

USER MANUAL and TIPS

Sign making with S52P, S53P, S54P, S56P



Introductory remarks.

A brief preceding study will save you a lot of time and will guarantee a better end result. Always check the following points :

- What kind of surface do you want to apply the vinyl onto, and is it suited for sign making ?
- This vinyl is ideal for all indoor and outdoor sign making on an even, smooth surface.
- Check in the following table which material is best suited for your particular job.

GRAFIPRINT MEDIA	GRAFIPRINT LAMINATE	Even surface	Slightly undulating	Rivets	Strongly undulating	Deep indents	Vehicles, Wrapping		Short-term	Middle-term	Long-term
Special Formula											
S52P, S53P, S54P, S56P	LAM105, LAM155	V	V	-	-	-	-		V	V	
S52P, S53P, S54P, S56P	LAM121, LAM130, LAM170	V	V	-	-	-	-			V	V
S52P, S53P, S54P, S56P	LAM200, LAM230, LAM250	V	V	-	-	-	-			V	V
S52P, S53P, S54P, S56P	LAMS50	V	V	-	-	-	-			V	V

Make sure all necessary equipment and materials are ready at hand before starting the job. Pay attention to your own safety and health. Take into account all safety prescriptions of the suppliers when using electric equipment and products that are necessary to complete the job successfully.

Make sure you comply with the legislation in your country. For some advertisement panels you may need a building permit.

The Preparation.

Tip 1: We advise you to use the recommended combinations of Grafiprint media + laminates.

Tip 2: Check whether certain plastic materials are suited for vinyl application. This can be done very easily. Clean the surface thoroughly and do the drop test. If you pour water of this surface, it shouldn't form drops. If drops appear on the surface, the material is not suited for wrapping with any material. A structured surface also means a reduced adhesion, which is not to be advised.

Cleaning.

- The surface needs to be cleaned thoroughly.
- Watch out for damage, caused by some corrosive products.
- When everything is completely clean, the complete surface needs to be cleaned once again with isopropanol. Isopropanol removes all detergents that stayed behind on the surface.
- If vinyls have to be applied on other objects, they also need to be cleaned and degreased thoroughly before you start applying the vinyl.
- If vinyls have to be applied on sawn panels, it is of utmost importance that the sawn edges of these panels are also cleaned thoroughly. Use compressed air to do so. These edges often contain a lot of dust, which will be attracted electrostatically by the vinyl, and which will get in between the vinyl and the panel.

Tip 3: Keep you material, with the application film on top of it, flat and on top of each other, making sure it is deformed as little as possible. If you need to enroll the material, make sure the material is enrolled with the application film at the outside.

Laminating.

There are various way to laminate the print media :

- Cold lamination: can be used for most applications.
- Warm lamination: is always better and is advised for wrapping. Warm lamination is done by heating your laminated print at the bottom side (= by heating the backing paper instead of the 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, and wait another 24 hours before applying the film.

The Application.

Tip 4: 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 a shop window or a panel and check its adhesive strength.

The tools:

- 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. Use paper tape or a pencil crayon to do so.
- Always avoid cutting in the panels or on glass. This can cause scratches.
- Apply some reference points where vinyl and panel meet, so you can easily place the vinyl at its exact position again.

The application of the vinyl:

- Remove the backing paper from the vinyl.
- Position the vinyl without folds against the reference points you applied earlier.
- Rub the vinyl smoothly by means of the squeegee. Make sure that the air between the object and the vinyl can always escape.
- A detailed manual on the application of Grafitack vinyls, provided with an application film, can be found on our website: www.grafityp.com/manuals - Useful tips for the application of Grafitack films

The finishing.

- Small air bubbles will disappear automatically after a certain period of time. Larger bubbles need to be punctured to allow the air to escape.

Cleaning and Maintenance

We advise you not to clean the object with a high-pressure cleaner.

Maintenance: Advertisement panels at the side of the road are exposed to water and dust day after day. 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.

Removal of the vinyl.

The Grafiprint Series has 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 5: 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, the panel or the shop window, and things will become much easier. You will find the right balance between heating and removing the vinyl after some practice.