

DeCal Works Graphic Application Instructions

Pre-Printed Number Plate Backgrounds

Before you get started read through all these instructions first.

As with any DeCal application, it is vital that the plastic or parts are free of any dirt, wax, grease or grime. Brand new plastic does not mean it's clean or ready for decals. We recommend using Step 1 from our Application Kit, followed by Step 2. If the plastic is used, muddy and or dirty, a pressure wash first along with regular soap and sponge-brush to both sides of the plastic is mandatory. A substitute for our Step 1 cleaner would be standard rubbing alcohol. A substitute for our Step 3 application fluid would be regular tap water with a drop of liquid dishwashing soap. 1 drop per 16 oz spray bottle is all that is needed. Be sure with your hands are thoroughly cleaned as well. Make sure the plastic or parts are at a suitable temperature. Typically 75 degrees f. or warmer is best. After the parts are thoroughly cleaned and dried, make sure to remove any lint or dust left behind by paper towels or rags. A tack cloth with light pressure or compressed air is a great way to be sure your parts are dust and lint free. Start install with the flattest/easiest plate first (front plate), saving the most curved plate till last. This will help you get a better feel for the decals and practice for the side plates that are extremely curved. Remember to take your time and allow 24-48 hours after install for the decals to "set up" before use.



Step 1) Before removing the graphic's backing paper, take the time to pre-fit and evaluate the DeCal in relation to the plastic to which it is being applied. Note how the bolt holes line up, where vent relief cuts are located, and how the curvatures of the plastic affect the graphic itself. Familiarizing yourself now with the characteristics of the graphics will ease the installation process and reduce potential mounting issues.



Step 2) Starting with clean and lint free plastic, lightly mist sideplate with DeCal Works #3 application solution. Depending on your graphic mounting experience or confidence level, you may lightly mist the back of the DeCal with the DeCal Works #3 application solution to allow additional working time when installing the graphics.



Step 3) Now carefully remove the backing paper from the DeCal. If your graphic has a flap or delicate strip, you may want to leave the backing paper on that piece and save it for your final application. This will eliminate it from getting in the way during your graphic installation.



Step 4) Now it is time to apply the graphic. Starting with the forward-most mounting hole, align the graphic with the rear corner of the plate. Once positioned, double check that the graphic is properly aligned at the lower and upper edges of the panel. If it is not, simply pull the graphic up at the back corner and position the graphic until you are satisfied with the positioning. Now that you have the DeCal in position, take your squeegee and smooth out the center 2-3 inch section of the DeCal in a side to side movement. Use moderate pressure to assure that the application solution is being pushed out from under the graphic. On most modern day right side plate applications, this step is crucial to a quality installation.



Step 5) Once the center is secure, start from that section and apply the graphic in a downward motion, again using moderate squeegee pressure to work out all application solution. Work out all blemishes within the last inch of the outer edge of the plate.



Step 7) Continue to work across the top of the panel working out all remaining application solution within the last inch of the graphic. Make sure that all solution is worked out of the curved sections to avoid puddling of the application solution under the graphic.



Step 9) The final installation step is to finally work out solution from the outer 1 inch of the graphic. Remember, using mild heat may help to secure the graphic in tight areas and around the edges. If there are any blemishes that need to be addressed, simply pull the graphic back gently, being careful not to stretch the graphic, and reapply.



Step 6) Now focus on the upper portion of the plate concentrating on airbox vents, cooling orifices, etc. Squeegee excess solution towards these openings. Too much solution under your graphic will cause it to bubble. If your vents have compound curves or sharp edges where the graphic needs to lay down into, use a low heat to warm and soften the graphic to help it conform into these areas. Be careful not to use too much heat as you will stretch the graphic, making it more difficult for the graphic to properly sit in these areas.



Step 8) If your motorcycle has an airbox DeCal, prep the airbox by using an adhesive/contaminate remover like DeCal Works #1 solution, followed by plastic cleaner like DeCal Works solution #2 and finally apply the graphic using an application solution like DeCal Works solution #3. The airbox plastic takes a lot of abuse due to constant contact with racing boots etc. Proper preparation of this area is critical for airbox DeCal longevity. Once prepped, simply align airbox graphic accents with numberplate background design accents and squeegee out all access application solution.



Pic 10) You have now installed your number plate graphics like the professionals. The best tool you can have for installing graphics is confidence. With the use of the proper application solution and a little patience, there is not an application issue that cannot be overcome.



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