

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CREATING A PRINT-READY FILE - PRE-SPACED VINYL DECALS

The following instructions will help you create a print-ready file. If after reading them you are still unsure about anything, please visit the FAQ section of our website, request a professional File Check or contact customer services.

1 SIMPLE OR COMPLEX PRE-SPACED VINYL DECALS

Producing pre-spaced vinyl decals can be either very simple or very complex, depending on their contents. For this reason, we have defined two levels of manufacturing complexity, with two separate price bands. The following information will help you to understand under which level your project falls:

Your decal is classified as **SIMPLE** if the height of the letters is over 140 pt / 4 cm, the minimum cut width is 5 mm and it doesn't contain serif fonts or complex shapes.

Your decal is classified as **COMPLEX** if the height of the letters is over 80 pt / 3 cm, the minimum cutting width is 3 mm, or it contains serif fonts or complex shapes.

One of our prepress engineers will check that the level you selected when ordering matches your work's actual level of complexity. Using special software, they will check the file and order are correct and, if necessary, ask you to modify the order based on the level of complexity of the file you have uploaded. Please note that this prepress check does not replace the professional file check we offer as an additional service.

SIMPLE



Letter height above 140 pt / 4 cm

abc | 140pt / 4 cm

Minimum cut width: 5 mm

AB ● diameter = 5 mm

COMPLEX



Letter height above 80 pt / 3 cm

abc | 80pt / 3 cm

Minimum cut width: 3 mm

AB ● diameter = 3 mm

More than 5 mm between letters

A·B

● diameter = 5 mm

More than 3 mm between letters

abc ghi

● diameter = 3 mm

2 FILE FORMAT

Send your file in PDF **format in 1:1 scale (not password protected)**.

3 RESOLUTION

The optimal resolution for the print files is **between 100 and 150 dpi**.

4 COLOURS

All files should be sent in **CMYK** (cyan, magenta, yellow, black) format with the **Fogra 39** colour profile. Images in RGB or with PANTONE colours will be converted automatically using a standard colour separation profile. The same colour may vary slightly in appearance depending on the media onto which it is printed, as a result of the material's physical composition.

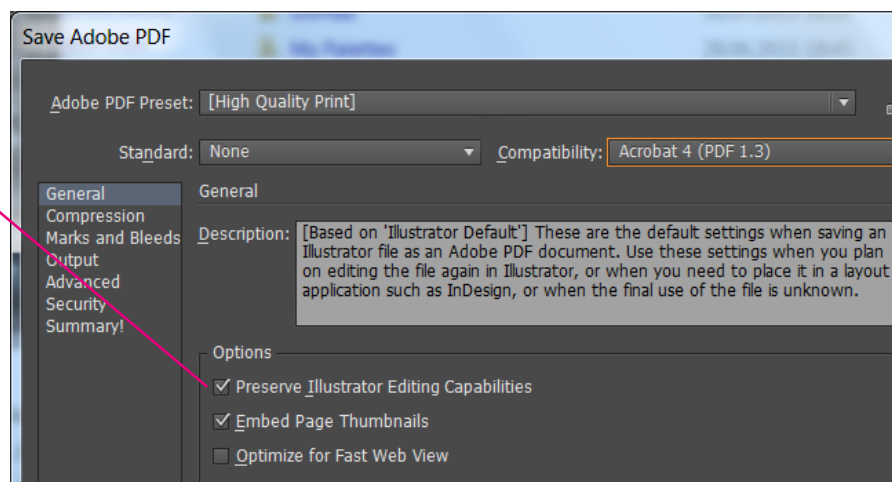
5 TEMPLATE

To create a print-ready file, **download the template from the website**: the CutContour spot colour swatch and the corresponding layer on which to place the cut line (cut path) will already be set up.

- If you have chosen the "Printed" option, insert your artwork on the Artwork layer and create the cut path for the individual letters, phrases or graphics. The cut path must be a vector line, positioned on the **CutContour** layer and coloured using the spot colour swatch named "**CutContour**" (M 100%), which you will find pre-prepared on the template. Extend your artwork 2mm over the CutContour line; this will act as the bleed.
- If you have chosen the "Without printing" option, insert nothing but the CutContour cut path on the corresponding layer and give it the spot colour swatch named "**CutContour**" (M 100%), which you will find pre-prepared on the template.

Finally, save the file as a multilayer PDF, deleting all guidelines except the CutContour line you created.

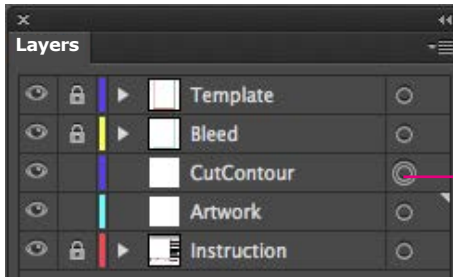
Save the PDF
keeping the
layers separate



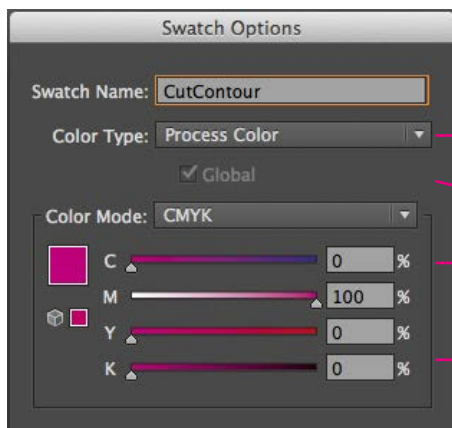
CutContour **cut line** (cut path)



CutContour **stroke colour**



CutContour **layer**



If you have not downloaded the template, you can create the CutContour swatch colour using these parameters:

give it the name "**CutContour**"

colour type: Spot Colour

colour mode: CMYK

C: 0%

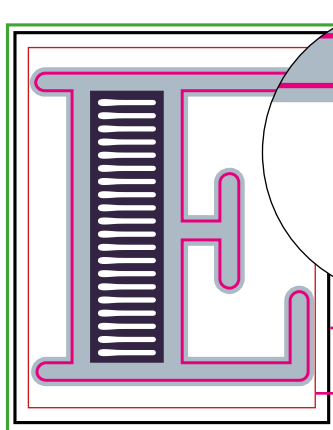
M: 100%

Y: 0%

K: 0%

6 MARGINS AND BLEED

Printed pre-spaced vinyl decals must have a **2 mm bleed around the CutContour** (cut line). All text must be inserted within the safe area (at least 3 mm from the black line).



CutContour

bleed: 2 mm

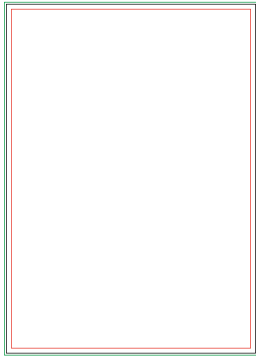
print area (black line)

safe area (red line)

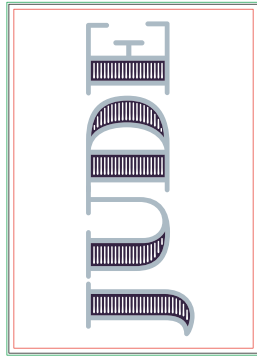
7 FONTS AND PATHS

Fonts should be embedded into the PDF or converted into curves/paths. The **minimum printable line width is 0.5 pt**. The **minimum printable font size is 12 pt**.

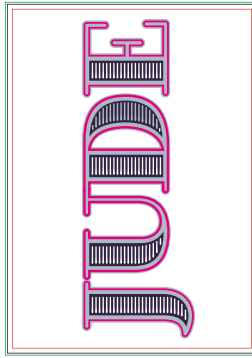
GOOD TO KNOW - Printed pre-spaced vinyl decals



DOWNLOAD THE
TEMPLATE



INSERT YOUR
ARTWORK on the
Artwork layer



INSERT
THE CUT LINE
on the CutContour layer

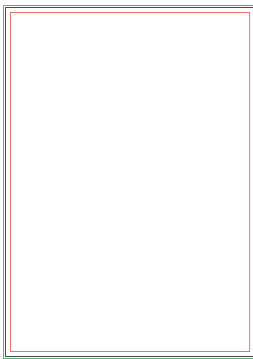


DELETE
ALL LINES
except CutContour

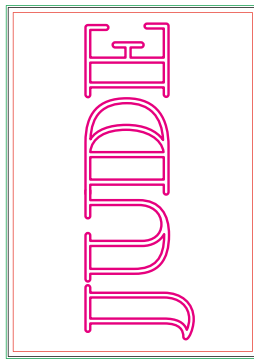


SAVE THE
PDF
in layers

GOOD TO KNOW - Pre-spaced vinyl decals without printing



DOWNLOAD
THE TEMPLATE



INSERT THE CUT LINE on
the CutContour layer.



DELETE ALL LINES
except CutContour



SAVE THE PDF
in layers

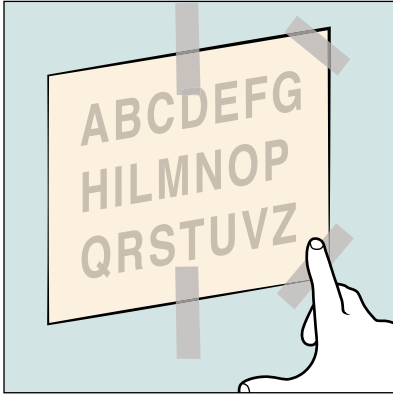


FURTHER INFORMATION

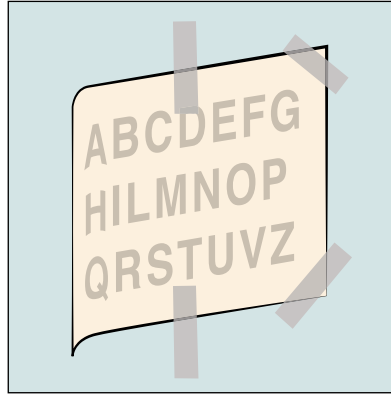
Before being printed, the pre-spaced vinyl decal files are checked and processed using software that analyses the CutContour cut paths. If there are any errors with the cut path, an email is sent to the customer explaining the issues and requesting that a new file be sent. The stickers are then printed using digital four-colour printing (if printing was requested), and then cut. The cutting process is carried out using a special machine that carries out both the small and large-scale weeding, thus reducing production times and the potential for human error. Finally, a transparent or translucent film, known as application tape, is attached to the sheets, making application to your chosen surface easier.

HOW TO APPLY PRE-SPACED VINYL DECALS

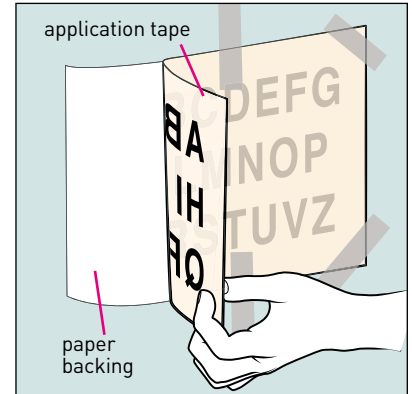
Before application, clean the surface with a degreasing cleaner and dry with a clean cloth that does not leave any residue. The temperature of the glass has a significant effect on the glue's adhesive properties: an outside temperature of between 15 and 20 °C will ensure perfect results; glass that is too hot or too cold could cause the decals to lose some of their stickiness and cause bubbles to form.



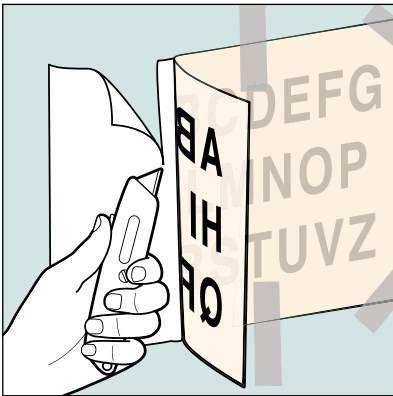
Attach the decal to the surface using sticky tape so the application tape (translucent film) is facing you.



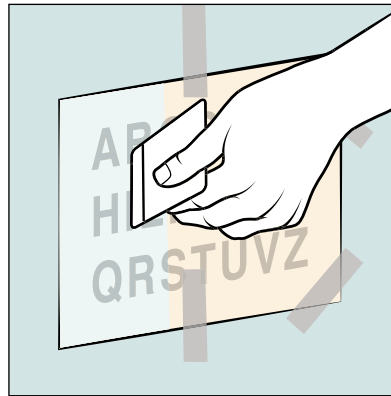
Take one side of the sheet and start to remove the white paper backing from the application tape.



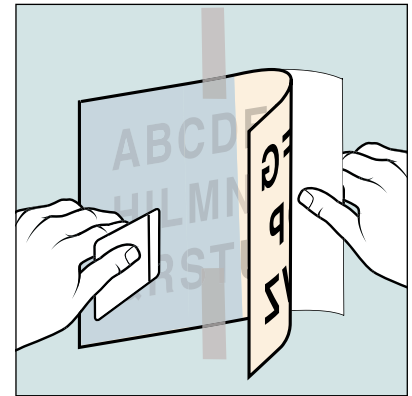
Do this carefully and precisely, ensuring the decal does not become detached from the application tape.



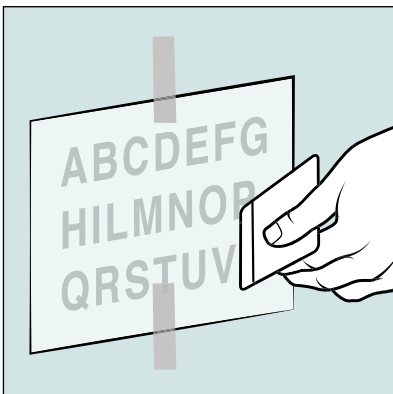
Cut a strip off the white paper backing you have removed using a craft knife or scissors.



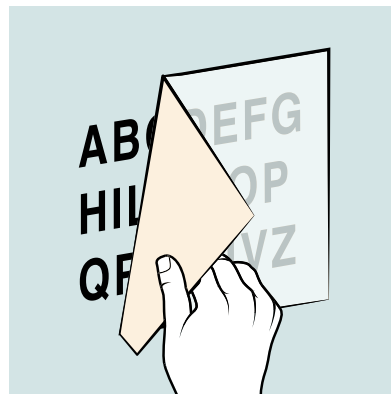
Using a spatula, stick the application tape to the surface a little at a time.



Continue to apply the decal, removing the paper backing a little at a time and immediately sticking the application tape to the surface.



Ensure the decal is well stuck down, again using a spatula.



Carefully remove the application tape, pulling it at a 180° angle.



Job done!

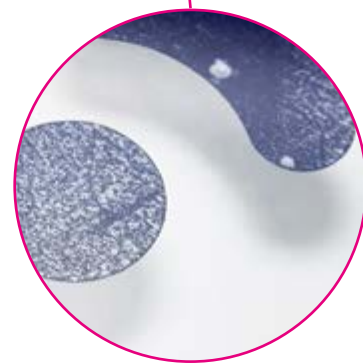
USEFUL DESIGN ADVICE

If you require mirrored printing (for applying the decal to the inside of a surface that will be read from the outside), send us a file that is already in a mirror image. For this product type we recommend using transparent adhesive vinyl. Remember that white is not printed, and that the artwork will therefore be affected by the transparent nature of the material.

Materials like the sand-blasted/acid-etched effect vinyl, white adhesive vinyl and coloured adhesive vinyl are not recommended for this type of application. Although both sides of the material are the same colour, the sticky side (the back of the material) is slightly less transparent due to the presence of the glue.



Decal applied to the outside of the window, to be read from the outside. Here we have used Medium Blue Adhesive Vinyl. The result is excellent both in terms of the colour and the product's lifespan.



Decal applied to the inside of the window, to be read from the outside. Here we have used Medium Blue Adhesive Vinyl. The material chosen is not suitable for this application, and so the colour rendering is of average quality. The back of the material is visible from the outside, and the layer of glue can be seen in direct sunlight, along with any imperfections if the material was not applied carefully.