



Masking Techniques

Tech Tips

Masking Techniques



General Definitions

Masking Paper

- Masking Paper comes in a variety of sizes including 6, 12, 18 and 36 inches.
- Masking paper can be applied by hand or with a Masking Machine.
- A good quality Masking paper will have a coating like Poly Gold masking paper (pictured right) that prevents the bleed through of solvents or water (water borne coatings).
- Removing solvents from a finish that have bled through cheap masking paper (or newspaper) can be time consuming and expensive.



TRM 17612

Please Note: Using cheap masking paper can lead to bleed thru of paint, solvents, and water (if using waterborne basecoats).

Masking Techniques



General Definitions

Masking Machines

- Masking Machines offer a convenient way to dispense Masking Paper.
- One of the more popular ones is called a tree, and it dispenses three or four sizes of paper.
- The machine dispenses both paper and tape together. The tape is half on the paper and the other half off, so it can be applied with ease to the vehicle.



AST ASMS2

Masking Techniques



General Definitions

Plastic Covers

• Plastic Covers, also referred to as Plastic Sheeting, or Bags, are a relatively inexpensive and quick way to protect surrounding vehicle surfaces from paint overspray.



Plastic Covers



← Plastic Hand Masker
RBL-101



16 feet x 350 feet, 3M-06724

12 feet x 400 feet, 3M-06723



↑ Plastic Machine Masker
3M-06780

Masking Techniques



General Definitions

Plastic Covers for Wheels & Rims

- Plastic Covers are also available to both mask off tires to quickly paint rims, and to mask off tires to avoid having overspray land on the tire or rim.



Wheel Masker for Painting Rims
JTA-0980



Wheel Masker for Protecting Rims from Overspray
MAR-30202

Masking Techniques



General Definitions

Liquid Masking

- Liquid Mask is a liquid that is sprayed on the area to be protected and allowed to dry.
- Typically, masking tape & paper are used to mask off the immediate area surrounding the repair, and then masking liquid is sprayed on the rest of the vehicle to protect surfaces from overspray.
- When the painting is completed, it is washed off.
- If you don't have a dedicated spray gun to spray Liquid Mask, you can always use plastic sheeting.



Liquid Mask

Overspray Masking Liquid
3M-06847



Spray Gun
CPN-69708

Masking Techniques



General Definitions

Crepe Masking Tape

- Automotive Refinish Masking Tape is a yellow crepe paper tape designed specifically for the critical paint masking processes used in the collision repair industry.
- Proprietary rubber-based adhesive delivers instant adhesion to all vehicle surfaces, has good holding power that allows for fast and efficient application.
- The specially-treated paper backing offers solvent and moisture resistance that minimizes bleed through.
- The semi-smooth backing is thin and conformable so it produces sharp, clean, quality paint jobs.



3M-06652

18mm x 55m (3/4" applications)

Please Note: Using cheap masking tape can lead to adhesive transfer (adhesive sticking to paint finish).

Masking Techniques



General Definitions

Crepe Masking Tape

- Scotch® Performance Green Masking Tape 233+, 26334 is a highly-conformable tape that provides the best adhesive transfer resistance, hugs curves, contours and provides outstanding paint lines.
- Goes on quickly and easily, sticks at a touch and stays put. Perfectly balanced to give outstanding masking results.
- The specially-treated paper backing offers solvent and moisture resistance that minimizes bleed through.
- Clean removal. Helps minimize labor required to remove transferred adhesive.



3M-26334

18mm x 55m (3/4" applications)

Please Note: Using cheap masking tape can lead to edge creep of paint or solvents.

Masking Techniques

General Definitions

Fine Line Tape

- Fine Line tapes have thin, smooth backings designed to create low-profile paint edges.
- Sharp paint lines are achieved by using fine-line tapes with smooth backings coated with specialty adhesives to prevent paint edge bleed.
- Scotch Fine Line 218 is designed for straight line application, and is available in nine (9) narrow widths for a variety of paint striping options.
- 3M Vinyl Tapes 471 and 471+ are designed for custom paint designs. Conformability and adhesion levels make this tape perfect for custom graphic masking.



3M Line 218



3M Line 471+

Masking Techniques

General Definitions

Aperture (Foam) Tape

- Aperture Tape is a soft foam tape that has an adhesive on one side and is used to fill body openings such as the gap between the fender and door, and for door jambs.
- Foam tape is a very quick and effective way to make sure you don't have paint overspray blowing onto door jambs or other areas of the vehicle that are difficult to mask.
- Foam tape also minimizes any hard edges or paint lines left behind from traditional masking techniques.



Foam Masking Tape in Cracks & Door Jambs



**Soft Foam Masking Tape
3M-06293**

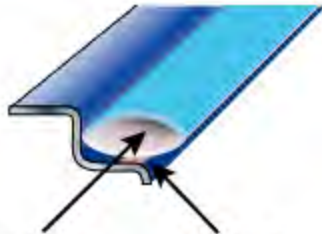
Masking Techniques

Universal Application



How to apply 3M™ Foam Tape

Innovative Design



Tubular Design
Easily conforms and seals opening

Off-Set Adhesive
Keeps adhesive away from paint edge

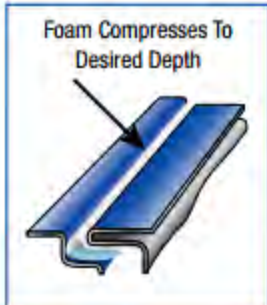
Smooth down with finger or Bondo Spreader to set to desired depth.

Apply to Fixed or Moving Part

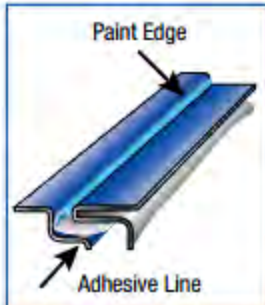


Fixed Part

Moving Part

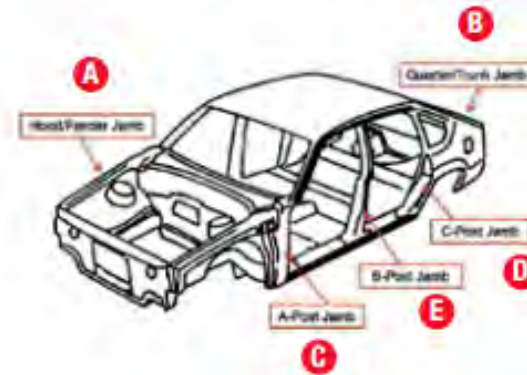


Foam Compresses To Desired Depth



Paint Edge

Adhesive Line





Masking Techniques

General Definitions

Trim Masking Tape

- Designed to lift molding away from the vehicle allowing paint coverage under the molding.
- Works particularly well on flush mount windshield, sidelight and back glass moldings.
- Saves time, labor, and the cost of removing and installing new moldings.



3M-06345 (2" x 10.94 yds. / 5mm hard band)

3M-06347 (2" x 10.94 yds. / 7mm hard band)

3M-06348 (2" x 10.94 yds. / 15mm hard band)

3M-06349 (2" x 10.94 yds. / 10mm hard band)

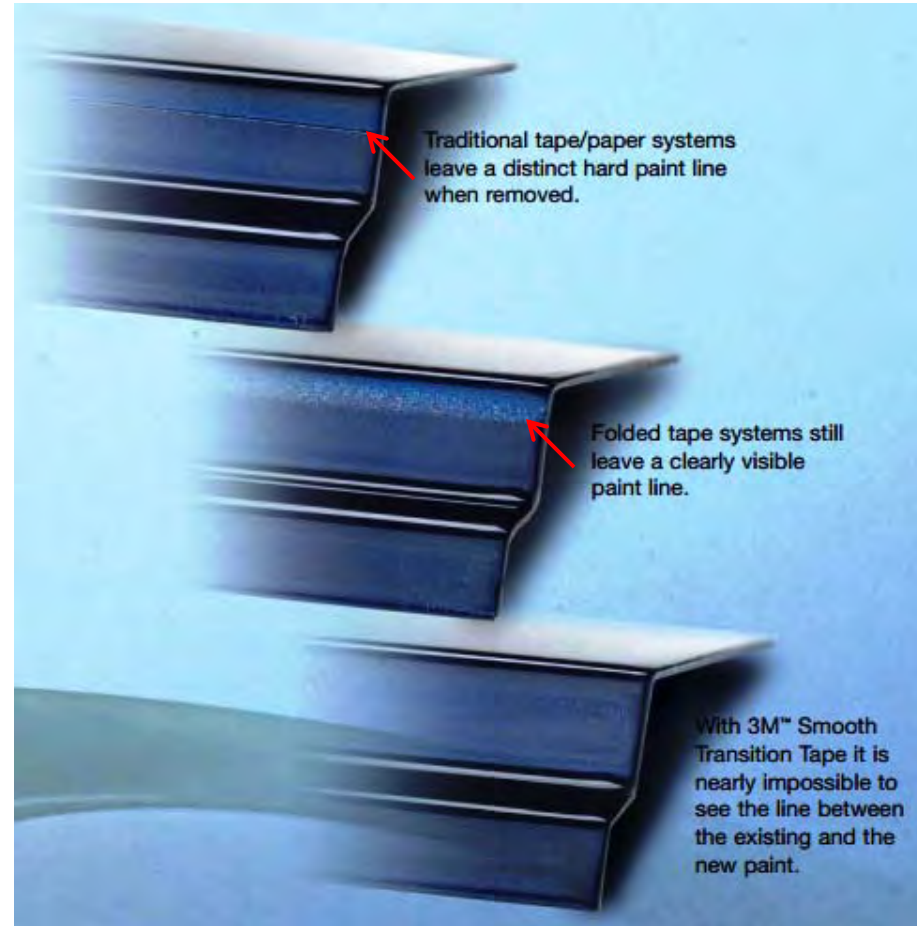


Masking Techniques

General Definitions

Smooth Transition Tape (STT)

- With Smooth Transition Tape, the adhesive is confined to the center part of the tape, which allows the paint to feather in, leaving a virtually invisible paint line.
- Eliminating hard paint lines has often required re-shooting, sanding, buffing or other time consuming rework.
- Smooth Transition Tape eliminates hard paint lines anywhere you transition paint or coatings: door jambs, hood and fender jambs, quarter panels and trunks.
- Smooth Transition Tape also works well when applying Stone Chip coating to Rocker panels.



**Smooth Transition Tape
3M-06800**

Masking Techniques



How to apply 3M™ Smooth Transition Tape



Step 1
Apply the first strip, following and aligning the outside body line of the door jamb with the outer edge of the tape.



Step 2
Extend tape onto adjacent masking.



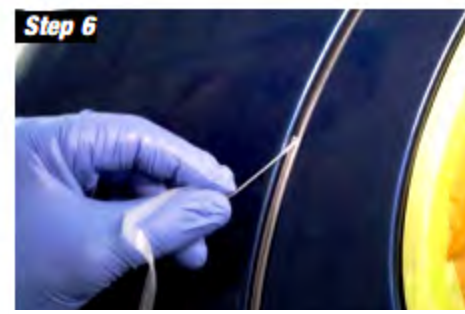
Step 3
Apply a second strip of tape that overlaps the inner edge of the first strip.



Step 4
Apply additional material behind the strips to prevent overspray.



Step 5
Apply coating.



Step 6
After initial coatings have dried, grip the tab and remove the outer strip of tape. Pull back on itself and directly out of door jamb.

Masking Techniques / General Masking



The following guidelines are designed to provide information on General Masking Techniques.

1. Clean Surface before applying Masking

- If vehicle is dirty, wash with soap & water. Dry thoroughly.
- After vehicle is clean, wipe the repair areas with Wax & Grease Remover to remove any silicone or other contaminants that may affect masking adhesion.



Soap & Water



WGR-PB4
Wax & Grease Remover



Clean Towels
KIM 33944

Masking Techniques / General Masking



2. Critical Edge Masking

- Mask the areas that require Fine Line Tape first (e.g. 3M-06305 $\frac{3}{4}$ Inch). The Fine Line tape will prevent paint bleed thru on critical edges.
- After the Fine Line tape has been placed, mask the rest of the repair and backup the Fine Line tape with Creped tape (e.g. 3M-26334).
- Protect any nearby moldings with Trim Masking Tape (e.g. 3M-06348).



Masking Techniques / General Masking



3. Overspray Masking

- Ensure that the car is completely dry prior to applying plastic sheeting (e.g. 3M-06724).
- Mask entire vehicle with plastic sheeting.
- Cut out the repair area with a razor blade.
- Tape the plastic sheeting directly to critical masking edge.



3M Plastic Sheeting / Film
16 feet x 350 feet, 3M-06724

Masking Techniques / General Masking



4. Remove Tape after Painting

- After painting, remove the masking tape at a 90-degree angle to the vehicle's surface.
- Peel tape back slowly, so that you don't pull paint with it.

Please Note: Scotch® Performance Green Masking Tape 233+ is better than most conventional masking tapes for sunlight resistance. However, *it is still advised that it not be subjected to outdoor exposure or prolonged periods of sunlight. The tape may become difficult to remove.*



Masking Techniques / Door Jambs & Gaps



The following guidelines are designed to provide information on Door Jamb & Gap Masking Techniques.

1. Clean Surface before applying Masking

- If vehicle is dirty, wash with soap & water. Dry thoroughly.
- After vehicle is clean, wipe the repair areas with Wax & Grease Remover to remove any silicone or other contaminants that may affect masking adhesion.



Soap & Water



WGR-PB4
Wax & Grease Remover



Clean Towels
KIM 33944

Masking Techniques / Door Jambs & Gaps



2. Apply Outer Strip Smooth Transition Tape

- Apply outermost strip of Smooth Transition Tape (STT).
- Leave a tab available for easy removal after sealer application and basecoat coverage coats.



Smooth Transition Tape
3M-06800



Masking Techniques / Door Jambs & Gaps



3. Apply Inner Strip Smooth Transition Tape

- Apply inner strip of Smooth Transition Tape if the jamb size allows.
- Overlap the leading wing of the tape with the back wing of the first strip of Smooth Transition Tape.



Masking Techniques / Door Jamb & Gaps



4. Seal the Door Jamb

- Apply 3M™ Soft Edge Foam Masking Tape PLUS to the moving part of the repair area.
- Position foam tape overlap as necessary to completely seal the jamb against the 3M™ Smooth Transition Tape.
- Close the moving part.



Soft Foam Masking Tape
3M-06293

Masking Techniques / Door Jambs & Gaps



5. Position Foam Tape

- Press foam into the jamb with fingers to set appropriate depth.
- In order to avoid sealer creep the foam can be pressed further into the jamb with a Bondo Spreader after the initial coats are applied.



**Plastic Bondo Spreader
EZM-51004**

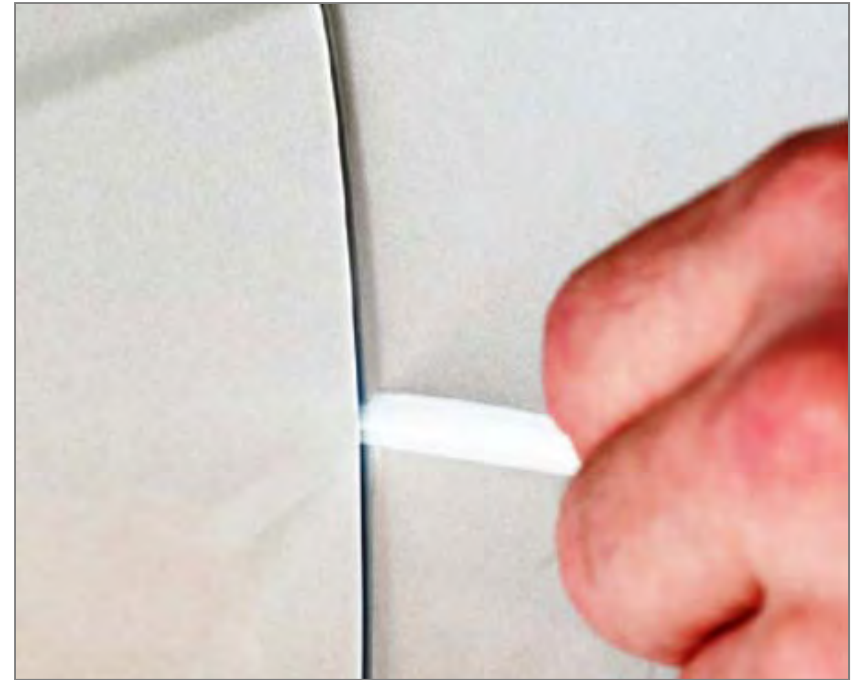


Masking Techniques / Door Jambs & Gaps



6. Strip Removal

- After applying any sealer and initial Base Color, pull the tab created in Step 2 and remove the outermost strip of 3M™ Smooth Transition Tape.
- Careful attention should be used to avoid making contact with either of the adjacent panels.
- Apply final coats of Clear Gloss.



Masking Techniques / Door Jambs & Gaps



7. Masking Removal

- Remove the remaining strip of 3M™ Smooth Transition Tape at a 90-degree angle after painting is complete.



Masking Techniques / Door Jambs & Gaps



8. Masking Removal

- Remove 3M™ Soft Edge Foam Masking Tape by stretching the foam parallel to its direction.



Masking Techniques / Openings

The following guidelines are designed to provide information on Masking Techniques for openings.

1. Clean Surface before applying Masking

- If vehicle is dirty, wash with soap & water. Dry thoroughly.
- After vehicle is clean, wipe the repair areas with Wax & Grease Remover to remove any silicone or other contaminants that may affect masking adhesion.



Clean Towels
KIM 33944



WGR-PB4
Wax & Grease Remover



Masking Techniques / Openings

2. Back Masking

- Back Mask outer edge of door opening using wide width tape, ensuring that half of tape width is exposed to the opening.
- With Back Masking, wide Crepe Tape (1 ½ Inch to 2 Inch) is placed halfway, and paper is applied to the tape that is sticking up.
- Alternately, in some cases, plastic masking film is stuck to the exposed tape, protecting the opening.



Masking Techniques / Openings

3. Over Spray Protection

- Cover opening with overspray masking film.
- Pull tight and adhere film to exposed edge of back masking.



Masking Techniques / Openings



4. Trim Opening

- Trim film around inner panel opening.



Masking Techniques / Openings

5. Seal Edge

- Seal edge of masking film using wide width masking tape.
- Once sealed, you are now ready to paint.





Masking Techniques

Tech Tips

Please email any questions that you may have to
info@touchupzone.com