

# CUSTOMIZE YOUR MINI BY INSTALLING A SUN ROOF GRAPHIC

Instructions and illustrations by Ron Edwards, Bigfoot Creations with assistance from CooperFlags

**A**dhesive graphic transfers offer an incredible array of possibilities to customize the exterior of your Mini. Fortunately, technology has come a long way since we all struggled to put water transfer decals on our model cars and airplanes. One great application is the translucent graphic in a variety of patterns that can be applied to your sunroof. Using the same technology as graphics being applied to buses, it will give a graphic effect without cutting off the sun. These instructions are specific to that kind of dry transfer, but many of the same techniques apply to all graphic transfers.



The graphic application should be done indoors and the surface to which the graphic will be applied should be cool to the touch.

(1) Begin the installation by spraying a detergent and water solution on to the sunroof and (2) adding a small amount of non-abrasive cleaner such as "Soft-Scrub."

(3) When cleaning the glass, pay particular attention to the edges. (4 & 5) To clean the front section of glass, open the sunroof about half way so you can clean around the edges of the frame.

(6) Spray with the detergent solution and wipe with a clean cloth to remove the remaining non-abrasive cleaner. Spray the glass liberally with isopropyl alcohol to remove any residue left behind.





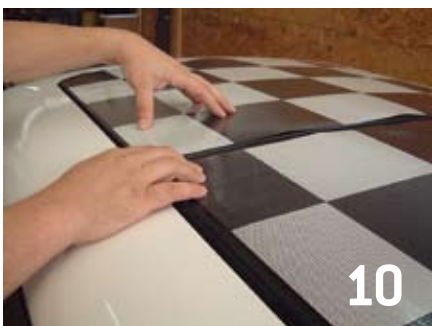
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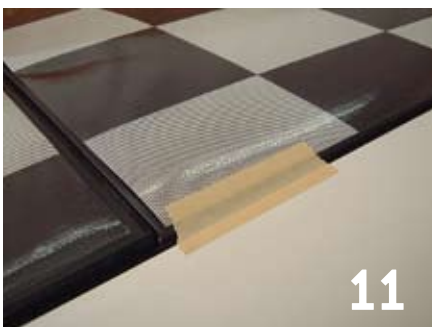
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(7) Using a clean cloth, rub the surface dry until the glass shines.

(8) Position the front graphic to align with the edges of the glass. (9) Position the rear section the same and (10) make sure the two sections are inline with each other.

(11 & 12) Using pieces of two-inch masking tape, secure the sections in place.

(13) Using the tape, create a hinge across one side of the graphic.

(14) Repeat with other section.

(15) Flip the rear graphic back onto the side of the car. (16 & 17) Peel back the liner and crease about 12 inches back.

(18) Lay graphic back onto the sunroof, and (19) hold tight allowing the liner to create a tent.

(20) Applying firm even pressure, squeegee the graphic down a few inches in front of the liner all the way across the graphic. You must use firm pressure and overlapping strokes to ensure no air pockets are created.

(21) Remove the tape from the graphic you are working and (22) carefully lift the vinyl back to the applied area.

(23 & 24) Keeping the vinyl up and off the surface, to prevent pre-adhesion, continue to squeegee the vinyl out to the edge.

(25) Working from the other side, pull the liner back about half way.

(26) Check alignment with the edge of the glass panel.

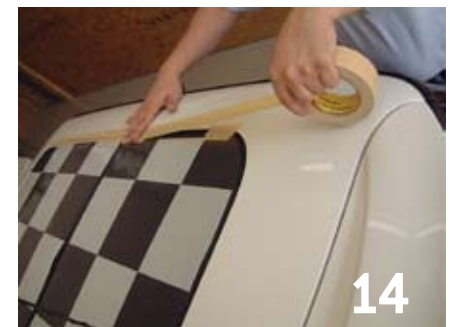
(27) Keep the vinyl tight by lightly pulling it towards you, careful not to stretch it, continue to squeegee the vinyl with firm overlapping strokes pulling the liner as you go.



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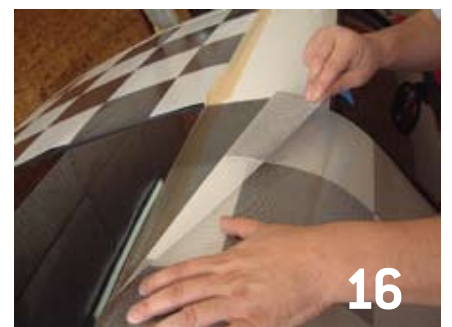
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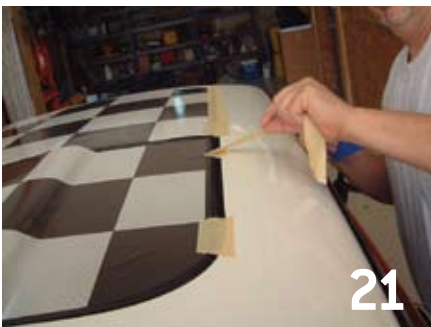
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(28) A few inches from the edge, you can remove the liner and hold the vinyl up from the glass and (29 & 30) squeegee out to the edge.

(31) Check the alignment to the front section, keeping in mind it may have stretched slightly, and the front section might do the same.

Repeat this procedure with the front section of vinyl. Watch for air pockets while you squeegee; it is better to lift the vinyl back a few inches to re-squeegee, then to pierce the surface with a pin after the application.

Once the vinyl is applied, you will apply half-inch clear tape to the edges to seal them from wind, water, etc.

(32) Open the front section about halfway and start the tape at one of the back corners, with the tape about a quarter-inch on the vinyl, and the remaining tape on the frame, wrapping the tape over the edge. Apply the tape with pressure from your thumb, keeping the tape tight and a few inches ahead of you thumb.

(33) You can work the tape around the front radius by keeping it tight and leading it around several inches ahead of you. Be sure to wrap it over the edges as you go.

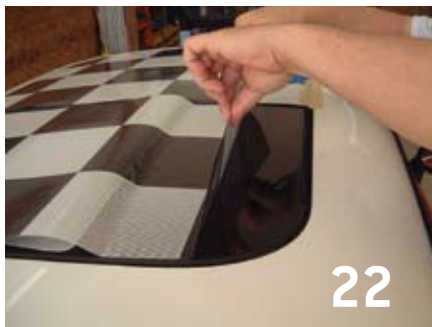
(34) Follow it around the front and the other radius.

(35) Take it to the back corner and trim it off.

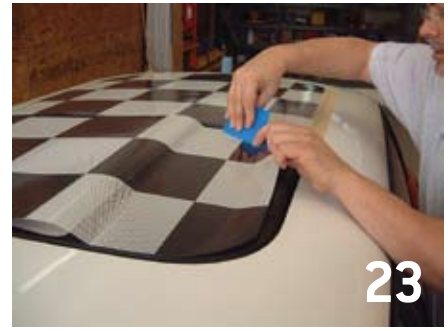
(36) Start a new piece across the back edge of the front panel.

(37) Trim the new piece at the opposite corner.

(38) Using the squeegee, apply pressure to the tape to seal the edges on the top.



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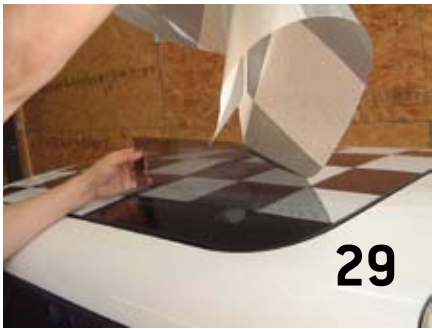
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(39) Run the edge of the squeegee along the edge of the vinyl to remove the air and seal the tape where it bridges the vinyl and the frame.

(40) Be sure to apply pressure with the squeegee to the sides of the frame as well.

Close the sunroof and use the same procedure on the back section. The only difference will be that the tape will follow the outer edge of the frame and not wrap over the edge, as the rear section does not open.

You will see squeegee marks in the graphic; these will smooth out and disappear once the graphic is in the sun awhile. Avoid applying spot pressure to the applied graphic in warm weather; this will cause the over laminate to contact the glass surface through the holes and it may not release, leaving an undesirable appearance.

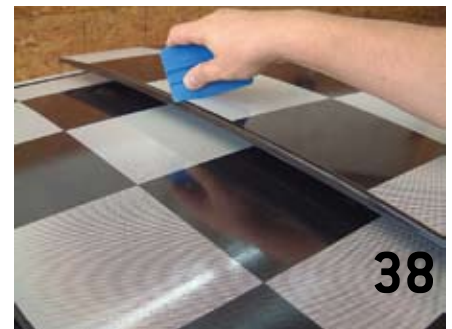
To maintain the look and prolong the life of the perforated graphic, you should clean and condition it with Aerospace 303 protectant or comparable products containing no petroleum or silicone ingredients. 303 protectant and additional information is available at [www.cooperflags.com](http://www.cooperflags.com).



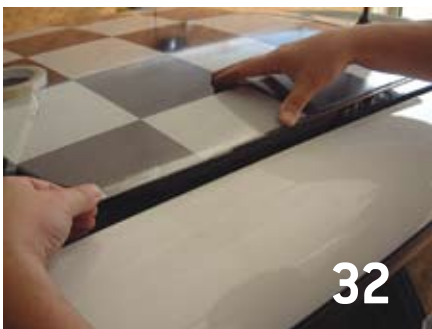
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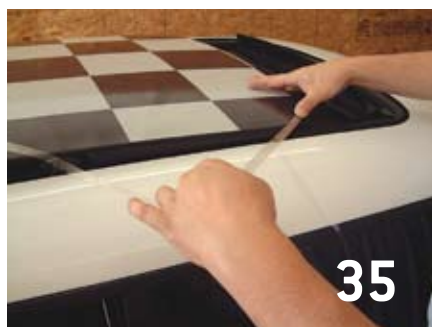
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