

TIPS & TRICKS

VINYL APPLICATION MADE EASY

By Bob Glenister

With the advent of printed graphics the days of application tape are fast disappearing and a whole new way of applying vinyl has become an essential skill to learn.

Watching an expert is always fun and Robert Willemstein agreed that as long as his face did not appear in the article I could try and capture the essentials of his technique (Sorry ladies no Eye Candy).

1. Essentials for all applicators:

tissues, pen, various types of squeegees, sharp scissors, utility knife, masking tape, tape measure, rubber roller, spray bottle with normal water (for the faint at heart), steel rulers of various lengths.



2. Position the vinyl on the substrate and align carefully, making sure that you have a large enough table under the substrate so that you can secure vinyl to the table.



3. Place masking tape over the centre of the print dividing it in two and firmly securing it in the aligned position.



4. Fold back one side of the vinyl and pull off the backing sheet, leaving adhesive revealed.



5. Cut off the backing sheet using scissors, making sure you cut a straight edge. (The faint at heart can now apply water to the revealed adhesive.)



6. Take a steel ruler that is slightly wider than the vinyl and place it on the adhesive side 5mm from the edge and carefully align it to the vinyl edge.



7. A close up of the vinyl stuck to the steel ruler.



8. Holding the steel ruler fold back the vinyl, holding it taught.



9. Go down as low as you can with the vinyl still not touching the substrate.

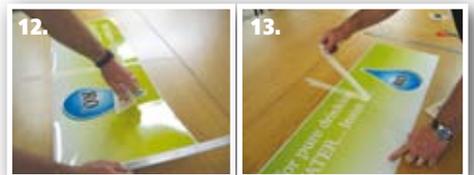
10. Squeegee the vinyl down, working only ten millimeters at a time working parallel to the masking tape.

11. A close up of the squeegee working across the vinyl.

12. Watch how Robert is working a small area at a time while holding up the unworked area.



13. Once the one side is down remove the masking tape from the substrate.



14. Fold back the other side and remove the backing sheet.



15. Repeat the steps but now work from the opposite side of your table.



Remember practise, practise, practise! Use water the first couple of times, but ultimately get to the point where you can apply dry with confidence.

Thanks to Bob Glenister from Telpro (+27 11) 466 1551