

The Best Tape to Have in any Workshop

Depending on the job, the right tape can turn out to be the perfect tool to have on hand when performing routine shop tasks. Numerous types of tape are available but having just few select types on hand can be useful. Each type has its strengths and limitations, so it's important to know your options. The right tape can bond parts together, either permanently or temporarily, serve as clamps, minimize tear out, tame squeeze out, shim parts, and assist with a host of numerous other tasks.

Let's review the 5 most valuable tapes to have in any woodshop.

IPG 592 Double-stick tape

Double-stick tape is the perfect choice when making temporary jigs and fixtures, template routing, gang machining of parts, attaching turnings to faceplates, CNC machining, or anytime you want to attach parts that will be removed later.



The best double stick tape should have the following qualities:

- 1) Tears easily by hand without scissors or a knife
- 2) Paper backing can be easily removed with a fingernail or knife
- 3) Tacks and creates a strong bond with just hand pressure
- 4) Once stuck, holds well with no lateral movement.
- 5) The right thickness to conform and bond irregular and porous surfaces such as wood
- 6) Easily releases without pulling wood fibers away upon removal
- 7) Once removed, leaves no residue or film on workpiece

IPG 592 Double Stick tape meets all the above requirements and is the most cost-effective double stick tape around.

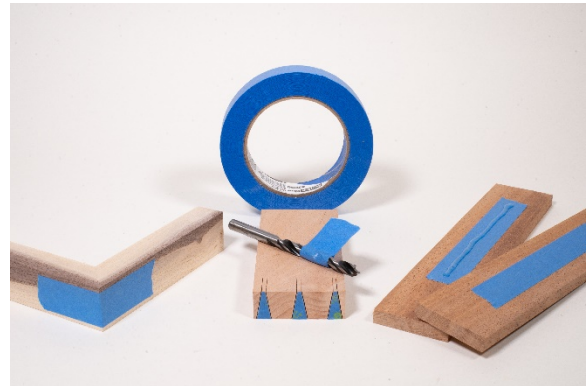
IPG 592 Technical Specifications:

- 1) Carrier/Backing: bleached flatback paper
- 2) Adhesive: natural rubber/resin

- 3) Release liner: white crepe paper
- 4) Thickness: 10.4 mils (carrier, adhesive, liner) 6 mils (carrier, adhesive) 5 mils (liner)
- 5) Adhesion: 47 ounces per inch of width (to stainless steel test panel)
- 6) Tensile Strength: 23 pounds per inch of width (longitudinal)
- 7) Service/Operating Temperature: up to 200°F
- 8) Elongation: 8.5%
- 9) Roll Core: 3" diameter
- 10) Length: 33 meters or 108 feet

3M® ScotchBlue® 2090 Blue Painter's Tape

Blue Painter's tape is one of the most useful tapes in the shop. Blue tape is superior to standard masking tape as it has less tack so it removes easily, won't leave a film or residue behind and won't damage the surface. Blue tape can be used to minimize tear out when drilling and cutting across the grain, help layout joinery (FYI: look up the Pekovich blue tape trick for laying out mortises and dovetails), clamp miters and small parts, protect parts from glue or finishes or as drill depth stop. Blue tape can also be applied to 2 surfaces and then glued together with super glue to create a temporary and easily removable bond. Oh, and of course, it can be used to mask off areas when painting.



Blue tape has the following qualities:

- 1) Medium tack so can be easily removed easily for up to 14 days even if exposed to direct sunlight
- 2) Will not lift fibers when removed
- 3) Leaves no gummy residue when removed
- 4) Minimal elongation or stretchiness
- 5) Good tensile strength-force required to break tape by pulling from both ends

Our favorite tape in this category is the 3M™ ScotchBlue™ 2090 blue tape. 3M invented masking tape in 1925 and then blue painter's tape in 1988, so they know a bit about making great tape. This tape costs a bit more than other blue tapes, but 3M is the absolute leader when it comes to all things tape, and their ScotchBlue™ tape is the best

anywhere hands down. If you've ever left cheap masking tape on a project and then were left to remove dried, stubborn residue, you will really appreciate this tape.

ScotchBlue® 2090 Technical Specifications:

Adhesive type: acrylic

Adhesiveness: medium

Adhesion to steel: 23oz/inch

Tensile strength: 27lbs/inch

Backing material: Crepe paper

Elongation at break: 7%

Indoor/Outdoor: both

Removal time: 14-day clean removal

Total tape thickness with liner: 4.9 mil

Total tape thickness without liner: 0.12 mil

UV Resistant: yes

Length: 60 yds, 180 feet

3M® Scotch® 233+ Green High-Performance Masking Tape

3M Scotch® 233+ High Performance green masking tape has many of the same properties as its blue cousin, but with significantly greater adhesion (36 oz vs 23 oz) and twice the elongation or stretchiness (14% vs 7%). 3M green 233+ tape was designed for the auto body industry to conform and adhere to complex car body contours. With its greater elongation and adhesion, this tape makes the perfect light duty clamp where other clamps would be awkward. It works great for applying stringing and edge banding and when gluing miters.



Green tape has the following qualities:

- 1) High tack-will attach to rough and irregular surfaces, but can still be removed easily for up to 5 days even if exposed to direct sunlight
- 2) Will not lift fibers when removed
- 3) Leaves no gummy residue when removed
- 4) Maximal elongation or stretchiness
- 5) Good tensile strength-force required to break tape by pulling from both ends

3M Scotch 233+ Green Tape Technical Specifications:

Adhesive type: proprietary rubber-based adhesive

Adhesiveness: high

Adhesion to steel: 36oz/inch

Tensile strength: 25lbs/inch

Backing material: High strength crepe paper

Elongation at break: 14%

Indoor/Outdoor: indoor

Removal time: 5-day clean removal

Total tape thickness with liner: 6.7 mil

Temperature range: up to 250 degrees

UV Resistant: yes

Length: 60 yds/180 feet

FastCap SpeedTape

FastCap SpeedTape is a double coated pressure sensitive adhesive tape with an extremely high initial tack. SpeedTape was developed to apply vinyl, laminate or wood edge banding, but can be used anytime you want to attach something that you do not want to come apart. Using this tape eliminates the need to break out messy and smelly adhesives. This tape is VERY sticky with an instant and permanent bond. The bond sets to maximum strength in 24 hours.



To use, unwind from roll, apply to mounting surface, peel off protective release liner, apply to desired surface and apply firm pressure. Tape tears easily by hand. Recommended bonding temperature is above 65 degrees.

FastCap SpeedTape Technical Specifications:

- 1) Carrier/Backing: polyester film
- 2) Adhesive: acrylic
- 3) Release liner: 76# polycoated
- 4) Thickness: 5.36 mils
- 5) Adhesion: 110 ounces per inch of width (to stainless steel test panel)
- 6) Length: 50 feet

3M® VetRap® Self Adherent High-Friction Tape

This tape was designed for the medical and veterinary community to immobilize and provide compression to sprains and strains and to hold bandages in place, but it has a place in any shop. This tape is unique in that it is not sticky but adheres only to itself but is easy to remove. Made from a stretchy gauze with a natural rubber coating, this tape is perfect for protecting your fingers from cuts when carving and insulating your thumbs from excess heat when using a cabinet



scraper. This tape holds its shape well so once wrapped around your fingers, can be removed and reused. Plus, this tape can be applied to tool handles to improve your grip.

Disclaimer; This Product Contains Natural Rubber Latex Which May Cause Allergic Reactions.