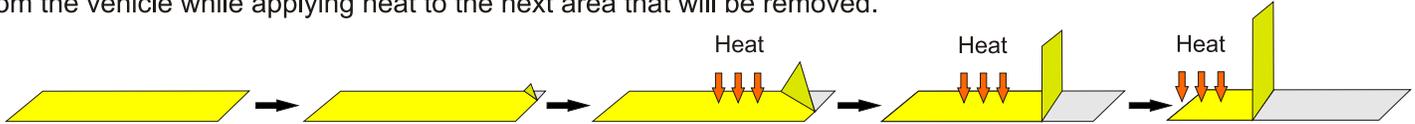


Removing decals

DANGER! Too much heat can harm paint, warp vehicle body panels, cause personal injury, all of which may cause uncontrollable cussing. Proceed at your own risk.

Its easier to remove a decal when the adhesive is warm. If you live in a warm climate just park the vehicle so that the decal is directly in the sun. If you live in a cold climate you will need to heat the area using a heat gun or hair dryer. Heat guns should be on **LOW** and should be held back away from the surface you are heating. You only need enough heat to soften the adhesive (approx. 100°F) and its best to warm the area around the decal also. Once it is warm peel up a corner using a fingernail or something similar while trying not to tear the decal. Now grab the corner and pull it away from the vehicle while applying heat to the next area that will be removed.



Too much heat the vinyl will just stretch until it breaks without lifting. Not enough heat the vinyl will just break off when you pull on it. Just enough heat and the vinyl will stretch slightly while lifting from the vehicle surface.

Removing Adhesive

So you just removed that oem decal and you left some adhesive. The best product to remove that stubborn adhesive is a citrus cleaner & degreaser. 3m Citrus Clean or Big Orange-e by Zep are a couple examples. These products turn acrylic adhesive to a jelly like substance that can be squeegeed or wiped away with paper towels. Anything sold as a citrus cleaner with the active ingredient called D-LIMONENE should work. Check your cleaning cabinets.

Some other solvents that I have not tried on automotive finishes would be Xylene, Naptha (lighter fluid), and Acetone. Even though automotive finishes use a catalyst which makes them immune to most solvents there is always the risk of damaging your paint. I do not use these solvents such as acetone because they may come in contact with automotive plastics. Another product that removes adhesives is household full strength ammonia. It's a well known fact in the vinyl industry that using ammonia based window cleaners on high performance vinyls can cause them to prematurely fail. Whatever product you use, it would be wise to test the chemical on an inconspicuous area such as inside your door jamb before applying it on the entire side of your vehicle.

Please do not leave adhesive on your vehicles paint without removing it in a timely manner. Dirt imbedded in high performance adhesive can be nearly impossible to remove.



Cleaning The Surface

3M recommends isopropyl alcohol (IPA). 70% or higher is available at most drug stores. You want to use a soft paper towel or disposable lint free shop towels (like the blue ones). Make sure the vehicle is clean and free of dust and dirt.

Do not use any wax or petroleum products. You will want to use (2) paper towels. Wipe on the alcohol with one towel so the surface is slightly wet, then use a clean unused towel to absorb the alcohol from the paints surface.

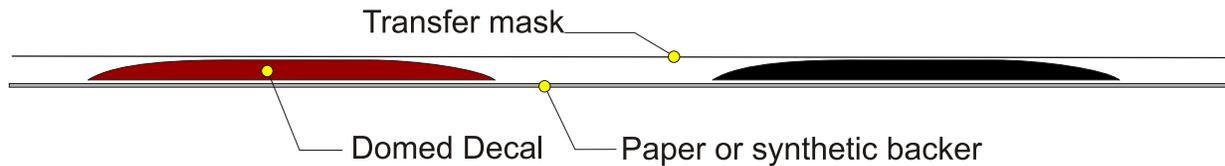
Keep flipping, folding and changing your paper towels. When there is no sign of wax, no hazing, take some masking tape and apply it to the paint. If it sticks well then the surface is clean. We use 3M blue masking tape but any masking tape will work as long as it has good tack (they have low tack tape that won't stick well to anything).

Make sure you are confident the area is clean and free of contaminants before proceeding.

Applying the Domed Decal

First, if you are uncomfortable applying your decal you may wish to have it installed by a professional. If you take on the task yourself, here are a few steps that will help you successfully install your decal.

What exactly are you dealing with?



1) Apply some 1 inch masking tape to each end of the decal like shown. Place the decal on the vehicle using the tape to secure it. Now is the time to experiment with placement. Once you know where you want it, you want to deal with any side to side horizontal measurements first just making sure that you are relatively close to your final vertical placement.



Now that your horizontal placement is done you can handle the vertical placement. You will want to take your measurements from a straight horizontal object closest to the decal itself. Lets say you want the top of "nismo" 3 inches down from the plastic bed cap. Take an initial measurement. You measured 3 1/2 inches...no problem you can walk the decal up a 1/2 inch. To do this release the tape only on one side and move it up a 1/4 inch and re-apply. Then release the opposite tape and move it up a 1/4" and re-apply. Repeat as many times as needed making sure there is always one side stuck to the vehicle. By doing this you will not lose your side to side placement. Put your measuring device up against the bottom edge of the bed cap directly above the "n". Release the left tape and align the "n" to the 3 inch mark. Do the same with the "o" and double check all your measurements.

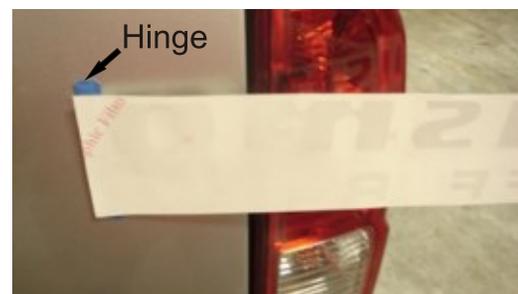
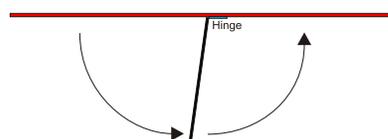
2) Once its in place apply a vertical piece of tape half-off half-on like shown. This is your hinge. If your right-handed then apply it to the right side, left side for lefties. Make sure the masking tape is firmly in place so that the decal does not fall. Place the other decals.



3) Now that all of your decals are ready to be installed, it would be a good idea to have someone help you hold the decal. This will allow you to use 2 hands to remove the backer. This would be a good time to make sure that the transfer mask is securely fastened to the front of the decal itself. Use your fingers and press the mask firmly to the decal (this is very important). Now tear the masking tape opposite the hinge. This is the registration tape that will help you place the decal back to the same position.

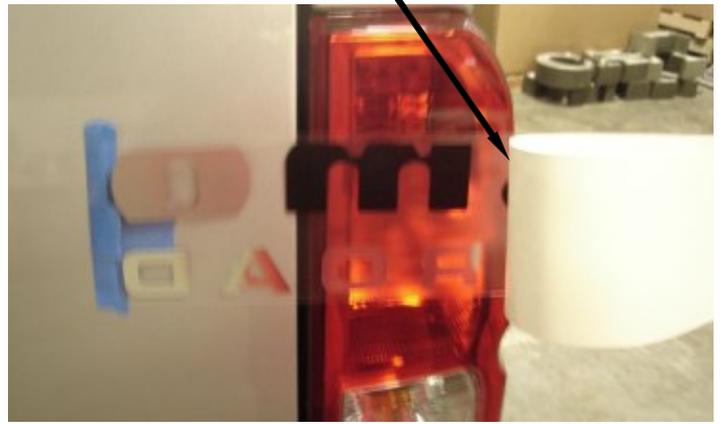


4) Have your helper hold the decal by both corners and swing the decal on the hinge so that you are now looking at the backer (as shown). You want to do this so that the decal remains straight but don't pull so hard that the hinge comes off.

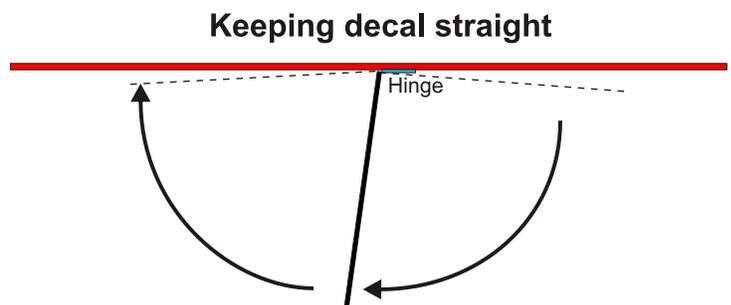


WARNING: Top portion of the "s", because it is thin, loves to remain on the backer while the lower portion stays on the transfer mask. Help detach it.

5) Peel the backer starting at the hinge side first. You want the backer to peel back across itself (as Shown). Be careful at this point as a portion of the decal may want to remain on the backer. The "s" in nismo especially. This is usually where people tear or stretch decals. This can happen to any letter so go slow and watch the vertical edges of all the letters as you get to them.



6) Once the backer is entirely removed the decal can be brought back around into final position. Keep slight tension on the corners of the transfer mask to keep it straight but be careful not to detach the hinge. You want your eye to be level with the registration tape. Line up the registration tape and allow the decal to gently rest against the vehicle. Press the corners of the transfer mask against the vehicle. Now you can go back and individually press the letters to the vehicle. Its best to just use your thumb and apply pressure starting in the middle of each letter, working your way outward. Make sure every part of the decal gets pressed into place. Now grab a corner of the transfer mask and peel it back across itself making sure the decal remains applied to the vehicle. Go back and press the decal on one more time now that the mask is off.



OK, the domed decals are on and it looks great. If you applied them below 70°F it would be a good idea to warm them up a bit. This softens the adhesive and increases adhesion. It will take a couple of weeks for the decal to gain full adhesion to the vehicle. It's also a good idea to wait a week before washing the vehicle. If you ever notice that a part of the decal is lifting, warm it and press it back down right away. As mentioned earlier, the repeated use of ammonia based cleaners can have a negative impact on the adhesives durability.

Thank you for your purchase.
-Thomas (tha_reids)