

# OuterLayer Skins

## DIY Partial Wrap Installation Instructions

First things first. Thanks for choosing an Outer Layer Skins DIY Partial Wrap. These wraps are made from the same heavy-duty 3M IJ180 Wrap Vinyl and 3M 8518 Laminate film that are used world-wide on vehicle wraps ranging from commercial-grade wraps to fine-art automotive restyling applications. It's a latex-based printing process, which means the inks tend to withstand extreme stretching with less color loss.

There's a 36 minute tutorial on this process on my Facebook Page, Outer Layer Skins. A partial wrap takes me about an hour to apply, from disassembly to cleaning, to application and finishing to reassembly. The following process is detailed in that video.

Let's get to it.

- 1) Clean your helmet. Make sure it is as free of oils and residue as possible, to make certain your wrap application stands for a long time.
- 2) Disassemble all hardware where the wrap is likely to go. If your wrap contains extra striping for back plate decals, you'll need to disassemble your backplate screws. Sticker removal is not necessary, but is recommended. Before removing certification decals, check with your league officials as to their necessity, or be certain that your helmet has certification decals inside the main mask.
- 3) Once clean and disassembled, start with the smaller stripes, as they will be overlaid by the main design. Lightly set them into place until you have a placement that you are happy with. Remember, where you saw them in the online catalog is not necessarily where they *\*have\** to go. So if you feel you'd like them on the chin of you helmet instead of the brow, explore that option.
- 4) Once you have placement set for the smaller stripes, press them into place, starting at the center and rolling to the ends. This will decrease the chance you get air bubbles under the vinyl.
- 5) After the stripes are completed, remove the main side panel graphic and set it lightly on the side of your mask. Using a flashlight or a small light on your smart phone, shine a light from the inside of your mask and see if your vent, strap or screw holes, or mask edges line up with any major design elements on your mask. If they do, unstick your wrap and reposition it until you are happy with your placement.
- 6) Beginning in the center of the wrap, begin pressing the vinyl into place, holding the edges up as you go, so as to eliminate air bubble and wrinkle potential. Remember, SLOW IS FAST, and FAST IS WRINKLED. The more patience and time you take in this part of the application, the better your overall wrap will be. You can always pull slowly to bring up an area that gets a slight wrinkle. I use my fingers for these applications, because it allows me to more accurately follow contours.
- 7) Once the main section is down and you're happy with the overall application, it's time for edges. Using your fingers, firmly pull the wrap over the edge and use a gathered-edge to conform the vinyl to the edge. Don't pull too hard, as you'll create too-thin spots on the edges that could wear through too quickly. Start in the middle of the wrap section, and work to the edge, allowing relief cuts. If you have excess wrap, it's often easier to cut the vinyl within a 1/2" of the edge, and in the eye-hole area, relief cuts every half inch along the edge, that are 1/4" from the vinyl edge will help you conform this easier.
- 8) After your vinyl is gathered and rolled around all the edges, use a heat gun on low at about 3-4 inches (or a blow-dryer a little closer and on high) from the surface to heat it where it is fairly warm. Press the edges to make sure they are re-cast into the shape of the edges. Press your finger into the vent holes to conform the edges. Using an X-Acto knife or other very sharp blade, pierce the wrap at the edge of the vent hole. Using the belly of the blade to do the cutting, carefully and lightly follow the edge of the hole until your the hole is cut out.
- 9) Reassemble and enjoy!



A note about caring for your helmet wrap. If your Outer Layer Skin Wrap is to be kept with other gear, make sure it gets put into a helmet bag, and isn't near anything sharp. Vinyl is easily incised by sharp skates, but pucks generally don't do much damage aside from a scuff, so take the same precautions you would when storing a helmet that was painted.

You can see the damage vinyl can take on my Facebook Page, and you can also see how the vinyl saved the underlying surface paint from damage.

Should your application become scuffed, you can easily wipe it down with a soft cloth and some window cleaner, and most of the scuff should come off.

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to call me at (309) 573-1833, or email me at [roland@outerlayerskins.com](mailto:roland@outerlayerskins.com). I'll be happy to help you in any way I can.

Also, should you like to give our newest product, DIY Stick Skins a go, I'm including a 10% discount coupon for you here. Just use the code "DIYSTICKSKIN" on your order!

And thanks again for choosing an Outer Layer Skins DIY Partial Wrap.

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