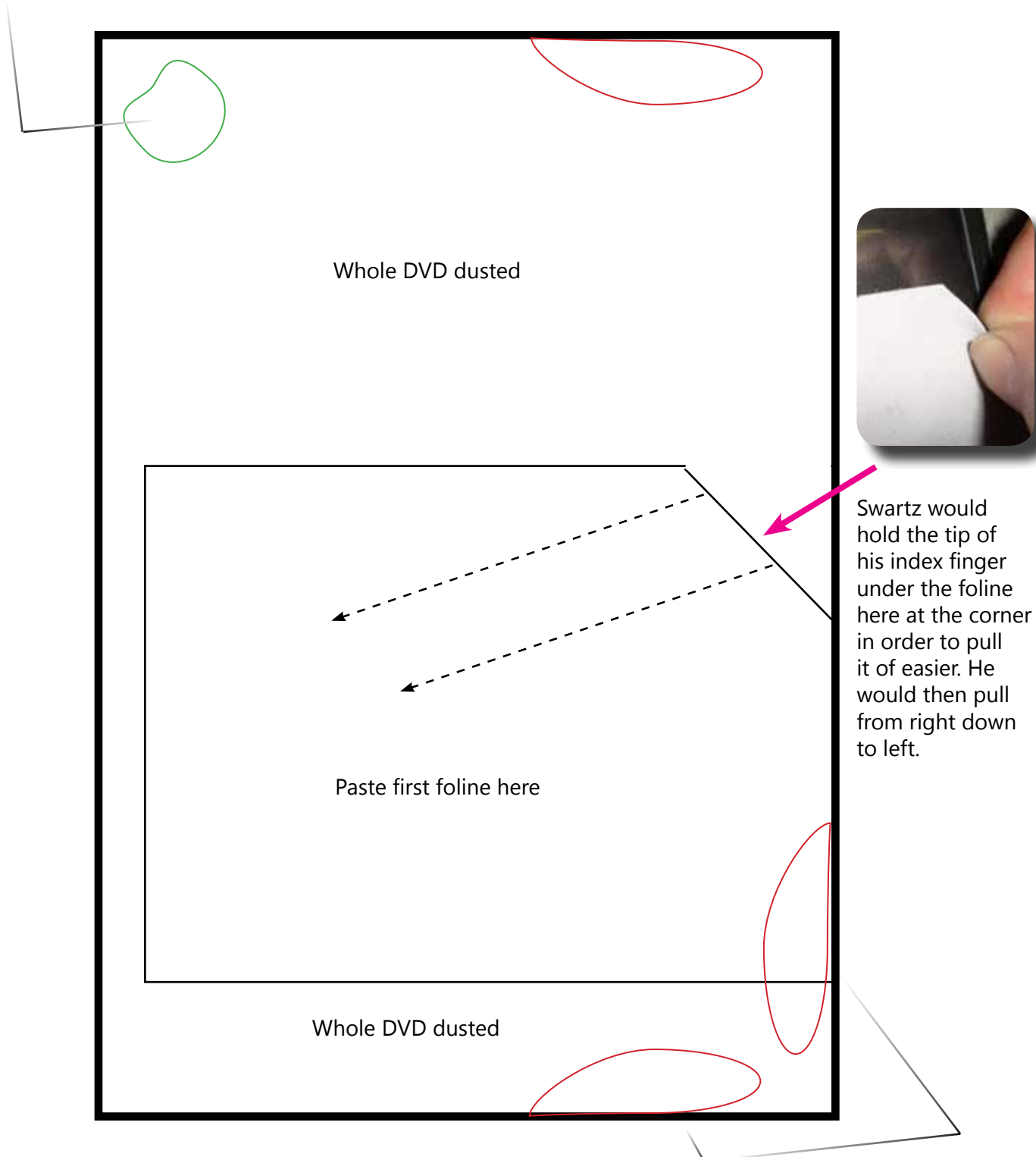


Const Swartz would now judge the half of the foline and cut it across in two halves, now having two folines of about 8.5 cm x 13 cm landscape. This would be done in the evenings at his home, or at work if he had time to do so. It was generally not cut on scenes and in this case he already had cut folines when he arrived on the murder scene. The size of a half will generally concur with Folien 1's size, which is 12.6 x 9.2 cm. Because he judges the half line with the eye, there can be variation of sizes up to e.g. 9.2 cm, it really depends on where you cut it more or less in half.



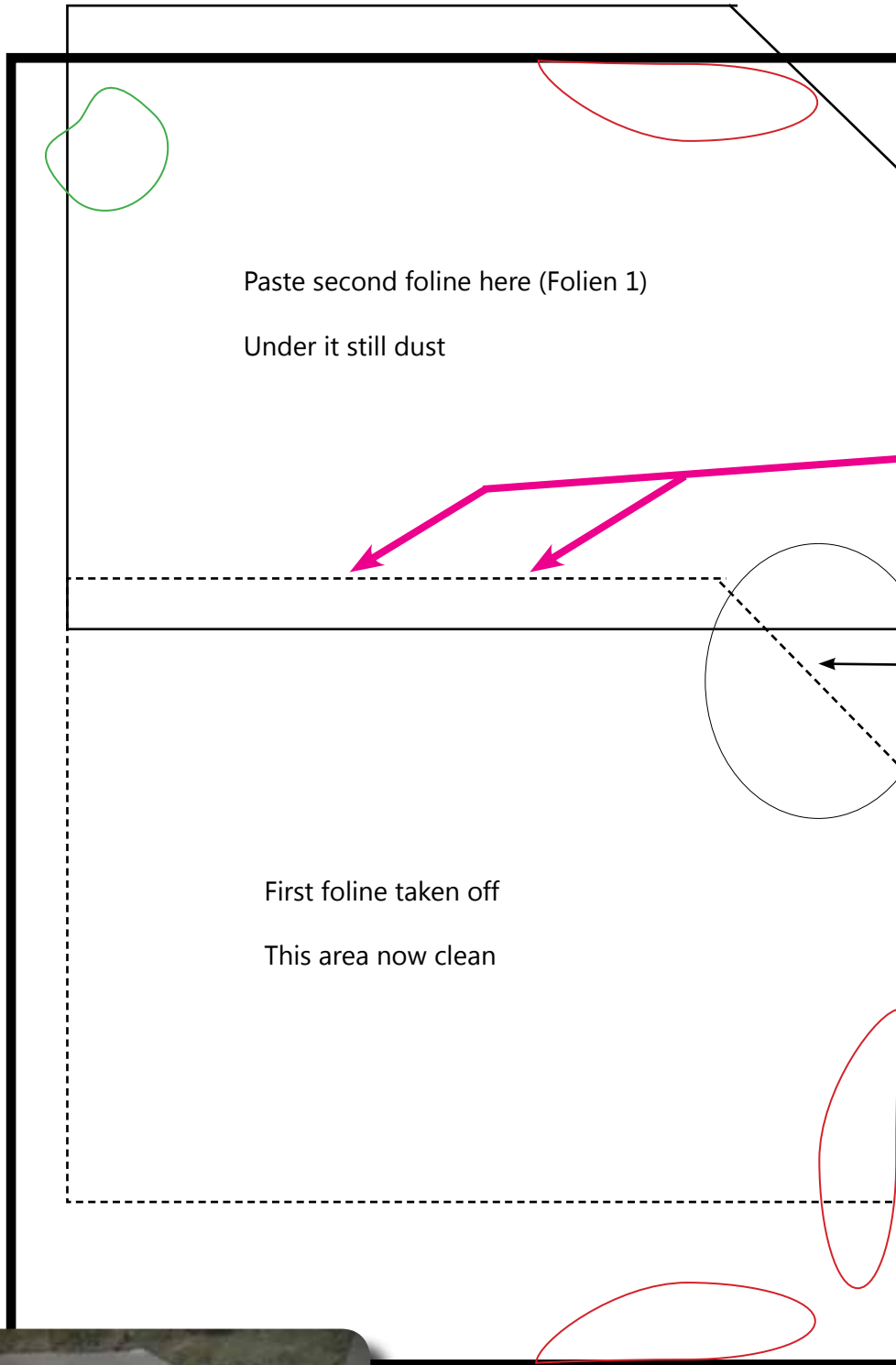
How did Const Swartz lift?

Right thumb of duster - also visible on Folien 1



Swartz would hold the tip of his index finger under the foline here at the corner in order to pull it of easier. He would then pull from right down to left.

These shapes represent the places where the duster more or less would have clipped the cover between her fingers (index and middle fingers) in the dusting process, as she rotated the cover CCW in order to dust the whole cover. Especially note the one in the top right hand corner.



This border between clean and dusted area recorded as the "bottom line" on Folien 1

This part did not record because lifter held index finger's tip under the foline





He would place the foline slightly over the case's edge, specifically wanting to record the edge to show it is the top end of the object. Hold with fingers on cut corner (not cut in this example) and, rub the foline onto the surface and then lift diagonally downward from right to left.



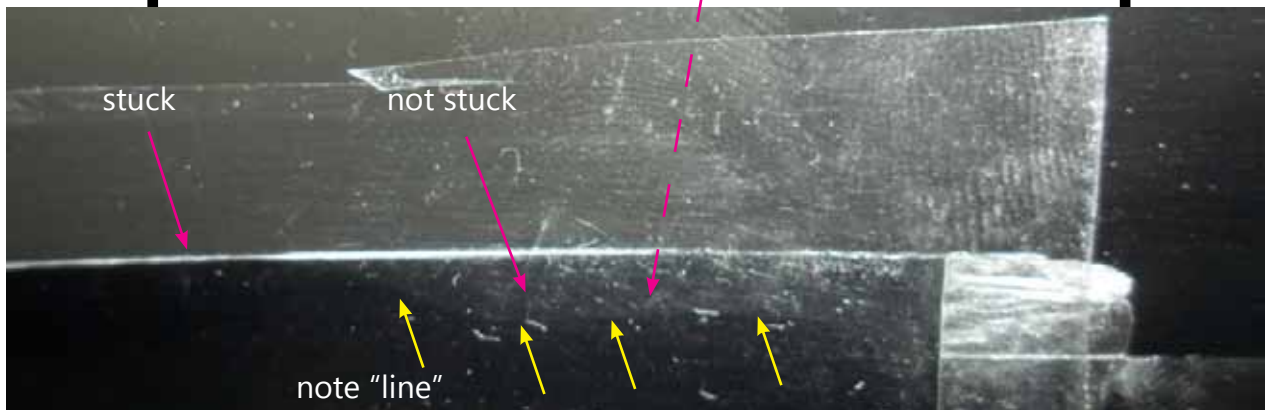
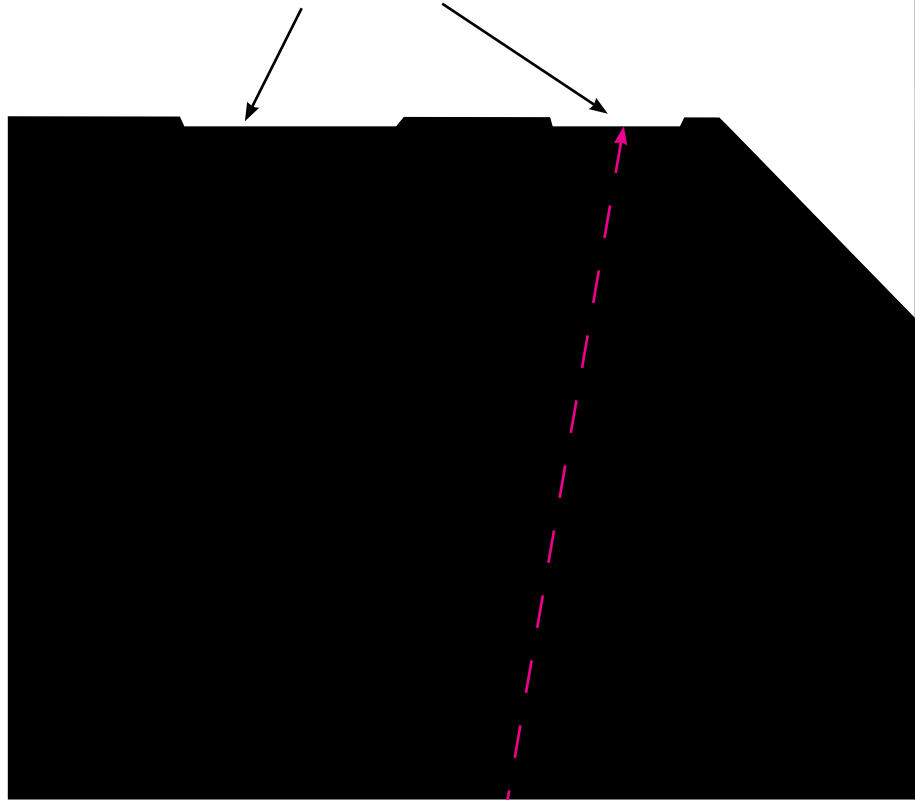
Put the cellophane cover back from left bottom corner upwards to right corner, gliding and smearing the sheet onto the foline with left fingers while holding the sheet with his right hand as he goes along.



Smearing out the bubbles, after which he would put on the stickers, etc.

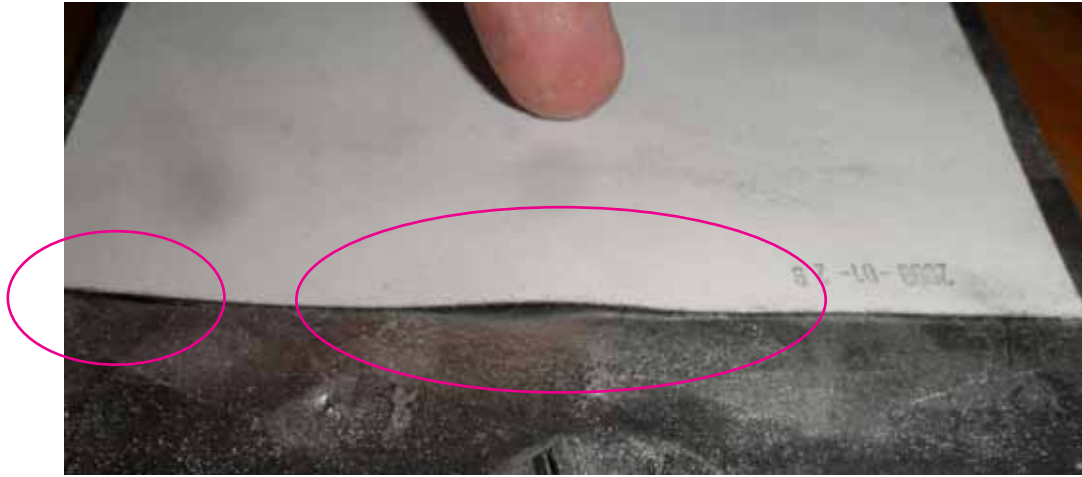


If you don't rub the edge properly from side to side, there might be void areas under the folien which did not touch the DVD's sleeve. This can lead to an uneven and jagged lift line/border when you remove the folien.



We cut a part of a DVD sleeve off and pasted it on a flat glass plate and turned the glass plate around, the sleeve now on the back of the glass stuck on the glass plate. Then we pasted a folien on the sleeve, We rubbed the folien but not particularly on the top edge. There where it doesn't stick to the sleeve, it makes a void area – resulting in a line/border where it didn't stick. If pulled off there will be an uneven lift of powder – resulting in the formation of a jagged lift line.

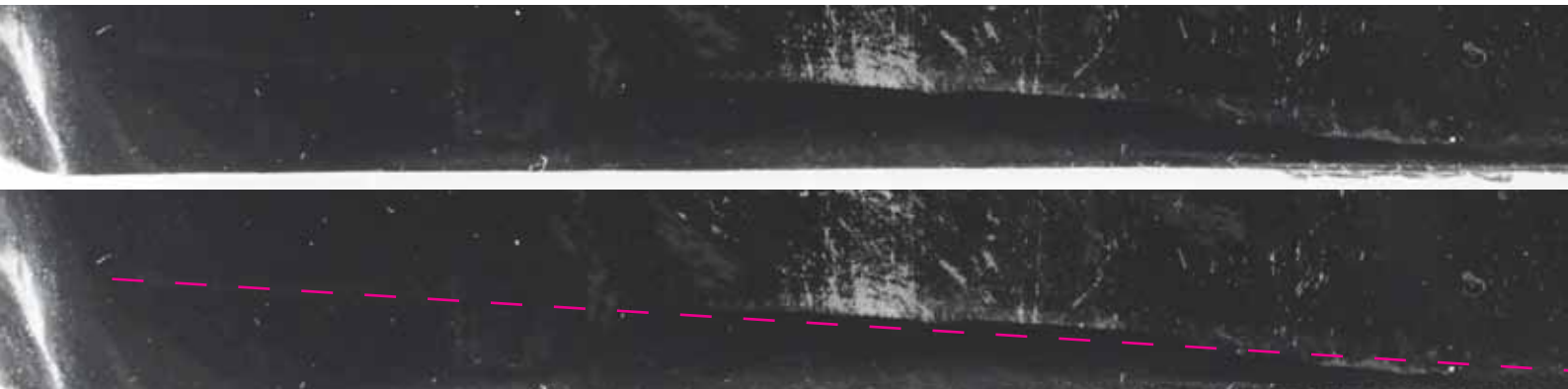
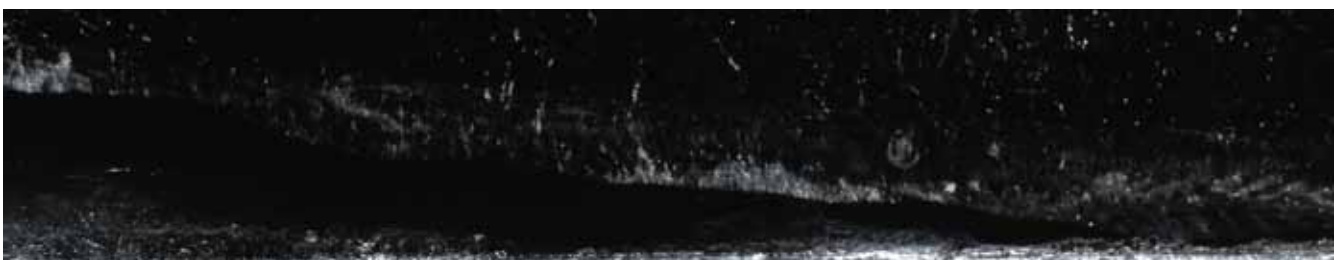
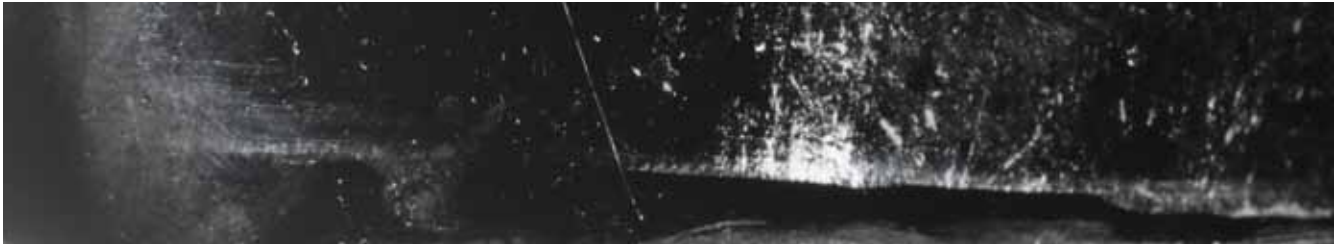




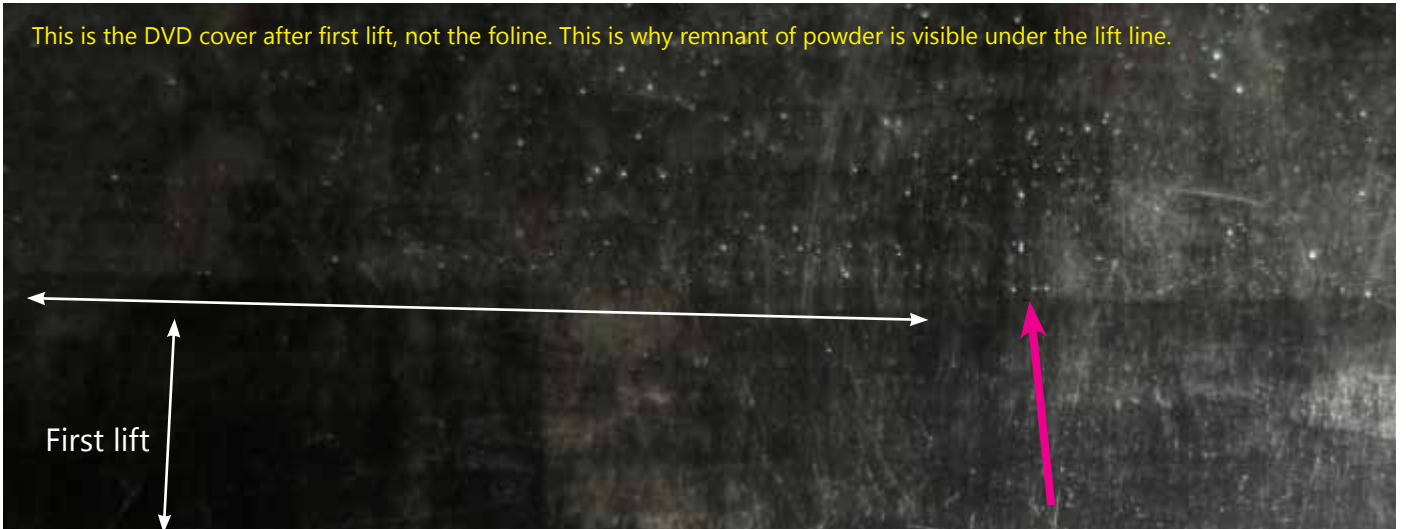
Because the DVD case is hollow and flexible, it bends inwards when downward pressure is applied on it. Especially if you apply pressure on it by rubbing the foline from bottom to top, this can cause the foline top edge to lift upwards, not making proper contact. If you do not rub it on that edge from side to side, it may cause non-contact with the surface, resulting in an uneven lift line after lifting.



Can this be a representation of the bottom line of a round conical drinking glass (tumbler)? The line should be curved and more smooth. Rather looks like a lift line made by a badly pasted or badly cut first folio's top edge.



Let's look at the double lift with respect to the formation of the bottom line



Although these results are highly variable, depending on the nature of the sleeve, how the foline is pasted and rubbed and the quality of the powder, you do not always get a straight line when you remove the first lift. It can especially depend on how it was rubbed on the top edge of the foline. In this case it made a slight uneven feature in the line, which would record as such on the next lift.



Not that the bottom line is generally curved, but just to show what can happen: A curved line can easily be formed when a foline is cut to leave a curved edge. When you start off slightly skew and you correct your cutting line, you can arrive at somewhat of a curved line. It can very easily happen.



Below is an over dramatised and intentionally badly cut top edge of a foline. We must, however, remember that we are looking at very small kinks in the bottom line of Folien 1, and it is indeed not impossible to have cut the foline badly, especially if you use a small pair of scissors.



Foline intentionally cut badly – then put the bottom foline on the bottom half of the dusted DVD cover, and lift. Then paste the top foline on the upper part of the DVD so that the bottom edge slightly overlaps the lift line left by first lift. Below is the result found on second lift.



The line that would be lifted where the top edge of first foline left a lift line after the first lift

