

# **ROBOT MAN MACHINE**

Ethan Arnold // 612.239.8662 // ethan@robotmanmachine.com 1811 3rd Ave N // Minneapolis, MN // 55405 www.robotmanmachine.com

# How To Apply Vinyl Decals

Each decal will arrive as three layers of material. 11) The top layer is paper transfer tape, which is used to apply the decal. 2) The second layer is the vinyl film, which is the decal itself. 3) The bottom layer is the backing paper.

#### Tip 1: Always start with a clean surface!

Pre-wash the area where you'll be applying the sticker using either soap and water or a mixture of rubbing alcohol (70% isopropyl alcohol) and water—we recommend a 50 / 50 water / alcohol solution. After cleaning with soapy water, rinse thoroughly with water until no soap or residue remains. Do not use window-cleaning products. They may leave a residue behind, making your sticker cling less effectively.

## **Tip 2: Prepare the Decal**

When you receive your decal in the mail, lay it flat and firmly wipe a credit card or application squeegee across the top of the transfer tape. This helps to make sure the transfer tape properly adheres to the decal. This is especially important if the decal was shipped in a mailing tube.

#### **Tip 3: Apply in moderate temperatures**

For the best results, install your stickers in a shaded area away from direct sunlight. When possible, you should apply stickers when the temperature is above 50F and below 90F.

## Tip 4: Use masking tape

Masking tape can help ensure that your sticker is positioned exactly where you want it. Leaving the white backing paper in place and facing the surface you're applying it to, position the sticker where you want it to go. Place a piece of masking tape along the top edge of the sticker—this fixes it in the proper location. Then, lift the sticker as if it's on a hinge, and peel off the backing paper. While holding onto the bottom edge, slowly lower the sticker, using the thumb of your other hand, or squeegee, to press from the center out and gradually working your way from top to bottom.

## **Tip 5: Stay level**

When applying decals to walls that include typography: Mark the baseline of your decal on the transfer tape. Hold both ends of the decal up with masking tape then use your level to adjust the decal from this mark. Adjust the masking tape accordingly before letting the decal go. Then tape the decal in place on the top edge.

When applying decals to automobiles: Find the 'lines' on the car or truck, such as, pin stripes, bends and contours. Mark the baseline of your decal on the transfer tape. Hold both ends of the decal up with masking tape. Use measuring tape to adjust the decal from the lines you have chosen on the auto to the baseline mark on the decal. Make sure the measurements are similar. Adjust the masking tape accordingly before letting the decal go. Then tape the decal in place on the top edge.

#### **Small Decals**

Step 1- Carefully peel the backing paper from the decal at a sharp angle.
Step 2- Align the decal and press it onto the desired surface. Firmly run a credit card across the transfer tape to make sure the decal adheres to the surface.
Step 3- Slowly peel the transfer tape from the top of the decal. If any part of the decal starts to come up with the tape, run over that part of the decal with a credit card and try to peel the tape again.

#### Large Decals - Top Hinge Method - Preferred Method

**Step 1-** Align the decal where you would like it to be. Tape it in place using masking tape along the top edge of the transfer tape.

**Step 2-** Lift the free end of the decal up and peel the backing paper away from the decal at a sharp angle.

**Step 3-** While holding the decal from the surface, starting from the top edge of the decal near the masking tape and wipe down over the transfer tape with a credit card or squeegee. Working from the center of the decal outward, firmly go over the entire decal surface until it is completely adhered to the surface.

**Step 4-** Slowly and carefully peel the transfer tape from the top of the decal. Don't pull the tape away from the surface. Peel the tape at a sharp angle, so you may press on top of the decal as you peel. If any part of the decal starts to come up with the tape, run over that part of the decal with a credit card and try to peel the tape again.

# Large Decals - Center Hinge Method

**Step 1-** Align the decal where you would like it to be. Tape it in place using masking tape along the top edge of the transfer tape.

**Step 2-** Place a piece of masking tape vertically down the center of the decal, from top to bottom. This will act as a hinge so both the left and right side of the decal can swing away from the wall.

**Step 3-** Remove masking tape from one side of the decal and pull the decal away from the wall. Peel the backing tape off the the half of the decal you are working with, and cut the paper off near the center hinge.

**Step 4-** Starting from the center edge of the decal near the masking tape, wipe over the transfer tape with a credit card outward from the center. Firmly go over the entire decal surface until it is completely adhered to the surface.

**Step 5-** Once the first half of the decal has been applied, remove the masking tape and center hinge tape from the decal. Pull this half of the decal back from the surface and peel the backing paper from the decal.

**Step 6-** Starting from where the first half of the decal has already been applied, wipe over the transfer tape with a credit card outward toward the edge. Firmly go over the entire decal surface until it is completely adhered to the surface.

**Step 7-** Slowly and carefully peel the transfer tape from one end of the decal. Peel the tape at a sharp angle so you can press on the decal as you peel the tape. If any part of the decal starts to come up with the tape, run over that part of the decal with a credit card and try to peel the tape again.

## **Removing Vinyl Decals**

A razor blade or scraper may be used to remove decals from glass, such as mirrors, car windows, and storefront windows. Do not use a blade or scraping tool on any surface that could be scratched or damaged. For removing decals from the surface of electronic devices, use your fingernail to peel up the edges of the decal, being careful not to scratch the surface. For matte wall decals, peel the decal as you would from an electronic device. For glossy wall decals, stubborn matte wall decals, or automotive decals a blow dryer may be used to heat the decal and aid in removing it.

Ethan Arnold // 612.239.8662 // ethan@robotmanmachine.com // 1811 3rd Ave N // Minneapolis, MN // 55405 // www.robotmanmachine.com