

Placement of Iron-Vinyl Designs with Overlapping Layers

by Lynn Keniston



These instructions detail placement of a design on 22 totebags created for a Klic-N-Cut Retreat held in Scottsdale, Arizona.

This method of application made it possible to maintain consistency between the bags, as well as accurate vinyl placement on each bag.

The design consisted of three layers of vinyl in the main part of the design (sky, cactus, sun) and single layers of vinyl for the lettering.

The vinyl was purchased from ScrapbookDieCutter.com

For this project I began with an unassembled totebag. However, it is important to note that this method of layering iron-on vinyl would be the same on a ready-made totebag or any project. Both a hand iron and a press have been used, but in the absence of a press, a hand iron would accomplish the same results. Before beginning, iron the base fabric to flatten it and dry it out. When using iron-on vinyl, all designs must be reversed in the KNK software before cutting!

Where there are vinyl overlaps in a design -

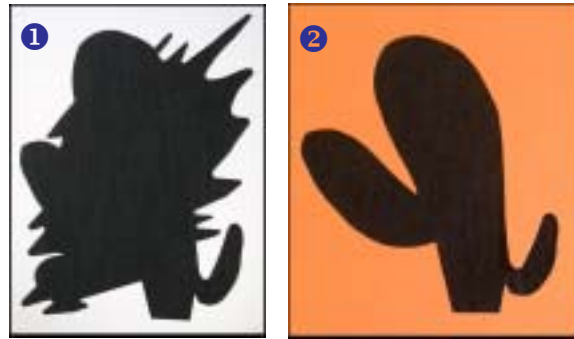
The bottom layer needs to extend approximately 1/8" into the area it will be overlapped, as noted by the arrows in yellow →

On this design the sky is behind the cactus and sun, so those portions of the sky design were extended, insuring that when the cactus and sun were ironed in place there were no gaps.

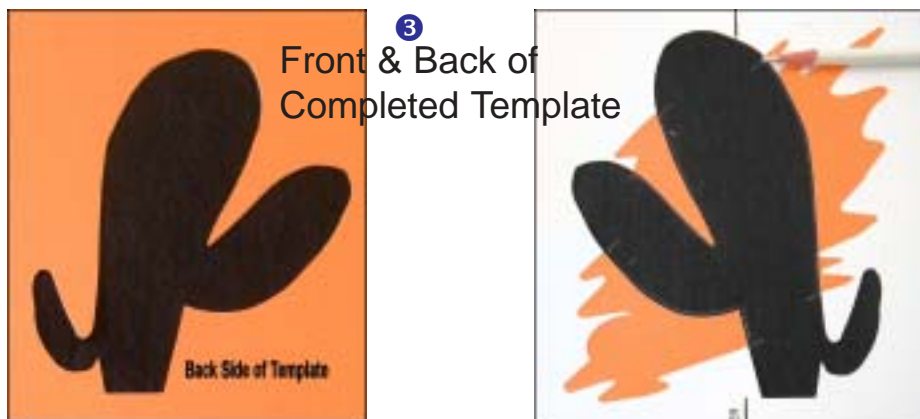


Steps to Creating the Vinyl Placement Template

1. Cut the entire cactus design from white cardstock.
2. Cut just the cactus portion of the design from colored cardstock.



3. Overlap these two pieces of cardstock exactly matching the outline of the cactus and glue together.



The next step is to mark the center of the design on the template and decide on the design's vertical placement.

Add an additional piece of cardstock below the vinyl placement template to set vertical placement of the cactus design.

The cactus design placement template is now complete.

With the bottom of the template placed on the bottom fold line of the totebag and centered horizontally, the design was in the right place on all 22 totebags!



Mark the placement of the first layer of vinyl,

which in this case is the sky.



On the totebag mark where the sky intersects with the cactus. These markings will provide a guide for placement of the sky vinyl.

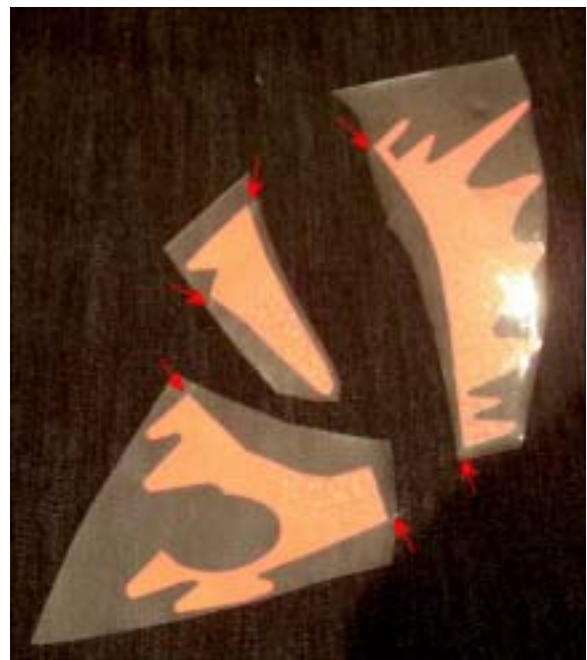


When the template is removed, the markings will look like this, showing where the cactus is going to overlap the sky.

Next, place the cut sky vinyl pieces, using the placement markings

Note: The white placement line is no longer visible because the extension added to the sky design in these areas is covering it. If you can see the white line, you may have a gap when the design is complete.

With a hand iron, press these pieces with just enough heat to be able to remove the backing sheet. The backing sheet must be removed before the cactus and sun are put in place. Do not overheat because it will again receive heat when the cactus is put in place.



Remove the heat protective film carefully from the sky pieces after they have been lightly pressed and have cooled.



- If the light press didn't release the protective film, apply a little more heat.
- If there is any part of the vinyl that isn't stuck to your project after the protective film is removed, simply flatten it in place with your hand. It will be secured in subsequent pressing.

Place the second layer

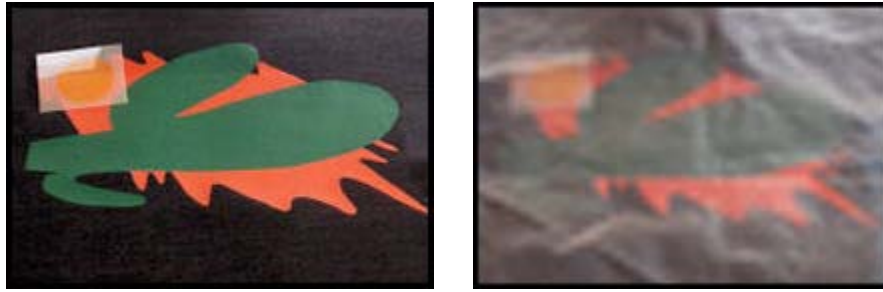
Make sure that the cactus overlaps the sky so there are no gaps, as is noted by the yellow arrow.

Note that there is only a protective film covering the cactus, and it would be very difficult not to touch the unprotected sky, with the iron!



Before giving the cactus a light press, cover the entire design with a **Teflon Pressing Sheet**. The procedure used for the cactus at this point is the same that was used in attaching the sky. More heat will be applied later.

If only doing the center design, now is the time to add the sun, cover the design with a teflon pressing sheet and give it the final press of 10-15 seconds.



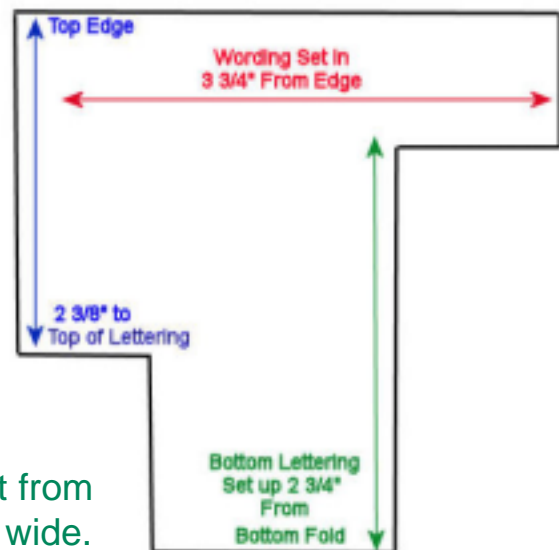
With this pressing the center design is now complete.

For the totebag, I found that the yellow vinyl that I was using was more sensitive to heat than the other colors, so I left the sun to be added last, thus exposing it to only one 10-15 second heat application.

For placement of the lettering above and below the cactus design make a **3-in-1 template** for consistent, accurate placement of lettering. *Each template is unique to the project and evolves as placement is determined.* For this project I first cut a piece of cardboard 5" square and refined it as I determined placement of the letters on the first totebag. The explanation is color coded.

1. The greatest measurement was the inset of the lettering from both edges (3 3/4"), so the width of the square was cut to 3 3/4"

2. The second largest measurement was the distance from the bottom fold of the totebag to the bottom lettering. That measurement was 2 3/4" from the bottom fold of the totebag, so a rectangle was cut from the right side of the square 2 3/4" tall x 1" wide.

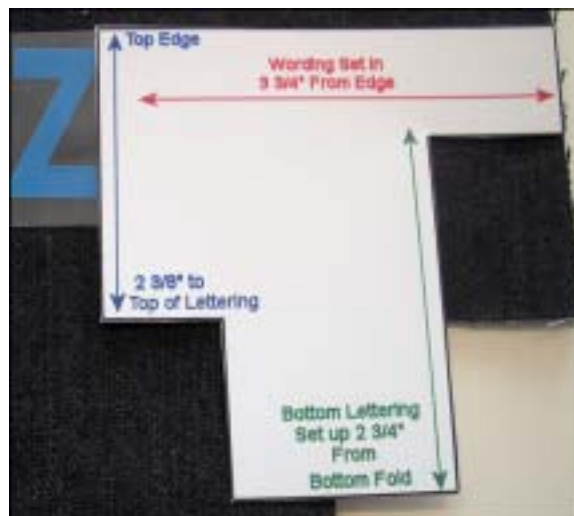


3. The smallest measurement to consider was the distance of the top lettering to the top edge of the totebag (2 3/8"). Place a mark 2 3/8" from the top edge on the left side of the template. Cut a 1" wide rectangle from this mark to the bottom of the template.

3-in-1 template in use for placement of lettering below design:

Lower right portion of template was used to place the **bottom lettering 2 3/4" from the bottom fold** of the cut totebag.

Top portion of template was used to center the **bottom lettering 3 3/4" from both edges** of the totebag cut edge.



When satisfied with placement of the lettering below the centered cactus design, cover it and the adjacent vinyl with a teflon pressing sheet and give it a light press.

3-in-1 template in use for placement of lettering above design as it was for the lettering below the design:

1. Use the left portion of the 3-In-1 template to place the **KNK lettering 2 3/8" down from the top edge** of the totebag cut edge.
2. Use the top portion of the template to set the left side of the **KNK lettering 3 3/4" from the left edge** of the totebag cut edge.
3. Use the top portion of the template to set the right side of the **word "Retreat" lettering 3 3/4" from the right edge** of the totebag cut edge.

When satisfied with placement of the lettering above the centered cactus design, cover it and the adjacent vinyl with a teflon pressing sheet and give it a light press.



The last step in completing the vinyl application to the totebag was to add the sun:



Since the final heat application was to be on the press, the totebag was placed on the press and the sun put in place. The entire totebag was then covered with a teflon pressing sheet and heat applied for 10 seconds. This completed the vinyl application and the front of the totebag.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CUTTING AND APPLYING IRON-ON VINYL

1. All vinyl is not created the same

- Weights vary
- Glue on the vinyl may not be the same color as the vinyl
- Some are more heat sensitive than others.
- Of note on this project:
The yellow vinyl was more heat sensitive than the others.
The orange vinyl had a white glue that shows faintly on the cut edge and is especially visible if a splice needs to be made. This is evidenced on this photo:



2. Design Preparation

- Mirror all designs before cutting
- Where there are overlapping colors of vinyl, extend the overlapped portion of the design.



4. Cutting

- Dull side will be placed up on the cutter.
- Be sure to set the knife blade on the cutter so that the shiny side (heat protective backing) is down and remains uncut.

3. Application

- If your design is layered
A placement template is recommend for accurate placement.
A teflon pressing sheet is needed to protect previous layers of vinyl.
- Preheat the fabric to dry it out and flatten it
- Heats vary, but if the recommended press is 10 seconds for the vinyl being used, 5 seconds would be considered a light press.
- After heat is applied, allow vinyl to cool before removing heat protective backing.