

VinylGlide.co.uk

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING VINYLGLIDE

IMPORTANT – Read these instructions carefully before using your vinyl. Once applied, it can be difficult to remove without damaging it, we cannot be responsible for damage caused to vinyl during application.

We give only general guidelines here and on our website VinylGlide.co.uk It is the responsibility of the owner to satisfy themselves of the requirements and any changes to them for registering and marking their aircraft. Further information can be obtained here:



BGA Information manual
www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/technical/ampmanual/3-7.pdf



CAA regulations CAP 523
www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP523.PD

You need: Two people (a third to read instructions and pass tools is helpful). A water sprayer – a small hand plant spray is ideal containing clean water with a drop of detergent. A ballpoint or pencil. Tape measure. Masking tape. Squeege, ideally one of ours, which resembles a larger thicker semi-rigid credit card. Sharp scalpel or craft knife. A hand hair dryer (and power) may be required*.

Your lettering comes as a sandwich. There are 3 layers: Bottom is Backing Paper, Middle is Adhesive backed Vinyl, Top is Carrier Paper. Do not remove any of these until later steps.

If you have ordered lettering on a blockout backing it will come without the carrier layer, the lettering is already fixed to it, ignore references as you will only need to remove the backing. You will need to make discrete marks at the edges to locate it which should remove easily.

We recommend applying the lettering when the glider is de-rigged, you may find it difficult to apply from the underside of a wing.

Before deciding where to apply your lettering, ensure that it will not cover any static vents or similar openings, either move the position or cut the vinyl away after application to clear the hole. Airbrake caps or inspection openings can be crossed and then slit round with a **sharp** scalpel. Fin and rudder may be crossed but not ailerons or flaps. Turbulator strips should not be covered, trim away from the affected area. Blown or vented wings should not be obstructed. If in any doubt, consult the manufacturer.

NB. FABRIC COVERED GLIDERS

Take care when rubbing down or cutting so as not to damage the fabric, the vinyl will adhere just as well as on GRP.

Step 1. Support the tail of your glider so that the fuselage is horizontal. Lay down the port wing underside up, supported on tyres.

Step 2. Clean the areas on your glider that are to receive lettering with a damp cloth to remove dust, dirt and grease. Old vinyl can be removed with the aid of gently heating with a hair dryer to loosen the adhesive.

Step 3. Rule along the baseline (not on blockout backing vinyl) and find the centerline of the lettering, i.e. 150mm or 250mm respectively up from foot of letters, and mark a short horizontal line on the carrier paper at each end of and beyond the lettering.

Step 4. FUSELAGE. Find the vertical centre of the tail boom (unless there are horizontal structural members for reference, as in fabric coverings). Hold up the lettering sandwich in position (approx midway between wing trailing edge and leading edge of tailplane or fin) and mark on the glider where your centre marks are, position a short length of masking tape just clear of where the lettering ends and repeat the reference mark on it.



Centre lines marked on sandwich and corresponding lines on masking tape at ends



Closer view

Step 5. Place lettering sandwich, carrier paper uppermost, on a flat clean smooth surface. Rub over the lettering with our squeegee or similar to get a good contact with the carrier paper.

Step 6. Turn over sandwich, separate a corner of carrier and backing and, holding down carrier, carefully pull back the backing paper at an acute angle to leave the vinyl on the carrier, stopping and rubbing back down onto the carrier if it sticks to the backing. If it does not want to stay down try pulling from a different direction, do not let the backing fall back onto the vinyl. Ensure the carrier and vinyl stay flat and discard the backing.



Removing backing paper



Lightly spraying adhesive side of vinyl whilst holding taut

Step 7. Lightly spray the application area with clean water so that only fine droplets are left. Additionally spray a little onto the sticky side of the vinyl, water gives a little slippage in case it is necessary to adjust its position.



Lining up

Step 8. With one person at each end, pick up strip and hold out taut. Turn it and hold away from the application area with adhesive facing glider, do not let it touch glider. Line up both centre marks, still holding taut just away.



Applying one end

When lined up, CHECK AGAIN and gently apply one end to the thicker end of tail boom ensuring it does not move, the person holding that end can carefully smooth it lightly on with one hand from the centre outwards. With the loose end still held taut away from the glider in line with the mark, gradually work down the length, smoothing lightly as you go taking care not to trap air bubbles. Do not let it wrinkle, if necessary, ease off while attached to the carrier and pull tight before proceeding.



Holding the other end taut and away from glider

WARNING! Even when sprayed, vinyl is extremely difficult to remove and reposition – **ENSURE BOTH ENDS ARE LINED UP BEFORE APPLYING** – it may be possible to lift or slide if no pressure has been applied.

Alternatively, apply heat with the hairdryer to loosen the adhesive. You must ensure it stays attached to the carrier to be able to move it*.



Rubbing down with squeegee

Step 9. Rub down on the carrier with squeegee or similar to get a good fix to the glider and smooth out water or air bubbles.

Step 10. Remove carrier by slowly pulling back at an acute angle, taking care that letters do not adhere to it (if they do, roll back affected area and rub down before continuing) and remove all the carrier paper.



Removing carrier paper



Easing out bubbles to edge with squeegee

Step 11. Rub exposed lettering with squeegee to push out air and water bubbles to the edge (small droplets should be absorbed by the structure, so if you can't move them, they can be left and rubbed down by hand later, prick them if they won't go), take care not to scratch or catch any vinyl edges, cut around any apertures or vents at this stage with a sharp scalpel.

Step 12. Give a final rub down to ensure firm adhesion, it will help if you use the old backing paper (shiny side down) to protect the glider and lettering whilst doing this, the lettering will not stick to it,



Final rub down using backing paper to protect

Step 13. WINGS. Mark up sandwich as Step 3 and place on upturned port wing, parallel to the spar line, approx midway between tip and root, find a position which is at least 150mm from the leading edge and 100mm from the trailing edge or a control surface - these are CAA requirements - you may however, need to move the lettering inboard if there is insufficient room, this is allowable. When you have a satisfactory position copy the marks to some masking tape on the wing as Step 4 for lining up during application.

Step 14. Prepare and apply lettering by repeating Steps 5 to 12. You may slit any airbrake openings before the final rub down, ensuring that edges are folded round and rubbed down and not impeding movement.

*If you should make a mistake or damage the vinyl, it can be removed with the help of gently heating with a hair dryer to loosen the adhesive, likewise old vinyl can be removed in this way. Single replacement letters can be ordered, email us with your requirements.

vinylglide.co.uk
WESSEX PRINT CENTRE
21 High Street
Pewsey
Marlborough
Wilts
SN9 5AF

01672 563189
Mobile 07976 247505

sedgprint@aol.com