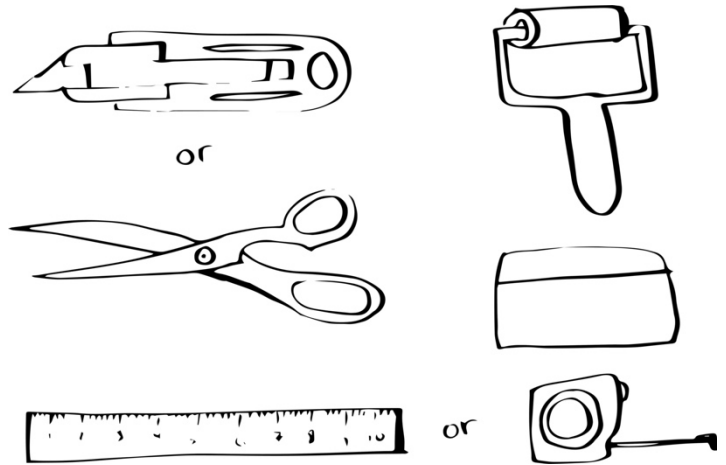# Applying vinyl using a dry application method

Ideal for smaller vinyl graphics. The most common method for applying smaller stickers, delicate designs, metallic vinyl or individuals who have some experience in fitting adhesive graphics

Tools for a dry application

Masking tape
Tape measure
Squeegee or credit card wrapped in a soft cloth
Craft knife or scalpel

Clean your surface

Firstly, you will need to clean the surface of your substrate. Making sure your application area is free from dirt, dust or grease is very important. Remember a vinyl graphic is as only as good as the surface it is being applied. Methylate spirits is an ideal cleaning product to use when cleaning your application area. Or use water mixed with a drop of fairy liquid. Do not use other cleaning products as they can damage the adhesive.

Applying small graphics

Small designs can be easily places by peeling off the backing paper and squeegeed straight to the surface, they won't need the masking tape process below.
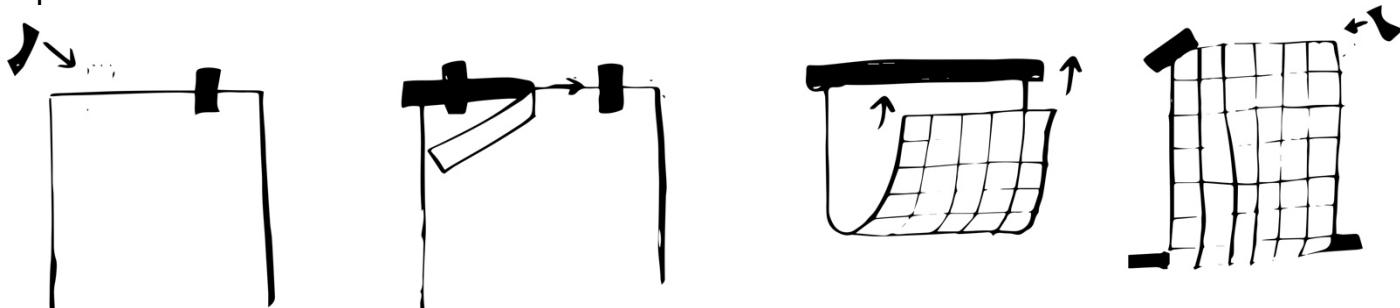
Position your graphic – only needed for larger vinyls

Place your vinyl on your panel in the approximate position you require it to be applied. Tear off two strips of masking tape around 5-6 inches long. Dependant, whether your graphic is landscape or portrait, will depend on where you place the masking tape.

For landscape, you will place a piece of masking tape on the centre of the left-hand side and the centre of the right-hand sides. The masking tape should be half on the vinyl and half on the panel. If you need to adjust the position, then use your tape measure to measure the distance to the edge of your panel and adjust where necessary. If your graphic is too high on the right-hand edge, pull up the sticky tape on the right edge and lower down into position and re-stick back onto the surface. Once you are happy with the positioning, we can then apply a long run of tape across the middle, creating a central hinge.

Position your decal
Adjust as required
Add central tape to make a hinge

If your vinyl is portrait then the masking tape will be place at the top, creating a hinge at the top.

Applying your vinyl

For landscape lift one side of the vinyl over the hinge so you can see the backing paper. Working from one corner peel away the backing paper. Once you have peeled the backing paper very carefully cut away the piece of backing paper. Please be careful not to cut or scratch the vinyl with the knife as this could damage the application surface. You now have half the vinyl with the backing removed. Move the vinyl back towards the surface, holding away from it by a few inches. Use a squeegee or similar and working from the central hinge start applying the vinyl working your way along to the edge. When applying the vinyl use shallow strokes of the squeegee moving up and down the entire graphic from top to bottom. Keep using this method and squeegeeing along until you reach the end of the vinyl and the whole side has adhered. Now remove the central hinge and the positioning tape on the opposite side. Lift the vinyl remove the backing and repeat the process. You can pop any small bubbles by carefully piercing them with a pin. Be careful just to prick them as you don't want to damage the vinyl.

<div align="center">

Fold over and remove backing
Hold above panel
Apply up and down working towards the edge
Remove central hinge
Remove backing paper
Hold above the surface
Squeegee along using up and down motion

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For portrait, flip the vinyl up over the hinge so the backing paper is facing you, then start peeling it from the bottom next to the masking tape hinge. Carefully remove the whole backing paper sheet keeping the design upside down.
Now gently lower it down squidging from the middle of the top, and slowly working your way down.