



# 3DTechnics

## RSC Cold Laminator Usage Technique

- Cold lamination is almost always single-sided. The key is to not allow any adhesive on the laminating film to be in contact with the bottom roller, as it will grab the roller and create force that can create wrinkles, or if full width (leading/trailing edge) it will wrap around the bottom roller.
- A wrap-around can be difficult to remove and is the main cause of rollers being "cut" with a knife trying to remove. The two areas a wrap-around can happen are outside the edges/sides of the graphic, and the leading/trailing edges.
- If the laminating film is the same width or narrower width than the graphic, there is no side-edge overlap issue (51" or 54" laminate on 54" graphic). If the laminate is wider than the graphic the overlap will grab the bottom roller creating force/pull and result in wrinkles.
- If a shop runs numerous graphic widths that are narrower than the lam film they will typically run a continuous roll of craft paper or release liner on the bottom rollfeed of the laminator. The craft/release liner must be at least as wide as the lam film in order to pick up the overlap.
- A continuous roll also takes care of any space between the leading and trailing edges of the graphics. Running a continuous full width roll of backer is not the desired state, as it can be problematic, and should only be used when the lam film is wider than the graphics.
- When the graphics are at least as wide as the lam film we cut strips (we call them slip sheets) of release liner (or craft) that you use when doing the initial webbing-up of the lam film, and slide under the trailing edge of each graphic until the graphic has cleared the rollers. You then stop the laminator, cut off the excess slip sheet, leaving only a couple of inches, lay the next graphic down on top of the slip sheet and run again. Keep repeating the process.
- When webbing up any laminator use a full width "leader board" It should be at least as wide as the lam film, minimum of 8" deep, and have a straight cut leading edge. You can use anything rigid, usually an offcut of coroplast, foamboard, etc.
- Peel back the release liner and tape it to the wind-up core. Drape the lam film down in front of the rollers nip point. Cut a 4 - 6ft slip sheet, (or load a roll of craft/release liner) and tack it to the lam film above the center nip point. You now have the lam film and slip sheet over-lapping in front of the rollers nip point. With the rollers open use the leader board to push the film/backer into the nip point.

- Close the rollers to the appropriate setting based on the thickness of the leader board. Run the laminator and it will pull the leader board and films through.

NOTE; As soon as the leader board exits the rollers there will be no roller pressure to continue driving the film through because the rollers gap is open at the leader board thickness. Stand at the left side rear of the laminator, grab the leader board with your right hand as its coming through, and hold the pressure lever with your left hand, putting pressure towards the closed/laminate position.

As soon as the leader board clears the rollers the rollers will close from the pressure you're applying to the pressure lever, and the film will continue to advance through.

This is the technique - like any technique experience is still needed to become proficient.