

Sign making on objects with



GRAFITACK 225 & 226

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 the films need to be applied onto, and is this surface suited for self adhesive films ?
- This metalized polyester film is ideal for sign making indoors, but can also be used for short-term outdoor applications.
- Check your plotter's knife pressure before cutting the complete job.

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.

The Preparation.

- The surface always needs to be cleaned thoroughly before you start applying the films.
- Avoid damage when using 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 you need to apply the vinyl on sawn panels, it is of utmost importance that the sawn edges of these panels are cleaned thoroughly. Use compressed air to do so. After all, a lot of dust creeps into these edges, which is electrostatically attracted by the vinyl and thus gets in between the vinyl and the panel.

Tip 1: Keep your 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.

The Application.

Tip 2: 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 surface and check the adhesive strength.

The tools:

- Squeegee
- Cutting knife
- Sufficient light
- Roll of tape
- 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.

Tip 3: In case you have to apply extremely big signs, it is often easier to cut your design in between lines or characters after you have defined their exact position.

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 applying Grafitack can be found on our website www.grafityp.com.

The finishing.

The exact removal of the mounting film determines the quality of the end result to a large extent.

- Allow the film to adhere to its surface for as long as possible before removing the mounting film.
- Remove the mounting film under an angle of 180°. In this way, the pulling strength on the vinyl will be a lot less, and less air bubbles will be "sucked" under the vinyl.
- Small air bubbles will disappear automatically after a certain period of time. Larger air bubbles need to be punctured.

Cleaning and Maintenance.

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.

Removal of the vinyl.

The Grafitack films 225 and 226 have been developed especially not to leave behind any glue residues after removing the vinyl. 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 residues stay behind on the surface, they can be removed with isopropanol.

Tip 4: 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.

This GrafiManual is not to be considered as a complete product manual. It is only meant as a tool, to give you an idea of the possibilities and the application of the above-mentioned products. More detailed information about these products can be found in the product data sheets and on www.grafityp.com.