

# HYDROGRAPHICS: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

BY OHW PAINT

**IF IT CAN GET WET, IT CAN BE DIPPED!** This includes car and motorcycle parts, RC Bodies, drones, hunting gear, skulls, tumblers, sunglasses, guitars, helmets, gaming controllers, marine accessories & more.

## STEP 1: GATHER YOUR MATERIALS + PREP

**THINGS YOU NEED:** Gloves, Cleaner/Degreaser, Scotch® Pad, Tack Cloth, Masking Tape, Hydrographic Film, One Hit Wonder Paint, Ink Drink Activator, Standard or 2K Clear Coat, Dip Tank or Watertight Container and Water.

**CLEAN** item thoroughly with warm soapy water and dish soap, or a solvent based degreaser like *Prep-All*. Work on small areas at a time, wiping wet with cleaner and wiping dry with clean cloth. Do not allow cleaner to evaporate before wiping with clean cloth as this will leave behind residue. Let dry. **SCUFF** with a light gray Scotch® pad until consistent dullness is achieved. **WIPE** with tack cloth to remove any remaining surface dust.

**NOTE:** The prep is the same for all substrates including plastic\*, ALL metal (chrome, aluminum, etc.) wood (use degreaser), glass, bone, fiberglass, rubber, previously painted parts and more. \*HDPE Plastic requires flame treatment.

**TIP!** How can you tell if it is HDPE? Look for a stamp in the plastic, contact the manufacturer or try the acetone test. Rub acetone in an inconspicuous spot. If the acetone has ANY effect on the item (becomes shiny, sticky or matte) it is NOT HDPE. Some common HDPE items can include hard hats, ATV and MX plastics, and coolers.

## STEP 2: PAINT

**AEROSOL: SHAKE** One Hit Wonder aerosol paint well for 1-2 minutes after mixing ball moves freely. Insufficient mixing may cause permanent plugging of the spray head. Spray on paper for 1-2 seconds to empty filler tube and release propellant. Apply paint about 8" from surface with light, even coats and a 2" overlap. When finished, turn can upside-down and spray for 3 seconds to clean spray head.

**NOTE:** One Hit Wonder paint is ready-to-spray and does not require a separate primer. Some colors (as noted in product descriptions work better over a light base.

**SPRAY GUN:** With a standard mixing stick, stir paint well to remove any heavy residue that may have settled at the bottom of the can. Strain paint into spray gun using a disposable mesh paint filter. Set gun pressure to around 22 psi (this is the pressure reading when the trigger is depressed halfway, allowing only air, not paint, to leave the gun).

Using a 1.3 or 1.4 tip, apply a coat of One Hit Wonder. If part is not fully covered apply a second coat after 5-10 minutes or once the first coat is dry to the touch.

## STEP 3: SET UP

**CUT** film to the appropriate size for the item you are dipping. This is typically an extra 50% of film all around the item. **TAPE** each side of film with inexpensive masking tape to help keep film in place on the water after activation (illustration 1).

**FILL** tank, or watertight container with water between 80° and 90° F (warm tap water).

**TIP!** There are 2 sides to film, the sticky side and the non-sticky side. Make sure the sticky side is touching the table and is the side that touches the water when laying down your film. To determine which side is sticky, slightly moisten your thumb and forefinger and pinch the film between your fingers. You'll notice one side is stickier than the other.

Remember, **STICKY SIDE DOWN!**

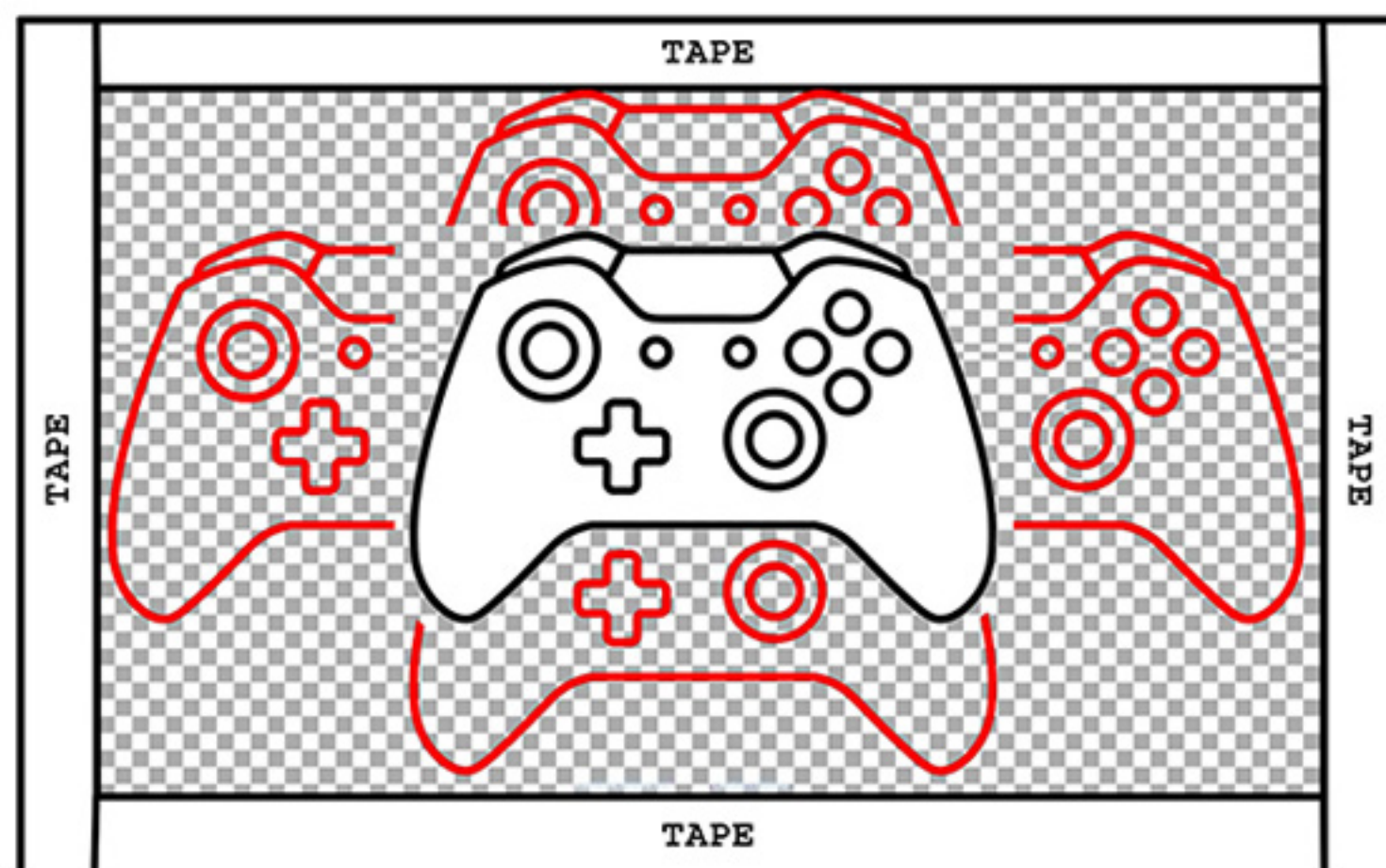


illustration 1

## STEP 4: ACTIVATE

**LAY** film gently on water (sticky side down), being careful not to trap air bubbles (illustration 2). **WAIT** 60 seconds for film to soften, and gently spread apart any creases that may occur during this time. Some films can wrinkle up, but will lay flat after approximately 30 seconds.

**ACTIVATE** with Ink Drink Activator. **AEROSOL: TURN** spray can horizontally, and using a pass of approximately 12" per second, apply activator with the nozzle fully depressed, 12" from the water. The water should gently ripple. **SPRAY GUN:** Use a 1.3 tip and set gun pressure between 10-15 psi with the trigger in, and fan fully out. Using a medium pass of approx. 12" per second, apply activator with the trigger fully depressed, between 12" and 18" from the water. The water should gently ripple.

**WAIT** approximately 10-20 seconds for the film to fully activate before dipping. For heavier ink films, an additional pass may be needed. Make the second pass the opposite direction of the first, similar to a tic-tac-toe pattern.

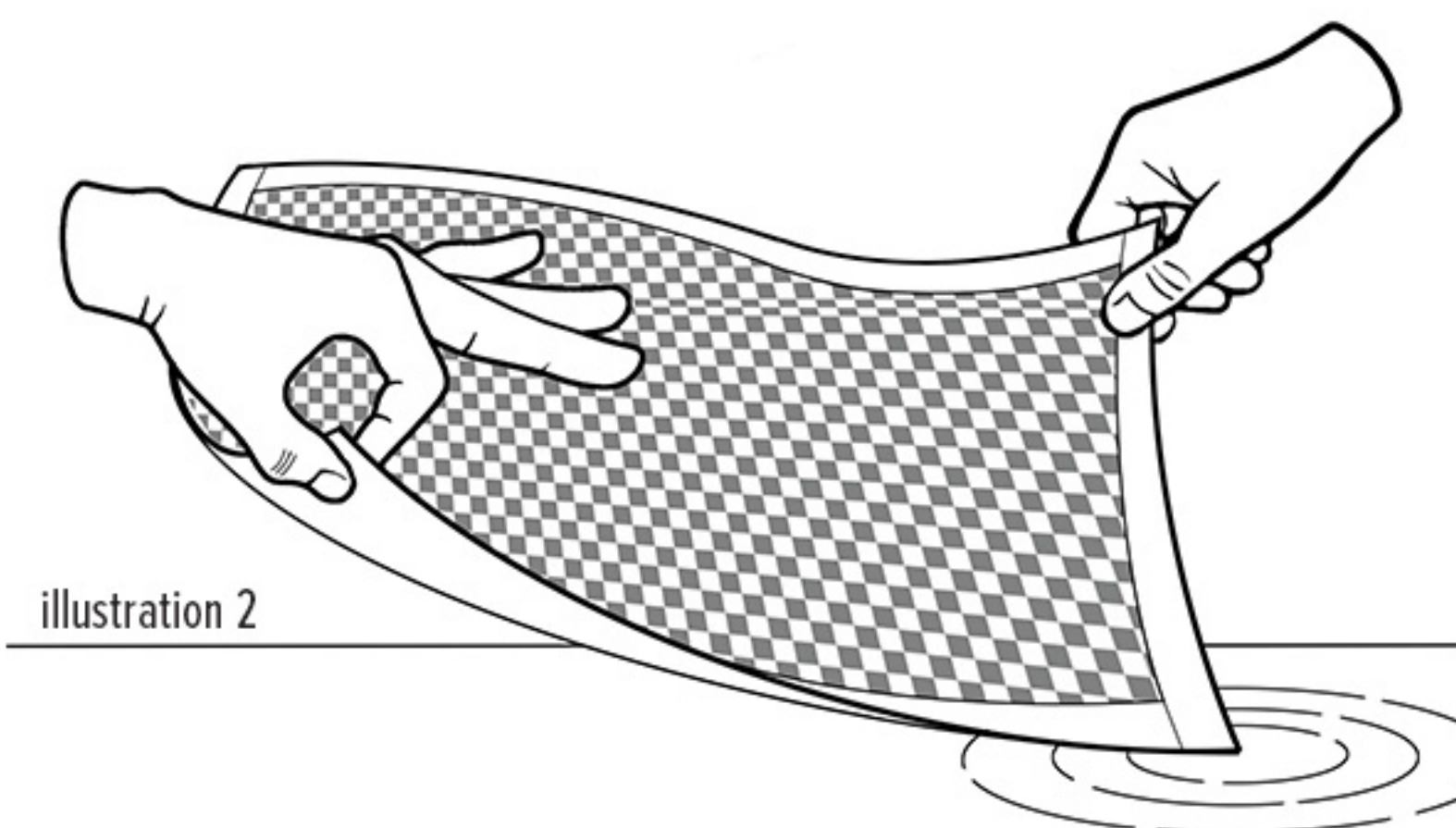


illustration 2

## STEP 5: DIP

**DIP** the painted face of the item into the activated film in a gentle, but smooth motion being careful not to touch or hold any part of the item that you want film to adhere to. Once fully submerged, **SHAKE** item slightly in the water to release excess film and then **REMOVE** from water.

**NOTE:** Every item is different but for most objects, you'll want to dip it in at a slight 30° angle.

**RINSE** part with fresh lukewarm water (shower not jet), until the part no longer feels slippery to the touch. Be very gentle touching the part to avoid smearing the film! Once rinsed thoroughly, let **DRY** on a rack, or with compressed air. Do not dry with a cloth or towel!

## STEP 6: CLEAR COAT

Make sure part is dry and dust free (use included tack cloth).

**STANDARD CLEAR AEROSOL:** **SHAKE** vigorously for 1-2 minutes. **HOLD** about 8" from part and **APPLY** one medium/wet\* coat. **WAIT** 10-15 minutes. **APPLY** second wet\* coat.

**2K CLEAR:** Use a 1.3 or 1.4 tip and set gun pressure to 28 psi. **STIR** clear THOROUGHLY with a standard mixing stick. **MIX** the clear and the activator/hardener at a 4:1 ratio (4 parts clear to 1 part activator). Stir together for at least one minute to ensure complete mix. **STRAIN** mixed clear and activator into the spray gun using a disposable mesh paint filter. **APPLY** one medium/wet\* coat. **WAIT** 15 minutes. **APPLY** second wet\* coat.

\*If using matte clear, please apply **LIGHT** coats.

**2K CLEAR AEROSOL:** Activate can according to instructions on label and then follow regular 2K Clear instructions. Be aware that once the 2K Clear Aerosol is activated, it will only spray for 4 hours as it will begin to harden.

**DRY TIMES:** Standard Clear Coat should be tack-free within 30 minutes and safe to handle within 3 hours. 2K Clear Coats should be tack-free within 3 hours. Let stand for at least 12 hours before handling and polishing. If parts need to be handled with pressure for reassembly, we suggest waiting at least 24 hours to avoid damaging the clear coat.

**STORE** film, One Hit Wonder paint, Ink Drink Activator and Clear Coats in a cool, dry place.