

# MAGIC® PRODUCT TECHNICAL BULLETIN



## TIPS & TRICKS WHEN MOUNTING TRADE SHOW GRAPHICS

This guide is designed to provide you with helpful information to build a durable trade show graphic. Partnering MAGIC® DMWVA10 with MAGIC® TSG-12 will result in a durable, finished trade show graphic, able to sustain being rolled and unrolled for transport.

### POST-PRINTING GUIDELINES

**Printer & Ink Compatibility:** TSG-12 is compatible with most Hewlett-Packard®, Encad, and ColorSpan® thermal printers and with some water-based piezo printers with, both dye and pigment inks. Print in reverse image "mirror image" on the non-textured side of the film and view through the polycarbonate film side. The recommended maximum ink saturation levels are 250% on Encad, ColorSpan®, and HP2000/3000 series with UV inks, and 350% on HP2000/3000 series with dye inks, HP5000, and water-based piezo printers. Ink saturation limits can vary due to ink types, ink drop volume and humidity, so ink saturation levels should be optimized for specific printer, ink and software combinations. It is important to not exceed the ink saturation limits, because poor vinyl backer adhesion can result. It is important to allow the inks to dry before laminating. Dry times will vary depending on printing environment and ink-type. Waiting 24 hours is recommended. Make sure the inks are dry to the touch. Allow more time to dry if inks are still tacky.

**Image Durability:** One of the main features of TSG-12 is its pigment compatibility which results in long-lasting graphics. Pigment inks offer an image less subject to light fade. Color rich images can be achieved with TSG-12 when pigment inks are used.

### MOUNTING GUIDELINES

**Laminate Compatibility:** It is recommended to mount TSG-12 to DMWVA10 white backing film. Pretest all other backing films for compatibility. Internal testing resulted in good adhesion to other common vinyl backers.

**Laminator Settings:** It is not necessary to use heat when applying pressure-sensitive backers. However, applying the backer with minimal heat will allow adhesive to flow and will produce a more consistent bond to the TSG-12 print. Apply the backer at the following laminator conditions: 90-120°F, 80-100 psi, and 2-3 fpm.

**Controlling Curl:** To reduce curl when applying the white vinyl backers, use low tension on your pull rollers and slow down the speed of your take-up reel. This will lessen the amount of tension created when the release liner is being pulled from the roll. If still experiencing curl, reduce the pressure on your laminator rolls.

**Use of Sleds:** Using a sled during lamination will aid in transport and reduce the chance of wrinkles. You can either purchase easy-peel release boards or apply a release liner onto the board to prevent adhesive buildup.

**Trimming Mounted Graphics:** It is recommended to allow the laminated graphic to cure for at least 4 hours prior to trimming. The adhesive will fully cure after 24 hours. The optimum solution for trimming is a rotary cutter. When hand trimming, the knife must be kept absolutely straight. Any angle may cause delamination. Do not use a cutting mat. This soft underbody makes it more difficult to hold the blade straight. Cutting into a hard surface like glass requires that you change the blade quite often. A sharp blade is critical. When hand trimming, it is best to cut from the softer (back) side.

### TRANSPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

**Rolling for Transport:** It is not recommended to roll your graphics smaller than a 12" diameter. Wait at least 4 hours prior to rolling the graphics. Adhesive bond becomes stronger over time. A smaller diameter can result in excessive stress, which may result in delamination. If delamination occurs, TSG-12 will fail between the imaging and vinyl adhesive layers. Layers can be re-adhered together without ruining the graphic. Always roll your graphic with the polycarbonate film facing outward (vinyl side in).

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03/03/08