Vehicle Channel Applicator Tool VCAT-2
Vehicle Channel Applicator Tool Roller L (Large)
Vehicle Channel Applicator Tool Roller S (Small)

Product Description
Use these tools to help conform heated film into channels commonly found on vehicle bodies. Recommended techniques are shown in this Bulletin.

Health and Safety
Before using this tool, read and following these important notes, cautions and warnings to ensure personal and mechanical safety.

⚠️ WARNING
Physical Comfort
Any activity performed for a long period of time in an awkward position or with a high amount of force is potentially a risk for causing musculoskeletal strain, pain or injury. When applying graphics, follow these practices to improve comfort and avoid injury:
• Alternate your tasks during the application.
• Schedule regular breaks.
• Perform stretches or do exercises to improve circulation.
• Avoid awkward reaching.

⚠️ WARNING
Heat Sources
• Read, understand and follow the safety instructions contained in this 3M Instruction Bulletin and the heat gun manufacturer's manual.
• Wear a heat-resistant glove on the hand that holds tool.
• Never use an open-flame heat source with the procedure described in this Bulletin.
• Do not use heat sources near solvent mixtures or residues, or in areas where solvent vapors may be present at hazardous levels.

⚠️ CAUTION
• Before handling any chemical products, always read the container label and the MSDS.
• Always provide adequate ventilation to remove emissions that may result from the use of heat. Failure to provide adequate ventilation can result in operator exposure.

Important Note!
High heat may degrade foam rollers and damage the substrate. Always direct the heat toward the film, not the foam roller.

Instructions for Use
• Use the right film for the job.
• Use these tools with a heat gun capable of temperatures of at least 500°F.

Use Good Physical Form
For maximum comfort and effective use of the applicator, always:
• Grip the applicator as shown.
• Hold the applicator like it is an extension of your arm.
• Keep the applicator perpendicular to the surface.
• Keep your wrist straight during use.
• Use full arm movements.

Pro’s Tip
Use tape primer. Use 3M™ Tape Primer 94 to reduce the lifting of graphics in deep or difficult vehicle channels.

Prevent trapping air. Always work toward an open edge through which the trapped air can escape. NEVER work from the edge to the center or from an open edge to a sealed edge, such as at a panel overlap.

Don’t move too quickly. The most common application error is moving too fast. Try moving at about 2 inches per second at first and adjust as needed.
Procedure

1. Use 3M tape primer 94 to reduce the lifting of graphics in deep or difficult vehicle channels.

2. Position the film so it bridges the vehicle channels. Apply the film to the flat areas above and below the bridge using normal application methods.

3. For film IJ380: Start with the heat gun set to 250°F and heat the film (step 4) to 120-130°F (50-55°C) for convex and concave areas including bumpers and channels.

   For other films: Start with a heat gun set to about 400°F and heat the film (step 4) to 180°F (82°C) for convex and concave areas including bumpers and channels.

4. Direct the heat gun towards the graphic, just in front of the tool. START with the temperatures recommended in Step 3. Heat the film for about 2 seconds and immediately begin rolling the film into the channel. Advance the tool along the channel at a rate of about 2 inches/second. Adjust the temperature and speed of application as you become comfortable with the use of the tools.

5. Immediately after post-heating the applied graphic, use Roller S to press the film in the channel areas. This step helps the adhesive completely wet out the substrate, reducing graphic lifting. See IB 5.36 for post-application techniques.

License Agreement

The purchase of 3M Vehicle Channel Applicator Tool VCAT-2, Tool Roller L and Tool Roller S (the "Tools") includes a limited, non-exclusive license for the Buyer to use the Tools, in conjunction only with 3M film products, to teach and/or perform the method claimed in the following patents and patent applications owned by 3M Innovative Properties Company. Patent or Publication Number United States Patent Application Number US 2007/0006606 WO 00/43220 European Patent Number 1 147 019. The rights granted under this Label License extend only to the Tool purchased herewith. Buyer may not transfer the rights granted hereunder except with the resale of the Tool. 3M DOES NOT make any warranties or representations regarding use of the Tools to practice the method under this Label License. Buyer represents and warrants that it will use 3M film products when teaching or performing the method described in the above referenced patent application. The rights are expressly revoked if Buyer teaches and/or performs the method with a non-3M film product. Further licenses of these patents and patent applications are available for a negotiated royalty.

3M Related Literature

Before starting any job, be sure you have the most current Product and Instruction Bulletins. The information in 3M Product and Instruction Bulletins is subject to change. Current Bulletins are available at 3Mgraphics.com.


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