T-Shirt Vinyl

For heat vinyl please read all of these directions/ explanations FIRST, this is VERY important.

If you are unsure how to use heat vinyl PLEASE contact me BEFORE you start cutting or ironing. First and foremost, out of every brand or make of vinyl I have ever used or sold, heat vinyl can be the most deceiving at first glance! So, when you take it out of the package and it looks un-usable, don't panic. After I cut the vinyl down to size to fill your order, it will blemish, it will smudge and it will sometimes leave tiny edge burs. This will not affect the final outcome because the vinyl itself is protected by a peel-away shinny layer.

Heat vinyl is exactly opposite of regular vinyl. The backing on regular vinyl is usually paper and is on the opposite side of the shiny side. The backing on heat vinyl IS the shiny side, this will be a clear thin protective layer. So, if your shinny side/layer is blemished or smudged, it will not matter because that part will be thrown away after you make your cuts. Sometimes it is hard to tell which side is the dull side or which side is the shiny side, so you may need to peel back a small corner and reveal the clear backing (shinny side), then place the clear backing face down on your cutting matt. The dull side of the vinyl is the adhesive side. You will need to cut your vinyl with the DULL SIDE FACING UP and the SHINNY SIDE FACING DOWN (which is the exact opposite of how you cut regular vinyl.)

I cut each roll of vinyl face down into large stacks. Sometimes my cutter will cut the stacks perfectly, and then sometimes my cutter will take off up to ½ of an inch. That is why I put the disclaimer: "sheet sizes may be + or – ½ of an inch" on every color chart, however if the sheets don't fall within the ½ inch disclaimer, contact me IMMEDIATELY and I will take care of it.

You will first need to pre-iron the t-shirt fabric. This will remove any moisture from the fabric in preparation for the vinyl. I strongly recommend you test a few small pieces of an old shirt or on old fabrics to get the hang of it. HEAT VINYL CAN BE VERY TRICKY AT FIRST.

You will need to cut your image or images in mirror/reverse, because after you cut the image in reverse you will be turning the vinyl over so the dull side (adhesive side) is now lying face down on top of the t-shirt or fabric. Make sure you don't cut down into the shiny layer/backing when making your cuts, try to cut only into the vinyl itself. You may need to adjust your blade. Every craft machine/blade is slightly different, so that is something you might have to play around with. After cutting the image, peel/weed away the unused dull vinyl, leaving your image still attached to the backing (the backing is the shiny layer). The shiny layer/backing now acts as transfer tape. Flip the image over and lay your vinyl on your t-shirt/fabric with the dull adhesive side now face down, and the shiny layer side face up. By turning it over, your image will now not be in reverse.

Your iron needs to be around 280 F- 300 F degrees for regular t-shirt vinyl (GLITTER 320 F-330 F). Next, take a Teflon sheet (an empty pillow case or cloth will also work) place it on top of the shiny layer/vinyl. Press your household iron on top of the Teflon or cloth (You will need a protective cloth or Teflon sheet or you will burn the shiny layer and the vinyl.) Move your iron back and forth, trying not to stay in one place for more than a few seconds. Do this for between 4-8 seconds tops (it all depends on the iron). I would start off with 2-5 seconds to test your iron. For glitter you can hold your iron down for at least 15-25 seconds at a time as long as you move the iron back and forth. For my machine I set my pressure on "high" when cutting glitter. ****SEE NOTE ON WEBSITE ABOUT GOLD GLITTER T-SHIRT VINYL

My heat vinyl is "cold peel" vinyl. This means after you heat it up, you must let it cool down for about 30-45 seconds before you peel off the shiny layer. After letting it cool, take a corner of the shiny layer and peel it off slowly. The only way to know if you did it right is if the vinyl sticks and the shiny layer peels away without bringing off the vinyl. If the vinyl starts to peel off the shiny layer, you either didn't heat long enough, or, you didn't let it cool down long enough. This is not a problem, just go back with your protective cloth or Teflon sheet and reheat, make sure you still have the shiny layer on top of the vinyl.

After you are able to peel the shiny protective layer, you can go back and iron again. Just be sure to put your Teflon sheet/cloth on top of the vinyl and iron again, but, this time only for 1-2 quick seconds, not very long at all because you don't have the protective shinny layer and over ironing may scorch the vinyl. This step is not required, but I always do it just to be sure the vinyl is adhered to the shirt.

You can use this heat vinyl on cotton, cotton/polly blend, those are the only fabrics that will work. This will not stick on nylon. This vinyl is layerable, BUT layering heat vinyl can be very tricky, I still have a hard time layering heat vinyl. You can use several colors on top of each other. You will need to heat/cool each layer separately before adding a new layer. Some colors may be slightly thicker or thinner than other colors, so, adjust accordingly, or, test a small corner before you cut your final image (s). Turn inside-out to wash and dry your shirts when the time comes. T-shirt heat vinyl can withstand wash temperatures of 160 F but is recommended to wash in cold water. Tumble drying is not recommended if you have a hot dryer. If you still have questions or aren't quite sure how to do it, email or call me. I will be happy to walk you through it. There are several videos on www.youtube.com explaining how to do this. I hope to soon have step by step detailed videos explaining how to cut and apply heat t-shirt vinyl.

IF HEAT VINYL IS NOT STICKING YOUR IRON IS PROBABLY NOT HOT ENOUGH, YOU HAVENT PRESSED IT LONG ENOUGH, OR YOU HAVENT LET IT COOL LONG ENOUGH BEFORE PEELING THE CLEAR LAYER