

Special applications.



Grafiprint LAMSTD on Grafiprint S30P, S32P, S34P, S38P, AE38P

Introductory remarks.

LAMSTD allows the designer or sign maker to accentuate his work in comparison with other common designs. The special characteristics of this laminate offer the designer the possibility to give full vent to his creativity by working out extremely original ideas. This laminate, coming in a cast quality, allows you to give your designs an exclusive character.

Tip 1: If you wish to use LAMSTD as a colourless wrapping material, we advise you to laminate it warm on LAM040 first.

The Preparation.

It goes without saying that you need to laminate your prints in a propre and dustfree space. Never put printed rolls on the floor before laminating them, otherwise they would attract dust particles. Also make sure there is no dust or dirt on your clothes, e.g. from sawing the panels. Avoid touching the printed surface or the adhesive layer of the laminate with your fingers.

Laminating.

There are various ways to laminate a print :

- Cold laminating: can be used for most applications.
- Warm laminating: is always better to achieve a good adhesion between print and laminate.

Follow the instructions in the manual and pay attention to the safety instructions that come with your laminator.

Allow your print to dry for at least 24 to 48 hours (or even longer, depending on the amount of ink) before laminating it. This will guarantee an optimal adhesion between the Grafiprint print media and the Grafiprint laminate.

Tip 2: Remove all excess of laminate alongside the edges of the print after laminating. Nothing is as annoying as small pieces of laminate that stick to your print while unrolling it.

The Application.

Tip 3: Make sure the workshop is dust-free, that the necessary ambient temperature has been reached, and that the job can not be complicated by direct sunlight or by a heat source. Also make sure the floor is completely clean, as the vinyl gets statically loaded during the application process, thus attracting dust very easily.

The vinyls are always applied dry.

Run a couple of tests first. They can save you a lot of work. Apply a test strip on the paintwork of the vehicle and on a side window, and compare the result.

- If the test strip sticks much harder on the paintwork than on the window, or if you see lots of air bubbles, this means that the vehicle has not been pre-treated sufficiently. Repeat the isopropanol treatment.
- If the test strip does not stick sufficiently, this means that probably a very thin layer of (silicone) protection has stayed behind on the vehicle. The pre-treatment needs to be repeated.

Allow the printed vinyl to dry sufficiently before laminating it. If you don't do so, this is very often the cause of a too strong initial bond or of the material coming off again after strong deformation.

The tools:

- Felt squeegee
- Cutting knife
- Heat gun
- Extension cord
- Sufficient light
- Roll of tape
- Electric current
- Meter, felt-tip, pencil, ...

The preparation:

- Place the vinyl (with its backing paper) on the surface.
- Always avoid cutting in the surface.
- Apply some reference points where vinyl and surface meet, so you easily place the vinyl at its exact position again.

Tip 4: In case of larger deformations in the car body (e.g. with false windows in vans) you can use the Grafiprimer. This product enhances the adhesive strength. Apply a thin layer of Grafiprimer with a cloth and leave it to dry sufficiently. Then wipe of the white film, and the adhesive strength will be enhanced considerably.

Remark: as a result of this treatment, the adhesive sometimes sticks that hard, that it stays behind on the car's paintwork when the vinyl is removed afterwards.

The application of the vinyl:

- Remove the backing paper from the vinyl.
- Position the vinyl without folds against the reference points you applied earlier.
- Use a heat gun to make the vinyl smooth.
- Rub the vinyl smoothly by means of the felt squeegee. Make sure that the air between the object and the vinyl can always escape.
- A detailed manual on how to wrap a vehicle or other object can be found on our website: <http://www.grafityp.com>.
- Cut off the excess vinyl only after it has cooled down completely.

Tip 5: If you have to apply the vinyl only on extremely curved objects, like e.g. some car wings, you always start rubbing the vinyl from the centre. In this way, the deformation will be divided equally towards all sides.

Tip 6: Never lay a felt squeegee on the floor. Sand will creep into the squeegee, and you will make scratches on the vinyl the next time you use it.

The Finishing.

Very often, the customer comes back to pick up his "unmissable" vehicle as soon as possible. Nevertheless, it is of utmost importance that the vehicle is "heated once again".

- All edges and deep indents need to be heated once again in order to remove all surface tension. If you fail to do so, the vinyl will try to return to its original form and it is possible that it will come loose in certain areas. The reheating process is done with a temperature of 350°C on the heat gun's display (= 90°C on the car's paintwork). Make sure you keep moving the heat gun in such a way that the vinyl does not get burned.
- Small air bubbles will disappear automatically after a certain period of time. Larger air bubbles on even surfaces need to be punctured to allow the air to escape.

After the job has been completed.

- Leave the car in the workshop for a night, so it can get used to its new coating. Allow it to cool down in the acclimatized area slowly.

Cleaning and Maintenance.

- The car can be washed in a car wash without any problems after about three days.
- We advise you not to clean the vehicle with a high-pressure cleaner.

- Vinyl is a soft material. Therefore the cleaning and maintenance shall only be executed with non-scouring cleaning agents, without strong solvents or corrosive ingredients. If you want to give the vehicle some additional gloss after a certain period of time, you can "polish" it. Please only use the products that are specifically meant for this application. The old application "wax on – wax off" with a polishing paste is not applicable in this case.
- Dirt that is hard to remove, such as insects, resin, etc..., needs to be removed immediately with warm water and a soapy solution.

Removal of the vinyl.

Grafiprint materials have been developed especially not to leave behind any glue residues after removing them. If you wish to remove the vinyl, we advise you to heat it with a heat gun. Pull off the vinyl under an angle of 90°. If any glue stays behind on the surface, you can remove it with isopropanol.

Tip 7: If any glue residues stay behind, this is often because the vinyl is too warm and the adhesive is too cold. Just wait for a moment until the heat has reached the area between the adhesive layer and the paintwork, and things will become much easier. You will find the right balance between heating and removing the vinyl after some practice.