

RHINESTONES (2 pages)

Your rhinestones are “hotfix” rhinestones, meaning you apply them with heat using a heat press, home iron, or in some cases a rhinestone heat wand (a heat wand is used for applying stones one at a time in tight places where you cannot use a heat press or home iron). The glue on the back of your stones will activate once you start adding heat. With rhinestones you have 2 options as far as applying them to your garment. You can lay each stone by hand or use template material which will require rhinestone hot fix tape. For template material you will also need computer software that will communicate with your machine to cut rhinestone templates. This software will convert your images/designs into circles and your cutter will cut out those circles. Cotton, polyester or cotton/polly blends are the only fabrics recommended for hot fix rhinestones. You can apply the stones on almost any cotton or polly fabric, including jeans, sweatshirts, t-shirts etc. If using transfer tape to apply the stones you must use rhinestone hotfix transfer tape. Regular vinyl transfer tape will not work.

Although these instructions try to cover everything with making a rhinestone design, it may still be best for you to actually see it done to fully understand. For this reason we suggest going to youtube.com and search “hot fix rhinestone templates” or “how to make a rhinestone shirt, decal, template, motif” (motif is a rhinestone pattern) etc...

In short, here are the 5 simple steps on how to apply hotfix rhinestones to a garment using template material:

1. Cut out a rhinestone template
2. Place the rhinestones into the template
3. Use hot fix transfer tape to lift the rhinestones from the template and then transfer the stones onto your garment.
4. Use heat (home iron or heat press) to press the stones into the garment. Or, you can use a rhinestone heat wand.
5. Remove the hot fix transfer tape.

HEAT SETTINGS: For a heat press, we suggest 330°F with medium even pressure for 15-20 seconds. If you are using hotfix transfer tape wait for the entire surface to cool down before you peel off the tape. With a home iron, use the hottest setting on your iron (usually the cotton setting). Press firm and evenly over the stones for at least 20-25 seconds. Do not press using an ironing board, be sure to use a hard surface. We strongly recommend using a sheet of teflon or wax paper in between the surface of the heat press/iron and the hot fix transfer tape/stones. We also recommended using a sheet of teflon or wax paper inside the shirt to keep glue from bedding into the back side of the shirt.

TEMPLATE MATERIAL: If you have pink or gray material you have “sticky flock” template material. The green or orange material is “rubber” template material. Template material is used specifically with rhinestone cutting software, this software will convert your images/designs into circles, and your cutter will cut out those circles. Depending on your machine/software/material/stone(s) size, you will need to figure out which size circles will correspond with the size stone you have. Most rhinestone software will list the stone sizes. We strongly recommended doing a test cut to make sure the software you have will cut the correct size circle for the size of stone you have. Please understand just because a 10-SS stone from another supplier will use the “10-SS” feature in your software, our stones may need to be cut at 9-SS or 11-SS depending on how your software lists the sizes and also your machine/software/material/stone(s) size. If there are any bubbles between the template material and the backer paper, simply use a squeegee on the backside of the template material to smooth any bubbles out. Before cutting your material, adjust your blade so it sticks out far enough to cut the template material but not enough to cut through the backing. We recommend a test cut before cutting the entire template. It is ok if your blade scratches the paper backing, just make sure it doesn’t cut all the way through the paper backing.

IF YOUR MACHINE USES A MAT: Peel the template material off of the paper backing and stick the material directly on your mat before loading it into the machine. Set the paper backing aside, but don’t throw it away. Each machine/blade is different so setting the blade/pressure/speed is something you will need to try and figure out with a few test cuts. Please keep in mind, some crafting machines may require a “double cutting” or “two pass cutting”. After cutting your template material with your machine you will need to peel the template off the mat. The cut out circles should stay stuck to the mat. You can take a squeegee or credit card and scrape off the circles and throw them away. Now, you can take the paper backing (that you set aside earlier) and stick any uncut template material to use later for your next template, or, if you don’t have a backer board you can re-stick the template material back on to the paper backing and use the paper backing as a make shift backer board.

IF YOUR MACHINE DOESN’T USE A MAT: If you have a 65 Degree Blade, you can use 120-130 grams of down force and only use one pass. With a standard 60 degree blade, you can either use 180 grams of downforce and do “one pass” or approximately 140 grams of downforce and do “two passes”. Place your template material in your cutter and lower one pinch roller. Smooth the sheet of template material across over the cutting strip, but don’t pull it tight then lower your second pinch roller. After cutting remove your material from the cutter, quickly peel off of the paper backing (start in a corner and pull at an angle). The circles should stay in place on the backing paper. If they don’t stay in place try peeling from another corner or side. Depending on where the blade began, the holes will weed best when the template is being pulled from the opposite side, if they are not sticking to the paper backing this means your blade probably isn’t cutting deep enough.

HOW TO FILL YOUR TEMPLATE MATERIAL WITH RHINESTONES: There are several ways to do this, the most popular way is to use gravity. We take our templates and set them down into a tupperware dish then dump a pile of rhinestones on top of the template. Next we take a rhinestone brush (you can use an old tooth brush or hard/short bristle paint brush) and brush the stones into place. Gravity should turn the stones flat so they will lay into the template material correctly. If you don’t have a “pile” of stones, you may have to do it the old fashioned way and hand place each stone into each cut out circle. This can be time consuming depending on the design and the size/amount of stones.

BACKER BOARD: Backer boards (not necessarily required) are used with template material. The reason for the board being a foam consistency is because it allows you to press your stones down into the foam to ensure the stones don’t move around or fall out of the template. Backer boards can also be used to neatly store your template material. (Continued below....)

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HOW TO LIFT THE RHINESTONES FROM THE TEMPLATE WITH HOT FIX TRANSFER TAPE: After you have all of your rhinestones set into your template you now need to transfer the stones from the template to your garment. For this you will need to use hotfix transfer tape. Take the tape and peel off the white backing, the tape is reusable until the stickiness wears off, so don't throw away the white backing because you can reapply it to the tape for later re-use. Place the tape down onto your stones and use a squeegee (or a credit card) to rub the tape with hard/firm pressure. If you are using foam backer board you can almost feel the stones being pushed down into the foam board. Next start from a corner and peel up the tape. If you pressed the tape correctly all of the stones should stick to the tape and the stone will lift out of the template. If a few stones are still left in the template you can lay the tape back down and start over, or, lift the tape and leave the left over stones in the template then hand apply them later, after the heating process. If you see a few stones move position on the tape while lifting you can either reposition those stones, or, completely remove those stones then hand apply those stones later after the heating process. Once you have your tape/stones laying on the top of your garment you can add your heat. Be sure to leave the tape attached to the stones during the heating process.

HOW TO REMOVE THE HOTFIX TRANSFER TAPE FROM THE STONES AFTER HEATING: Wait for the tape/stones to completely cool down before attempting to remove the tape. Start in a corner and slowly peel the tape off at an angle. If you see some of the stones start to lift from the garment with the tape, you have either not applied the correct temperature, or you didn't press it long enough. Lay the tape back down carefully and reapply your heat. Once you are able to remove the tape without any stones lifting off the garment you are finished! If you had any out of position stones, or stones left in the template when you lifted the stones using tape you can go back and hand lay those stones into place and re apply your heat. Be sure to use a cover sheet (hot fix tape/teflon/wax paper etc.) to cover the entire stone image/design. Finally, after you have successfully removed the tape and all of your stones are in place and glued to the garment we recommended (but it is not required) going back over the stones with heat for 3-5 seconds just to give them one final touch of heat. You can add heat directly to the stones without using telfon or a cover sheet, just be careful and don't press the stones/garment for more than 3-5 seconds because you may burn the garment or discolor the stones if you apply too much heat without a layer of protection (hot fix tape/teflon/wax paper etc...). For washing, wash the garment inside out, in warm or cold water, do not use hot water. For drying, dry using a delicate setting on low heat, or hang the garment and let it air dry.

RHINESTONE DECAL MATERIAL:

If you bought this material after September 27th 2012 it will have 2 layers. Prior to September 27th 2012 it had 3 layers
This material is used for applying rhinestones to car windows or other hard non porous surfaces that are not made from fabric. The material is UV weather resistant allowing it to hold up in hot and cold weather. Applying rhinestones to decal material uses the same basic steps as applying rhinestones to fabric(s). The bottom layer is a "cloudy" layer, and the top layer is the actual clear decal material layer (sticky layer). First, you will need to figure out which layer is which. To do this, start in a corner of the material and slightly separate the top layer from the thin "cloudy" non sticky layer. Don't pull these layers completely apart. The thin cloudy layer will be thrown away later but this layer needs to be attached to the sticky decal layer (clear sticky layer) during the heating process. The actual decal material will have a sticky backing and it will be completely see through. If you can use your fingernails or a make a small cut in the material (on the edge) it may help in separating the top clear layer from the bottom cloudy layer. To add stones you will now put the thin cloudy layer face down. The thin cloudy layer will remain attached to the clear sticky decal layer during the heating process. The clear decal layer will now be the top layer, Place your prepared rhinestone design on top of the decal layer not the thin cloudy layer. If you are applying different size rhinestones to the decal, apply the smallest stones first. If you try to press small and large rhinestones at the same time, the small rhinestones will not receive the pressure needed for proper application. You can position your stones with hot fix tape or lay each stone by hand. Once you have your stones in place, you can now add your heat, (see HEAT SETTINGS included in these instructions). Be sure to use a cover sheet (hot fix tape/teflon/wax paper etc.) to cover the decal and stones before adding heat. We have found it best not to use a lot of pressure because the decal material is not soft like regular fabric and using too much pressure can crack the stones. If too much hot fix adhesive is showing on the decal after adding heat just reduce the iron/heat press pressure on your next decal. If you used tape you will need to let the pressed design completely cool before removing the tape. You can put the actual deal in your freezer for a few minutes if you want to. After the decal is cool and if you used tape, slowly remove the tape starting in the corner and pull the tape off at an angle. If any of the stones pull up with the tape you need to re-heat longer or add more temperature. You will now need to remove the cloudy bottom layer and throw this bottom layer away. By doing this, it will now expose the sticky side of the deal. Before applying your design to the desired surface you can contour cut the material about 1/4 of an inch around the stone edges with scissors, an x-acto knife, or your machine to give the decal a more professional look. Make sure to clean the surface that the rhinestone decal will be applied to using widnex or other glass cleaner. You can apply the decal to the surface either dry or wet using windex or mild soapy water. The decal is to be applied just like you would apply a regular vinyl decal. Rhinestone decals need to be applied to a cool surface only. If you have bubbles in your decal you can use your fingers to delicately push out air bubbles trapped under the rhinestone decal. It is best to push bubbles from the center moving outward. Bubbles can also be "popped" by making a small hole with an x-acto knife, stick pin, or similar sharp object. Hard squeegees are not recommended because the slightest touch of these decals will cause the stones to fall off. Allow the rhinestone decal to dry completely if it was applied wet.

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