



TailorMadeDecals  
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Instruction: Usage of Vinyls

## **Instruction**

### **Usage of Vinyls**

We offer vinyl stickers in two different types: The first are full-colored foils cut with a plotter. They consist of three different layers: On top is the transfer sheet, in the middle the actual foil and on the bottom the protective paper sheet protecting the glue of the foil. The transfer sheet is responsible for holding together the whole vinyl as one. Without it one wouldn't be able to transfer text blocks cut out of vinyls. This kind of vinyls are primarily used to transfer logos or text.

The second type of vinyl stickers are printed white or transparent foils, also cut with a plotter afterwards. Often they are not shipped with a transfer sheet. This type is often used for multi-colored markings. Furthermore, we are able to print small markings and text on transparent foil, similar to waterslide decals. Due to the fact that the foil for this type is usually a bit thicker they are easily detectable and tangible. For sport and semi-scale models this type is the best solution as it is not necessary to paint them over.

Smaller stickers, i.e. maintenance nomenclature, can simply be picked up from the protective paper and be put on the model. There are several ways to do this. One is to pick them up with your finger, but you may leave a fingerprint on the glue of the foil. When having applied the sticker on the model, the fingerprint will be visible forever. You can prevent this when moistening your fingers before touching the sticker. The fingerprint will either not be as visible as before or even completely gone as soon as the moisture dried. Another option is to use a knife. With the point of the knife lift the sticker and move it over to your model. But this technique may also leave the print of your knife point on the glue. For those who want to do it the best way, follow those steps: With a scissor cut the sticker out of the sheet. Keep a small margin around the around the sticker. Now you can grab it with your fingers as the protective layers from both sides prevent you from leaving your fingerprints everywhere. Now grab the bottom protective paper and pull it off in a sharp angle of 180° until have of the sticker is not covered by it anymore. Hold the flipped part of the protective paper now in between thumb and pointer finger. The free half of the sticker and now be applied on the model. Slowly apply it on the surface and pull away the protective layer bit by bit. This technique prevents the forming of air bubbles under your sticker as we apply it with a flat angle. Now gently rub the sticker with your thumb to activate the glue. You can also use a bit of water mixed with a drop of dish cleaning liquid on the bottom of the foil to ease this process.



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Now with your thumb remove the excess water. Let the sticker dry for one day until the glue produces the full adhesive force. We recommend this process especially with bigger stickers. To apply the water on a bigger area use a manual pump spray. First of all bedew the surface with a bit of water and then remove the protective paper off the sticker. This prevents bigger stickers from wrapping around the protective paper. Now put the sticker on the moist surface, and due to the water you can slide it into the correct position. When you are happy with it, use an old credit card wrapped in a tissue or a bit of soft cloth and start removing the excess water by rubbing the sticker, starting from the center and moving to the edge. This way you drain all the water. When you are done, soak it up and let the sticker dry for 24 hours. If it now happens that air bubbles are appearing you can either use a needle to pop them, or use a very sharp knife to cut the sticker. This method does not deform the sticker as much as a needle would, and you can put it back together when the bubble is gone. If you plan on using stickers for a model with lots of panel lines or rivets, think again, as it is difficult to deform the stickers to fully fit surface. We would recommend for this type of surfaces paint masks.

If you have full-colored sticker foils you can do the same wet-application technique. The one thing to mind is the transfer sheet. If you put the sticker on the wet model, it is better to wait a bit before pulling the transfer sheet off, as sometimes the sticker could be pulled off too. If you wait for round about one hour, everything should be ok. If you think about using the dry-application method you should be aware of a couple of things. First of all, you should be applying the stickers in a flat angle to prevent air bubbles. For smaller stickers, but if you have bigger or long ones, it might be problematic. At first put the sticker without removing any layer on the model to adjust the position. To ease the process you can cut the sticker without a margin. Now use some adhesive tape to lock the sticker in place: put some stripes on the left, some in the middle, and some on the right. Also, put some parallel to the sticker to mark the borders. Now remove the tape from one side, but leave the others in place. Those secure the sticker in place. Pull off half of the bottom protective paper and cut it with a very sharp knife or scissors. Be aware not to leave any paper or other left-overs under the sticker. Now put down the sticker, but caution: do not let it stick on the surface yet. Take the credit card wrapped with cloth again and start in the middle and carefully rub the sticker onto the surface. Rub from the center to the side you are holding in your hand until the whole side is applied on the surface. Now do the same with the other side. If there are any air bubbles, you can cut them too.

Both types of stickers can be painted over, but it is not necessary to do so. The full-colored ones can be sanded beforehand, but tests have shown that even without the colors are adhering nicely.