

VINYL CUTTING

➤ THE BASICS ◀

Maximum Design Width: 22"

File Format: **.ai (Adobe Illustrator)**

We sell a variety of colors all at **\$.75 per liner inch**
(Transfer paper included in price)

➤ FILE PREPARATION ◀

- Files must be Adobe Illustrator, no other file type will be recognized.
- Grey scale images or photos can not be cut, only vector images.
- **Fonts must be outlined**
- Overlapping objects must be Merged. (The Merge command can be found in the Pathfinder window)
- Fine detail generally does not cut well but is not impossible. Come down and check our DFS examples or try a test piece!
- The recommended smallest font size is 12pt. for simple fonts.
- Delete all hidden layers, overlapping/duplicate paths and clipping masks.
- If images have been Live Traced, it is recommended to simplify and check for random anchors.
- Images larger than 22" must be cut in multiple strips or rotated 90 degrees so that the side longer than 22" is running vertically.

➤ MATERIALS ◀

We provide all materials needed for vinyl cutting.

We have a large selection of colors which is picked out when you submit your file for cutting.

We do sell uncut vinyl for the same price as cut vinyl.

➤ Weeding ◀

Weeding is the process of removing the excess vinyl from the cut design.

- To start, use an X-acto knife to cut the unwanted vinyl into segments. (The smaller the detail, the smaller the cuts should be.)
- Try not to cut through the backing paper with the X-acto, this will make complex shapes harder to apply
- Carefully remove all excess vinyl.
- Place transfer paper sticky side up on a flat table and carefully place your design, vinyl side down, onto the transfer paper.
- Burnish from the back side before flipping and carefully burnish the design through the transfer paper. We highly recommend using your Bone Folders.
- Burnish from the center out to minimize air bubbles. remaining air bubbles can be poked with a pin.

➤ Application ◀

The smoother the surface that the vinyl is being applied to, the easier the transfer will be. More texture will require more patience.

- To begin applying the vinyl, carefully peel the transfer paper away from the backing paper with the vinyl sticking to the transfer paper.
- Apply sticky side of the vinyl to the desired location and burnish heavily (The more detail, the more burnishing)
- Peel away the transfer paper leaving the vinyl stuck to the surface. You will more than likely have to stop every now and again to burnish vinyl that is peeling off with the transfer paper. (Try peeling down the surface instead of away from it)
- For larger designs it helps greatly to have a helper