



# Gerber Floor Graphics

(Discontinued)

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## DESCRIPTION

Gerber Floor Graphics is a product kit that includes Gerber Overlamine Film 3645 and an EDGE READY™ version of 3M™ Controltac™ film 162. The materials have been specially designed for use as a component system with the GERBER EDGE®, GERBER EDGE 2®, and GERBER EDGE FX™ thermal transfer printing systems, in conjunction with GerberColor™ Foils.

Gerber Floor Graphics is a white, durable, 4.5-mil, vinyl film. Its unique, repositionable adhesive system allows for removal for up to one year after application without using heat or chemicals. Little or no adhesive residue will be left behind. In addition, the gray-pigmented adhesive provides maximum opacity and hiding power.

The Gerber Overlamine Film 3645 is a scuff-resistant, durable, 8.5-mil, transparent overlamine designed for use with Controltac Film 162 marking film to create Gerber Floor Graphics. These graphics have outstanding resistance to wear from high foot traffic and are approved by Underwriters Laboratories Inc.® for slip resistance.

### Gerber Floor Graphics are created in the following steps:

(Detailed procedures are explained later in this document.)

- ◆ Design graphic.
- ◆ Output to an EDGE® Series printer.
- ◆ Print on 3M Controltac Film 162 with GerberColor Foils.
- ◆ Remove printed graphic from the EDGE Series printer.
- ◆ Apply Gerber Overlamine Film 3645 to the printed graphic using hand squeegee techniques or a cold-roll laminator (preferred method).
- ◆ Insert the composite Gerber Floor Graphics (base film and overlamine) into a plotter.
- ◆ Cut the composite Gerber Floor Graphics.
- ◆ Prepare the application surface.
- ◆ Apply the graphic.

## **INTENDED APPLICATIONS**

Gerber Floor Graphics have been designed to produce attractive markings on floors, countertops, and other flat surfaces. Applications include point-of-purchase displays, directional markings, and safety graphics.

Gerber Floor Graphics are ideally suited for application to the following sealed, smooth floor and countertop surfaces: waxed vinyl, sealed concrete, marble, terrazzo, ceramic, and finished wood. The user should determine the suitability of all substrates prior to actual application. All substrates must be prepared in accordance with the procedures outlined in the “SURFACE PREPARATION” section of this document. **Gerber Floor Graphics are intended for interior use only.**

## **PERFORMANCE LIFE**

When Gerber Overlamine Film 3645 is applied to Controltac film 162 in accordance with the procedures outlined in this document, Gerber Floor Graphics will have an expected effective interior performance life of up to one year.

This performance life statement is based upon foot traffic experience in the field. Graphics may be damaged by forklifts, pallets, or heavy equipment. This type of damage is not covered by the product warranty. Performance depends upon preparation of the surface before application, the exposure conditions, maintenance of the graphics, and the condition of the surface. The entire graphic must be removed if any edge lifting occurs.

## **STORAGE OF GRAPHICS**

Unprinted and printed Controltac film 162 can be stored for one year. The Gerber Overlamine Film 3645 can also be stored for one year.

Composite Gerber Floor Graphics can be stored in rolls with the graphic side out. The diameter of the rolls should be at least 6 in (15cm). Delamination of graphics may occur if the roll is any smaller. Gerber Floor Graphics can also be stored in flat sheets.

Storage of Gerber Floor Graphics, unprinted Controltac film 162, and Gerber Overlamine 3645 should be in a clean area free from excessive moisture and sunlight. Maintain temperatures of 100°F (38°C) or less.

## PRINTING

If your software material selection palette does not have Gerber Floor Graphics, use Controltac 180 normal print settings. GerberColor Finishing (GCF), GerberColor Spot (GCS), GerberColor Process Pro™ CMYK (GCP), GerberColor Medal (GCM), and GerberColor Transparent (GCT) Series Foils can be used to print onto Gerber Floor Graphics.

Do not cut your graphic after printing onto the Controltac film 162. You will be laminating the Gerber Overlamine Film 3645 to the printed Controltac film 162 and cutting both materials at once as a composite.

Recommended working environment is as follows:

- Operating temperature: 50°F to 95°F / 10°C to 35°C
- Recommended temperature for assured printing accuracy: 68°F to 78°F / 20°C to 26°C
- Operating humidity: 20% to 90% relative humidity, non-condensing (maximum range; actual range varies by material used)

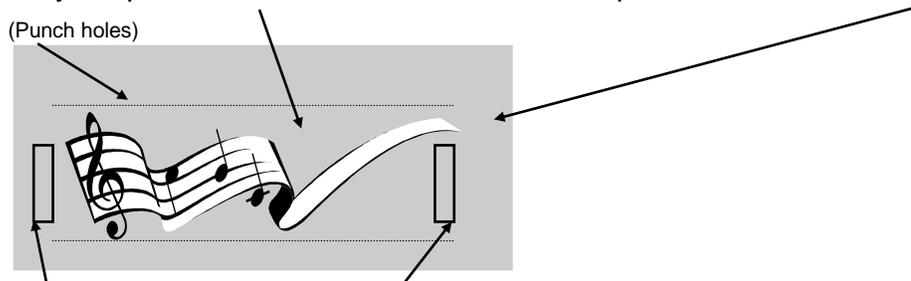
## LAMINATION TECHNIQUES

The Gerber Overlamine Film 3645 can be laminated to the Controltac film 162 by hand squeegee (maximum recommended length of a graphic laminated by hand squeegee is 6 feet) or by using a cold-roll laminator (graphic can be any length as appropriate to specific laminator). If you cut your graphic off of the roll before lamination, be certain it is long enough to fit back into your plotter for cutting.

### Hand Squeegee Techniques- Center Hinge Application

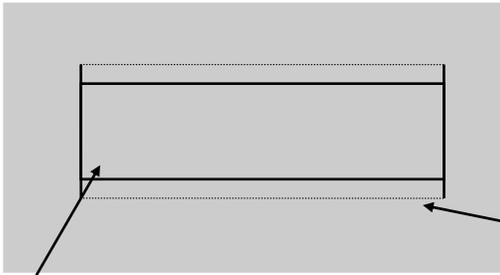
Graphics laminated with hand-squeegee techniques should be no longer than 6 feet. Multiple-panel graphics should be printed, hand-squeegee laminated, and cut separately in 6-foot sections.

1. Lay the printed Controltac film 162 face side up on a smooth work surface.



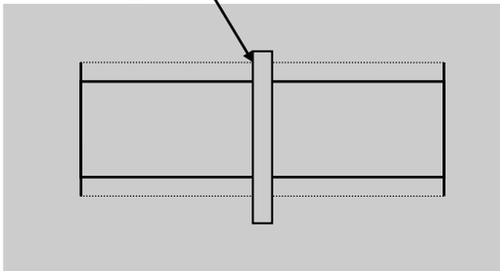
You will need to secure the graphic to the work surface using masking tape along the top and bottom of the graphic.

2. Place the Gerber Overlamine Film 3645 liner side down on top of the printed Controltac film 162 graphic. The Overlamine is 13 inches wide and completely covers the graphic without obstructing the punch holes of the Controltac. This is important because the Controltac/overlamine composite will be placed back into your plotter for cutting. If the punch holes are obstructed by the overlamine, proper tracking and cutting results will not occur.

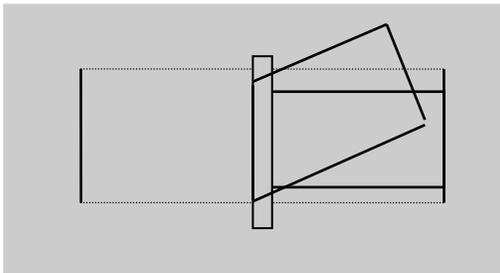


Overlamine (with liner side down) arranged straight over the graphic. The overlamine can not obstruct the punch holes of the base film.

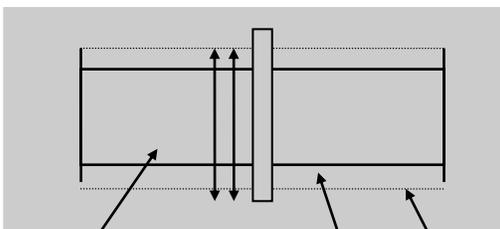
- Place a piece of masking tape vertically across the center of the overlamine. This will be a hinge.



- Flip one half of the overlamine back over the center hinge. Separate the liner from the overlamine simultaneously.

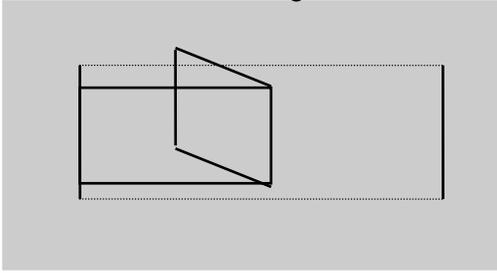


- Cut the liner away. Flip the overlamine back and gradually squeegee it into place. (Hold it away from the base film and allow it to touch as it is squeegeed.) Use firm, overlapping strokes and squeegee from the hinge out.



Overlamine Controltac      Graphic      Punch Holes

- Remove the masking tape hinge. Flip the other half of the overlamine back and remove the remaining liner.



- Repeat step five with this half of the overlamine. Remove the masking tape that has been holding the graphic in place on the work surface.

The composite Film/Overlamine Floor Graphic has now been created. Examine the laminated graphic; if it appears hazy, squeegee again with more force until the haze dissipates. Before cutting a Floor Graphic that has been laminated with hand-squeegee techniques, wait at least 12 hours to allow for an optimal bond.

### Cold-Roll Lamination Techniques

Follow the instructions provided with the laminating equipment. When using any machinery, always follow the manufacturers' instructions for safe operation.

It will be necessary to ensure that the graphic lines up properly with the overlamine. The punch holes of the Controltac film cannot be obstructed by the overlamine.

Examine the graphic once it has been laminated. If the surface appears hazy, the graphic may need to be run through the laminator again. Once it has been laminated to satisfaction, the composite graphic is ready to be placed in a plotter and cut.

### CUTTING

The following table outlines the types of plotters and blades that can be used to cut a composite Gerber Floor Graphic.

Plotter	Blade Type	Blade Angle
Gerber HS 15™	Tangential	45 °
Gerber HS15 <i>plus</i> ™	Tangential	45 °
Gerber GS15 <i>plus</i> ™	Tangential	45 °
Gerber enVision™ 375	Swivel	60 °

Ensure that the punch holes of the Controltac film are not obstructed by the overlamine.

When using the HS 15, HS15plus, or GS15plus slow the plotter speed to 50%. When using an enVision 375, manually set the speed to 12 ips, the acceleration to 1G, the force to 12 oz, and the offset to .020 in. It is recommended that a test cut is performed to determine the ideal tool force settings for all plotters. Optimal cutting results will be achieved with a new blade.

The cut should penetrate through both the Gerber Overlamine 3645 and Controltac film 162 without cutting through the paper liner.

If the cut around a Gerber Floor Graphic has sharp corners, use the Fillet Corner feature of OMEGA™ software to create a radius on the outside corners of at least 1/8 inch (3.175 mm).

## **SURFACE PREPARATION**

All floor surfaces, including those that are sealed and/or waxed, painted, etc. must be cleaned prior to the application of Gerber Floor Graphics.

1. Spray the floor area where the graphics are to be applied with a solution of 20 drops of detergent (unscented Joy dish detergent will work well) per pint (400 ml) of water. Avoid using soaps or detergents with enzymes.
2. Clean an application area that is 6 to 8 inches (152 to 203 mm) larger than the graphic.
3. Wipe the floor clean and dry with a lint-free paper towel (such as Perfect-it™ Wipe, Kaydry Excel 6009 or equivalent) removing all soil and grit.
4. Remove any grease or oil that may be present by wiping the floor with a clean, lint-free paper towel that has been moistened with rubbing alcohol. Completely wipe the surface dry with a lint-free paper towel before the alcohol evaporates to avoid leaving a residue.

## **APPLICATION SURFACES**

Gerber Gerber Floor Graphics can be applied to the following surfaces:

- ◆ Waxed vinyl
- ◆ Sealed concrete
- ◆ Marble
- ◆ Ceramic tile
- ◆ Sealed wood
- ◆ Terrazzo

## **LOCATION OF GRAPHICS**

The surface must be secure and in good condition. The finish (i.e., concrete sealer, wood sealer, paint, wax, etc.) must have good adhesion properties. Finishes that do not adhere well to the specific surface may release resulting in premature lifting of the graphic.

The surface must be properly cleaned. Silicone coatings must be removed unless they are in grout lines. There should be no loose or uneven tile.

Doormats should be used if a Gerber Floor Graphic is located a short distance from an entryway. This will help to prevent the graphics from becoming slippery because of rain or snow exposure. Clean up water, spills, or other contaminants near a Gerber Floor Graphic immediately.

Gerber Floor Graphics may be damaged by pallets of heavy equipment such as fork lifts. Dragging heavy items across the top of Gerber Floor Graphics may cause damage.

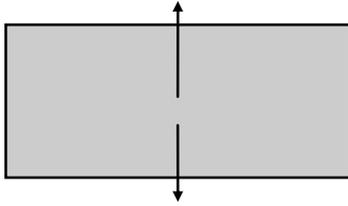
Minor edge chipping of Gerber Floor Graphics is unavoidable. If possible, apply the graphic out of the main stream flow of heavy equipment traffic.

## APPLICATION TECHNIQUES

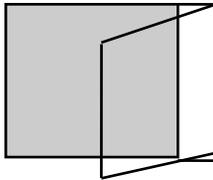
The surface temperature prior to application of the Gerber Floor Graphics must be 50°F to 100°F (4°C to 38°C).

Gerber Floor Graphics can be applied in panels. **Panels should be butted. Overlapping panels are not recommended or warranted.** Do not use wet application methods with Gerber Floor Graphics.

1. Remove the liner from the back of Gerber Floor Graphics. The adhesive is repositionable and the graphic does not require a premask.
2. Position the graphic on the cleaned floor. Avoid aligning the graphic edges on grout or tile lines. Do not smooth the graphic with hands because this will trap air.
3. Adhere the graphic to the floor with a plastic squeegee. Make one stroke across the center of the graphic using firm pressure.



Lift one end of the graphic and continue to squeegee outward while gradually allowing the graphic to fall into place.



Lift the opposite end and repeat the squeegee procedure.

4. It is very important to re-squeegee the edges of the graphic using very firm pressure after initial application.

The graphic should be waxed as soon as possible after application to protect it from dirt. After application (and waxing if appropriate) the graphic and surrounding floor area must be kept clean and dry (do not scrub or polish) for at least 4 hours.

## MAINTENANCE OF APPLIED GRAPHICS

**To prevent the risk of tripping, the entire graphic must be removed if an edge is lifting.** Use the Fillet Corners feature of OMEGA software to assign a radius to any outside points of your graphic. This will help to reduce the occurrence of any edge lifting.

### Maintain Floor Graphics using routine procedures and equipment.

1. Clean graphic prior to waxing.
2. Select a floor finish (wax) that meets or exceeds the 0.5 Static Coefficient of Friction value using the ASTM D 2047 test procedure. Contact the supplier or manufacturer of the specific wax to determine if it meets this standard.
3. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for application of the floor finish (wax).
4. Buffing equipment should only be used over Gerber Floor Graphics that are waxed regularly. If high-speed propane buffers are used, it is recommended that four to six

coats of wax be applied to Gerber Floor Graphics before buffing. The multiple wax coatings prevent the graphic from experiencing premature edge wear during buffing.

## REMOVING GERBER FLOOR GRAPHICS

Gerber Floor Graphics can be removed for up to six months after application without using heat or chemicals and without leaving an adhesive residue.

Remove the graphic by lifting one edge and pulling it off at a sharp angle.

The floor wax under the graphic may also be removed and the floor may need to be re-waxed.

## WARRANTY AND LIMITED REMEDY

This warranty is made in lieu of any and all other express or implied warranties, including any implied warranty of merchantability. Gerber warrants that Gerber Floor Graphics that have been constructed using only Gerber Overlaminated Film 3645, Controltac film 162, GerberColor Foils, and the GERBER EDGE and have been produced and installed in accordance with Gerber's written instructions, will for a period of one year after application have the following expected performance: maintain original brightness, color, and image quality, excepting ordinary and expected wear and tear, and adhere to Gerber recommended floor surfaces and be removable without damage to the surface. Gerber will replace or refund the price of such quantity of Gerber Floor Graphics found not to meet this warranty.

This warranty is exclusive. In no case shall Gerber be liable for any other direct or indirect damages or loss, including without limitation any incidental, special, or consequential damages, or any labor charges incident to the removal or replacement of Gerber Floor Graphics.

## RELATED LITERATURE

Refer to Product Bulletins of relevant foils and materials for product-specific handling, production, and finishing information.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For help with questions concerning Gerber products, please call your distributor or Gerber Customer Service at 1-800-222-7446 or (860) 644-1551. Visit us on the Internet at [www.gspinc.com](http://www.gspinc.com) to learn more about our many other foils, materials and equipment.

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